

21 November 2022, Monday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

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# DENR to push shift to digitalization

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will continue to digitize its data resources to improve public service delivery and environmental interventions.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the agency is pushing its boundaries by streamlining some of its processes from a traditional paper record management system to advanced digital platforms in order to fully connect its central office in Quezon City to all its field offices across the country.

"We are hoping that these types of platforms will speed up the design of our different interventions and solutions that will make it more collaborative so we can be more transparent in terms of sharing that data with partners whom we know can contribute to solutions," she said.

Under her leadership, Loyzaga said the DENR— together with the National Economic and Development Authority and the Philippine Statistics Authority — would undertake the formulation of a

tool that would help measure the full extent of the country's natural resources and environmental assets.

The natural capital accounting, she said, would support the development of strategies for a science-based and risk-informed stewardship of the environment.

The DENR chief highlighted the importance of investing in Internet of Things, or IoT, which is a system of interrelated computing devices and digital machines that has the ability to transfer data over a series of networks, to be able to gather data used in observation, monitoring and analysis.

She said adopting this kind of system would improve and speed up the DENR's "on-the-loop" process as these new technologies now relay data real-time.

"Without these technologies and technological platforms, we would not be able to cope with some of the rapid changes that are taking place because of climate change," Loyzaga said.

According to the DENR chief, global warming has

led to extreme uncertainty in the environment, therefore shifting to technological advances would help the

DENR's core business of managing risks and making decisions that are fast and relevant to the changing times.



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## UNTV Cup 9th season sasambulat sa Big Dome

KATULAD ng ibang liga sa bansa, umaasa rin ng eksplosibong pagbabalik ang UNTV Cup makalipas ang dalawang-tatlong tungga dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic sa pagsisimula ng pang-9 na season ngayong Lunes sa Araneta Coliseum.

Kilala bilang 'The League of Public Servants', tampok ang 12 government agency sa pamumuno ng defend-i ng

champion Department of Environment and Natural Resources, na gigil muling

drumibol hindi lang para sa kasiyahan kundi pati na rin sa mga napiling institusyon na nais na ayudahan.

Ayon nitong Linggo kay UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon, ang institusyon na mapipili ng champion team ang mabibiyayaan ng tax-free na P3M prize sa torneo, pamumunuan ni PBA great Atoy Co bilang komisyoner.

"Apart from our mission to provide help to several charity institutions through basketball, we want to promote camaraderie among public servants and remind them the importance of wellness and fitness," ani Razon.

Pasiklaban sina Supreme Court Associate Justice Midas Marquez, Senators Joel Villanueva, Bong Go at Sonny Angara, at mga former collegiate standout

sa torneo.

Mangunguna si Marquez sa Judiciary na pakay ang unang korona ngayong season.

Ang ibang kalahok ay ang two-time champion Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Dept. of Agriculture, National Housing Authority, Ombudsman, OP-Presidential Management Staff, PhilHealth, SSS at GSIS.

Ang solong babkakan matakos ang opening ceremony ay malalaman pagkatapos ng buutan.

Magsisilbing guest entertainer sa



DENR WARRIORS

opening sina Darren Espano at Lyca Gairanod.

Iwe-welcome naman nina Razon at Gerry Panghulan, vice president ng Breakthrough and Milestones Productions International (BMPI/UNTV), ang mga kalahok na government officials at mga panauhin.

Target ng DENR Warriors na maging unang back-to-back champions simulang itatag ang liga noong 2013. (Ferz Delos Santos)



DANIEL RAZON



## NWRB exec calls for water conservation measures

A WATER management official called for the conservation of water resources as the Philippines continues to experience water stress as a result of the steady decline in available supply as demand expands.

Susan Abaño, policy chief of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), said that based on the water stress index threshold, the Philippines has been under stress since 2007 as water availability continues to fall, at present dipping between 1,000 and 1,700 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) per capita per year.

Abaño, in a water security update at the Philippine Water Challenge forum on November 17, noted that from 2,100 m<sup>3</sup> per capita in 1995, water availability has decreased to 1,300 m<sup>3</sup> per capita in 2020.

Water stress or scarcity occurs when demand for safe, usable water in a given area exceeds the supply.

Today, the country faces a host of challenges in the water sector including increasing population pressure, rapid urbanization, wasteful consumption, climate change, degradation of watersheds due to deforestation,

water sector fragmentation and weak governance, Abaño said.

"We have so many water-stressed cities already, I think [there are] 33 highly urbanized cities and most of them are already under stress," she said.

As of 2020, of the 33 highly urbanized cities, 16 are in the National Capital Region (NCR), while 17 are outside the NCR, according to Philippine Statistics Authority data.

Abaño said that to address these issues, the NWRB is implementing integrated water resource management, a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources.

She also urged other government agencies, local government units, private institutions, nongovernment organizations and other stakeholders to extend the necessary cooperation for the successful implementation of the roadmap.

"Save water; only then will water save you," she concluded.

► Calls B2

### ■ CALLS FROM B1

## NWRB exec calls for water conservation

At the same event, a water executive from Israel shared how her country was able to overcome the same water challenges currently plaguing the Philippines by implementing needed reforms, including the adoption of an integrated water management model.

Like the Philippines, Israel once had a "messy" water sector until the country began to implement in 2007 some key reforms that allowed the nation

to achieve water security, said Tahel Brandes, senior deputy legal adviser of the Israeli Water and Sewage Authority.

The first initiative was to establish a one-stop shop that would regulate the whole industry, said Brandes.

The result of having different regulators for one sector was decades of consecutive crises including water pollution, water shortage, lack of overall planning, leaking infrastructure and environmental damages, he said.



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A broader look at today's business

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## Green finance can help organizations comply with law on energy efficiency



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

### RISING SUN

**T**HE Philippines has a law on energy efficiency, signed by former president Duterte in 2019, but we are lagging behind as far as implementation is concerned. Many companies and local government units still have the age-old idea that the only way to comply with this law is to convert from CFL to LED lighting, install solar panels, and turn off the power when they are not in use.

I recently came across a technology—not entirely new but definitely unexplored in the Philippines—that is simple and cost-effective in reducing energy consumption for buildings, industries, and entire communities. It's called the Cool Roof Project and it involves the application of a special kind of coating on a build-

ing's roof and outside walls so that solar heat does not go through. As a result, the temperature inside the structure remains low, which leads to less dependency on air conditioning. Needless to say, the consumption of energy will be lower overall and there will be less carbon emitted into the environment.



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*Always look at today's business*

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In many countries, this technology has been included as a building code standard. In the Philippines, while the technology is available in the market, the property industry, LGUs, and private companies are either clueless or reluctant to implement it because they are worried about costs. This is where Green Finance comes in. Certain banks in the country could finance Cool Roof projects via what is called the climate loan. An organization does not need to shell out fresh funds because repayment of the loan could come from savings on regular energy and cooling expenses. Studies show that this can hit as much as 60 percent savings on these costs.

It's a win-win situation because organizations and agencies can now comply with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act while saving money. Aside from that, these groups can significantly contribute to our global environ-

mental targets while helping to save the planet.

Our commitment to the Paris Agreement is a 75 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. Studies show that if the industrial sector would utilize Cool Roof technology, emissions could be reduced by as much as 30 million metric tons.

I think that this technology, along with many other measures that are either new or are already on the table, should be explored by all countries, but especially by the Philippines because we are one of the places on earth that are being greatly affected by climate change. We have a climate emergency and we need all hands on deck. Developments like this should always be welcome, most especially by industries and organizations whose operations are energy- or carbon-intensive because our energy security is in the hands of these big commercial and industrial players.



## EDITORIAL

# 'Sustainable future'

IT's a socio-economic insurance policy for the region.

Indeed, a sustainable model for economic development that the Asia-Pacific region needs and deserves.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation member economies' adoption of Thailand's "Bio-Circular-Green" Economy Model would help build a "sustainable future" in the Asia-Pacific region, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has said.

Speaking before his fellow Asia-Pacific leaders, the President said the BCG model would ensure a "level playing field" for all APEC members and reduce their vulnerabilities from the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

"It is for these reasons that the Philippines welcomes and supports the adoption of the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy, which is a concrete initiative that will lead the Asia-Pacific region towards a sustainable future," Marcos said in his intervention during the Retreat Session of the 29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

He issued the statement, as he lamented the "uneven" recovery of the countries grappling with the pandemic because of a lack of full support for "green transition."

"My dear colleagues, as the world emerges from the downturn caused by the pandemic, it is evident that recovery has been uneven. Perhaps, even I would go so far to say it has been inequitable and insufficiently supportive of a green transition," he said. "Economies must leverage this opportunity to recalibrate policies to promote a green post-pandemic recovery."

The final draft of the economy model, dubbed the "Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy," is set to be endorsed by the 21 APEC member economies during the 29th edition of the summit.

The BCG economy model would serve as a roadmap for APEC sustainability and inclusive development with focus on four key areas - climate change mitigation, sustainable trade and investment, environmental conservation, and waste management.

The President backed the BGC model, saying it would help mitigate the "scarring and future" shock on the economy.

The economy model, he said, would also tighten social cohesion by ensuring "well-distributed" economic growth.

Marcos added that the BCG model, aligned with his administration's agenda to create green and quality jobs, would make Philippine institutions "responsive to the challenges posed by the current economic crises."

The country also has the unique opportunity to leverage the tools of sustainability to improve the resilience of people and businesses, he said, citing the country's adoption of the Sustainable Finance Roadmap, which lays out a whole-of-government approach to promote sustainable finance and green policies.



## Better response to climate issues seen

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. believes climate change mitigation measures are "to be felt more" globally following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit that just wrapped up in Bangkok, Thailand.

According to him, it is "very encouraging to see" that member economies "seem to have a great deal of commonality" in addressing problems that the world is facing. Apart from climate change, the world has other issues that should be prioritized such as food security, clean energy and post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

"So, that's very encouraging for me because we all at least agree at the very start. We agree on what needs to be addressed, what solution is needed, more or less. Of course, it is not exact since everybody comes from a slightly different place," the Chief Executive said in his arrival speech last Saturday night.

➤ ClimateA2

### CLIMATE FROM A1

## Better

He further noted that leaders of APEC countries, as well as guest participants, acknowledged that while there are policies in place to address the global issue, little has actually been done to slow down the effects of climate change, an "overarching" concern throughout the gathering.

"You start off talking about the economy, you end up somehow at some point talking about climate change and so, I think, there will be a very strong push," stated

Marcos.

"The APEC countries have said that we have many agreements that are in place, but there's very little that has been actually done. And so, that is going to be the push by APEC, by Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), by the Asia-Pacific countries," he added.

In one of his interventions at the APEC gathering, Marcos called for all countries to have "increased interconnectedness and interdependence of peoples and economies brought about by globalization, [which] has led to the progressive world we live in today."

The Philippines, being "one of

the economies at greatest risk from the climate crisis", will be among the nations in the Asia-Pacific that will ensure agreements related to climate change mitigation will be enforced.

"Since we are essentially the developed countries that have not — cannot be said to have put the world in this situation. It is also up to us to go to those developed countries who have had their development... But unfortunately, because we were ignorant of such things, they ended up changing the weather in the world," said the President.

Aside from global warming, oth-

er issues which were commonly discussed were supply chains, food supply, digitalization and women empowerment, he added.

"It was a very useful and productive process because as I said, we have now a way forward for all of us members of APEC," Marcos stated.

"The ultimate aspiration is for the Asia-Pacific region to return to its old role as a driver of the global economy. And if we do all of the things that we are planning to do, that will come back again. And once again, we will be at the forefront of the global economy," he added. **KRISTINA MARALIT**





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## APEC and climate change

**R**EPORTING on his recent trip to Bangkok where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, President Marcos Jr. said the discussions among his fellow leaders from the Asia-Pacific region centered on the real global risks of climate change.

"After the different problems that we were discussing, the overarching global concern for everyone is and should be global climate change issues," he said. Clearly, the world leaders who met in Bangkok, representing as they do half of the globe, had forged a consensus to take a "central and principled scientific approach" to the problem of climate change, as Marcos termed it.

What is sorely lacking now is climate action from these economic leaders. And when we talk about action in relation to such a huge problem as global warming, changes in the planet's weather and climate and rising sea levels, the issues of climate finance necessarily would surface.

**'... when we talk about action in relation to such a huge problem as global warming, changes in the planet's weather and climate and rising sea levels, the issues of climate finance necessarily would surface.'**



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Typhoons and hurricanes are getting stronger, severe and deadly, as evidenced by the recent tropical storm Paeng that devastated many parts of the country, killing 121 people, with 33 more missing, with P5.6 billion in national losses in infrastructure, buildings and properties, both public and private.

In the local setting, the problem of climate change is recognized by Oxfam's Climate Finance in Asia report which said that of the 18 Asian countries studied, the Philippines ranked 10th in terms of vulnerability and preparedness to climate change.

"The Philippines, like many other Asian countries, ranks really high in terms of climate vulnerability and really low when it comes to climate readiness," Oxfam Pilipinas Country Director Lot Felizco said in a statement.

Felizco said the Philippines and other vulnerable countries in Asia have to face the devastating effects of a climate emergency with little and depleting resources, although this crisis was largely caused by developed countries which benefited from it. This observation is an exact echo of what former President Duterte had said about the issue.

Felizco correctly pointed out that although we are working on measures to improve our preparedness, every time we are hit by extreme weather events, we have to deal with further loss, making it even harder to be ready for the climate crisis.

The Bangkok APEC and similar gatherings should endeavor to become more relevant by calling on the G20 to ramp up their support for climate finance – not through loans but by means of grants – and the call must be sounded by countries most vulnerable to climate change, such as the Philippines, Bangladesh, Haiti, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kenya and many others.



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## Climate action takes root in Intramuros

Youth, artistic collectives and climate advocates gathered recently at the historical memorial in Plazuela de Santa Isabel, Intramuros for a local arts fair, sharing stories and art about collective memory and hope in the midst of the climate crisis.

Organized by the Agam Agenda, Green Dreams of a Generation, 350Pilipinas, and Youth Advocates

for Climate Action-Philippines, the arts fair titled "Taking Root" brought together young creatives and climate advocates who exhibited books and visual artworks, and performed music and poetry for climate action.

The local arts fair happened in the context of the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27)

in Egypt. The biggest international conference where environmental policies are negotiated, and world leaders meet to determine climate-related pathways and cooperations of many communities, including addressing loss and damage.

For more information, go to <http://agamagenda.com> and <http://whenisnow.org>



# Climate change 'overarching'

## concern at APEC

By HELEN FLORES

Climate change was the "overarching" concern among world leaders at the recently

concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, President Marcos said upon his return to the country late

Saturday night.

Marcos arrived at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at around 10:39 p.m. Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte led the heads of agencies who welcomed the President and members of his official delegation.

"The overarching global concern for everyone is and should be global - the climate change issues that are coming," Marcos said in his arrival speech.

"Every discussion that we had, you can talk about the economy, you can talk about

geopolitics, you can talk about anything. You go into detail - you can talk about fisheries, you talk about governance, you can talk about anything. And the subject of climate change will make itself felt," he said.

"And so again, this is something that we all seem to have realized and we have come together to do - to try to mitigate," he added.

While various agreements relating to climate change adaptation have been sealed in the past, the Chief Executive said APEC countries have admitted that "there's very little that



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has been actually done."

Marcos earlier urged APEC to address climate change, "the greatest existential threat" affecting the region. The regional economic bloc can and should contribute to a trade and investment environment that assists economies in cutting greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating climate financing and ensuring genuine and effective technology transfer for the most vulnerable developing countries, he said.

The President described his participation at the 29th APEC Leaders' Meeting as a "very useful and productive process."

"One of the most important things at least for me was - the reason I thought that I must attend these conferences is that I know now - I have spoken to, I have discussed many issues with all the leaders of our region, of the Asia Pacific. So they now know me and they know what I'm about - we have discussed things. They know what the Philippine position is on several issues," the President said.

The two-day APEC summit was attended by the 21 member economies - Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Marcos was also able to meet with leaders of Australia, China, Canada, France, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia, among others on the sidelines of the summit.

"The bilateral meetings that

are held on the side of the actual summit, the bilateral meetings are for us to forge stronger relations with different countries up to, as I said once again, France, President (Emmanuel) Macron was there and we had a very fruitful discussion. And Canada, which is as you would think was very far away, but nonetheless has involved itself very much in the APEC," he said.

He also cited the agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pay some 10,000 overseas Filipinos employed by construction companies, which declared bankruptcy.

"We were even able to get an agreement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the payment of claimants who were not paid because the pandemic bankrupted their employer. So that is a tangible thing that was as a result of bilateral (meetings)," he said.

Marcos added there are agreements that the Philippines is going to pursue with Canada and France.

Before flying to the Philippines, Marcos met the Filipino community in Bangkok, whom he described as a "very enthusiastic crowd."

"We had a very enthusiastic crowd and as ever, it was - after all the serious and very important discussions, it was a breath of - it's always a breath of fresh air to spend time with fellow Pinoys around the world," he said.

There are more than 30,000 Filipinos in Thailand, mostly working as English teachers and employees in the kingdom's hospitality industry.



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## On pork, tourism and climate change

**T**HE really bad news from the Visayas last month was the confirmation of African swine fever (ASF) in the province of Iloilo. These are the first confirmed cases in Western Visayas since the first ASF outbreak was reported in the country in July 2019. The dreaded disease has so far been confirmed in five towns in Iloilo, Oton the hardest hit with outbreaks in 28 of its 37 barangay.

No cases have been reported on Negros Island and Central Visayas. Despite Cebu's being the center of commerce and travel in the region, Gov. Gwen Garcia's strict enforcement of the ban on entry of live hogs, pork and pork products from ASF-affected areas has prevented the disease from entering the island. Cebuanos' fondness for pork, especially lechon or roasted pig, is legendary. Where else than Cebu could lechon make news? Complaints against some lechon vendors in Carcar City who sold newly roasted meat mixed with "leftovers" went viral and got covered by local news media. Travelers usually stop in Carcar City to buy a few kilograms of lechon for their picnic or chicharon as pasalubong for family and friends.

Indeed, the vendors should praise if not the Lord then at least Governor Garcia for keeping their precious goods free from ASF. Times are hard — Central Visayas with 10.8 percent suffered the third highest inflation rate on food and non-alcoholic beverages in October as per Philippine Statistics Authority, surpassed only by the Davao Region and National Capital Region with 11.7 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively. Lechon sells at P600 per kilogram in Carcar City and at that price, buyers should be assured of a quality product.



RESURGENCE

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The high inflation rate is hurting everyone, but likely Cebuanos harder than most. The PSA 2021 full-year survey on poverty incidence showed a 36.5 percent poverty incidence in the population of Cebu province, up from 19.4 percent in 2018. The national poverty incidence is 18.1 percent. The 36.5 percent poverty incidence is unlikely to have captured the full effects of the devastating Typhoon "Odette" even if part of the data gathering was done in January 2022, a few weeks after Odette hit. The pandemic-induced full stop on tourist arrivals and the lay-off of thousands of OFWs severely affected the local economy.

The annual per capita poverty threshold of Cebu was at P25,827 in 2018, equal to the national threshold (P25,813). However, by 2021 a resident of Cebu province needed to earn P33,355 a year compared to the national average of P28,871, in order not to fall below the poverty line. In other words, cost of living increased significantly more in Cebu (and its highly urbanized cities) between 2018 and 2021 compared to the rest of the country. Higher cost of living coupled with loss of jobs

was a double whammy for Cebu.

As one of its numerous measures to ease the hardships of the poorest, the province of Cebu last week launched a program that makes medicine and medical services available free of charge at partner pharmacies and laboratories. The governor also led a three-day tour of towns and tourist sites in southern Cebu to give the local tourist industry a boost.

While the tourism sector has been rebooted, the days of tourism-as-we-have-come-to-know-it are likely numbered with the increased attention on tourism's, especially the aviation industry's, significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. So, while we may rejoice over the return of international travelers, and the positive impact on job creation and revenues, tourism-dependent provinces like Cebu need to look beyond the now. If we still need tourism as a major source of jobs and livelihood, what kind of tourism should it be?

Worldwide, more than 700 organizations have signed on to the 2021 Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism. They acknowledge "that our dependence on fossil fuels, unsustainable land use, and wasteful consumption patterns drive climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss."

"A just transition to net zero before 2050," the declaration goes on, "will only be possible if tourism's [post-pandemic] recovery accelerates the adoption of sustainable consumption and production, and redefines our future success to consider not only economic value but rather the regeneration of ecosystems, biodiversity and communities." On the specific measure of decarbonizing the industry, the signatories commit to "[s]et and deliver targets aligned with climate science to accelerate tourism's decarbonization. This includes transport, infrastructure, accommodation, activities, food and drink, and waste management." Is the Philippine tourism sector ready to commit to such action?

To Cebuanos, the good news is that pork is the climate-change friendly meat choice over beef (primarily due to the different digestive systems of pigs and cows). Writes Tamar Haspel, food columnist, in the *Washington Post* (July 22, 2022): "According to Our World in Data, 1 calorie of pork has about one-seventh the climate impact of 1 calorie of beef." More profoundly, however, we saw how the Covid-19 pandemic caught us unprepared and the local economy took a serious beating when the tourists didn't come. The climate crisis is already here, the need for action urgent. Are we prepared?



## Vulnerable nations welcome 'historic' climate damages fund from polluters

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt—Vulnerable nations least responsible for planet-heating emissions have been battling for three decades for wealthy polluters to cough up the cash for climate damages.

Their final push took barely two weeks.

The "loss and damage" inflicted by climate-induced disasters was not even officially up for discussion when UN talks in Egypt began.

But a concerted effort among developing countries to make it the defining issue of the conference melted the resistance of wealthy polluters long fearful of open-ended liability and gathered unstoppable momentum as the talks progressed.

In the end, a decision to create a loss and damage fund was the first item confirmed on Sunday morning after fraught negotiations went overnight with nations clashing over a range of issues around curbing planet-heating emissions.

"At the beginning of these talks, loss and damage was not even on the agenda, and now we are making history," said Mohamed Adow, executive director of Power Shift Africa.

"It just shows that this UN process can achieve results and that the world can recognize the plight of the vulnerable must not be treated as a political football."

Loss and damage cover a broad sweep of climate impacts, from bridges and homes washed away in flash flooding to the threatened disappearance of cultures and whole island nations to the creeping rise of sea levels.

Observers say that the failure of rich polluters both to curb emissions and to meet their promise of funding to help countries boost climate resilience means that losses and damages are inevitably growing as the planet warms.

Event attribution science now makes it possible to measure how much global warming increases the likelihood or intensity of an individual cyclone, heat wave, drought or heavy rain event.

This year, an onslaught of climate-induced disasters—from catastrophic floods in Pakistan to severe drought-threatening famine in Somalia -- battered countries already struggling with the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and soaring food and energy costs.

"Everyone also now realizes that things have gone way beyond our control," said Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International. **AFP**



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# SMRs offer coal exit

Replacing coal is essential if the world seeks to meet its emissions targets soon but it will not be easy

BY CHITO LOZADA  
@tribunephil\_cloz

In the recently concluded 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP27, the call was for the stepping up of the schedule to decarbonize or to get out of coal use as fuel.

Experts reported in the Global Energy Monitor, an industry

watchdog, said small modular reactors could play a key role in plans to replace the heart of coal-fired power plants with a low- or zero-emission heat source.

Coal-fired plants have a capacity of over two terawatts worldwide, or around 36 percent of all power generated. These power plants, however, also produce almost a third of total global net annual CO2 emissions.

As such, replacing coal is essential if the world seeks to meet its emissions targets soon but it will not be easy.

More than half of the around 6,500 coal-fired power plants worldwide are less than 14 years old, which means they are unlikely to be decommissioned soon considering growing energy demand and supply shortages.

## Maintain infra

Older coal plants are also unlikely to be retired early.

A coal-powered plant provides a reliable baseload against wind and solar intermittency and has valuable energy assets which would be expensive to replace, including transmission connections, cooling water access, real estate holdings, and a skilled workforce.

Far from scaling back on coal use, global operating coal capacity grew by 18.2 gigawatts in 2021, or about 0.86 percent, according to the Global Energy Monitor.

A study conducted by TerraPraxis called "Repowering the Global Coal Fleet by 2050" said a viable option is to close down the plants' polluting elements such as the boiler and replace them with an energy source that has as close to zero emissions as possible while maintaining the surrounding infrastructure.

"Small modular reactors or heat sources (fission, fusion, geothermal) are a key component in the whole deployment solution that is being proposed," TerraPraxis chief technology officer Chirayu Batra said.

Batra said the objective is to develop a standardized, scalable system, with a view to configuring the design to be able to meet any kind of site or plant requirements while also accommodating a range of different heat sources.

Replacing coal-fired boilers at existing coal plants with carbon-free SMRs would quickly transform coal-fired power plants from polluting liabilities facing an uncertain future into jewels of the new clean energy system transition, the group said.





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# COP27 summit strikes climate damages deal

**Vulnerable countries are entitled to compensation from disaster loss and damage**

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt (AFP) — An often fraught United Nations climate summit wrapped up on Sunday with sweeping agreement on how to tackle global warming and a “historic” deal to create a special fund to cover the damages suffered by vulnerable nations.

The two-week talks, which at times appeared to teeter on the brink of collapse, delivered a major breakthrough on a fund for climate “loss and damage” but left some

disappointed over a failure to push further ambition on cutting emissions.

Delegates applauded after the loss and damage fund was adopted as the sun came up Sunday following days of marathon negotiations over the proposal.

The final loss and damage text left many of the thornier questions to be dealt with by a transitional committee, which will report to next year’s climate meeting in Dubai to get the funding operational.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the UN climate talks had “taken an important step towards justice” with the loss and damage fund.

“Clearly, this won’t be enough, but it is a much needed political signal to rebuild broken trust. The voices of those on the frontline of the climate crisis must be heard,” he said in a recorded message.

## No phasedown

A final COP27 statement covering the broad array of the world’s efforts to grapple with a warming planet held the line on the

aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

It also included language on renewable energy for the first time, while reiterating previous calls to accelerate “efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.”

But that failed to go much further than a similar decision from last year’s meeting in Glasgow on key issues around, disappointing observers.

Ani Dasgupta, head of the World Resources Institute, said “countries did not

muster the courage to call for phasing down fossil fuels, which are the biggest driver of climate change.”

**Delegates applauded after the loss and damage fund was adopted.**

The European Union expressed disappointment with a lack of ambition on reducing emissions in the climate deal.

The 27-nation bloc and other developed countries had pushed for stronger commitments to bring down emissions in order to achieve the aspirational goal

of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

“The European Union came here to get strong language agreed and we are disappointed we didn’t achieve this,” European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told the closing session of the summit.

“What we have in front of us is not enough of a step forward for people and planet,” he said.

“It doesn’t bring enough added efforts from major emitters to increase and accelerate their emission cuts.”



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# COP27 summit strikes

## landmark deal

**A** FRAUGHT UN COP27 summit wrapped up Sunday with a landmark deal on funding to help vulnerable countries cope with devastating climate impacts – and deep disappointment over a failure to push further ambition on cutting emissions.

The two-week talks, which at times appeared to teeter on the brink of collapse, delivered a major breakthrough on a fund for climate “loss and damage.”

Pakistani climate minister Sherry Rehman said COP27 “responded to the

voices of the vulnerable, the damaged and the lost of the whole world.”

“We have struggled for 30 years on this path, and today in Sharm el-Sheikh this journey has achieved its first positive milestone,” she said.

Tired delegates applauded when the loss and damage fund was adopted as the sun came up Sunday following days of marathon negotiations over the proposal.

But jubilation over that achievement was countered by stern warnings.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the UN climate talks had “taken an important step towards justice” with the loss and damage fund, but fallen short in pushing for the urgent carbon-cutting needed to tackle global warming.

“Our planet is still in the emergency

room. We need to drastically reduce emissions now and this is an issue this COP did not address,” Guterres said.

A final COP27 statement covering the broad array of the world’s efforts to grapple with a warming planet held the line on the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

It also included language on renewable energy for the first time, while reiterating previous calls to accelerate “efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil

fuel subsidies.”

But that failed to go much further than a similar decision from last year’s meeting in Glasgow on key issues around cutting planet-heating pollution.

In a scolding intervention as the talks went into Sunday morning, European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said the EU was “disappointed” with a lack of ambition on reducing emissions.

“What we have in front of us is not enough of a step forward for people and planet,” he said. **AFP**



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## COP27 agrees to loss and damage fund

Developing nations including the Philippines have secured an agreement at COP27 to establish a compensation fund for countries that suffer the most from climate-induced disasters yet contribute little to global warming. More than 190 states pledged to create that fund after intense negotiations, with resistance from developed countries. But developing countries held their ground.

—STORY BY IMELDA ABAÑO, CONTRIBUTOR

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# Loss and damage fund marks new 'dawn for climate justice'

By Imelda Abaño  
@iabano

SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT — Following two weeks of long, intense UN-backed climate negotiations at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), world leaders from 196 countries have finally agreed to establish a fund to compensate countries that suffer the most from climate-induced disasters yet contribute little to global warming. (See

related story in World, Page B6).

"The agreement for a loss and damage fund marks a new dawn for climate justice. Governments have laid the cornerstone [for] a long overdue new fund to deliver vital support to vulnerable countries and communities who are already being devastated by the accelerating climate crisis," said Yeb Saño, Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director and former negotiator for the Philippines.

The issue ended up being the thorniest at COP27 after developing countries, including the Philippines, made strong and repeated appeals for the fund's establishment, even leading to a two-day extension of the talks as negotiators struggled to find common ground. The two-week summit was supposed to end on Friday.

"The inspiration we can draw from the successful establishment of the loss and damage

fund in Sharm El-Sheikh is that if we have a long enough lever, we can move the world and today, that lever is the solidarity among civil society, front-line communities, and developing countries most impacted by climate crisis," Saño added.

Climate expert Tony La Viña of the Manila Observatory said the fight on the establishment of the fund began way back in 1996 when developing countries wanted a Clean De-

velopment Fund to be funded by developer countries as compensation for their historical emissions. But that was hijacked in Kyoto by developed countries and became the Clean Development Mechanism, that allowed offsets and credits.

### Coal, other issues

"This was a solid and good outcome. This time, the developing countries did not blink and had their eye on the ball.

There was huge resistance by developed countries but that crumbled slowly because of the weight of the moral imperative which translated into political pressure. I was one of the few who was sure we would have a good outcome on loss and damage but I did not expect it to be this strong," La Viña explained.

One thing that should be highlighted, he said, is the role of Vice Yu, Filipino lawyer, in the loss and

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# LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND MARKS NEW 'DAWN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE'

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damage negotiations as lead for the Group of 77 and China. It's a pity that he no longer represents the Philippines. The Marcos government should bring him back and ask him to join the delegation again. Overnight, we will gain influence in the process as we used to before. Vice will continue to lead the Group of 77 in the loss and damage negotiations as details of the Fund will have to be worked out. He is also leading G-77 in the global stocktake discussions.

"The loss and damage victory is good. But we must also

now pay attention to the global stocktake to be finalized by 2025 where the next generation of mitigation commitments will probably be made," La Viña said.

While the agreement was seen as a welcome step in the right direction, there appeared to be little forward movement on other key issues, particularly on the phaseout of fossil fuels, the \$100 billion climate finance pledge by rich countries for climate adaptation and achieving the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Rodne Galicha, lead convener of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas representing 1,500 civil society groups, pointed out that urgent actual ac-

tions also need to be realized.

"The Philippines being one of the most vulnerable countries, the compensation will secure assured much needed funding. However, financial arrangements will not fully address loss and damage as high risks of further losses and damages are forthcoming unless we completely phase out all fossil fuels," Galicha said.

The country generates about 60 percent of its electricity from coal although in 2020, a moratorium was imposed on proposals to build new coal-fired plants.

According to the Department of Energy, there are 21 coal operating contracts in the devel-

opment phase and production phase, six coal operating contracts in the exploration phase, and 47 small-scale coal mining operators as of May this year.

Gerry Arances, Center for Energy, Ecology and Development executive director, said the Philippines and other countries must act on a rapid and just phaseout of all fossil fuels.

"Advancing the recognition of the need to address loss and damage is a positive step forward especially for vulnerable peoples, but such a gain is undermined by a COP that ultimately fails to signal the phaseout of all fossil fuels," he said.

"More coal, gas and oil means abandoning the 1.5 C ambition.

Going beyond 1.5 C means even more unspeakable loss and damage," Arances added.

### PH interventions

A new research released this week by climate think tank Climate Analytics stated that for the country to align to keeping global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 C from pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, it must phase out its use of coal and gas by 2035, and raise the share of renewables in the power mix to 80 percent and 83 percent by 2030 toward full transition by 2040.

Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) and other destructive typhoons

that left thousands dead and caused millions of pesos in damage made it clear how highly vulnerable the country is from the devastating impacts of climate change.

In past climate negotiations, the Philippines took leadership and succeeded in pushing for the inclusion of a 1.5 C goal in the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, together with 43 other climate-vulnerable countries.

But at COP27, the lack of designated Philippine negotiators limited the country's interventions on the negotiations table to only four out of 32 agenda items: emissions avoidance, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage. —CONTRIBUTED INQ



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# COP27 'historic' but 'not enough'

## Creation of 'loss and damage' fund hailed but failure to further push emission cuts decried

SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT— The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) UN climate summit in Egypt drew praise on Sunday for the creation of a "loss and damage" fund to help vulnerable countries cope with the destructive impacts of global warming.

But there was also anger over a failure to push further efforts on cutting emissions to keep alive the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

"This COP has taken an important step toward justice. I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund," said UN Secretary General António Guterres.

He however added, "Clearly, this won't be enough ... To have any hope of keeping to 1.5, we need to massively invest in renewables and end our addiction to fossil fuels."

The two-week talks, which at times appeared to teeter on

the brink of collapse, delivered a major breakthrough on the creation of the fund.

Pakistani climate minister Sherry Rehman said COP27 "responded to the voices of the vulnerable, the damaged and the lost of the whole world."

"We have struggled for 30 years on this path, and today in Sharm el-Sheikh, this journey has achieved its first positive milestone," she told the summit.

### Applaud, warning

Tired delegates applauded when the loss and damage fund was adopted as the sun came up on Sunday following almost two extra days of negotiations that went round-the-clock.

But jubilation over that achievement was countered by stern warnings.

A final COP27 statement covering the broad array of the world's efforts to grapple with a warming planet held the line on the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 C from



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**MOVING FORWARD** Delegates applaud as COP27 President Sameh Shoukry delivers a statement during the closing plenary at the COP27 climate summit on Sunday. —REUTERS

pre-industrial levels.

It included language on renewable energy, while reiterating previous calls to accelerate “efforts toward the phasedown of unabated coal power and phaseout of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.”

But that failed to go much further than a similar decision from last year’s COP26 meeting in Glasgow on key issues around cutting planet-heating pollution.

European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans

said the EU was “disappointed,” adding that more than 80 nations had backed a stronger emissions pledge.

“What we have in front of us is not enough of a step forward for people and planet,” he said.

“It doesn’t bring enough added efforts from major emitters to increase and accelerate their emission cuts,” said Timmermans, who 24 hours earlier had threatened to walk out of the talks rather than getting a “bad result.”

**‘Weakened’**

Britain’s Alok Sharma, who chaired COP26 in Glasgow, said a passage on energy had been “weakened, in the final minutes.”

Germany Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said she was frustrated that the emissions cut and fossil fuel phase-out were “stonewalled by a number of large emitters and oil producers.”

Criticized by some delegations for a lack of transparen-

cy during negotiations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, the COP27 president, said any missteps were “certainly not intentional.”

“I believe I succeeded in avoiding that any of the parties were to backslide,” he said.

The deal on loss and damage—which barely made it onto the negotiation agenda—gathered critical momentum during the talks.

Developing nations relentlessly pushed for the fund, finally succeeding in getting the backing of wealthy polluters long fearful of open-ended liability.

A statement from the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), comprised of islands whose very existence is threatened by sea level rise, said the loss and damage deal was “historic.”

“The agreements made at COP27 are a win for our entire world,” said Molwyn Joseph, of Antigua and Barbuda and chair of Aosis. —AFP



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## COP pledge meager, says climate think tank

THE government is placing Filipinos on the path of more catastrophic climate change due to "meager commitments" in expanding the share of renewable energy (RE) in the country's power mix, according to the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED).

The group issued this statement after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. told the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand last week the government targets to increase the share of RE in the country's power generation mix to 35 percent by 2030 and to 50 percent by 2040 from 29.3 percent.

"In aiming to raise our use of RE to only 35 percent by 2030, the government practically abandons any and all hope of keeping the 1.5°C ambition alive. It is sending the message that the majority of our power would still come from coal, gas and other fossil fuels, and thus condemns Filipinos to decades more of pollution, high energy prices and permanently chaotic climate

systems," said Gerry Arances, CEED executive director, in a statement. Citing research from think-tank Climate Analytics, CEED said for the Philippines to align to keeping global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels by the end of this century, it must phase out its use of coal and gas by 2035 and raise the share of renewables in the power mix to 80 to 83 percent by 2030 towards a full transition by 2040.

"The President claims to acknowledge that the climate crisis is 'the most pressing existential challenge of our time,' yet we do not see it reflected, not in our energy plans and not even in the participation of the Philippine government at COP 27 (Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)," Arances said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Philippine delegation at the COP 27 in Egypt last

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week proposed to advance positions in particular work streams of the global discussion that would significantly boost the country's specific needs and priorities.

The Philippines also stressed the need for external support in the form of technology, transfer, capacity-building and financial

support.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, said work streams were divided into four categories: loss and damage; adaptation; climate finance; and the inclusion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions avoidance.

Loyzaga said the Philippines pushed for the adoption of a

precise definition of "loss and damage" to include impacts from extreme climate event and slow onset change to cover economic and non-economic losses.

The government also expressed full support to an initiative to formulate a system of predictable financial support including an insurance scheme to

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affected countries.

The DENR noted earthquakes and typhoons cause an average \$3.5 billion per year, which is equivalent to 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product, in direct losses to public and private assets.

The agency said this could exceed to \$33 billion in the next

50 years.

The Philippine delegation at the COP27 also noted climate finance should be complemented by viable and effective technology transfer and country-specific capacity building which must be mobilized towards concrete projects, programs and initiatives.

The Philippines also asserted

the need for developed countries to be transparent in reporting their approaches and strategies for scaling up climate finance aside from the inclusion of GHG emission avoidance in the Paris Agreement to operationalize claims of developing countries to the remaining safe carbon budget. - *Jed Macapagal*



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# PBBM: More jobs waiting for Pinoys

## APEC trip 'fruitful and productive'

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR**

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. arrived late Saturday night from a "fruitful" and "productive" trip from the 29th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic

Leaders' Meeting (AELM) where he advanced the country's interests and brought home pledges for more job opportunities for Filipinos and possible new cooperation and investments from other countries in food, agriculture energy

and addressing climate change, among others.

"We discussed with the other leaders all of the issues that our countries have been facing and are facing, and what possible solutions we have for the problems that we

see that are upcoming," the President said shortly after arriving at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City from his four-day visit to Thailand.

"The most important thing that

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## MARCOS

and defense in the Asia Pacific, it really has to be, it really has to be a joint response. I don't think a single country should, I don't think any single country should do it alone. I think we will do much better if we respond as a group, and I think the other countries agree," he added.

Harris was scheduled to arrive in Manila last night after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Thailand.

She is set to meet with Marcos and Vice President Sara Duterte today and visit Palawan tomorrow, Tuesday. Palawan is one of the country's provinces closest to the disputed West Philippine Sea/South China Sea.

The President said he does not see any problem with Harris' visit to Palawan, nor any possible tension that should arise with China, since the US official is visiting a province that is very much within the territory of the Philippines.

"I don't see why they should (cause tension). She is in the Philippines and she is visiting another part of the Philippines. And, of course, it is the closest area to the South China Sea, but it's very clearly on Philippine territory. So, I don't think there should be, I don't think it will cause problems," Marcos said.

The Philippines, China and several countries have overlapping claims in parts of the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea.

In 2016, the international Ar-

bitral Tribunal invalidated the nine-dash line policy of China and upheld the Philippines' rights over its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

On the sidelines of the APEC in Bangkok, Marcos met with Chinese President Xi Jinping where he said they talked "a bit" about regional issues but "details that need to be discussed" will still be taken up next year when he makes a state visit to China in January.

Marcos, who prior to the meeting said it would be impossible for him to talk with his Chinese counterpart without mentioning the territorial dispute, said that his and Xi's meeting were mostly pleasantries and getting to know each other since it was their first face-to-face meeting and other details that need to be discussed will be talked about soon.

China had said the two countries "must stick to friendly consultation and handle the differences and disputes properly."

It added that both the Philippines and China should reject "acts of bullying" in the region.

Marcos explained that "the term bullying is not exactly accurate," adding that it could mean that no country should allow itself to be dictated on by others.

"We should not allow others to dictate upon us. Maybe that's what the Chinese were referring to. But that's essentially what the, that has always been my formulation. That's why it begins with being

able to engage with everyone, from either side of any conflict... And it is how it should be. It is us in Asean, it is us in Asia who should decide.... It should be us in Asia who decides the future of Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Marcos said he had mentioned this during the meeting of the ASEAN dialogue partners that amid the developments around the world, it is the Asean members who should "make sure that we in the region are the ones who will decide the future of the region."

## REBUILDING TIES

Harris arrived in the Philippines last night for talks aimed at reviving ties with the former US colony, an Asian ally that is central to US efforts to counter China's increasingly assertive policies towards Taiwan.

Harris, who will meet Marcos Jr., visits the region as the Biden administration seeks to shore up relations with allies worried about growing Chinese influence in Southeast Asia and possible conflict over Taiwan, the self-governing island China regards as its own.

The Philippines is an important part of this diplomatic push. Military access to the country, just 120 miles (193 km) from Taiwan and adjacent to the South China Sea, would greatly complicate any attempt by China to invade Taiwan, according to military analysts.

In Marcos, son and namesake of



the Philippines' onetime dictator, President Joe Biden and his national security aides see a strategic and strong ally for its top foreign policy challenge - competition with China - according to administration officials.

"It makes sense to invest high-level attention to restore deepened cooperation across the board with this youthful, populous, prospering, and strategically located ally," said Daniel Russel, the top US diplomat for East Asia under former President Barack Obama and now with the Asia Society.

Earlier, Harris said she had told China's President Xi Jinping, whom she met on Saturday at the APEC summit in Thailand, that Washington did not seek confrontation with China.

"We welcome competition but we do not see conflict, we do not seek confrontation," Harris told a news conference in Bangkok before leaving for Manila.

Her visit will be the highest-level trip to the Philippines by an administration official and marks a sharp turnaround in relations.

Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, frustrated Washington with a strongman approach, perceived closeness to Beijing and a bellicose tone that included appearing to call Obama a "son of a bitch."

With Marcos in office, the Biden administration is attempting a reset.

Biden called Marcos the night after his victory was announced, largely avoiding thorny issues, to

send a congratulatory message, according to a person familiar with the call.

Biden also dispatched Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, to Marcos' June inauguration with a personal, signed letter where he said he looked forward to welcoming Marcos to the United States, according to a US official.

The leaders are expected to discuss both Taiwan and the South China Sea as well as share notes on Marcos' Thursday meeting with Xi and Biden's with the Chinese leader on Monday.

"The US is not taking us for granted," said Manila's ambassador to Washington, Jose Manuel Romualdez. "Marcos, of course, is responding to this in a manner that shows the US that we are your friends."

### ALLIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Asia, the United States faces challenges in building a coalition to deter Chinese action against Taiwan. Many countries in the region are reluctant to antagonize their giant neighbor, which is not just a military power but also a key trading partner and source of investment.

While Washington is integrated with Japan's and South Korea's militaries and economies, it faces more skepticism of its China strategy among Southeast Asia's diverse voices.

In response, the Biden administration has taken a range of steps,

including hosting Asean leaders at the White House for the first time ever in May, and asking Congress for \$800 million in 2023 spending in the region.

Biden himself has visited the region, with stops in Cambodia and Indonesia.

Harris will send a pointed symbolic message to China on Tuesday when she meets members of the Philippines' coast guard in a Palawan province island city at the edge of the South China Sea.

Beijing claims some territories in the waters off Palawan and much of that sea, which is believed to contain massive oil and gas deposits.

Washington is investing millions to help modernize the Philippine military, but the country has not committed to supporting any US intervention in a conflict over Taiwan.

Romualdez said in September that the Philippines would only offer assistance "if it is important for us, for our own security."

"Any overt campaign planning against China, planning for Taiwan, is still very sensitive," said Randall Schriver, a former US assistant secretary of defense. "All of that has to be navigated carefully."

Arsenio Andolong, a Philippine defense department spokesman, said there was no reason for China to fear Harris' visit.

"We have no engagement with her during her visit," said Andolong. "So there should be no reason for any of our neighbors to feel threatened." — Reuters



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## DAR allots P6.1B of 2023 budget for land titling project

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) will spend around P6.1 billion for the implementation of a project that seeks to the subdivision of collective certificates of land ownership award (CCLOAs) and eventually issue individual land titles to the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The agency has allotted the amount for the project dubbed Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT).

This was revealed by Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson for Food, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform committee as the Senate approved the P14.39-billion proposed budget of the DAR last November 16.

"The DAR will continue to support and advance the welfare of ARBs and sustain the development of the agriculture sector to improve the ARB's living conditions," DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III said in a statement.

The rest of the agency's budget will be distributed to support the three major programs of DAR.

These are Agrarian Justice De-

livery (AJD) Program with P915 million, to provide legal support and assistance to the ARBs through effective means of alternative dispute resolution such as mediation or conciliation; Land Tenure Security (LTS) Program with a P3.03-billion budget, activities of which include land acquisition and distribution activities and landowners' compensation; and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development and Sustainability Program (ARBDSP) with P1.5 billion, which will provide support services to the ARBs including training, market linkage, credit assistance, insurance facilitation provision of farm inputs, farm machinery, and equipment.

During the budget hearing, Villar reported that project SPLIT had initiated the digitalization of its validation process which is now more accurate and faster in processing data. The DAR has hired 4,900 field validators to accomplish 1.3 million hectares by 2027.

So far, the field validation teams of SPLIT have accomplished almost 75 percent of their target. The DAR is targeting to validate 84,000 hectares by the end of 2023. When accomplished, project SPLIT will benefit 1.2 million ARBs.



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# Pushing for a greener future

**“DoE Secretary Lotilla said that the DoE has been receiving an impressive amount of interest from both local and foreign investors in RE development.”**

The Philippines opens its doors to foreign investors for its renewable energy projects.

The Department of Energy promulgated Department Circular 2022-11-0034, which amended Section 19 of the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy or RE Law. The amendment allowed foreign citizens or foreign-owned entities to engage in the exploration, development, and utilization of the country’s RE resources, such as solar, wind, biomass, ocean, or tidal energy. The DoE Circular was signed by Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla on 15 November 2022.

The promulgation of the DoE circular follows the opinion issued by the Department of Justice on 29 September 2022. In the opinion, the DoJ stated that the 40 percent foreign equity restriction on EDU of natural resources under Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution does not apply to RE projects. However, the DoJ stated that Section 19 of the IRR should be amended by the DoE to conform to the opinion.

In its opinion, the DoJ noted that “natural resources” referred to in Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution is not all-embracing as to include all forms and manner of natural resources. First, the term covers properties that are within the state’s power of dominium pursuant to the Regalian Doctrine, such as lands, fisheries, forests, and wildlife. These properties are all susceptible to appropriation.

The DoJ stated that RE sources



**A DOSE OF LAW**  
DEAN NILO DIVINA

are not covered by the constitutional restriction on foreign equity. The term “natural resources” could not include the sun, the wind or the ocean as they are not subject to appropriation. Citing the debates of the Constitutional Commission for the 1987 Constitution, the DoJ noted that the compelling reason behind the imposition of a limit to foreign participation in the EDU of natural resources is the fear of depletion of the country’s exhaustible resources by foreigners. This finds no application to inexhaustible RE sources. Further, the framers of the Constitution could not have contemplated such energy sources since they were still in their embryonic stage of development at that time, if at all. The change of circumstances with the advent of new technology and processes magnifies the inapplicability of the limitations under the Constitution with respect to such energy sources.

Secondly, the term also covers only potential energy, and excludes kinetic energy. Potential energy is commonly referred to as “energy relative to its position in a given system,” or “energy at rest.” In contrast, kinetic energy is the “energy possessed by an

object, resulting from the motion of that object,” or simply put, “energy in motion.” RE sources, such as solar, wind, hydro and ocean or tidal energy sources, are considered kinetic energy sources. Thus, it is considered as “natural resources” subject to the foreign equity restriction under the Constitution.

However, foreign equity restriction on the appropriation of waters, direct from the source, for power generation, shall continue to be in force pursuant to the Water Code and jurisprudence.

DoE Secretary Lotilla said that the DoE has been receiving an impressive amount of interest from both local and foreign investors in RE development. With the relaxation of the foreign equity restrictions in the RE sector, the DoE expects an increase in investments in the RE sector, which would contribute to the economy, provide jobs, and help meet the goal of increasing the RE in power generation. The amendment is also consistent with the statement made by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to push the transition to renewable energy in his last State of the Nation Address.

**“The framers of the Constitution could not have contemplated such energy sources since they were still in their embryonic stage.”**

*For more of Dean Nilo Divina’s legal tidbits, please visit [www.divinalaw.com](http://www.divinalaw.com). For comments and questions, please send an email to [cabdo@divinalaw.com](mailto:cabdo@divinalaw.com).*



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# Leyte as Bamboo Corp., any taker? (2)

## FEATURE

BY ELMER RECUERDO

Former Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol said that as a typhoon-prone province facing the eastern seaboard, bamboo growing is ideal in Leyte due to its tenacity to withstand strong winds and flooding. It also creates a positive impact on the environment and is a big producer of oxygen and sequesters more carbon dioxide than any other tree.

"Bamboo produces 35 percent more oxygen than a tree and it absorbs an enormous amount of greenhouse gases. One newly planted bamboo can sequester

two tons of carbon dioxide in just seven years," he said.

The China-based International Bamboo and Rattan Organization, a multilateral development organization that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan, estimates that a hectare of bamboo can sequester 200 to almost 400 tons of carbon.

"Bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants in the world. This makes it particularly suitable as a tool for carbon sequestration. Because bamboo grows back quickly after being harvested, it can store carbon in many durable products, as well as in the plant itself. Over time, this means that bamboo can sequester more carbon than some tree plantations," states a

position paper of INBAR to the UN Conference on Climate Change.

INBAR's 44 member states, including the Philippines, have pledged commitments to restore almost 6 million hectares of degraded land with bamboo.

National Security Adviser Secretary Clarita Carlos, who is a known bamboo advocate, says bamboo addresses concerns on food, energy and environmental security — which are essential components of national security — of the country.

"Wala naman kalaban ngayon, except for climate change," she said. Carlos added that bamboo is not only a source of food for many Filipinos but is also the best erosion retardant.

She also said that there is an

existing law that mandates that 20 percent of chairs in all public schools should be made of bamboo but the law could not be enforced due to lack of materials.

Leyte is positioning itself to be the next bamboo capital in the country. On Thursday, it held the First Leyte Bamboo Summit attended by over 300 participants coming from the different local government units, environmental groups, academe and the private sector.

The mayors of the 40 municipalities in the province have pledged support to allot spaces in their respective municipalities for bamboo farms or public parks. They have also expressed enthusiasm with the planned Leyte Bamboo Corporation.

Are there takers?



## Miner records P44B in multiplier effect

BY JED MACAPAGAL

NICKEL Asia Corp. (NAC) subsidiary Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC) registered a total national value-added multiplier effect of P44.2 billion between 2017 and 2021 from various economic projects, according to a study made by economic consulting and research firm, Center for Research and Communication (CRC).

The study, which assessed the direct and indirect contributions of the company and its ripple effect to the economy, showed NAC-RTNMC is able to contribute P1.47 in additional economic output for every peso it earns.

CRC said the company's direct

contributions are made through export, employment, wages and taxes paid while indirect contributions are realized through its business engagement with suppliers and third-party service providers.

NAC is the largest producer of nickel ore in the Philippines with its core business activities located in Palawan and several other provinces.

The CRC study led by economist Dr. Cid Terosa, quantified the national and regional economic impact of NAC-RTNMC in terms of its direct, indirect and induced national and regional economic multiplier effects as well as its total contribution to gross domestic product and gross regional domestic product.



73-21-22

TITLE:

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## US kasangga ng Thailand sa pagtayo ng nuclear power

TARGET ngayon ng Amerika na alalayan ang Thailand na bumuo ng nuclear power sa pamamagitan ng maliit na reactor.

Ang nasabing aksyon ay bahagi ng programa na naglalayong labanan ang pagbabago ng klima.

Ayon sa White House, ang tulong ay

bahagi ng Net Zero World Initiative nito, isang proyekto na inilunsad sa Glasgow climate summit noong 2021 kung saan nakipagtulungan ang US sa pribadong sector hinggil sa mas malinis pang enerhiya.

Plano rin ng White House, na ilatag ang ilang teknikal na tulong

sa bansa upang i-deploy ang pagbuo ng teknolohiya ng maliit na modular reactor o factory built at portable.

Wala namang nabanggit na timeline ang Amerika subalit inanunsyo nilang magiging kasangga sila ng Thailand na ang target ay maging carbon neutral sa 2065.




77-21-22

TITLE :

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
RXI-4A, Capitol Compound, Mati, Digos City, Philippines  
Telephone No. (082)553-8756/email: denr.digos@gmail.com

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### LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that DENR, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-4A, Capitol Compound, Mati, Digos City, will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock a.m. on January 5, 2023 for the lease for commercial purposes of the tract of land herein below describe:

Location	Darong, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
Description	Mic-11-001235-D
Area	76,746 sq.m.
Appraisal (land)	Php 2,635.00 per sq. m. or Php 202,225,710.00 for the tract of land
Value of Proposed Improvements	Php 700,000,000.00
Applied for by	San Miguel Corporation Represented by Ferdinand K. Constantino

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land. The right to lease the bid 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 the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, 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 everytime his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.  
Digos City, Davao del Sur, Philippines, October 20, 2022.

  
**RUEL D. COLONG**  
CENR Officer

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
RXI-4A, Capitol Compound, Mati, Digos City, Philippines  
Telephone No. (082)553-8756/email: denr.digos@gmail.com

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### PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbigay alam sa mada na ang DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-4A, Capitol Compound, Mati, Digos City ay talagang ng sayado o nakasulat na alik sa ika-5 ng Enero taong 2023 para pagpapahantong isang suklat na lupang publiko na nakatanyag sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	Darong, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
Deskripsyon	Mic-11-001235-D
Sukat	76,746 metro kwadrado
Tatagan ng lupa	Php 2,635.00 kada metro kwadrado o katuwag Php 202,225,710.00
Halaga ng nakatayang Proyekto	Php 700,000,000.00
Aplikante	San Miguel Corporation Represented by Ferdinand K. Constantino

Ang karapatan ng apitan ng nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbigay ng patakunahan na usa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsiyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsiyento sa halaga ng itatayang estruktura. Lupang ang isang taon ay makakasama sa susunod na subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-depat na aplikante at kailangang bago magmula ang subasta ay makapagpala siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang lupa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check ang siya lamang talagang-paper. Ang isang taon na suklat sa subasta na nagrepresente ng ibang tao ay makasulat lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibigay sa pamamagitan ng katuwang pahintulot na nagagamit ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kung ang kanyang alik ay lutasan para makompleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang lupa. Ang karapatang tumanggap o tangpahan ang anumang alik o sa lehat ng alik ay palaging nakalaan para sa panatilihan.  
Ang magpapahantong sa alik na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tumubasan ang kabayang nagugul sa pagpapahantong na panawagang ito at talagang-patakunahan ng lupa.  
Langitad ng Digos, Lalawigan ng Davao del Sur, Oktubre 20, 2022

  
**RUEL D. COLONG**  
CENR Officer





79-21-22

TITLE : \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Republika ng Pilipinas  
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman  
**PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON**  
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

**PAGBEBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA**

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources—National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa *DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*, sa pamamagitan ng isang *sealed bidding* na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng APR 11, 2023, ng lupang matatagpuan sa *Brgy. Western Bicutan (Pinagsama) Taguig City* na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALANG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMWADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUMWADRADO	KABUWANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUWANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2184	EDWINA VIDA	Lot 34, Block 50, Pso00-036894	84 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,700.00	PHP800,000.00

Ang mga *bid* ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "*Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-2184*". Ang mga *bid* sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, *money order*, *treasury warrant*, sertipikadong tseke, *cashier's check* o *manager's check* na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawiin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sgd.)  
**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division  
MSU/ICP/JP

NOV. 24, 21. 29 DEC. 6, 12, 19

Republika ng Pilipinas  
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman  
**PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON**  
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

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BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALANG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMWADRADO	HALAGA NG LUPA KADA METRO KUMWADRADO	KABUWANG HALAGA NG LUPA	KABUWANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-2183	RALPH EDRIAN T. VIDA	Lot 6, Block 54, Pso00-036894	84 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,700.00	PHP800,000.00

Ang mga *bid* ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "*Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No. 007607-2183*". Ang mga *bid* sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, *money order*, *treasury warrant*, sertipikadong tseke, *cashier's check* o *manager's check* na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bawiin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sgd.)  
**ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO**  
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1516  
Tel. Nos. (02) 8539 4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [recordsec@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsec@emb.gov.ph)



### NOTICE OF RESCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the MAALINAO-CAIGUTAN-BIYOG MINING PROJECT of MAKILALA MINING COMPANY, INC. located in BRGY. BALATOC, MUNICIPALITY OF PASIL, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, PHILIPPINES.

Due to the onslaught brought about by severe tropical storm Paeng, the Public Hearing originally scheduled on 04 November 2022 was postponed. Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the MAALINAO-CAIGUTAN-BIYOG MINING PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing that is rescheduled to:

Date	Time	Venue
06 December 2022 (Tuesday);	09:30 AM (Registration starts at 08:30 AM)	Pasil Municipal Gym, Amdalao, Pasil, Kalinga

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

<b>Project Name</b>	Maalinao-Caigutan-Biyog Mining Project
<b>Project Location</b>	Brgy. Balatoc, Municipality Of Pasil, Province Of Kalinga, Philippines.
<b>Project Capacity</b>	Mining: 4,500,000 MT/ yr Processing: 2,400,000 MT/yr
<b>Project Type</b>	Resource Extractive Industry: Extraction of Metallic Ores/ Minerals and Metallic Mineral or Ore Processing
<b>Project Rationale</b>	This Project endeavors to maximize the economic utility of the mineral resources in the Cordillera Administrative Region, while consequently spearheading the growth of the immediate locality through the inevitable socioeconomic development that is integral to any mineral development project. This includes increased taxes and royalties levied to the government, employment growth from mining-related activities and supporting industries (commerce) in the area, social development, and others. MMCI's environmental and social development programs are also anticipated to have positive impacts on the community as required under various mining laws and regulations
<b>Project components</b>	<p><b>Major Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underground Mining Area</li> <li>• Emulsion Plant</li> <li>• Underground Magazine</li> <li>• Waste Rock/ Topsoil Storage Facility</li> <li>• Surface Magazine</li> <li>• Internal Roads and Bridges</li> <li>• Process Plant Buildings</li> <li>• Paste Plant Buildings</li> <li>• Run off Mine Pad</li> <li>• Fresh water and Contact Water Dams</li> </ul> <p><b>Support Facilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Admin Facilities</li> <li>• Water Treatment Plant</li> <li>• Emergency Power</li> <li>• Maintenance and Storage Facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Proponent</b>	Makilala Mining Company, Inc.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email at [eia@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eia@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB CAR**  
DENR Compound, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
- **Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office- Pasil**  
Pasil Municipal Hall, Pasil, Kalinga

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. George Silvederio** and **Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra**.