

24 November 2022, Thursday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service  
**SUMMARY OF DENR NEWS ALERTS**  
 24 November 2022

NEWSPAPER	TITLE	SPECIFIC ISSUES
<b>Top stories</b>		
<b>Phil. Daily Inquirer, p. 6</b> Editorial	Dumping sachet as packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local environmental groups, supported by like-minded organizations in the civil society sector, issued a call to dump the “sachet culture” among Filipinos as single use plastics are used in packaging consumer goods such as shampoo and coffee drinks;</li> <li>● Consumers are to be held responsible in the same measure as manufacturers of single use plastic under the Extended Producer Responsibility Act.</li> </ul>
<b>Businessmirror, p. A5</b> by Jonathan Mayuga	More investment in climate action to save lives and livelihood sought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Key climate advocates in the private and public sector led by DENR Sec. Loyzaga asked private business community to take keen interest in investing in climate action enterprise to boost the country’s push for climate resilience and adaptation, saying business in the private sector stand to benefit from climate initiatives both in the short and long term.</li> </ul>
<b>Manila Bulletin, p. 6</b> by AFP  <b>Daily Tribune, p. 9</b> by AFP	Climate change will fuel diseases, Global Fund warns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Geneva-based “Global Fund” warns of more outbreaks of diseases “in escalating,” including food shortages, triggered by climate change, particularly in poor communities in Africa.</li> </ul>
<b>The Phil. Star, p. 7</b> Column “Breakthrough” by Elfren Cruz Jr.	Fossil fuel lobbyist at climate summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The failure to come up with a declaration on the phasing out of fossil fuel-dependent energy sources and limit the phase out to coal point to the lobbying of oil-producing rich countries which, on the other hand, have</li> </ul>


		pledged to fund for loss and damage” in climate vulnerable countries led by the Philippines.
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Prepared by:



**PHILHARKS QUE**  
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Noted by:



**KHALIL S. BAYAM**  
Director

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service





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## DENR, CDO join hands in addressing solid waste problems

**By Joel dela Torre**

THE regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Northern Mindanao has entered into an agreement with two barangays in Cagayan de Oro to address the growing solid waste problem in the area especially along the Bitan-ag Creek.

Bitan-ag Creek is one of Cagayan de Oro's major drainage lines which cuts across the city's main business district at Likmetkai Center.

DENR Region 10 Executive Director Henry Adornado formalized the partnership through the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with barangay chairpersons Julito Ogsimer and Rexie Tinampay of barangays Lapasan and Puntod, respectively.

Under the deal, the DENR and the barangays will install and maintain two units of trash traps in Bitan-ag Creek to prevent garbage from flowing into rivers and seas.

The project also aims to motivate coastal communities to innovate local solutions to address solid waste and to promote an income-generating, community-based enterprise.

According to Adornado, the project will help mitigate the flow of trash into Macajalar Bay.

During its recent cleanup activities, the DENR found out that the Bitan-ag Creek along Lapasan and Puntod deposits the biggest volume of wastes to Macajalar Bay.

"We see the Trash Trap Project in Bitan-ag Creek as an innovative solution to this issue, in partnership with all of you," Adornado said during the MOA signing.

The DENR official expressed confidence that with the strong commitment by said barangays as manifested by the signing of the MOA, the government will be able to attain the objective in the name of public service.

Adornado said that a total of 57,000 pieces of PET bottles will be collected to construct the trash traps.



## TUCP supports small-scale miners

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

[@sam\\_medenilla](#)

**T**HE country's largest labor group is now pushing for new legislation which will cut red tape for the government registration of small scale miners.

In a statement on Wednesday, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) President Raymond C. Mendoza backed the pronouncement of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. that he wants to update Republic Act (RA) No. 7076 or the Act Creating A People's Small-Scale Mining Program to ensure small-scale miners enjoy "social assistance and labor protection."

Marcos said currently most of the small-scale mining activities in the country are unregistered, which leaves its workers vulnerable to precarious working conditions.

Mendoza, who is also a deputy speaker at the House of Representatives, said a possible amendment to RA 7076 will make it easier for interested parties to register in the Minahang Bayan program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Minahang Bayan or the People's Small-Scale Mining Area is an initiative of DENR, which aims to regulate small-scale mining through registration.

Based on its October 2022 data, DENR reported that there are al-

ready 100 Minahang Bayan sites nationwide.

Mendoza said this could rise if DENR further streamlines its processing for applicants. "This can be principally achieved by streamlining the Minahang Bayan petitioning, licensing, and registration processes by promoting localized access, simplifying documentary requirements, ensuring affordable fees, ensuring reasonable application time, establishing one-stop-shops, and leveraging technology," Mendoza said.

TUCP said there are an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 small-scale miners nationwide, which could benefit from the "legitimization and formalization" of their operations.



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**EDITORIAL**

## Dumping sachet as packaging

Last week, respected environmental activists, leaders of nongovernment organizations, as well as government and private institutions issued an urgent and timely public call for Filipinos to “break up” with sachets, those small, single-use plastic packaging used for practically everything—from shampoo to soap, toothpaste, cooking oil, and instant coffee.

Single-use plastics, mainly sachets, are so much a part of Philippine households that, according to a study by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Gaia), they account for half of the country’s plastic waste, 20 percent of which end up in the ocean, posing a significant risk to those who consume seafood. Sachets also expose coastal communities to contaminated water supply and flash floods due to clogged waterways.

As the United Nations Environment Programme noted, the world has become “addicted” to single-use plastics—those meant to be thrown away after a brief single use. Sachets have become such an integral part of everyday life that they have resulted in “severe environmental, social, economic and health consequences.”

This explains why some 29 individuals and leaders, including French ambassador Michèle Bocoz, Commissioner Rachel Herrera of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, former Ifugao representative Teddy Baguilat Jr., and Save the Philippine Seas cofounder Anna Oposa have issued a manifesto calling on government to legalize and mainstream the refilling of products, starting with toiletries, to start the journey toward a “sachet-free future.”

The signatories said encouraging a refilling system for widely used products, especially among variety or *sari-sari* stores where 67 percent of Filipinos buy their everyday needs, can serve as a starting point that “can spark significant change” in sustainable packaging for household products and “enable [consumers] to ... further reduce their plastic footprint.”

As consumers, the signatories pointed out “the extensive effect of sachet pollution not just on the environment but also on the overall quality of human life,” not just in one’s community and workplace, but also on “the health and the well-being of families and loved ones.”

Mainstreaming the practice of refilling would be an opportunity as well for the Philippines to fulfill its commitments under the Paris agreement concerning climate mitigation and adaptation, and for businesses to be able to support this path to sustainability, the signatories added.

“We believe that we can make change happen when we take to heart the critical statistics on sachet pollution, consider its human impact, listen to science and the call of those at the grassroots level, and collaborate to find the most affordable, accessible, and sustainable alternatives,” the manifesto stated.

Back in 2019, Gaia released the findings of its five-year trash audit covering 21 sites across the Philippines, and revealed that the average Filipino uses 591 pieces of plastic sachets every year.

“The problem is the huge amount of single-use plastics being produced—not just the way waste is managed,” said Froilan Grate, executive director of Gaia Asia-Pacific, one of the signatories of the manifesto.

This and other disturbing findings prompted the No Other Year for Plastics coalition convened by MakeSense Asia and its partner organizations to appeal to corporations and manufacturers to provide “a more sustainable and Earth-friendly alternatives to sachets,” while urging consumers to reduce their own purchase of products in sachets.

Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on sustainable development goals, innovation and futures thinking, voiced the same concerns in August and prodded her Senate colleagues to stop using plastic bottles and sachets. Quoting the 2019 Gaia study, she revealed that almost 164 million pieces of sachets are discarded in the Philippines daily, or around 59.7 billion yearly, choking the country’s waterways and drainage systems.

With the chorus of voices urging an end to the use of sachet packaging growing louder, the government crafted the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, which lapsed into law in July. The law amends the 21-year-old Ecological Solid Waste Management Act that required large manufacturing companies to take responsibility for the impact of their products on the environment over the products’ entire life cycle—from manufacturing to use, and eventual discard.

But beyond government and the manufacturing sector, consumers, too, must be held accountable for plastic pollution and must do their part to reduce its harm to the environment. From such simple acts as reducing the use of products in sachet packaging, consumers can graduate into opting for products that come in refillable or recyclable containers. Using a mug instead of styro cups for coffee should be an easy starting point.

As Cayetano stressed in her privilege speech, change that will benefit the environment and end the scourge of plastic “starts with day-to-day habits, day-to-day changes [that] seem small at first, but collectively and over time, [would] result in big changes.”



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## More investment in climate action to save lives and livelihood sought

**T**OP officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) called for more investment in climate action while strengthening collaboration to achieve climate-resilient development during the opening ceremony of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (CCC Week 2022) on Monday.

With the theme "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima," CCC Week 2022 draws together various climate change and environment stakeholders in the Philippines in a collective push towards transforming climate change commitments into action towards a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines by 2050.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1667 s. 2008, the CCC spearheads the annual observance of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week from November 19 to 25 aimed at raising consciousness in addressing the impacts of the changing climate.

In a news statement, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, who represents President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in the

CCC stressed the importance of investing in initiatives to pursue climate resilience.

Citing the record-high P453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation at P289.73 billion, Loyzaga stressed the need for more investments to support the country's climate-resilient development.

"More investments are still needed if we are to make transformative strides to achieve climate-resilient development. The coming years will present more opportunities to show how the whole-of-society effort can shape the future of our country," Loyzaga said.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the House Committee on Climate Change and Bohol First District Representative Edgar Chatto also joined the activity.

In her recorded message, Villar remarked that the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, food security, and our communities are becoming even more pronounced, thereby needing serious and urgent attention from all.

"We should take climate change more seriously and urgently. We should rally all

communities to institute appropriate strategies to [this] make environment climate-resilient and not to initiate activities that would aggravate the sufferings of the people," said Villar. "Filipinos are called to do their parts to counter the ill effects of climate change," she added.

Chatto, for her part, highlighted the need to collectively strengthen the capacities of communities to reduce loss and damage.

"The vulnerability of our society is measured in three aspects: Susceptibility, Coping, and Adaptability. We may not control the natural events, but we need to strengthen our susceptibility measures, our coping mechanisms in minimizing damage, adaptation or our long-term strategies to anticipate changes to mitigate or avoid the adverse effects and impacts," said Chatto.

The Opening Ceremony of the CCC Week 2022 took place at Novotel Manila. The Climate Investment Forum 2022 immediately followed the ceremony, which brought together various stakeholders to identify strategies in achieving the Philippine Nationally Determined Contribution targets, priority actions on climate finance, and opportunities for climate action. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



## Climate change will fuel diseases, warns Global Fund

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – Climate change will end up killing people by fueling infectious diseases, the head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria said Tuesday.

Executive director Peter Sands said that in 2022, the fund had witnessed the “escalating impact” of climate change on health.

While upsurges in malaria had hitherto been seen due to the increasing frequency and devastation of tropical storms, “with the flooding in Pakistan it was taken to a completely different scale”, he said.

“What we are seeing is that the mechanism by which climate change will end up killing people is through its impact on infectious disease.”

Sands said that parts of Africa which previously were unaffected by malaria are now becoming at risk as temperatures rise and allow mosquitos to thrive, notably at higher altitudes.

However, the population in such areas will not have immunity, with the resulting risk of a higher mortality rate.

“It’s quite alarming,” Sands told a briefing with the UN correspondents’ association.

Other threats include tuberculosis spreading among the increasing number of displaced people around the world.

“TB is a disease that thrives on having concentrations of highly-stressed people in close confines with inadequate food and shelter,” he said.

“The more that we see climate change-driven displacement of people, the more I think that will translate into the conditions that will at least make it more likely.”

Sands also said food insecurity would make people more vulnerable to disease.

As for whether the world was better prepared for the next pandemic than it was for Covid-19, Sands said it was, but added: “That doesn’t mean we are well prepared: we’re just not as badly prepared as we were before.”

By the end of 2022, Sands said the Global Fund will have invested around \$5.4 billion, which is significantly more than it has ever done before.

The Geneva-based organization’s largest donors are G7 governments, led by the United States and France.

“For the people we serve in the poorest, most marginalized, most vulnerable communities in the world, 2022 was a brutal year,” said Sands.

“In the poorest communities in the world, HIV, TB and malaria are killing many more people than Covid-19.”





## 'Climate change will fuel diseases'

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# Daily Tribune

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## Villafuerte 'cautiously optimistic' on polluters' pledge at COP27

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ  
@joveemarie

**A** SENIOR lawmaker is "cautiously optimistic" on recent commitment by the world's largest polluters at the just-concluded global warming forum in Egypt of hefty financial aid for developing nations like the Philippines that have done little to cause planet heating and yet are bearing the brunt of climate upheavals caused by rising world temperatures.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymond Villafuerte, in a news statement, said the initial pledges made by rich states to this "loss and damage" fund last weekend at COP27 was just a little over \$200 million, a "puny" amount when compared to the \$100 billion in annual funds for climate financing that they have pledged in 2009, but which they have yet to meet till now.

"The failure—again—of afflu-

ent economies that have grown richer from their largely unchecked GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions to move with fast and real urgency at the just-finished, two-week COP27 in Egypt in holding the world's carbon pollution to 1.5 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels and forking over \$100 billion in climate mitigation and adaptation funds to the highest-risk countries like the Philippines gives reason for guarded or cautious optimism," Villafuerte said.

Worse, he said, "there was no concrete steps included in the final COP27 accord passed last weekend to hit the target in the Paris Climate Accords of 2015 [Paris Agreement] of making the world's economy carbon-neutral by 2050 by limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius of the pre-industrialization levels, in order to prevent the worst of climate change from happening in the decades ahead."

In fact, he added, reported stone-

walling by wealthy Middle Eastern and African states prompted the deletion from the text of the final COP27 agreement, a provision on committing to phase out the use of all fossil fuels.

"How can the world accelerate decarbonization without a calibrated phase out of the use of all fossil fuels, which are the main culprits for rapidly increasing global temperatures responsible for the increasingly deadlier climate disasters," he added.

Villafuerte, who is also president of the National Unity Party (NUP), was referring to the 27th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference that took place from November 6 to 18 in the Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheik, and, which, he said, was capped by the initiative of the world's affluent states to put up a new climate loss and damage fund as some sort of repatriation to poorer economies now wracked by worsening climate hazards like

storm surges, flash floods, landslides and droughts.

Earlier, Villafuerte said that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s resolute advocacy of urgent climate action on the international stage—from New York to Bangkok—has cast our Chief Executive, whether he likes or not, as the champion or point person of high-risk developing economies long seeking financial and technical aid from wealthy nations responsible for unbridled GHG emissions.

Villafuerte noted that in his engagements at last week's 29th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Bangkok, Thailand, "Mr. Marcos had strongly pushed for collective action from APEC's 21 member-states on dealing with three urgent issues to hasten global recovery from Covid-19, and one of these concerns is climate change."

As for COP27, Villafuerte said: "In what has been seen by

certain quarters as a breakthrough for the most climate-vulnerable countries like the Philippines that need an ever-increasing amount of money to fight off planet heating, COP27 ended last weekend with an agreement for the world's biggest carbon polluters to help compensate developing states for the weather disasters wrought on the latter by fast-rising global temperatures."

"While we should welcome this fresh pledge of financial support for high-risk nations in fighting climate change," said Villafuerte, "I am cautiously optimistic that such a COP27 pledge will actually help the world move fast and real enough to meet the declared global resolves in past COPs to limit planet warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels and for the biggest GHG emitters to cough up a combined \$100 billion yearly for the climate mitigation and adaptation programs of island nations and other highly vulnerable countries."



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## BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

### Fossil fuel lobbyists at climate summit

The 27<sup>th</sup> Climate Summit conference in Egypt ended last Sunday with mixed reviews about its success. It was supposed to end on Saturday but had to be extended because no agreement had been reached by then. The final agreement was considered weak despite attempts by the summit organizers to claim it a breakthrough.



Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, said: "Our planet is still in the emergency room. We need to drastically reduce emissions now – and this is an issue that this COP did not address. The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition."

One of the reasons that the final agreement was judged a failure on effort to cut carbon dioxide was because oil-producing countries and high emitters weakened and removed key commitments on greenhouse gases and the phasing out of fossil fuels. This year's climate summit is also unique in its being the first to invite fossil producers like oil and gas companies to participate in the official program of events. For example, the delegation of Saudi Arabia said that they did not see the effort to limit global warming as being "a discussion about fossil fuels."

Laurence Tubiana, one of the architects of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, is now chief executive of the European Climate Foundation. She said: "The influence of the fossil fuel industry was found across the board. This COP has weakened requirements around countries making new and more ambitious commitments on cutting emissions. The text (of the deal) makes no mention of phasing out fossil fuels and scant reference to the 1.5C target."

Climate activists have questioned the legitimacy of having oil and gas companies participate officially in the summit. According to a climate NGO Global Witness, there were more than 600 fossil fuel lobbyists registered for the summit in Egypt. According to the *Financial Times*: "What Saudi Arabia and some other fossil fuel-reliant countries at the summit are keen to discuss is how they can continue to produce oil and gas. The focus should be on reducing emissions, not targeting the sector, they argue."

In an interview, the delegate from Saudi Arabia claimed that carbon neutrality can be achieved while still producing fossil fuels. Tubiana warned that the Egyptian presidency "... produced a text that clearly protects oil and gas petro-states and the fossil fuel industries."

David Tong from another climate NGO, Oil Change International, said: "I have been to eight COPs and have never seen any such blatant oil and gas promotion from a presidency before. There is no legitimacy in a COP presidency giving a big platform to major polluters without even asking them hard questions."

Tubiana added: "I don't think we can continue having to cope with such an overwhelming presence. They have so much money to do public relations... they come when they see that things are getting really bad for the industry."

US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse said that it was disappointing that the United States was not able to provide leadership on raising capital for the shift to clean energy in poorer countries. He said: "The fossil fuel industry runs a very complex and elaborate operation to attack climate measures, usually hiding its hand behind front groups... It is a massive political influence operation – it is very powerful."

Alok Sharma of the United Kingdom and president of the Global Summit last year in Glasgow, Scotland expressed anger at the close of the Egypt conference. He said: "Those of us who came to Egypt to keep 1.5C alive, and to respect what every single one of us agreed to in Glasgow, i.e. 2021 Climate Summit, have had to fight relentlessly to hold the line. We have had to battle to build on one of the key achievements in Glasgow, the call on parties to revisit and strengthen the national plans on emission."

Sharma joined in efforts to include a phasedown of all fossil fuels in the final agreement. However, due to intense lobbying, this proposal was reduced to a commitment to phase down only coal. Sharma said: "I said in Glasgow that the pulse of 1.5C was weak. Unfortunately, it remains on life support."

The only semi-bright provision in the final agreement was the setting up of a fund for "loss and damage," which is supposed to pay out to rescue and rebuild physical and social infrastructure ravaged by extreme weather events. The funds will be provided by the rich countries for the benefit of the poorer countries who hardly have any emissions but oftentimes bear the brunt of climate change like typhoons, floods, hurricanes.

While the United States and the European Union have agreed to contribute to this fund, other major sources of emission including China and Saudi Arabia are allowed to contribute on a voluntary basis. These two countries have insisted that they are not developed countries but should be classified as developing countries and therefore have no obligation to provide funds for the poorer countries.

Next year's climate summit will be in Dubai, one of the biggest oil producers in the world.

Our November writing date: Nov 26, 2-3 pm., Young Writers' Hangout with returning facilitator Susan Lara on the "Power of Brevity." Contact [writethingsph@gmail.com](mailto:writethingsph@gmail.com). 0945.2273216

Email: [elfrencruz@gmail.com](mailto:elfrencruz@gmail.com)



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## DILG and CCC strengthen partnership for LGU climate expenditure tagging

**T**HE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) will collaborate to help build and strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) for Climate Expenditure Tagging.

The activity will help both the local governments as well as concerned national government agencies (NGA) to determine how much have been

spent or would be spent for climate change-related programs, projects or activities.

This as DILG Secretary Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. signed and issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2022-144 enjoining LGUs and DILG offices to participate in the CCC's webinar, "Leveraging Local Budgets in the Context of Covid-19 Recovery and Sustainable Environmental Manage-

ment" on November 22 and 23. The MC also reminds local chief executives of their local governments' submissions under the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET).

The webinar will feature new insights on the intersections of climate action, health, sustainability, and local climate investments. This webinar is part of the celebration of the Climate Change Consciousness Week

with the theme "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima." Registration is open via the link: <https://bit.ly/LocalCCET2022>, the CCC said in a statement.

Pursuant to DBM-CCC-DILG JMC No. 2015-01, local governments at the provincial, city and municipal levels must submit their climate-tagged Annual Investment Programs (AIPs) together with the Quality As-

urance and Review (QAR) forms.

The DILG and CCC work hand-in-hand to build the capacities of local governments in mainstreaming climate change in local development plans and investment programs, through the Local CCET and Training of Trainers on enhanced Local Climate Change Action Planning, among other initiatives.

Abalos received CCC Vice Chair-

person Robert Borje during a courtesy call last month, where both officials reaffirmed the importance of further strengthening DILG-CCC institutional partnership and in scaling up climate change action capacity building projects for LGUs.

Through the DILG and CCC partnership, LGUs demonstrated increased capacities for climate action and reporting. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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# Just like watching 'Tulfo in Action'



**GROUND ZERO**  
**MANNY ANGELES**

Broadcast journalist-turned-lawmaker Raffy Tulfo must be enjoying reliving his part as Mr. Action Man in his popular radio and television programs as he recently sparred verbally with colleague Cynthia Villar in the Senate.

**“This is the same lawmaker who received flak several years ago over her belittling statement on the nursing profession during a senatorial forum.**

Tulfo, who anchors top-rated shows “Wanted sa Radyo” and “Raffy Tulfo in Action” before getting elected senator is known for his hard-hitting, no-holds-barred commentary on issues about abuses and injustices committed by people in power against ordinary citizens.

As a broadcast journalist, he is a known champion of the poor who fights for the downtrodden, many of whom are laborers who flock to his radio show every day to seek his help.

When the neophyte senator clashed with Villar over the conversion of farmlands into subdivisions and commercial areas, it’s as if one is watching one of his top-rating programs. The Senate, it seems, has been witness to his life-changing public service in action.

The heated exchange occurred during the plenary deliberations on the 2023 budget of the Department of Agriculture wherein Tulfo inquired about the DA’s efforts to address the decreasing number of

farmlands in the country.

“Farmlands are getting smaller and smaller as big developers buy them and convert them into commercial and residential lands. What is the DA doing about this?” he asked.

Villar, the sponsor of the proposed P160.85 billion budget of the DA for next year, responded with a seeming explanation of how her family’s business acquired lands to develop into residential or commercial ventures.

The lady senator’s family owns and runs property developer and Lifescales with projects that include subdivisions and malls.

While admitting that it is their bread and butter, Villar explained that they do not buy agricultural land in the provinces. “We only buy in cities and capital towns,” she said and went on to point out why people sell their lands for profit and reinvestment.

Tulfo, however, said Villar’s response was not answering his question. Instead, he repeated his assertion that many farmlands in the country have been commercialized.

Villar interjected: “Where will people live if you don’t build subdivisions?”

Ever insistent, Tulfo replied by pointing out that there are many other areas where these subdivisions can be constructed.

“Just don’t take over the farms because sometimes, the impoverished farmers are being taken advantage of,” he said.

Tulfo also pointed out that due to the Rice Tariffication Law which liberalizes the importation of rice, farmers are often pushed to sell their lands due to tight financial situations.

Villar, however, countered that the RTL was crucial in bringing down the country’s credit rating. She also noted that money collected from rice tariffs was all given to small rice farmers.

Tulfo then called for the need to pass the long overdue National Land Use Act which aims to create a national land management plan. It

was here that the two argued which level of land management is most optimal prompting Senate President Miguel Zubiri to move for a minute suspension.

Whoever came out eliciting support from the public can be gleaned from news headlines the following days.

On the heels of the sensational faceoff between a so-called champion of the downtrodden and the acknowledged richest senator, 97 civic groups, as of the last count, have called for Villar to step down as chairperson of two committees in the chamber over allegations of conflict of interest.

This is the same lawmaker who received flak several years ago over her belittling statement on the nursing profession during a senatorial forum.

“Actually hindi namon kailangan ng nurse na matapos ng BSN (BS Nursing). Kasi itong mga nurses gusto lang nilang maging room nurse, (They don’t need to finish BSN. They only want to become room nurse)” she said.

Villar later apologized after netizens criticized her comments. But she just can’t seem to steer clear of controversial statements.

The lady senator, who claims to be a champion for the environment, was also slammed for belittling fishermen and farmers during last week’s budget hearing, saying they knew nothing about climate change.

What she doesn’t know is that these vulnerable sectors understand climate change better as they experience its impact every day.

e-mail: [mannyangeles27@gmail.com](mailto:mannyangeles27@gmail.com)

**“When the neophyte senator clashed with Villar over the conversion of farmlands into subdivisions and commercial areas, it’s as if one is watching one of his top-rating programs.**



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### Isang compound sa Las Piñas pinamumugaran ng ahas

GUMAGAPANG ang takot sa mga residente sa isang compound sa Las Piñas City dahil sa dami ng ahas na nahuhuli sa mga bahay, nakikita sa dingding, kisame, at pati sa banyo.

Sinabi ng mga residente na may mga malalaki at maliit na sawa na nahuhuli sa mga kabahayan sa kanilang lugar.

Ayon kay Mark Henson Oreo, residente sa compound, simula pa 2017 ay anim na sawa na ang nakita sa kanilang bahay.

"Nakita po namin nasa dingding, nakatago sa likod ng wallpaper, nakalambitin sa kahoy, sa ceiling po ng bubong o sa banyo," saad ni Mark.

Dahil sa pangamba, nilagyan na nila ng harang ang kanilang dingding para hindi na makapasok ang sawa sa loob ng bahay.

Sinabi naman ni Nenita Gacuma, na napagkamalan niyang sinturon ng kaniyang anak ang ahas na nakita niya sa loob ng kanilang banyo.

"Papunta po ako ng CR maliligo sana ako. Akala ko sinturon po ng anak ko 'yung nalaglag, tapos kinukuha ko po nang nagsabi ng 'ssss', ay may ahas po," ani Nenita.

Ganito rin ang naging karanasan ni Anthony Longcop. Aniya, umihi raw siya sa kanilang banyo nang biglang may malaking sawa siyang nakita.

Sa tuwing may ahas sa kanilang lugar, ang takbuhan ng mga residente ang kapitbahay nilang si Rommel Adona.

"Dito sa compound namin, halos 20 na ang nahuli ko," pahayag ni Rommel.

Minsan na rin daw siyang natuklaw ng sawa dahil kamay lang ang gamit niya sa paghuli sa mga ito.

"Sa tingin po namin du'n po nagmumula ang mga ahas na nakukuha namin sa puno ng Balete," ani Mark.

Ayon naman sa pinakamatandang residente sa lugar na si Boy Dy, dati ay may nangupahan sa kanilang lugar na may mga alagang ahas, isda at sari-saring hayop.

"Dati po itong pet shop. May mga malalaking ahas, maliit, sari-sari. May mga nakawala sa kulungan," giit naman ni Roberto Davila Jr., caretaker ng dating petshop.

Ayon kay Sherwin Castillo ng Las Piñas City Veterinary Services Office, reticulated python ang uri ng ahas na nakita sa naturang compound.

"Sila naman ay uri ng sawa na hindi naman venomous. Hindi po sila nakamatay. Pero ang delikado po sa kanila kapag ikaw ay nalingkis o kaya ikaw ay makagat, siguradong masusugatan ka rin," sambit ni Sherwin.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, iniinspeksyon na ng mga kawani ng barangay, City Veterinarian ng Las Piñas at Department of Environment Natural Resources-Metropolitan Environmental Office South ang compound.

Pakay nilang hanapin ang iba pang sawa na posibleng naglungga sa lugar at alamin kung tunay ang pinangangambabang "mother snake."



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# PHL to host world's first green travel trade show

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

@akosistellaBM

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

**O**VER 20 countries will be participating in the world's first green travel trade show to be held in the Philippines next year.

In a news conference on Tuesday, former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor said some "400-500 delegates" from all over the world are expected to participate in the International Ecotourism Travel Mart (IETM), which will be held from March 29 to April 2, 2023, in Silang, Cavite.

The travel mart will feature the world's buyers and sellers of ecotourism packages; exhibitors of ecotourism-related and sustainability-advancing products, services and

destinations; as well as speakers and panelists in a two-day forum and certification course.

She told the BUSINESSMIRROR, the travel mart will "expose delegates to the experts in ecotourism; I think they'll be able to learn about ecotourism in such a short time." She added, travel the fair will also expose the green and sustainable products of the country.

"We [also] want to show [Filipino delegates] the best ecotourism sites of the other countries, or how the other countries are actually developing their sites. There will be a lot of presentations and especially in the tourism forum, they will show the best practices in ecotourism, how people are taking care of their areas, etc.," said Gabor, who is chair and president of the Silang-based International School for Sustain-

able Tourism, which is co-presenting the event with Asian Ecotourism Network (AEN), along with the co-organizer, the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

Gabor cited Palawan as a leader in ecotourism, in particular El Nido Resorts of the Ayala Group.

For her part, ACB Executive Director Dr. Munda S. Lim said, the international travel mart "elevates tourism as a leader in promoting the balance between economic development and harnessing nature as a means to overcome current challenges."

Citing challenges that Asean heritage parks faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, Lim noted there is a growing awareness that nature is part of the solution to public health and climate change-related problems, as people are excited to be back outdoors again.

There are 51 heritage sites in Asean member-economies, which are important in preserving a wide array of ecosystems in the region. Of these, Lim noted that 80 percent are engaged in ecotourism.

Local communities in many of these sites have seen a drastic decline in visitors during the pandemic. She cited the cases of communities around the Gunung Leuser National Park in North Sumatra, and the Way Kambas National Park in Lampung province, where elephants and orangutans are present.

"But these days, as the region is slowly recovering from the impact of the global health crisis, mass tourism is slowly being into more eco-friendly tourism ventures. We see opportunities for greater participation of local communities, empowerment

of local cultures, and enhancing windows for sustainability and continuity," said Lim.

Meanwhile, Masaru Takayama, IETM co-chair and AEN president, said via Zoom, "Experts, ecotourism practitioners, advocates, participants and exhibitors are expected at the IETM for the great opportunity to learn and network across cultures."

AEN, which is the Asian initiative of the Global Ecotourism Network based in Costa Rica, provides relevant opportunities for members to work together on a regional scale. It actively seeks out channels for growth opportunities with both small and large organizations within Asia and shares among members significant information and educational materials. The Philippines is an active AEN member.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1906  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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BANNER

STORY



EDITORIAL



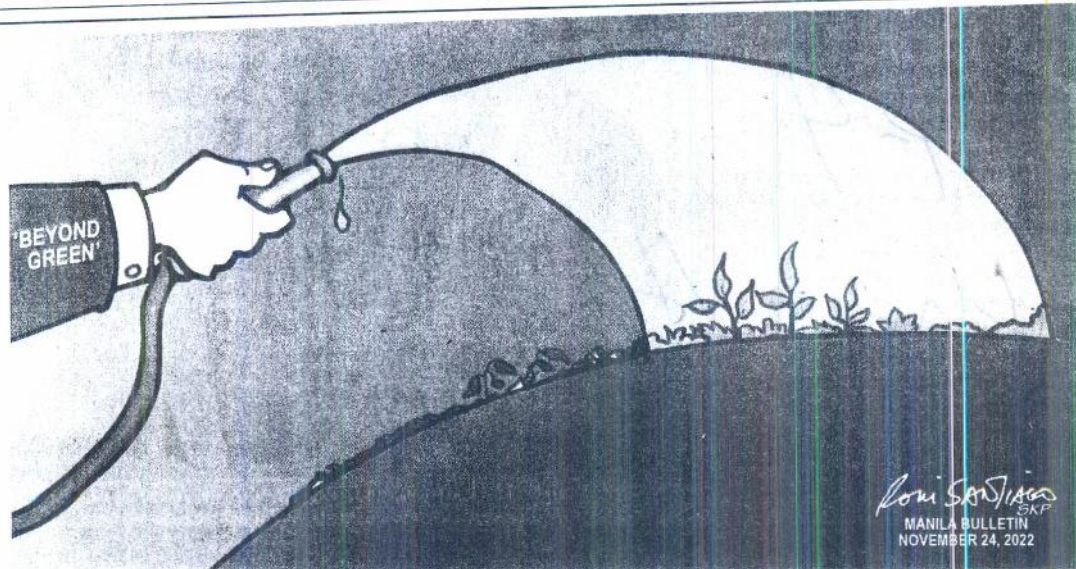
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## 'Beyond Green': Manila Bulletin champions sustainability with forum and recognition night

Today is the second day of Manila Bulletin's 1st Sustainability Forum. Yesterday, nine online talks were presented by companies that have exhibited efforts that went "beyond green." They include SM Group where Hans Sy Jr. talked about their disaster preparedness and resilience efforts. Oliver Chan, SVP of Arthaland, highlighted the importance of sustainable residences, while Don-Don Ubaldo, SVP of Filinvest, laid out the eco-friendly features of Filinvest City. Kevin Tan, CEO of Alliance Global, shared how sustainable offices are beneficial not only for the planet but also for one's wellbeing.

Included also in day one were talks from Geoff Andres, property president of City of Dreams Manila, who discussed how the hotel became a sustainable luxury resort; and Lixil Asia's leader in communication and corporate responsibility Priyanka Tanwar who explained how Grohe products' innovative features save on resources.

Rosemarie Ong, SVP and COO of Wilcon, discussed sustainable supply chains, while Viki Encarnacion, Watsons PR and sustainability director, showed that as consumers, we can make better choices for the planet. Unilever's sustainability lead Rondell Torres and country lead for beauty and wellbeing Anna Mangilin revealed to the online audience the "Unilever Compass" — a sustainable business for people and planet.

Today, there will be nine more online talks that will be spearheaded by leaders from companies such as BPI, the International Container Terminal Services Inc. or ICTSI, Coca-Cola, Aboitiz Power, Toyota Motor Philippines, among others. Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Frasco will open day two with a keynote address, laying out the Marcos administration's blueprint for sustainable tourism.

All the mentioned companies and groups come from different industries, with different products and services, with different challenges and opportu-

nities. But one thing ties them all — they understand the urgency of saving the planet. And they know, via the organizations they lead and work for, that they can start saving the planet by implementing sustainability efforts in their own backyard and amplifying it to "influence" their customers, communities, and stakeholders.

They are also all aware of the fact that they can't do it alone. After all, saving the planet from further harm and destruction requires the cooperation of each and every individual. This is also the rationale behind the decision of the Manila Bulletin to organize and host this first-ever Sustainability Forum. Manila Bulletin aims to "fully inform" Filipinos (and the world via its online platforms) that there are companies who are passionate and proactive in saving the planet even if their objective of existence is to earn a profit. It is quite heartening to see sustainability efforts given primordial attention as how can there be profit without a planet?

Tonight, at the City of Dreams Manila, Manila Bulletin is honoring programs and initiatives from companies that have gone beyond green and made our planet much better. There are 15 honorees and among them include SM Prime Holdings for its ESG + R program, BPI for its sustainable development finance program, Coca-Cola for its Vision of a World Without Waste, among others. The pages of Manila Bulletin, in print and online, will feature their stories in the coming days to inspire you and your organizations to start creating your own sustainability story.

We have to remember that the effects of climate change are upon us and these will become worse if we continue to bastardize the planet and misuse its limited resources. There is still time. There is still hope. We only have to look (and listen) at these companies that have made their operations and services go beyond green. Their people have started making sustainability a culture and way of life — so can you.



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# Marcos to look into Rodriguez memo on career execs

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Marcos has vowed to look into the issues affecting career executive officials, including Memorandum Circular No. 3 issued then by former executive secretary Vic Rodriguez who got expelled by the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas over appointment of government officials.

"I am also aware of the issues affecting the CESB (Career Executive Service Board), starting with Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 3. As we walked in, together with the chairman, and he said, 'Oh, here they all are, the CESOs (career executive service officers) and the CESEs (career executive service eligibles), all the ones who are hoping to stay on,'" Marcos said during the 49th anniversary of CESB in Pasay on Tuesday.

"Let me assure our Career Executive Service Board and the affected CESEs occupying third-level positions in the government that the Office of the President is going to review the said memorandum and look into the other hurdles faced by many CESEs in obtaining CES eligibility," he added.

The controversial memorandum was issued by Rodriguez, who the President subsequently removed from office and appointed retired chief justice Lucas Bersamin as his new executive secretary.

Under MC No. 3 issued last July, all officers in charge of departments, agencies, bureaus and offices, non-career officials occupying career executive service posts and contractual or casual employees shall continue to perform their duties until Dec. 31 or until a replacement

has been appointed, whichever comes first.

It amended MC No. 1, which directed officers in charge, non-career officials occupying career executive service posts in holdover capacity and contractual or casual employees to stay in their posts until July 31 or until their replacement has been named.

The circular prohibited officers in charge of government entities to enter into new contracts or projects or disburse extraordinary funds except for those involved in food, transportation and energy sectors or "when authorized by the President in meri-

\* torious cases."

At the same event, Marcos urged government career executives to actively take part in pursuing his administration's eight-point socioeconomic agenda, policies that he said

"promote social justice, ensure food security, accelerate progress, protect our environment and address climate change."

"Remember that we are here not for our own gain. We are here to bring forth a

government that provides for the needs of the people. Most importantly, let us be vigilant against temptation and corruption and other acts that diminish the public trust," the President said.



## Senate unanimously okays proposed '23 national budget

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

THE Senate yesterday approved on third and final reading the Marcos administration's first national budget amounting to P5.268 trillion.

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, said the 2023 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) was approved by a vote of 21-0-0.

The approval comes on the heels of marathon hearings at the committee level and inter-

pellations in plenary.

Angara said the 2023 budget addresses the post-COVID-19 pandemic needs of the people and supports the administration's goal of ensuring food security, reviving education and preparing the country for the impacts of climate change, among others.

"Sa ilalim ng 2023 budget ay magkakaroon pa din ng ayuda para sa ating mga kababayan pero

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## SENATE

hindi na ito tulad ng nakaraang ayuda kung saan ay halos lahat ng tao ay nabigyan ng pera. Ngayon pili na sektor na ang bibigyan ng tulong at naka base ito sa bigat ng pangangailangan at naging epekto ng pandemya sa kanila (Under the 2023 budget, cash assistance to the poor is still included but this will be different compared to the previous assistance wherein nearly everyone got their share. Now, only targeted sectors will be given assistance based on their needs and how pandemic impacted their lives)," Angara said in his sponsorship speech.

Angara said funds have been allotted for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Protective Services to Individuals in Crisis Situations, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program (TUPAD) and Sustainable Livelihood Program.

Angara said that while the number of COVID-19 cases has steadily declined in the country, the 2023 budget will ensure that the government will still be able to re-

spond to the continuing threats of the pandemic and that the health system remains strong.

He said the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the Department of Health as well as the different DOH-operated hospitals, including the National Children's Hospital, will receive additional funding from the national government.

The establishment of specialty hospitals in different regions also got their funding share.

Even the scandal-ridden Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth will receive a significant amount to support its Benefit Package Improvement program under the Universal Health Care Law.

Angara said PhilHealth can use its appropriation to expand the coverage for dialysis services, mental health outpatient services, benefit packages, severe acute malnutrition and for outpatient services.

The budget sponsor said fuel vouchers will continue to be provided to public utility vehicle operators and drivers, while farmers

and fisherfolk will also receive fuel assistance to help them cope with the rising prices of fuel.

In the education sector, Angara said additional funds were poured to the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Program, Senior High School Voucher Program, Education Service Contracting for Junior High School, Student Financial Assistance Programs, Joint Delivery Voucher for Senior High School Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Track, and Private Education Student Financial Assistance.

Angara said that to better prepare government disaster agencies amid the rising number of and more frequent occurrence of typhoons and other natural calamities, the Senate hiked the budget of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management or calamity fund to P31 billion for 2023. The calamity fund for 2021 and 2022 was at P20 billion.

The 2023 budget also allocated P1 billion for the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Fund.

Funding was also provided for the "Libreng Sakay" program of the Department of Transporta-

tion that has benefited a lot of commuters who have been dealing with the rising price of fuel and its corresponding impacts on other goods and services.

As part of the continuing efforts to decentralize and devolve several functions of the national government to local government units, the 2023 budget set aside P820.27 billion as National Tax Allotment to be distributed among the LGUs.

Angara said the bicameral conference committee that would reconcile the different versions of the Senate and the House of Representatives will convene on Friday.

The Senate bicameral panel members are Senators Angara, Pia Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Imee Marcos, Cynthia Villar, Ronald dela Rosa, Sherwin Gatchalian, Bong Go, Risa Hontiveros, Nancy Binay, Grace Poe, Francis Tolentino, Mark Villar, JV Ejercito, Alan Peter Cayetano, Chiz Escudero, and Jinggoy Estrada.

Congress is eyeing to complete the budgetary process by the first week of December so it can be transmitted to Malacañang before the end of the year.



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## PBBM 'carefully' filling vacant gov't posts

As for the co-terminus positions, the Office of the Executive Secretary pushed a self-imposed deadline to fill up all the positions before the year ends

BY LADE KABAGANI  
*@tribunephil\_Lade*

The administration is taking a "careful" move towards filling up vacant government positions, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin told the Commission on Appointments Wednesday.

Bersamin's statement was in response to CA member Senator Imee Marcos' query on why the administration is taking a "slow rollout" of appointing key positions, such as the Secretary of Health.

Marcos said the concern was also raised against the previous executive secretary, lamenting that co-terminus and Career Executive Service officer positions remain vacant as of this posting.

"Is there a timeline for filling in these vacancies because we're all getting impatient, please tell that to my brother," Marcos said as the CA deliberated Bersamin's confirmation as the executive secretary.

"The Office of the Executive Secretary right now Ma'am is carefully studying this situation because we have a self-imposed deadline for considering all these co-terminus employees. That is on December 31 this year. But the president has a good heart and he has instructed us to be as kind and as generous to those who may be affected,"

said Bersamin in response.

He added that as for the co-terminus positions, the Office of the Executive Secretary pushed a self-imposed deadline to fill up all the positions before the year ends.

Bersamin also vowed to consider retaining employees.

"The President has a good heart and he has instructed us to be as kind and as generous to those who may be affected. We share the same compassion and we are actually devising a way of absorbing as many as we can," he said, noting that there were no proper transitions or turnover of papers when he assumed the office.

"We did a lot of digging into these documents until we found them because we were always readily blamed by the respective cabinet secretaries about this slow pace of appointments," he added.

Bersamin emphasized that the slow pace of appointments was unintentional and the Office of the Executive Secretary is already resolving the underlying issues.

"We are slowly creeping up but we have an instruction to our staff to do complete staff work to avoid misfits getting into positions that we can no longer unravel. We assure you that everything is slowly going to be placed into proper order," Bersamin said.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116  
Tel Nos. (02) 8539 4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [recordsco@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsco@emb.gov.ph)



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the PROPOSED STEEL SMELTING PLANT WITH ROLLING MILL PROJECT of BQC STAR STEEL CORPORATION located in NATIONAL ROAD, BRGY. LUNTAL, MUNICIPALITY OF TUY, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the PROPOSED STEEL SMELTING PLANT WITH ROLLING MILL PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
02 December 2022 (Friday);	09:30 AM (Registration starts at 08:30 AM)	Baranggay Hall of Luntal, Tuy, Batangas

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>	Steel Smelting Plant with Rolling Mill Project
<b>Project Location</b>	National Road, Brgy. Luntal, Municipality of Tuy, Province of Batangas
<b>Project Capacity</b>	600,000 MT/year
<b>Project Type</b>	Iron and Steel Mills
<b>Project Rationale</b>	The growth of steel industry in the Philippines is significant for the country's pursuit for development and industrialization. The central role of the steel industry stems from its linkages with numerous sectors, where its products serve as an essential input to countless uses, such as building and construction and it is equally important contributions to employment generation, growth, and promotion of industrial activity, etc. Therefore, ensuring a strong domestic steel and steel-based industry is vital in developing the competitive edge of a country in meeting the challenges of globalization. With the boost of infrastructure in the country together with the rehabilitation activities around the country, there will be a bigger demand for reinforcing steel bars in the future. The proposed project aims to meet the current and future market demand prompted by the growing infrastructures all over the country.
<b>Project components</b>	<p><b>Major Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrap Shop (Induction Furnace)</li> <li>• Melt Shop</li> <li>• Rolling Mill Shop</li> <li>• Fabrication area for roughing</li> <li>• Fabrication are for finishing</li> <li>• Fabrication area for sizing/cutting</li> <li>• Bundling and Tagging</li> <li>• Storage Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Ancillary Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Supply</li> <li>• Closed Cooling System</li> <li>• Oxygen Gas Generator</li> <li>• Pollution Control Facilities</li> <li>• Maintenance and Storage Facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Proponent</b>	BQC Star Steel Corporation

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 Region 4-A**  
6th Floor 1515 DENR By the Bay Bldg., Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila
- **Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office- Tuy**  
Tuy Municipal Hall, Tuy, Batangas

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. Dexter Tabada and Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra.

MT - Nov. 17 & 24, 2022



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office

### NOTICE OF BIDDING

Notice is hereby given that the DENR – CENRO Bislig City will auction through **sealed bidding at 10:00 o'clock in the morning on January 10, 2023** the right to lease for commercial purposes the tract of land herein described below. Written bids in the prescribed form must be submitted not later than 10:00 A.M. on the said date.

Location	:	Mabua, Lawigan, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
Description	:	Mla-13-000001
Area	:	8,384 square meters
Appraised Value of Land	:	Php 10,899,200.00
Appraised Value of the Improvements (Existing/Proposed)	:	Php 499,825.61
Applied by	:	Lumino Land and Port Mgt. Inc. Mla-166803-01

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental which shall not be less than three (3) per centum of the value of the land plus one (1) per centum of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements, **equivalent to Php 826,801.61**. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified lease applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental, **equivalent to Php 206,700.39**. Only deposits in cash shall be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed Special 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 by this Office to reject, any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of the improvements and the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction.

**NATHANIEL E. RACHO, RPF**  
OIC, CENR Officer

For and in the Absence of the OIC, CENR Officer

**MAMERTO V. VALBARES**  
DMO IV/Chief, RPS

CENRO R13-D4, Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur  
Email Address: cenrobislig@denr.gov.ph