

11 November 2022, Friday



DENR

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DENR to tap forestry, mining resources to spur PHL's economic growth, devt

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE government is eyeing to tap the potentials of forestry and mining sectors to sustain economic growth and development in the Philippines, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones enumerated the plans on forestry and mining during the 48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo hosted by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry last month in Manila, wherein he represented DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

In a news release, he said the DENR's strategic plans and programs on forestry and mining are geared to "to support our country's growth trajectory within the context of resilience and sustainable development."

The plans and programs are consistent with the policy statement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address, wherein the highest official of the land highlighted the preservation of the environment as key to "the preservation of life."

He said as the agency mandated to manage the country's natural wealth, the DENR aims to develop acceptable, science-based and risk-informed strategies to conserve and protect the environment and natural resources through partnerships with various government agencies, civil society organizations and advocates, industries and the academe.

To spur more investment in forestry, Leones said the DENR aims to establish a conducive investment climate by developing a real-time, single-point access forestry investment portal that will provide information and services

about forestry investment and ready areas for development and utilization.

The portal will have links to financial and credit facilities of partner financial institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, which supports the DENR's agro-forestry plantation program.

It will also offer access to insurance packages of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. for selected tree species in developed forest plantations, he added.

Leones disclosed the DENR is open for public-private partnership to develop an estimated 960,000 hectares for timber and agro-forestry production.

He said the forestry sector could also be a potential source of nature-based offsets in carbon trading and offsetting schemes that could generate climate finance from carbon market mechanisms through voluntary markets, compliance markets, and result-based payments through REDD+ or the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

Leones said the DENR has also intensified forest protection by curbing illegal logging in reducing "hotspot" areas nationwide.

Recognizing the various benefits of bamboo in stabilizing river systems and serving as a carbon sink, Leones said the agency is looking into partnerships with the Department of Trade and Industry and other government agencies for the development of the bamboo industry, one of the main targets in its National Greening Program.

The DENR currently oversees 15 million hectares of land classified as forestlands. In 2011, the country's forest cover was 6.8 million hectares but it increased by 5.6 percent or 7.2 million hectares based on the recent 2020 data captured by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority or NAMRIA.



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DENR welcomes partnership with PPP to develop 1M hectares for agro-forestry

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is open for public-private partnership to develop an estimated 960,000 hectares for timber and agro-forestry production.

According to Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones, this is part of the DENR's programs under the Marcos administration where plans for the forestry have been laid down to offer strong potential towards economic growth and development.

He said the forestry sector could be a potential source of nature-based offsets in carbon trading and offsetting schemes that could generate climate finance from carbon market mechanisms through voluntary markets or compliance markets and result-

based payments through REDD+ or the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

At the moment, the government oversees 15 million hectares of land classified as forest lands as it intensified forest protection by curbing illegal logging in reducing "hotspot" areas nationwide.

During the recent 48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo hosted by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Environment Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo Loyzaga through Leones, said that the DENR is aiming to develop acceptable, science-based and risk-informed strategies to conserve and protect the environment and natural resources through partnerships with various government agencies, civil society organizations and advocates, industries and the

academe.

Leones said that the DENR strategic plans and programs on forestry and mining are geared towards maximizing its potential "to support our country's growth trajectory within the context of resilience and sustainable development."

According to Leones, these plans and programs are consistent with the policy statement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address, to wit: "The preservation of the environment is the preservation of life."

Recognizing the various benefits of bamboo in stabilizing river systems and serving as carbon sinks, Leones said the agency is looking into partnerships with the Department of Trade and Industry and other government agencies for the development of the bamboo industry, one of the main targets in its National Greening Program.



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DENR seeks science-based environmental protection

By CORY MARTINEZ

ACCEPTABLE, science-based, and risk-informed strategies will be developed to conserve and protect the environment and natural resources through partnerships with various government agencies, civil society organizations and advocates, industries, and the academe.

This was disclosed in a speech delivered by Loren Leones, Director of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, on behalf of Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, during the recently-held 48th Philippine

Business Conference and Expo hosted by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) in Manila.

Leones explained that the move is part of the agency's strategic plans and programs on forestry and mining, which are geared towards maximizing its potential to support the country's growth trajectory within the context of resilience and sustainable development.

He added that the plans and programs are consistent with the policy statement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) to wit: "The preservation of the environment is the preservation of life."

Leones further disclosed his intent to encourage more in-

vestment in forestry, the DENR will establish a conducive investment climate by developing a real-time, single-point access forestry investment portal that will provide information and services about forestry investment and ready areas for development and utilization.

The portal, he added, will have links to financial and credit facilities of partner financial institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), which supports the DENR's agro-forestry plantation program.

Leones said the DENR has also intensified forest protection by curbing illegal logging in reducing "hotspot" areas nationwide.



P58-M fund for Tubbataha rehab released

Nine years after a US Navy ship ran aground on parts of the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP), and seven years after the United States had paid the Philippine government for the damage, the funds were finally released.

The provincial government of Palawan received the amount of P58,375,080 as money for the "rehabilitation of Tubbataha" on Oct. 25.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been working with us to get the funds released and transferred to the provincial government; they really worked on it," TRNP protected area superinten-

dent Angelique Songco said.

"[Former governor and now] congressman Antonio Alvarez also facilitated its release, and the provincial government will immediately bid out the work," Songco added.

The funds will be used to complete the living quarters of the Tubbataha park rangers, who guard the reefs 24/7, 365 days a year. The current ranger station, built in 2000, sits on a sandbar in Tubbataha's North Atoll, and has been continuously battered by typhoon winds. Also in the future, although not covered by the funds, are plans for the completion of a research station and a helipad.

An Inquirer story on Aug. 14 reported on the rangers' plight.

"We are grateful for the contribution of the various agencies in providing our rangers with a safe and decent home in the middle of the Sulu Sea," Songco said. "This is a clear expression of how much we as a nation value their personal sacrifices in safeguarding our patrimony."

The 97,030-hectare TRNP was first declared a national marine park, the first of its kind, by then President Corazon Aquino in 1988.

It is now treasured as a Unesco World Heritage Site for being a haven of marine biodiversity. **MQ**



ON GUARD 24/7 Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park protected area superintendent Angelique Songco (center) with some of the park rangers in the North Atoll, with the new ranger station and other structures being built in the background. Photo taken in June 2022 at the end of the first Tubbataha diving season in two years. Trips to Tubbataha had been suspended during the COVID-19 lockdowns. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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NEWS

Tubbataha gets P58-M rehab fund

Nine years after a US Navy ship ran aground on the reefs of the Tubbataha natural park, the P58-million payment for the damage has finally been released, according to the group looking after the site. The money will mainly go to the completion of the park rangers' living quarters. The 97,000-hectare biodiversity haven in the Sulu Sea has been the focus of conservation efforts since the Cory Aquino administration.

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Daily Tribune

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Panaon Island as protected area sought

BY ELMER RECUERDO

SOGOD, Southern Leyte — Two bills filed by Southern Leyte solons to declare an island in the province as a protected area gained support from an international environmental advocacy group.

Southern Leyte Second District Rep. Christopherson Yap filed House Bill 4095 and First District Rep. Luz Mercado filed House Bill 3743 seeking to declare Panaon Island as a protected seascape under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act and enhance efforts to safeguard the island's coral reefs and threatened and endangered species.

The two bills were filed at the start of the 19th Congress and are still pending in the House Committee on Natural Resources and they outline the parameters of the protected seascape's coverage in the towns of Liloan, San Francisco, Pintuyan and San Ricardo, the mechanisms for administration, the prohibited acts and penalties, and the funding requirements to sustain its protection.

The Sangguniang Bayan of the four municipalities earlier this year passed their respective resolutions expressing support for the

establishment of Panaon Island as a protected seascape under the E-NIPAS.

"Our municipality's vision is to be the premier eco-tourism destination in the region and since municipal waters are blessed with whale sharks in our area, a well-managed marine sanctuary would definitely benefit the well-being and natural habitat of these wonderful sea creators," Pintuyan Mayor Ricarte Amper Estrella said.

Yap says the declaration of Panaon Island as a marine protected area will ensure that the future generations will still be able to enjoy the diverse marine flora and fauna that are still present.

He said the formation of a special body to protect the area will deter commercial vessels from encroaching in municipal waters and keep its prized reefs from destruction.

"This will allow marine life to thrive and to be available to our subsistence fishermen and give assurance to our visitors that they will get what they came for or will have something much better to come back to," Yap said.

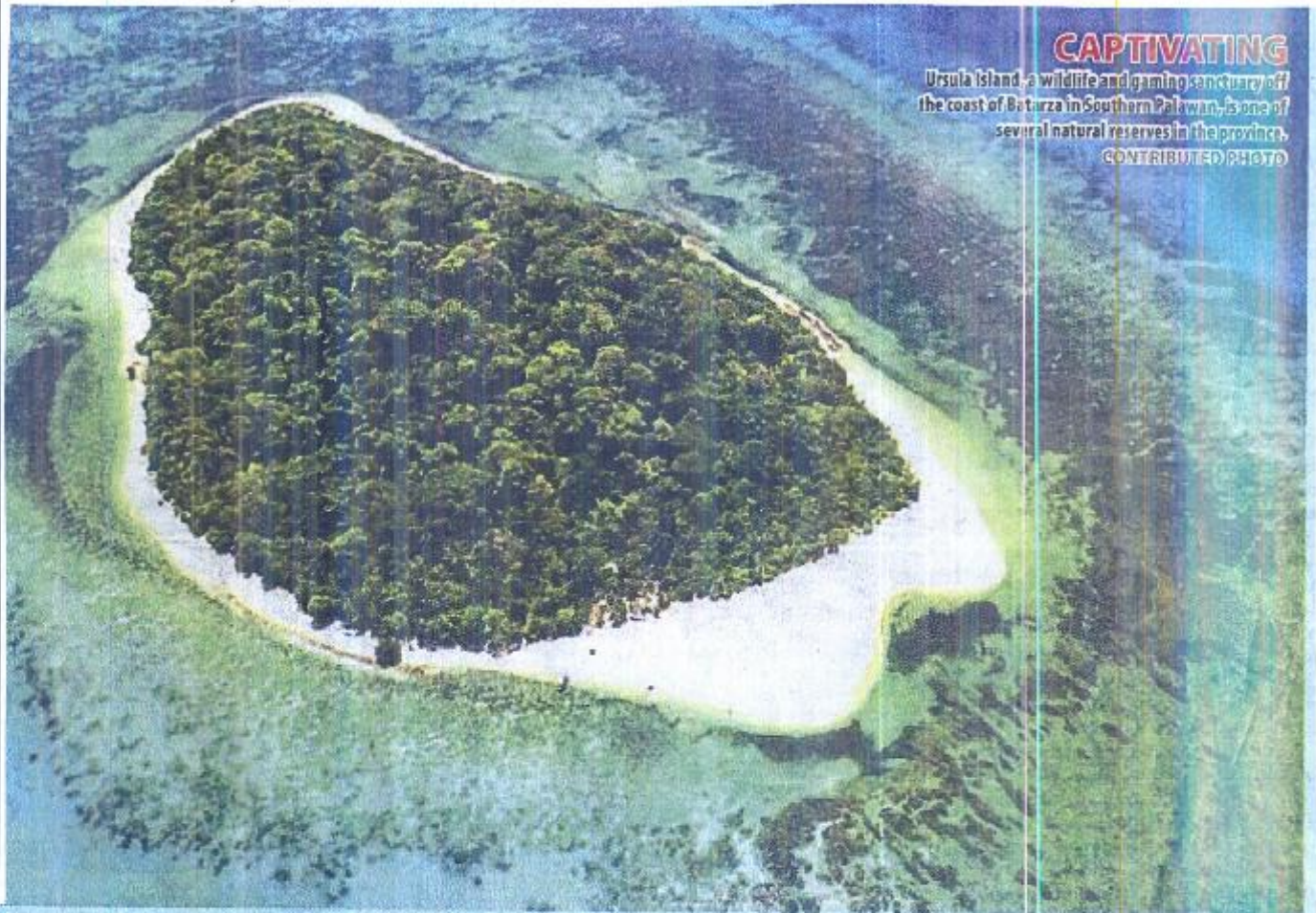
The island was found by an international study as among the priority reefs that will highly likely withstand the devastating impacts of climate change.



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Ursula Island, a wildlife and gaming sanctuary off the coast of Batanga in Southern Palawan, is one of several natural reserves in the province.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palawan among world's 'most desirable' islands

A TRAVEL magazine based in the United Kingdom has listed Palawan as one of the "most desirable" islands in the world.

The *Wanderlust* magazine made the announcement on November 9 (November 10 in Manila).

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco thanked the readers of the magazine for "their love and support for the Philippines."

Frasco, who headed the Philippine delegation to the recent World Travel Market in London, said these awards "reflect the efforts to revive the tourism industry that are well underway, especially because of the Marcos administration's thrust towards prioritizing tourism development."

"Rest assured that we will continue with our mission to herald the Philippines

and the Filipino brand to the world and to ensure the continued sustainability of our islands," she added.

The magazine also nominated Cebu for Most Desirable Region this year.

The award for Palawan adds to the honors the country has received, even at the height of the Covid-19 crisis.

Condé Nast Travel included the Philippines in its list of the 40 Most

Beautiful Countries in the World last June, acknowledging the Puerto Princesa Underground River's cave system, Bohol's Chocolate Hills, and the Banaue Rice Terraces.

The following month, the travel publication *Travel + Leisure* added Cebu, Palawan, and Boracay to its list of the 25 Best Islands in the world.

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Tree planting and beyond

President Marcos Jr.'s recent declaration that we need to plant more trees—as well as his decision to celebrate his 65th birthday with a tree planting activity—reminds me of Republic Act No. 10176 or the Arbor Day Act of 2012, which has this curious passage: “All able-bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least twelve (12) years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year.”

I'm not sure if this law—which tasks local government units to organize Arbor Day celebrations and encourages the “use of endemic or indigenous species”—ever got implemented. Even if it is, I'm not sure how it can be operationalized. Instead of requiring individual citizens to do something, a much better approach is to enable and incentivize them to do so—and to support those who already conduct tree planting (and nurturing) as their jobs, such as our underpaid and underappreciated forest guards.

Regardless, it's not a bad idea to promote tree planting. As RA 10176 rightfully noted, “there is a need for a collaborated effort between the State and its citizenry to combat the loss of our natural resources and rejuvenate our environment by undertaking nationwide tree planting activities and providing effective measures for their maintenance and sustainability.” When we feel that we contributed to nature, we're more likely to protect it and be invested in its fate. Arbor Day and other collective tree planting activities are also opportunities for people to discover and celebrate the natural areas within their localities—and participate in community building.

I caught a glimpse of this in Pista Y Ang Kagueban, Puerto Princesa's “Feast of the Forest,” which I participated in while I was living in Palawan as an ethnographer in 2014. Aside from having planted two mil-



SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

lion trees since its inception in 1991, I saw how the annual event has contributed to developing environmental consciousness among locals, many of whom fondly remember joining the Pista as students—and speak of their concern for their island's environmental future.

For this reason, I urge the President to follow through with his commitment to support not just tree planting activities, but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Enhanced National Greening Program, making sure that the recommendations from environmentalists, scientists, indigenous groups, local communities, and other stakeholders are accounted for. Vice President Sara Duterte's Department of Education has an important role to ensure that schools are meaningfully involved in such activities: Aside from providing our children badly needed exposure to nature, we need them to realize (and experience) not just how forests can heal humans (“The healing power of forests,” 10/14/2022), but how we humans can heal forests.

However, I must echo all the environmentalists who, in response to the President's call

for tree planting, have made it plain that it is not enough to counter the environmental damage over the past decades, including during martial law, where there was massive cronyism-driven deforestation and destruction of our mangroves. Neither is it enough to address the climate crisis, or mitigate particular vulnerabilities faced by the country's poor and indigenous peoples who bear the brunt of our disasters.

To truly realize—in the President's own words—the “goal of reducing poverty, ensuring food security, environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change,” environmentally destructive and unsustainable mining and reclamation projects all over the country must be stopped. Just as crucially, the people who are standing in the way of these projects—our environmental and land defenders—must be protected, instead of being Red-tagged and vilified. It is most welcome news that DENR has put Kaliwa Dam on hold, but all over the country, there are various projects—contemplated or implemented—that will accelerate our ecological death spiral.

Coal mining, for instance, is underway in South Cotabato, notwithstanding the threats it poses to food and water security, as well as to indigenous ways of life. Even Sibuyan Island in Romblon—home to Mt. Guiting-Guiting—is being eyed for a nickel mining project, notwithstanding its immense biodiversity and fragile ecosystem. And of course, we have already seen how the coastline of Coron has been devastated by an illegal reclamation project that somehow still happened despite being “unauthorized.”

Greed is the enemy of green, and the government must make clear whose side it is on.

glasco@inquirer.com.ph



editorial

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Will Aparri disappear under a rising sea?

TUVALU is an island nation located halfway between Australia and Hawaii. It is one of the smallest countries in the world, with a land area of 26 square kilometers and a population of 11,925 in 2021. With its limited resource base, it is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Worse, it is facing the highest risks associated with the climate crisis due to rising sea levels. Scientists say that as sea level rises, sand and gravel erode away into the seabed as the shoreline recedes; accordingly, a country like Tuvalu will eventually disappear under a rising sea.

Rainwater is the main source of freshwater in Tuvalu. Groundwater resources are no longer suitable for human consumption due to pollution from saltwater intrusion caused by rising sea levels. Salinity intrusion enhanced by the porosity of soil has destroyed *pulaka* crops, a swamp taro grown mainly in Tuvalu and an important source of carbohydrates for the inhabitants. As most Tuvaluans live in coastal areas, additional stress is being placed on the already vulnerable marine ecosystem. Rising sea temperatures also contribute to coral bleaching and decreasing marine productivity.

To draw attention to Tuvalu's struggle against rising sea levels, Foreign Minister Simon Kofe gave a speech to the 2021 United Nations climate conference in Glasgow standing knee-deep in seawater to show how his low-lying Pacific island nation is on the front line of climate change. Images of Kofe standing in a suit and tie at a lectern set up in the sea, with his trouser legs rolled up, have been widely shared on social media.

From the Associated Press: "The world should confront climate change the way it does nuclear weapons, by agreeing to a non-proliferation treaty that stops further production of fossil fuels, a small island nation leader urged Tuesday. The proposal by Tuvalu came as vulnerable nations pushed for more action and money at international climate talks in Egypt, while big polluters remained divided over who should pay for the damage industrial greenhouse gas emissions have done to the planet."

"We all know that the leading cause of climate crisis is fossil fuels," Tuvalu Prime Minister Kausea Natano told his fellow leaders, adding that Tuvalu has joined Vanuatu and other nations calling for a fossil fuels non-proliferation treaty. "It's getting too hot and there is very little time to slow and reverse the increasing temperature. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize fast-acting strategies," Natano said.

Fossil fuel refers to an energy source made from fossilized animals and plants. This organic matter is compressed and heated over millions of years until it forms coal, oil, or natural gas. Burning these fuels is bad for the environment as they release carbon dioxide (CO₂) that contributes to global warming.

Climate activists, religious authorities including the Vatican, and some scientists have previously advanced the idea of a non-proliferation treaty for coal, oil and natural gas, but Natano's speech gave it a boost in front of a global audience at COP27.

A rising sea level poses a serious threat to coastal life around the world. The highest elevation in Tuvalu is 4.6 meters above sea level. In the Philippines, we have towns equally vulnerable to rising seas. The town of Aparri, for example, has coastal areas with an elevation of one meter above sea level, and its lowest elevation is minus one meter below sea level. Seas are predicted to rise a foot by 2050, regardless of how much global carbon emissions can be reduced.

Like Tuvalu and other island nations, the Philippines is on its way to a major climate change disaster unless global leaders figure out soon how to avert the worst of global warming.

World leaders and diplomats attending the COP27 climate summit in Egypt have framed the fight against global warming as a battle for human survival. In her speech, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged countries to hasten action on climate change. "The global fossil fuel crisis must be a game changer. So let us not take the "highway to hell" but let's earn the clean ticket to heaven," she said.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday said: "We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing. Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible."



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Metropolis gets new water source

By Jordeene B. Lagare
@jordeenelagare

The first phase of the P26-billion Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project has commenced its commercial run, bringing a vital new water source to populous Metro Manila, proponent WawaJVCo Inc. said.

WawaJVCo, a joint venture between Razon-led Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc. and Violago-led San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group Inc., said phase one of the project

would initially deliver 80 million liters per day (MLD) of raw water to utility concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc.

The facility comprises three parts: the weir where water is impounded, the pumping station that brings water to the treatment plant and the buried water pipeline.

WawaJVCo announced on Thursday that it had launched the commercial run of this project on Oct. 25.

"Prime Infra fulfilled its promise to the government to

deliver on time water infrastructure, which will help ensure the reliability of raw water supply to customers of Manila Water at a cost-effective manner," said Prime Infra chair Enrique Razon Jr.

"This milestone demonstrates Prime Infra's strong track record in delivering critical infrastructure projects in challenging situations," added Razon.

Phase 2 coming

Meanwhile, the construction of Wawa Water project

phase two is on track, with WawaJVCo saying the river diversion milestone had been achieved this week.

The river diversion is seen to minimize construction execution risk, allowing WawaJVCo to start building the main dam body by December this year, work through the wet season and complete the project on schedule.

The company is targeting to complete phase 2, dubbed the Upper Wawa Dam, by 2025. Construction began in the mid-

dle of the pandemic.

Once completed, it will be able to supply at least 518 MLD of raw water to Manila Water, benefiting more than 500,000 households in the East Zone concession area.

Flagship

Manila Water holds a franchise to provide water and waste water services to the eastern side of Metro Manila and parts of Rizal.

"The development of the bulk water project would not

have been achieved without the full support of our stakeholders. We will continue to build on this momentum as we progress in the construction of phase 2 with the vision of creating shared value for both the oftaker and the host communities," Prime Infra CEO Guillaume Lucci said.

The Wawa project is among the government's flagship infrastructure projects intended to increase water supply in Metro Manila and adjacent areas. INQ



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Wanderlust hails Palawan 'Best Island'

BY RAFFY AYENG
 @tribunephil_raf

A month before the year ends, the Philippine tourism industry has once again reaped accolades from the renowned travel magazine *Wanderlust*, as the pristine island destination Palawan was cited as the Most Desirable Island among the world's best.

Aside from this, the Philippine Tourism Board, through the Philippine Department of Tourism-Central Visayas Office also placed 6th among hundreds of special entries in the *Wanderlust* Sustainability Initiative Category for its Dive7 Program.

Wanderlust Travel Awards chooses the best destinations in the world being judged by the best-traveled group of people in the United Kingdom.

Cebu was also nominated this year as the Most Desirable Region throughout the globe by the award-giving body.

"These awards reflect the efforts to revive the tourism industry that are well underway especially because of the Marcos administration's thrust towards prioritizing tourism development. Rest assured that we will continue with our mission to herald the Philippines and the Filipino brand to the world, and to ensure the continued sustainability of our islands," said Tourism secretary Christina Garcia Frasco during the awarding ceremony last 9 November.

Frasco, who led the Philippine delegation to the World Travel Market recently held in London said the future of Philippine tourism remains positive and bright, with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's support for the industry as a priority in his administration.

"Since we have begun with all the programs and plans of the Marcos administration, we have far surpassed this goal," she said.

"Driving our economic recovery is no other than the Filipino people. We have a young and well-trained workforce who are as kind and gentle as people, as they are courageous and fierce," she added.

These new awards add to the long list of recognitions the country has earned even at the height of the Covid-19 crisis.



PUBLISHED BY
 THE TRIBUNE COMPANY
 1000 N. LAUREL ST.
 CHICAGO, ILL. 60610
 (773) 442-2000

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Weather, wind, and change

Some may laud the Marcos Jr. administration for its apparent efforts to address environmental concerns, but the fact is, it has no choice.

The planet is on the brink of dying, and if governments do not act fast enough — moreso, as one humankind — then what will be left for the next generations?

We might as well really end with Z.

So let's go back to the ABCs of climate change and this time really understand it.

No lecture will be taking place in this space, however — enough of lectures, we say, just do what's right.

First, let us throw out some garbage, but not just out the window. Floods do bring them back to your door after all, or even on your roofs if you were unfortunate to be on the path of a tropical cyclone with the wind power of "Yolanda," "Odette," or "Paeng."

Segregation, recycling, and upcycling are words that now must live by. The oceans can no longer take the abuse, and

“
*Immediate
 action is needed,
 and while
 planting trees
 will be beneficial
 in the long run,
 efforts being
 made today
 are simply not
 enough.*
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Published by
DAILY TRIBUNE
1111 N. W. 11th St.
Miami, Fla. 33136
Phone 375-1111

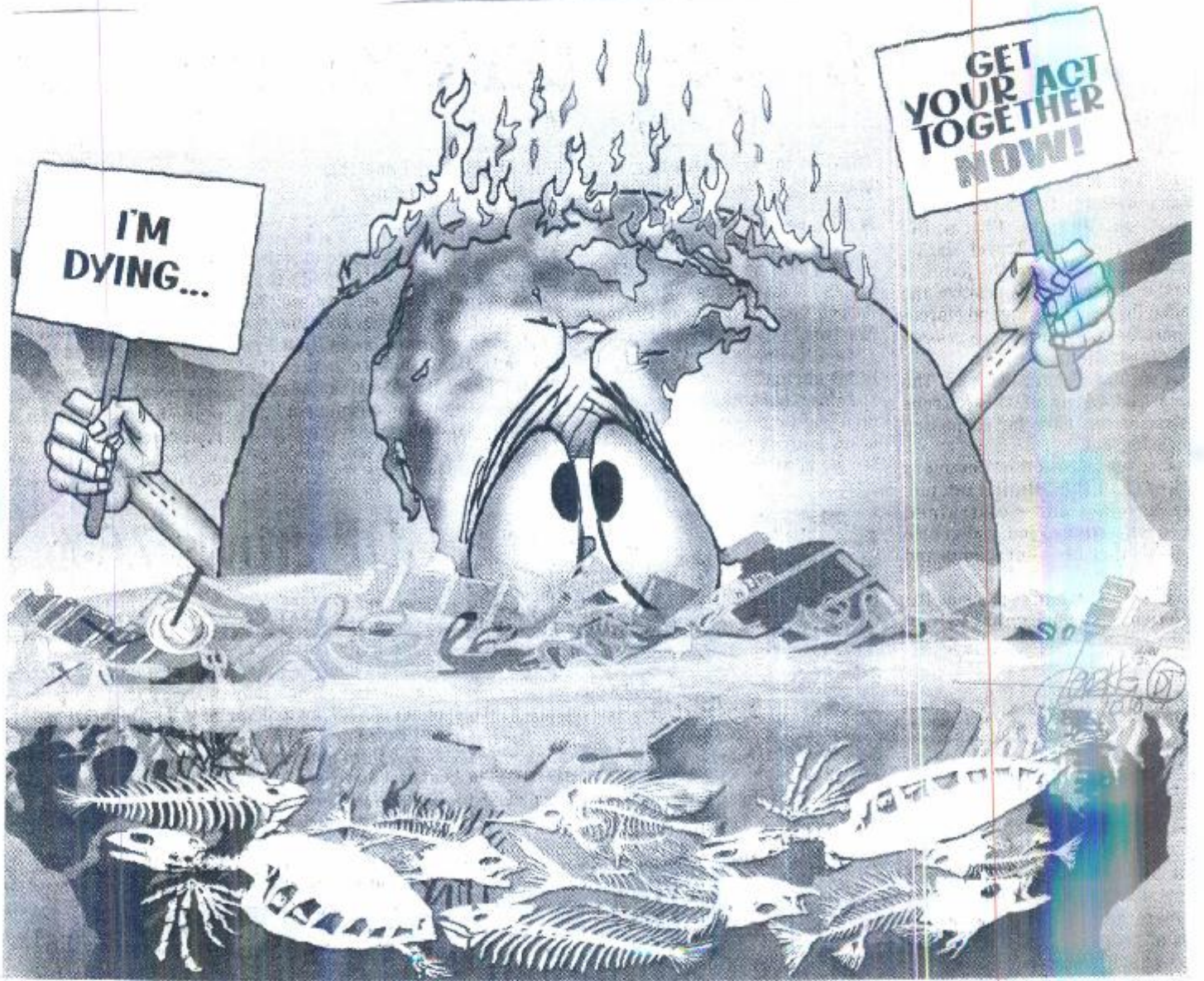
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our marine resources are fast depleting.

Let's take more garbage out and take those obsolete rules to the cleaners. Laws that cushion industrial giants polluting the air and the seas should be junked. Laws that protect corporate giants that shrink our forests to pad their pockets should be changed.

Other governments are acting on the undeniable effects of industrialization by creating policies to reduce carbon emissions. Major countries in Europe are aiming to "reach net zero emissions by 2050," as guided by the Paris Agreement.

This agreement – signed in December 2015 by 195 states – is considered "the most important pact for international cooperation on tackling climate change."

The Philippines shares in this commitment as it was ratified under the Duterte regime in 2017. There is no recourse, as the country faces environmental issues that affect us now.

An article on earth.org zeroes in on four main issues: air pollution, plastic pollution, marine pollution, and sea level rise.

The last one is particularly relevant following the destruction caused by super typhoon "Paeng."

"In line with the problem, earth.org's projection shows that residents of the country's capital city, Manila, will be displaced by 2100 if the current trend continues. At the moment, Manila is already subsiding at 20 millimeters per year, surpassing the mean sea level rise almost tenfold," writes Khalid Raji on 9 November 2022.

Immediate action is needed, and while planting trees will be beneficial in the long run, efforts being made today are simply not enough.

The damage to our environment is too deep to solve in just six years.

Moreover, if we continue the way we are now and at the pace, we are addressing the problems, experts say that "economic damage to the Philippines could reach up to 7.6 percent of gross domestic product by 2030 and by 13.6 percent of GDP by 2040," the World Bank said.

These projections are serious enough to merit more attention not just from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., but all of us, Filipinos.

“Segregation, recycling, and upcycling are words that now must live by. The oceans can no longer take the abuse, and our marine resources are fast depleting.”



Climate shocks take toll on PH 'high-income' bid

By CHINO S. LEYCO

Climate change in the Philippines will continue and accelerate, which poses major risks for the nation's long-term development, the World Bank warned.

Based on the World Bank's report on Wednesday, Nov. 9, climate change could hamper the country's ambition of becoming a high-income country by 2045 given its heavy toll on Filipinos' lives, properties, and livelihoods.

Multiple indices rank the Philippines as one of the countries most affected by extreme climate events. The country has experienced highly destructive typhoons almost annually for the past 10-years.

Annual losses from typhoons have been estimated at 1.2 percent of the economy, or gross domestic product (GDP), and as much as 4.6 percent of GDP in extreme cases like Super Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

If left unaddressed, World Bank said climate shocks would continue to hamper

economic activities, damage infrastructure, and induce deep social disruptions.

In the World Bank's country climate change and development report for the Philippines, it recommended several measures to protect the economy from climate shocks.

Among these recommendations were avoiding new construction in flood-prone areas; improving water storage to reduce the risk of damaging floods and droughts. This will also increase water availability.

Likewise, World Bank wants to extend irrigation in rainfed areas and promote climate-smart agriculture practices such as Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD).

Moreover, the bank suggested to make social protection programs adaptive and scalable to respond to climate shocks as well as remove the obstacles that private actors face in scaling investments in renewable energy.

Lastly, the government regulators should ensure new buildings are energy efficient and climate resilient, World Bank said.

Manuela V. Ferro, World Bank vice-president for East Asia and Pacific, said the Philippines would benefit from an energy transition towards more renewable energy.

"Accelerated decarbonization would reduce electricity costs by about 20 percent below current levels which is good for the country's competitiveness and would also dramatically reduce air pollution," Ferro said.

The private sector has a crucial role to play in accelerating the adoption of green technologies and ramping up climate finance by working with local financial institutions and regulators, World Bank said.

"The investments needed to undertake these actions are substantial, but not out of reach," John Gandolfo, International Finance Corp., acting vice president for Asia and the Pacific said.

"The business leaders and bankers who embrace climate as a business opportunity and offer these low-carbon technologies, goods and services will be the front runners of our future," Gandolfo said.



Binay eyes holistic approach to fight climate change effects

MAKATI City Mayor Abigail Binay is proposing taking a holistic approach so people can "survive the worst outcomes of a changing climate."

The method, according to the mayor, means the government engages the private sector, community leaders, non-government organizations, the academe, the media, and other volunteer groups to strengthen the resilience of communities and society as a whole.

"I believe that in order to effectively combat the impacts of climate change, we must take a whole-of-society approach. This means working together across various sectors and levels of government to find innovative solutions that will benefit our communities and protect our environment for generations to come," Binay said in a virtual message during the Adapt Asia 2022 held in Makati on Thursday.

Adapt Asia 2022, organized by data and environmental intelligence firm Komunidad, is a two-day forum that brings together leaders and practitioners from across Asia to explore the actions to take in advancing climate adaptation and resilience within their localities through innovative solutions.

Binay said climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing. She added rising global temperatures are leading to more intense natural disasters and changing weather patterns, which in turn impact human societies and ecosystems around the world.

"Climate change is no longer just a distant threat. It is upon us. It is already affecting our planet, causing rising temperatures and extreme weather events that have made it more difficult for us to live and work safely," she said. **Joel E. Zurbano**



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Climate projections again point to dangerous 2.7C rise by 2100

BY ERIC ROSTON | Bloomberg Opinion

THE research partnership Climate Action Tracker on Thursday released its latest projections of how greenhouse gas emissions may dangerously raise the global average temperature. The result is similar to last year's—a troubling 2.7C increase above pre-industrial levels if policies don't improve—but a different point of comparison adds a new dimension to the finding.

The key numbers in the updated projections:

■ If current policies remain in place, the world will heat up by an average of 2.7C by 2100. That's very, very deep into the danger zone.

■ If 2030 targets are implemented, that figure drops to 2.4C—the same as CAT's estimate last year.

■ If countries pursue their stated, more aggressive carbon-cutting targets, it falls to 2C, which still fails the Paris agreement test of "well below" that very mark.

■ In an optimistic scenario, where everything that can possibly go right goes right, warming is limited to 1.8C. But that's a figure that Inger Andersen, UN Environment Program executive director, recently described as "not currently credible."

The estimates are in line with a UN report released last month projecting a 2.5C end-of-century average temperature rise if countries meet only their current commitments.

In a report detailing the projections, CAT researchers also document how Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to accelerate a global rush for gas. There is more gas infrastructure proposed, approved or under construction than can likely exist without the world exceeding the Paris Agreement warming limit

of 1.5C. Existing gas infrastructure alone pushes the world off the International Energy Agency's "net zero emissions" pathway by 2030. As it stands, gas use by 2030 needs to be at least 30 percent below 2021 levels.

"If this were only about replacing the Russian gas, we are totally overdoing it," said Niklas Höhne, a climate policy scientist at Germany's New Climate Institute who contributes to Climate Action Tracker. "And that is not good news."

The report lays down a stark dilemma: Either the gas building boom will put lower levels of global heating out of reach, or countries are rushing to construct assets that they will just as soon abandon. Some efforts by industry to curb methane emissions may be too little, too late from the standpoint of carbon accounting, according to the report. Efforts to reduce "fugitive emissions," or infrastructure leaks, are common in many national plans, "but this misses the real challenge: to move beyond coal, oil and gas by phasing out production," the CAT authors write. "Just as there is no such thing as 'clean coal,' there is also no 'clean oil' nor 'clean gas.'"

The focus on gas and its potential to thwart climate goals puts a grimmer focus on the situation than the



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Climate projections . . .

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The focus on gas and its potential to thwart climate goals puts a grimmer focus on the situation than the International Energy Agency's recent World Energy Outlook, which cited Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a turning point in the race toward clean energy "not just for the time being, but for decades to come," according to IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

International Energy Agency's recent World Energy Outlook, which cited Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a turning point in the race toward clean energy "not just for the time being, but for decades to come," according to IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

A clear move away from gas has taken hold in places as renewable energy continues to expand, Höhne said. "These are two competing trends," he said. "And for us, we would say it's a bit too early to say which one will win."

The CAT numbers are further sharpened by the hard reality that 1.2C of warming—the current level—is already bringing worse impacts than expected, he said.

Yet viewed from another perspective, the 2022 numbers are less grim: They are a vast improvement over the best case scenario at COP15 in Copenhagen, where Climate Action Tracker released its first projections.

The year 2009 was a long-distance sprint for diplomats, scientists, activists and business leaders expect-

ing that the annual UN talks would finally pay off in an agreement. Barack Obama, then in the first year of his presidency, was so eager for a deal that he flew to Copenhagen for the final, disastrous days. Small-island nations and like-minded developing countries went to Denmark pushing an aggressive temperature goal—1.5C above the pre-industrial average—that might give them a fighting chance of survival.

That didn't happen until six years later, in Paris. But near the close of the COP15 talks a consortium of researchers calling themselves Climate Action Tracker released a briefing paper with some sobering news. The most aggressive targets that developed countries were then offering would leave the world at roughly 3.2C of warming by century's end. The less ambitious goals might bring about 3.5C of warming—and utter catastrophe.

From the standpoint of the 2009 Copenhagen COP, then, the 14th year of Climate Action Tracker is rather incredible.

"It's 1.5C degrees better than in 2009. That's, I think, remarkable," said Höhne, who was the lead author of the 2009 CAT analysis. "And it's something that motivates me to keep doing this, because you have so much bad news. This is the good news."

An individual UN climate conference might not seem to make much of a difference, he said. "But if you look at the system as a whole—the conferences since 2009 until now—they have definitely achieved something. Now we are in a different world." *With assistance from Janet Paskin / Bloomberg.*



Countries diverge on climate finance

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt: High-level talks on scaling up finance for developing countries to green their economies and prepare for global warming impacts began Wednesday at the COP27 climate conference with negotiators differing on the funding's size and providers.

In 2009, the chaotic UN climate summit in Copenhagen saw rich nations promise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to the Global South, but two years past that deadline the amount delivered is still \$17 billion short, according to the OECD.

Even this figure overestimates rich nation largesse if loans and funds not already allocated for other purposes are excluded from the tally, say Oxfam and other NGOs that track the issue.

Developed nations attending the November 6 to 18 talks at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh now say the \$100-billion goal will be reached by the end of 2023.

Discussions on how much to give after the current round of commitments expire in 2025 — and whether to expand the pool of donors to include other nations, notably China — have already gotten underway.

But more than a dozen years after the original pledge was made, estimates of future financial flows required have increased several fold, promising to make upcoming negotiations difficult.

The climate finance talks kicked off with three questions in need of "political guidance": Should there be quantitative goals? Should the donor base be expanded? Should financing also cover "loss and damage" that has already occurred?

"We must not replicate the shortcomings in the delivery of the \$100 billion," said Rosalinda Soipan Tuya, a Kenyan MP speaking on behalf of the negotiating bloc of African nations.

The amount needed over the second half of this decade should, she added, "be based on need," which she estimated at more than \$1.3 trillion per year globally by 2030.

Other developing nation representatives focused not just on the amount, but on the conditions under which financing would be

made available.

"We must ensure our debt levels are not enhanced," said an official from The Maldives, representing the AOSIS group of small island nations, some of whom face the prospect of being wiped off the map by rising seas.

"The financing must be grant-based and simple to access."

'Paltry sum'

A number of nations lamented the paucity of outright grants compared to loans.

The representative from Pakistan insisted that the contested category of loss and damage — essentially compensation for unavoidable climate impacts — should also be covered as well.

"I come from ground zero of the climate crisis," she said, referring to massive flooding in August that covered a third of her country and caused more than \$30 billion in economic losses, according to the World Bank.

Standing in for wealthy nations that were until recently reluctant to allow loss and damage onto the formal negotiating agenda of the UN talks was US special envoy for the climate John Kerry.

"No government in the world has the money to do what we have to do to win this battle," he said, noting that total needs could reach \$4 trillion.

"We have to think completely differently about how we can mobilize finance," he added, lamenting the failure of developed countries to deliver the "paltry sum" of \$100 billion dollars.

Diplomats from developing nations criticized the persistent imbalance in climate financing which, within the UN framework, should be evenly split between reducing emissions (mitigation) and boosting resilience to future impacts (adaptation).

As climate disasters have multiplied over the last decade, nations in the Global South have called for a separate financial facility for loss and damage.

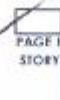
"We need a common definition of what exactly constitutes climate finance," said IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva. "It is paramount to measure what needs there are and their net worth."



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MORE VOICES

12 a.m. thoughts: Defining success should be a personal process. Different goals, different satisfaction, different needs, therefore different measures of success.
@jaicabajar

Why do I still take COVID precautions? It's a lot easier to wear a mask or seek clean air than without warning need to reschedule weeks of plans or deal with

lingering effects of COVID. Work smarter, not harder.

Megan Ben Dor Ruthven, @_mhdr_

Why expect GenZs and young Millennials to save the world from problems Boomers and GenXers created? Tapos sasabihan pa sila ng "pa-woke." Kaya wala silang amor sa mga mas nakakatanda. Instead of handing them a better world, they're expected to

clean up sh*t they never created.
@GerryCacanindin

{ At this point everyone on earth should be a "climate activist" if they want to stay alive.
@ClareSaxon }

Wishful thinking isn't a substitute for policy change.
Ahmed Ali, @MrAhmednurAli



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Bank pledges 10,000 trees at the La Mesa Watershed

SECURITY Bank Corp. announced that it and Security Bank Foundation Inc. (SBFI) committed to plant 10,000 seedlings at the La Mesa Watershed over the next five years, contributing to reforestation efforts that began in 1999.

In a statement, the lender said that Security Bank employees planted 2,000 seedlings of Lago and Malapapaya trees at the watershed. This was in partnership with a program of the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. This program, according to the lender, has been serving the community in protecting one of the biggest sources of clean water in Metro Manila.

The La Mesa Watershed is the largest rainforest in Metro Manila and the region's major source of potable water. The activity involved

more than 200 employee volunteers and generated 1,600 volunteer hours. The lender said SBFI is this year's top private donor for La Mesa Watershed reforestation.

"We know and understand that protecting the environment is critical to uplifting the quality of lives. Our commitment represents 45 percent of the La Mesa Watershed's remaining area for reforestation. By planting these seedlings, we will help increase the country's forest cover, offset carbon emissions that affect global warming, prevent flooding, and ensure the cleanliness of Metro Manila's water supply," said Melissa R. Aquino, trustee and corporate secretary of SBFI, the lender's corporate social responsibility arm.

The commitment to plant 10,000

trees in five years will be complemented by environmental education efforts, which is also in line with the bank's education advocacy, the lender said.

"Security Bank Foundation's adoption of 25 hectares of the La Mesa Watershed for five years is proof of their long term commitment to protecting and preserving the environment; the ABS-CBN Foundation is honored to be a partner in their advocacy," said Joseph Alfonso T. Aycalon, head of the ABS-CBN Foundation program called "Bantay Kalikasan."

The lender said that prior to the tree-planting event, employees of SBFI and Security Bank's Sustainability Unit conducted virtual learning session with employees on the

importance of climate change, the bank's sustainability efforts, and how employees can contribute to achieving the Bank's sustainability goals.

"We are determined to build a society that values sustainability and the protection of our natural resources to ensure the future of the coming generations. Through this landmark project with the La Mesa Watershed and the ABS-CBN Foundation, we are one step closer in fulfilling the reforestation target set for La Mesa," said Jeanne Nicole B. Lizares, head of the Sustainability Unit of Security Bank.

The lender said the SBFI continues to support education through its flagship program that build new classrooms.



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Solar use saves \$78 M in fossil fuel spending

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Philippines reaps in benefits from solar usage – albeit its minimal generation – with avoided \$78 million in fossil fuel spending from January to June this year, based on a report analyzing Asia's utilization of solar.

In the report by Ember, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said solar generation allowed seven Asian countries – China, India, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand – to avoid potential fossil fuel costs of approximately \$34 billion in the first semester alone.

This is equivalent to nine

percent of total fossil fuel costs during the period.

Amid soaring fossil fuel prices, solar power is already contributing to meeting electricity demand in Asia and enhancing energy security, the findings showed.

"Asian countries have shown that rapid solar deployment is possible, setting a remarkable example and providing valuable lessons learned for their peers in the region. As the prices of solar and storage plummet, and the potential cost savings have started to materialize, solar dominance in Asia now looks to come much sooner than previously expected," Ember's Asia electricity analyst Achmed Shahram Edianto said.

The Philippines' solar gen-

eration – despite its slow growth – avoided \$78 million in fossil fuel spending, despite solar accounting for only one percent of generation.

Meanwhile, majority of the estimated first half savings in Asia are from China at \$21 billion, with its solar capacity serving five percent of its total electricity demand.

Japan saw the second-highest impact, with \$5.6 billion in avoided fuel costs thanks to solar power generation alone.

The report also cited that meeting the current targets for solar capacity in 2030 could enable the seven countries to avoid at least \$44 billion in fuel costs, which is \$10 billion more than the first half of this year.



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Planet Earth: Eight billion humans and dwindling resources

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

UNITED NATIONS, United States (AFP) - Are eight billion humans too many for planet Earth? As we reach this milestone on Nov. 15, most experts say the bigger problem is the overconsumption of resources by the wealthiest residents.

"Eight billion people, it is a momentous milestone for humanity," said United Nations Population Fund chief Natalia Kanem, hailing an increase in life expectancy and fewer maternal and child deaths.

"Yet, I realize this moment might not be celebrated by all. Some express concerns that our world is overpopulated. I am here to say clearly that the sheer number of human lives is not a cause for fear."

So, are there too many of us for Earth to sustain?

Many experts say that this is the wrong question. Instead of the fear of overpopulation, we should focus on the overconsumption of the planet's resources by the wealthiest among us.

"Too many for whom, too many for what? If you ask me, am I too many? I don't think so," Joel Cohen of Rockefeller University's Laboratory of Populations told AFP.

He said the question of how many people Earth can support has two sides: natural limits and human choices.

Our choices result in humans consuming far more biological resources, such as forests and land, than the planet can regenerate each year.

The overconsumption of fossil fuels, for example, leads to more carbon dioxide emissions, responsible for global warming.

We would need the biocapacity of 1.75 Earths to sustainably meet the needs of the current population, according to the Global Footprint Network and WWF NGOs.

The most recent UN climate report

mentions population growth as one of the main drivers of an increase in greenhouse gases. However, it plays a smaller role than economic growth.

"We are stupid. We lacked foresight. We are greedy. We don't use the information we have. That's where the choices and the problems lie," said Cohen.

However, he rejects the idea that humans are a curse on the planet, saying people should be given better choices.

"Our impact on the planet is driven far more by our behavior than by our numbers," said Jennifer Scubba, a researcher at the Wilson Center, a think tank.

"It's lazy and damaging to keep going back to overpopulation," she added, as this allows people in wealthy nations, who consume the most, to cast the blame for the planet's woes onto developing countries where population growth is highest.

"Really, it's us. It's me and you, the air conditioning I enjoy, the pool I have outside, and the meat I eat at night that causes so much more damage."

If everyone on the planet lived like a citizen of India, we would only need the capacity of 0.8 Earths a year, according to the Global Footprint Network and WWF. If we all consumed like a resident of the United States, we would need five Earths a year.

The United Nations estimates that our planet will be home to 9.7 billion people by 2050.

One of the trickiest questions that arise when discussing population is that of controlling fertility. Even those who believe we need to lower the Earth's population are adamant about protecting women's rights.

Robin Maynard, the executive director of the NGO Population Matters, says there needs to be a decrease in the population, but "only through positive, voluntary, rights-respecting means" and not "deplorable examples" of population control.



Electric vehicles now exempted from coding

Easily the bane of many motorists in Metro Manila is the number coding scheme that prohibits vehicles from using the roads during peak hours based on the last digit of their plate number. This vehicle reduction program was implemented in the hopes of reducing traffic on our already congested roads. This means that those residing within the city or going to any destination inside coding zones have to consider what day of the week it is and whether their car is allowed.

It has led to the rise of such unique phenomenon as the "coding car" purchase, where wealthy buyers acquire a second vehicle simply to be used during the days that their first car is prohibited. Unfortunately, it does little to curb the congestion, and only contributes to more carbon emissions.

As the effects of global warming are becoming more apparent, perhaps this new measure may actually convince motorists

to be more mindful of their carbon emissions. To help hasten the adoption of electric vehicles (which have zero emissions), the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) law has been passed. This law provides for certain tax exemptions and several non-fiscal incentives for distributors and buyers of these cars. This makes these vehicles exempt from certain import and excise taxes, lowering their price to make them more appealing to the buying public.



EDITORS DESK

INIGO S. ROCES

No emissions, no coding

For the buyers, they can enjoy some of the non-fiscal incentives, which includes this latest development: coding exemption. This means, if you're one of the lucky

few who has purchased a Tesla, BYD, BMW iX, Nissan LEAF, Jaguar i-Pace, Porsche Taycan, Renault Twizy, Audi E-tron, or Mercedes-Benz EQS and the like, you are free to roam the city even on your coding days.

According to the recently released implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the EVIDA law, electric vehicles are officially exempt from coding. In response, the MMDA has recently circulated a memo to its traffic enforcers instructing them not to apprehend any fully electric vehicles during their coding days.

This is just the first step of many more non-fiscal incentives planned for buyers of electric vehicles. In the future, they can also expect to receive special plate numbers to distinguish them from normal vehicles, priority registration and renewal, as well as priority parking in EV spaces with chargers provided by establishments like malls.

Are hybrids included?

This is one aspect that may need some clarification. The IRR states that battery electric vehicles (fully electric), hybrid vehicles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are included under the definition of "electric vehicles." Which should therefore mean they are exempted as well.

Of course, because the latter two still have combustion engines, there may be some argument or explanation needed with the apprehending officer should you ever be pulled over. Perhaps the safest course of action is to wait for a list of exempted vehicles released by the government. For now, it will be a short one, but with many more brands already planning to offer one by next year, you can expect that list to grow.

Hastening the transition

It's certainly an encouraging sign from the government. After all, if coding was reason enough for some of the more wealthy buyers to acquire a second coding car, shouldn't complete exemption be even more encouragement to get an electric vehicle?

Even range anxiety is beginning to be addressed as major developers like SM, Ayala, and Robinsons have now launched EV spaces with fast chargers in their top commercial establishments.

Perhaps the only question left to ask is, how long will this exemption last? At some point, nearly all the vehicles on the road will be electric.

(Inigo S. Roces is the motoring editor of Manila Bulletin)



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Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA) Formerly Public Works Authority (PWA) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 023-01

GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING BY PRA OF APPROVED RECLAMATION PROJECTS, RECLAMATION COMPONENTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL) ON PRA-APPROVED RECLAIMED LANDS

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution on the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, Presidential Decree No. 157 (Philippine Environmental Policy, Presidential Decree No. 158 (Establishing an Environmental Impact Statement System, Presidential Decree No. 159 (Transfer of the Public Works Authority), Section 3 of Executive Order No. 323, series of 1973 (Designating the PWA the State) Agency as the Agency Primarily Responsible for all Reclamation Projects, Executive Order No. 74, series of 2019, (Designating the PRA Governing Board as the Power of the President to Approve Reclamation Projects) and its implementing Rules and Regulations, and other Environmental Laws, the following guidelines for the environmental monitoring by PRA of implementation of approved reclamation projects, reclamation component sites of infrastructure projects, and infrastructure development (horizontal and vertical) on PRA-approved reclaimed lands is hereby issued.

Section 1. Rationale

It is the policy of the State to attain and maintain a rational and orderly balance between non-renewable growth and environmental protection. Every proposed project or undertaking which is projected to have significant off-site impacts to the quality of the environment is covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) system and other Environmental Laws.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), as the lead government agency mandated to coordinate, integrate and regulate reclamation projects for an efficient administration of reclaimed lands in the country fully subject to the State policy. The PRA has endeavored to support the Government's goal of sustaining economic growth by creating jobs and assets for the country through its environmentally sustainable land reclamation and converting government-owned real estate properties into income-generating assets through reclamation and public estate management.

Executive Order No. 74 further mandated the PRA to evaluate reclamation projects based on their cumulative impacts rather than on a specific project basis. In line with this, the PRA actively pursues and enforces that all approved reclamation projects, including horizontal and vertical infrastructure development on the reclaimed land, are consistent with the Philippine EIS System and other environmental laws, rules and regulations.

Section 2. Coverage

These guidelines shall cover all approved reclamation projects, reclamation components of major infrastructure projects, and infrastructure projects with on approved reclaimed lands, bridges, ports, airports, power plants and other similar projects.

Horizontal and vertical building infrastructure and other development projects on PRA-approved reclaimed lands.

Section 3. Definition of Terms

- 3.1. Area Clearance (AC) - a division issued by the DENR Secretary clearing an area suitable for reclamation.
3.2. Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) - a semi-annual report submitted by the project proponent to DENR-EMB as report to self-monitoring of compliance with the requirements under the Philippine EIS System.
3.3. Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) - a certification issued by the DENR-EMB certifying that, based on the nature of project, activities, and other parameters of the project, the project is not covered by the EIS System and is not required to secure an ECC.
3.4. Developer - A natural or juridical person intending to implement or implementing horizontal and/or vertical infrastructure projects.
3.5. Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) - refers to the PRA-approved assessment report prepared by PRA-ENV Group upon completion of the project, which reflects the project's overall compliance in consultation with environmental laws and requirements including those provided in this Policy.
3.6. Environmentally Critical Area (ECA) - area delineated through Presidential Proclamation (PP) 2146 (1981) as environmentally sensitive area that significant environmental impacts are expected if certain types of proposed projects or programs are located, developed or implemented in it.
3.7. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) - document issued by the DENR-EMB certifying that based on the representations of the proponent, the proposed project or undertaking will not cause a significant negative environmental impact. The ECC also certifies that the project or program has complied with all the requirements of the PES System and has consented to implement its approved Environmental Management Plan. The ECC contains specific measures and conditions for the project proponent to undertake before and during the operation of the project, and at some points, during the project abandonment, plans to mitigate identified environmental impacts.
3.8. Environmentally Critical Project (ECP) - project or program that has high potential for significant negative environmental impact as defined under PP 2146 (1981) and EO 10563 and associated under existing DENR-EMB policies and such other projects that may be declared by the President.
3.9. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - process that involves evaluating and predicting the likely impacts of a project (including cumulative impacts) on the environment by conducting environmental assessment, operation and abandonment, infrastructure design, engineering, construction, mitigation and environmental measures addressing these consequences to avoid the environment and the community's welfare. The process is undertaken by, among others, the project proponent and/or EIA Consultant, DENR-EMB, a Review Committee, affected communities and stakeholders.
3.10. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - an EIA Report type that is required to be submitted for ECC application for proposed ECPs and other project types that are expected to have high degree of environmental impact significance.
3.11. Environmental Impact and Management Plan (EIMP) - section in the EIS Checklist or Report that contains the prevention, mitigation and monitoring measures, similar to the EIMP of other EIS documents.
3.12. Environmental Management Plan/Program (EMPP) - section in the EIS that details the prevention, mitigation and monitoring measures to enhance positive impacts and minimize negative impacts and risks of a proposed project or undertaking. It also includes contingency and cooperation plan for environmental impacts and risks.
3.13. Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) - part of the EIMP which delineates specific parameters to be monitored for significant environmental impacts and impacts, the sampling measurement plan and the corresponding management actions.
3.14. Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Report - document similar to an EIS but with reduced details and depth of assessment and discussion.
3.15. IEE Checklist (IEEC) Report - simplified checklist version of an IEE Report, prescribed by the DENR, to be filed up by a proponent to identify and assess a project's environmental impacts or the mitigation/enhancement measures to address such impacts.
3.16. Multi-agency Monitoring Team (MMT) - an independent entity whose membership represents primarily the stakeholders (public) that is intended to assist the DENR in monitoring environmental impacts and compliance with the PES System requirements and other environmental laws on a third-party basis. The MMT scheme is intended to advance participation and transparency of the post-ECC issuance stage of the EIA Process.
3.17. Non-Environmentally Critical Projects (Non-ECP) - projects or undertakings which are not classified as ECP but are deemed to have a significant impact on the quality of the environment by virtue of being located in an area subject to the guidelines set forth by DENR-EMB Memorandum Circular 023 dated July 2014.

- 3.18. PRA-Reclamation (PRC) Group - The department responsible in the overall technical supervision and monitoring of the implementation of reclamation projects.
3.19. PRA-ENV Group - The department responsible in the environmental compliance monitoring of reclamation projects.
3.20. Project - refers to reclamation projects, reclamation components of development projects or vertical or horizontal infrastructure development on PRA-approved reclaimed lands, which will be monitored consistent with these guidelines.
3.21. Proponent - any natural or juridical person intending to implement or implementing a reclamation project.
3.22. Reclamation - the deliberate process of converting freshwater land, submerged areas or bodies of water into permanent land by fill or other means using dredge fill and other suitable materials for specific purposes.
3.23. Reclamation Component - refers to the reclamation as a component of a development or infrastructure project such as roads, expressways, bridges, ports, airports, power plants and other similar projects which must be within or adjacent to the main project area.
3.24. Self-Monitoring Report (SMR) - refers to the report regularly submitted by reclamation projects or other development projects on PRA-approved reclaimed lands to DENR-EMB to provide information on the sustainability of environmental compliance and overall environmental performance.
3.25. Stakeholders - persons (natural or juridical) who affect or are affected by the project or undertaking, such as, but not limited to, members of the local community, industry, local government units (LGU), National Government Agencies (NGA), non-government organizations (NGOs) or people's organizations (POs).

Section 4. Guidelines

4.1 PRA ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING GROUP

The PRA's Environmental Management Department under the Reclamation and Regulation Office, herein referred as PRA-ENV Group, shall lead the environmental compliance monitoring activities. It shall be responsible by dispatching all activities within the scope of monitoring.

4.2 SCOPE OF MONITORING

4.2.1 Duration

The environmental compliance monitoring of reclamation projects and horizontal and vertical building infrastructure and other development projects on PRA-approved reclaimed lands shall commence within the first quarter of project implementation until completion of the project.

4.2.2 Monitoring Tools

4.2.2.1 Other applicable environmental laws

4.2.3 Monitoring Activities

- 4.2.3.1 Environmental Coordination Meetings - Quarterly environmental coordination meetings will be conducted between the PRA-ENV Group and project proponent/developers. The proponent and project developer shall attend and be accompanied with applicable environmental requirements (i.e. environmental laws, ECC, EIMP/EMPP) through a discussion of the SMR and CMR.
4.2.3.2 Site Visit - Bi-annual project site visit shall be conducted by the PRA-ENV Group and the proponent/developer to validate compliance with applicable environmental requirements and conduct assessment of actual activities and impacts of the project, if any. The environmental coordination meeting and site visit may be conducted simultaneously.
4.2.3.3 Site Visit Logistics - During the conduct of the environmental compliance monitoring and coordination meetings at the project site, the proponent/developer shall provide the necessary support and logistics, such as, but not limited to, meeting area, on-site transportation, Personal Protective Equipment, equipment for documentation, and other support materials, which may be needed during the activities.
4.2.3.4 Sampling & Measurement Activities - Prior to the conduct of sampling and measurement activities, PRA and the proponent shall attend and agree on the schedule of required sampling/monitoring to be conducted pursuant to the ECC and other environmental requirements.
4.2.3.5 Special Environmental Coordination Meetings - In cases of urgent environmental concerns or when a complaint or concern attributed to the project is submitted which need immediate action, a special coordination meeting with the proponent/developer shall be immediately conducted in coordination with the DENR-EMB and concerned and concerned agencies. A joint investigation shall be conducted at the site, as necessary.
4.2.3.6 In cases where mobility of personnel or access to the site is restricted due to imposed health protocols and other emergencies or special conditions, environmental monitoring activities may be conducted remotely through calls and video conferencing.

4.2.4 Reporting Requirements and Actions

- 4.2.4.1 Monitoring Report - An environmental monitoring report shall be prepared and submitted by PRA-ENV Group to the PRA Management with kurtson (M) working days from the date of completion of the monitoring activity.
4.2.4.2 Notice of Findings (NOF) - In case of any finding of non-compliance or violation of environmental laws, sources or concerns, the PRA shall issue an NOF to the proponent/developer, may involve EMB, to immediately rectify the violation or non-compliance within a prescribed period.
4.2.4.3 Notice of Non-Compliance (NNOC) - In case the proponent/developer fails to comply with the NOF within the prescribed timeline, PRA shall issue a NNOC alerting the proponent that the NOF shall be submitted to the concerned DENR-EMB Unit for appropriate action.
4.2.4.4 Reclamation Order - In case the proponent/developer fails to implement a corrective action to address the findings stated in the NOF, the following actions shall be undertaken specifically for reclamation projects and reclamation components.
If the DENR-EMB investigation results in a recommendation of remedial action, strict compliance of the proponent/developer with the said recommendation of DENR-EMB which shall be directly monitored by the PRA-ENV Group.
If the DENR-EMB investigation results in an issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV), the PRA may recommend to issue a Suspension Order of the reclamation activity. The Suspension Order shall be immediately filed once the NOV is filed by the DENR-EMB.

- 4.2.4.5 Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) - Upon completion of the project, a final EAR shall be prepared by PRA-ENV Group and submitted to PRA Management for approval.
a. For reclamation projects, the EAR shall be submitted within 10 working days from the date of issuance of a 100% Certificate of Completion by PRA. The EAR, as approved by PRA Management, shall form part of the documentary requirements for the issuance of a Certificate of Acceptance by PRA.
b. For infrastructure development with reclamation components, the EAR shall be submitted within 10 working days after the PRA and Proponent have determined that the reclamation component has been completed and a Joint Verification Survey by PRA, DENR and Proponent has been conducted.
c. For infrastructure development on PRA-approved reclaimed lands, the EAR shall be submitted within 10 working days after the Developer has received completion of the infrastructure development.

4.3 COMPLIANCE MONITORING OF PROJECTS BASED ON CATEGORY

Table with 3 columns: Project, PRA-ENV Group, Procedure of monitoring. Rows include ECP Reclamation Projects, Non-ECP Reclamation projects, and Projects outside of the PES coverage.

4.4 All projects with reclamation component or located on PRA-approved reclaimed lands, regardless of the type and categorization by DENR-EMB, shall be monitored by the PRA. As deemed necessary, PRA reserves the right to undertake monitoring activities and require the submission of permits, documents and records as it deems appropriate for each particular project.

4.5 The environmental compliance monitoring activities shall be in parallel and consistent with the conduct of the ECC and AC, as applicable, and the mitigation, enhancement and monitoring measures contained in the EIMP and EMoP or EIMP and the environmental laws and applicable issuances of the PRA.

4.6 For Non-ECP, the PRA environmental compliance monitoring activities shall be independent but complementary to the activities of the concerned DENR-EMB and/or LGU. As necessary, the PRA-ENV Group will coordinate and collaborate with the DENR-EMB and/or LGU for an effective environmental compliance monitoring of the project.

Section 5. Procedures

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING PROCEDURE, Site Visit, Response. Rows include ECP Reclamation projects or ECP Infrastructure Projects with Horizontal and Vertical Building Infrastructure Projects on PRA-approved Reclaimed Lands.

Section 6. Complaints Mechanism for environmental incidents related to projects covered by this Policy

6.1 Complaints on environmental impacts or pollution incidents which need urgent action may be submitted to the PRA through the following:

Address: PRA Environmental Management Department
Office Address: 7F Legaspi Tower 200 Bldg., 107 Pasay de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 Makati City
Email: info@pra.gov.ph; env@pra.gov.ph

- 6.2 Complaints shall contain the following information:
6.2.1 Name, contact number, address and affiliation, if any, of the complainant.
6.2.2 At the minimum, a description of the complaint and location of the incident.
6.3 For projects with established MMT, PRA-ENV Group shall submit the complaint to the MMT concerned and advise the complainant regarding the said referral. The complainant's cooperation per the MMT Mutual of Operations shall be followed.
6.4 For projects without established MMT, the following procedure shall be undertaken to address submitted complaints:
6.4.1 The PRA-ENV Group shall evaluate the complaint and coordinate with the complainant for an initial verification within three (3) working days.
6.4.2 Within five (5) working days after verification, PRA shall inform the concerned agencies of the complaint and propose a Special Environmental Coordination Meeting and joint investigation together with the complainant, if necessary, a coordination with the proponent. During the meeting and joint investigation, the agencies and parties responsible may agree on the timeline of necessary actions to address the incident.
6.4.3 After the conduct of joint investigation, PRA-ENV Group shall submit a report within three (3) working days to the PRA Management on the findings and recommend actions for appropriate action.
6.4.4 PRA-ENV Group may conduct site visit, as necessary, while the proponent is implementing the measures to rectify the issue.
6.4.5 The proponent shall prepare and submit a detailed report on the measures undertaken to address the incident, including all evidence pertaining thereto, shall be submitted to all concerned government agencies including PRA within two (2) working days after the incident is resolved.
6.4.6 For technical issues directly concerning reclamation projects/activities, PRA-ENV Group shall immediately refer the issue to the PRA-SEC Group for investigation and appropriate action.
6.4.7 Parallel to the actions of PRA, all issues on environmental incidents shall be submitted to the DENR-EMB for their information and appropriate action as necessary.

Section 7. Funding

The funding requirements for the implementation of this policy shall be sourced from the PRA funds allocated for regulatory and monitoring activities.

Section 8. Effectivity

These Guidelines shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation and filing with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

Approved on 20th day of October 2022.

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
Atty. ALBERTO C. AGRA
PRA Governing Board Chairman
General Manager and CEO



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 Regional Office No. 1
 DENR Bldg., Government Center, Sevilla, City of San Fernando,
 La Union




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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 Regional Office No. 1
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On: the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) Report of the Proposed Waste Management Project-Improvement of the Vigan Solid Waste Management Center of City Government of Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Notice is hereby given to all parties to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the Improvement of the Vigan Solid Waste Management Center to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on the following date:

Date/Time	Videoconferencing (ZOOM link)	Venue (Onsite)
Friday, 18 November 2022 at 9:00 AM <i>(Registration starts at 8:30 AM)</i>	Meeting ID: 574 927 5830 Passcode: EMBregion1	Vigan Culture and Trade Center

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the City Government of Vigan, Ilocos Sur's application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The EIS of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Below herewith is the Project Information:


Project Name	Improvement of the Vigan Solid Waste Management Center
Project Location	Sitio Nalain, Barangay Cabaroan Daya, Vigan City
Project Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary Landfill- Category 3 Disposal Facilities • Wastewater Treatment Facility- 92.16 m³/day • Materials Recovery Facility- 33.30 tons/day • Compost/fertilizer making- 25.3 tons/day • Special waste storage- 63.8 m³ initial capacity
Project Type	Waste Management Project
Proposer	City Government of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and duly give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SECTION of the Clearance and Permitting Division of this Office through email at cl@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written position may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The projects' EIS is downloadable on our website: *(Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website: <http://cl.emb.gov.ph/notice-of-public-hearing>, while copies will be available in the respective Office of the above-listed concerned Local Government Unit and EMB-1.*

For more details, please contact the EIA Section of this Office telephone number (072) 687-6370 local 106 and look for the projects' case handler, Ms. Rubie Honey B. Texas. *RV*

Protect the environment... Protect Life...
 Tel. No.: (072) 687-6370. email: cl@emb.gov.ph





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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CALACA

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than ~~Dec. 16, 2022~~ on ~~10:00 AM~~ for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location : Brgy. Puting Bato West, Calaca, Batangas
Description : Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-6-A
Area : 20,000 sqm.
Applied for by : Calaca Industrial Seaport Corp.

represented by Mr. Chrissy Alfonsus V. Damay

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date

ISA GENIO AMATORIO

CENRO Officer



23-11-22

TITLE: _____

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DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CALACA

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than ~~Dec. 16, 2022~~ on ~~12/08/22~~ for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	:	Brgy. Puting Hato, Calaca, Batangas
Description	:	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-6
Area	:	9,831sqm.
Applied for by	:	Calaca Industrial Seaport Corp. represented by Mr. Ramson E. Lianto

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date _____

ISAGANI AMATORIO
CENRO Officer