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DENR

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Environment experts cite value of risk management

TO address environmental vulnerabilities, use a risk-management approach in empowering communities, experts said.

The challenge to be stewards of the environment is a responsibility shared by all sectors of society, and this includes adopting a risk-management approach to dealing with disasters and incorporating sustainability measures in corporations' business models.

Environment and sustainability experts agreed on this during a panel discussion on Day 1 of the Pilipinas Conference, organized by The Stratbase ADR Institute on November 21-22.

✓ "The risks we face are complex, dynamic, and systemic. These compound and cascade across sectors and skills," said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga in her keynote address during the conference.

Even as she warned that the planet was way off its emission cutting targets that would limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, every effort would still count as moving forward.

✓ "For the welfare of our people, it is incumbent upon us to prevent and mitigate factors that contribute to the people's vul-

nerability to the impact of climate change," Loyzaga said.

She advocated an integrated risk governance approach, which emphasizes evidence-informed prevention and disaster risk recovery planning over emergency response, not just by the whole of government but by the whole of society.

✓ "Lessons from past disasters need to be made part of our survival DNA," she said.

Stratbase ADR Institute president Prof. Victor Manhit emphasized on the close relationship between governance and economic development, national security, and the demands of addressing the

climate crisis that seeps into every sphere and facet of our nation's life, and the ultimate goal of ending intergenerational inequality through inclusive and sustained growth.

Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation president Rene Meily recounted his organization's efforts in disaster recovery and said that while their members, mostly large companies, compete with each other commercially, they work together in times of disaster.

"The one thing we learned is that we are all connected," he said. "So, the only

way we are going to beat these different issues is if we work together—government, civil society, the private sector, and the public at large."

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines vice-chairman Gerard Brimo said that Philippine laws and regulations on the environment are complete and provide the basic framework, but they do not tell companies how to take care of the community and the environment.

"This is where sustainable mining comes in," he said. "It is what we call going beyond compliance," he said.

Meralco's chief sustainability officer Raymond Ravelo talked about his company's Powering the Good Life campaign which reflects their sustainability agenda and allows it to engage its employees more broadly.

"Our focus continues to be on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7, or the drive to deliver affordable and clean energy," he said.

In the ensuing discussion, Meily and Ravelo pointed out the need for more fiscal incentives to companies undertaking environmental projects. Brimo said there was a need to see stability in policies to attract large, responsible mining firms.



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Finance chief welcomes tax imposed on single-use plastics

By Julito G. Rada

DEPARTMENT of Finance (DOF) Secretary Benjamin Diokno on Monday welcomed the recent approval of a bill in Congress that imposes an excise tax on single-use plastics (SUP).

The House of Representatives approved on third reading House Bill 4102 or the Single-use Plastic Bags Tax Act, imposing an excise tax of PHP100 for every kilogram of single-use plastics removed from the place of production or released from custody of the Bureau of Customs.

"I thank the House under the leadership of Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez for exercising swift and careful judgment on the approval of the single-use plastic bag tax act. This is our contribution to the global movement to reduce pollution while raising revenues needed to manage economic risks and rehabilitate the country—like hitting two birds with one stone," Diokno said in a statement.

The price of a pack of labo bags is estimated to increase by around 75.0 percent during the first year of implementation, with an estimated decline in volume by around 24.7 percent. While the retail price of sando

bags will increase by 79.3 percent, which is expected to result in a 26.1-percent decline in volume.

The proposed excise tax will increase yearly by 4 percent beginning 2026, and incremental revenues collected will be allocated to programs of the Department of Natural Resources for the implementation of Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

A 70-percent assumption in collection efficiency will translate to estimated revenues of P38.06 billion for five years (2023-2027) of implementation.

If passed into law, the bill will address the long-standing issue of plastic waste management by promoting the use of recyclable packaging, and ending the "throw-away culture".

Studies have shown that market-based instruments, such as taxes aimed at discouraging the use of SUPs, have proven to be effective in curtailing plastic waste generation.

In the ASEAN region, Brunei and Vietnam have already imposed taxes on SUP bags. As a result, Vietnam saw a 23-percent reduction in daily plastic consumption—from 746 tons a day in 2014 to 577 tons in 2017.



DENR presents IRR of plastic waste management law

By Joel dela Torre

SOME 650 people representing the non-government organizations (NGOs), the academe, sanitary landfill operators, training organizations, plastic industry associations and corporations along with local government units (LGUs) were gathered in a consultation meeting for the final presentation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) and national framework of Republic Act 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022 conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR, through its Environment Management Bureau (EMB), has been tasked to formulate the IRR and framework within 90 days since RA lapsed into law this year.

According to EMB Director William Cunada, the bureau has been able to achieve the task despite such small amount of time with the able help and support of all partners and stakeholders.

"We have conducted several focus group discussions and public consultation meetings for Luzon, Visayas, and Mind-

anao clusters during the past few weeks," he said.

He added that the EPR law will require huge corporations to process their plastic packaging waste.

Some of the notable features of the IRR include provision of additional and further definitions of terms, such as ECAR or the EPR Law (2022) Compliance Audit Report, plastic waste footprint reduction, producer responsibility organizations (PROs), recyclable materials, and waste diverters.

At least three NGO representatives with track record or expertise on solid waste management or waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery; EPR; and hazardous waste management will also be added to the private sector representatives of the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

The IRR also provides a step-by-step process for the EPR registration for the obliged enterprises, collectives, and PROs, which would include their EPR program.

A national framework was also crafted for all types of product waste with the aim of reducing non-environment friendly products and establishing recovery programs to effectively prevent waste from leaking to the environment.



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Firms to tackle plastic waste soon – DENR

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

HUGE corporations will soon be required to process their plastic packaging waste once the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) and national framework for the Republic Act (RA) 11898 or the "Extended Producer Responsibility" (EPR) Act of 2022 have been completed.

This was disclosed by the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) as it has already conducted the final presentation of the IRR and the framework.

Almost 650 representatives from non-government organizations (NGOs), the academe, sanitary landfill

operators, training organizations, plastic industry associations and corporations, and local government units (LGUs) were gathered during the final consultation held last Nov. 3 in Quezon City.

The DENR-EMB was tasked to formulate the IRR and framework within 90 days since RA 11898 lapsed into law on July 23 this year.

EMB Director William Cuñado said that under the EPR law, huge corporations would be required to process their plastic packaging waste.

"We have conducted several focus group discussions and public consultation meetings for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao clusters during the past few weeks," Cuñado said.

Some of the notable features of the IRR include the provision of additional and further definitions of terms, such as ECAR or the EPR Law (2022) Compliance Audit Report, plastic waste footprint reduction, producer responsibility organizations (PROs), recyclable materials, and waste diverters.

A national framework was also crafted for all types of product waste with the aim of reducing non-environment friendly products and establishing recovery programs to effectively prevent waste from leaking into the environment.

The final consultation was held in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Japan.



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Consunji Group to foray into agriculture

DMCI Holdings chairman, president and CEO Isidro Consunji is looking forward to a "second career" as the Consunji Group plans to venture into agriculture.

Consunji is this year's Management Man of the Year and was bestowed the award in a ceremony yesterday led by MAP president Rogelio Singson.

In his acceptance speech, Consunji said his story is not yet done and that it has "enough gas in the tank to start a second career."

"With more idle time, I hope to foray into agriculture and create sustainable value in the countryside," Consunji said.

Asked to expound on his plans, Consunji said that the plan includes the sale of palm oil and carbon credits. He is looking at thousands of hectares of land in Visayas and Mindanao.

His group is already in talks with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the project.

Asked if the agriculture business would be folded into DMCI Holdings, he said nothing is final yet and it would depend on the other Consunji family members, which own the land.

In his speech, Consunji shared the ups and downs of the DMCI conglomerate

including the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

"Today, the DMCI group has a total workforce of over 35,000. We have engineers and foremen who have been with us for more than 20, 30 years. Some of their children have even found employment in our companies.

"Our business portfolio currently includes energy, real estate, mining, and water distribution—all of which draw from our engineering and construction background.

"I must admit that luck played a big role in our expansion. In certain cases, we were delivered from failure and financial ruin by commodity rallies, financial downturns, and wise advice from good friends. It also took us decades to get to this point. And the process—while fulfilling—was many times daunting, painful, and draining," he said.

The "MAP Management Man of the Year" is an award that the MAP confers on individuals in business or government,

whether a member of the MAP or not, who have attained unquestioned distinction in the practice of management, and have made valuable contributions to the progress of the country and in re-shaping national values.

It is bestowed on exceptional persons who have posted a record of achievement and distinction as leaders and managers of organizations, and who are exemplary models who deserve to be emulated by their peers and by the younger leaders and managers, the MAP said.

The criteria for the award include integrity, leadership, and management qualities; contribution to nation-building and values formation; effective stewardship within the confines of the highest standard of business and management practice; among others.

Consunji was cited, among others, for "his expertise in turning problematic assets and distressed companies under seemingly insurmountable situations into very productive investments." — Iris Gonzales



'Develop Pag-asa Island for recreational fishing'

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

To pave the way for the development of Pag-asa Island, Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel has filed a bill seeking to declare and develop the 37.2-hectare island as a "recreational fishing tourism destination."

In authoring House Bill 6228, Pimentel is proposing that Pag-asa – which China calls Zhongye Island and has been constantly swarmed by Chinese vessels – would be established as a Philippine leisure fishing tourism site.

"The ultimate purpose of our bill is to pave the way for Pag-asa's development, considering that other countries claiming all or parts of the Spratly archipelago are also increasing their presence on the islands, reefs and shoals that they occupy there," he said.

Under the bill, Pag-asa will be developed "into a thriving community by attracting both foreign and local tourists, particularly visitors inclined to engage in recreational fishing, including catch-and-release fishing."

The measure also seeks to "afford small fisherfolk supplemental sources of income from tourism-related activities, such as leasing their boats and services to holiday-

makers, including visitors that may wish to fish in and around Pag-asa for leisure, exercise or competition."

Surrounded by shallow coral ranges, Pag-asa lies some 480 kilometers northwest of Puerto Princesa City and has been occupied by the Philippines since 1970.

According to Pimentel, Pag-asa is the largest landform of the Kalayaan Island Group, which also includes the islets of Likas, Parola, Lawak, Kota, Patag and Panata, and Balagtas Reef, Ayungin Shoal and Rizal Shoal.

The measure stated that on June 11, 1978, then president Ferdinand Marcos Sr. issued Presidential Decree No. 1596, which created the Municipality of Kalayaan over the Kalayaan Island Group under the province of Palawan.

The Kalayaan municipal government is based in Pag-asa, which is also the town's lone barangay. A sixth-class municipality, Kalayaan is the least populated town in the Philippines, with only 193 residents who all live on Pag-asa, according to the 2020 census.

Marine protected area

Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has expressed apprehension over House

Bill No. 6373 filed by Palawan 3rd District Rep. Edward Hagedorn that seeks to declare all areas within three nautical miles from the baselines surrounding the Kalayaan Group of Islands and Panatag Shoal (Scarborough) as marine protected areas.

"While we acknowledge the objective of the bill to protect the major features in the West Philippine Sea against destructive fishing practices, we fear that this might sweepingly cover small fishers, as the proposed marine protected areas will be within the municipal waters," Pamalakaya national chairman Fernando Hicap said.

"We will be vigilant of this bill that could restrict Filipino fishers from their traditional fishing grounds while actually failing to prevent China and other foreign fleets from conducting large-scale fishing, among other destructive activities beyond the municipal waters," Hicap said.

Pamalakaya stressed local conservation measures would be "unnecessary" if only the Marcos administration effectively upholds the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling recognizing the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

– With Elizabeth Marcelo



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ADVERSE IMPACT ON MUNICIPAL FISHING FEARED

**FISHERFOLK WARY OF MOVE TO DECLARE PARTS OF WEST PH
SEA AS PROTECTED AREAS**

By Gerald Ticke
@InquirerLuzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— Militant fisherfolk group Pam-bansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Monday expressed worry over a House bill seeking to declare portions of the West Philippine Sea as marine protected areas, saying it would deprive Filipinos of their rights to fish within municipal waters.

In a statement, Pamalakaya said House Bill No. 6373 filed

by Rep. Edward Hagedorn last week would have a direct impact on the livelihood of municipal fisherfolk instead of preventing Chinese and other foreign poachers from entering the country's territorial waters.

Hagedorn wants the Kalayaan Island Group and Scarborough (Panatag or Bajo de Masinloc) Shoal, and the three nautical miles around them declared as a protected area.

According to the lawmaker, the government should prioritize the protection of natural

resources in the West Philippine Sea, citing the "significant environmental degradation" in the disputed waters.

"We must learn to cooperate as one region in the protection of our natural resources while we settle the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea," Hagedorn said in a statement on Nov. 25.

But Fernando Hicap, national chair of Pamalakaya, said three nautical miles were equivalent to almost 6 kilometers of the 15-km municipal

fishing grounds.

"While we acknowledge the objective of the bill to protect the major features in the West Philippine Sea against destructive fishing practices, we fear that this might sweepingly cover small fishers, as the proposed marine protected areas will be within the municipal waters," Hicap said.

According to the group, the proposed law could restrict Filipinos from their traditional fishing grounds, "while actually failing to prevent China and other

foreign fleets from conducting large-scale fishing, among other destructive activities beyond the municipal waters."

Hicap said local conservation measures would be "unnecessary" if only the Marcos administration effectively upholds the arbitral ruling recognizing the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

"There would be no need to explore risky alternative measures because there's already the international tribunal, which is actually our strongest

legal claim that we could enforce against China's continued usurpation of our territorial waters," Hicap said.

He said the arbitral ruling would need "decisive action" and "sincerity to uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity" from the Marcos government.

Pamalakaya said it would study the House bill and consult fisherfolk in Southern Tagalog and Zambales province, as well as with marine scientists to determine the potential impacts of the measure. **INQ**



Environmental defenders of the south

FROM my temporary vantage point outside of the Manila bubble — more on that in a bit — it is both interesting and alarming, in my opinion, that the growing public conflagration in China has so far received very little coverage in this country. I spent an hour or two of “me time” in a beachside bar last night (Sunday) doomscrolling through news reports from all the major outlets about the surprisingly large protests that are rapidly spreading in Chinese cities; Monday morning’s news from the Philippine papers, however, barely acknowledged the unrest.

For those who haven’t heard about it, public demonstrations have broken out all across China in the wake of a deadly apartment building fire in the western city of Urumqi last week. It is presumed that harsh lockdown restrictions under China’s strict “zero Covid” policy prevented those who died in the fire from escaping or being rescued. Whether or not that is true, that is what the Chinese public believes, having lost all patience with their government’s draconian anti-Covid measures — the only such measures still being employed anywhere in the world — that result in entire cities being shut down every week.

It would be one thing if the



**ROUGH
TRADE**
**BEN
KRITZ**

measures were working, but they are not; on Saturday, China reportedly recorded its highest number of daily Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began, about 35,000. The Chinese people — or at least enough of them to create some serious disruptions — are tired of it all, so much so that the protests have gone beyond demanding an end to the Covid restrictions to openly calling for the ouster of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party.

Where this all goes from here is unknowable, but we ought to pay attention. When China sneezes, the Philippines usually gets wet.

I am currently on vacation on Mactan Island, and while I would like “vacation” to mean “doing absolutely nothing,” what it usually means is just working a bit slower in a much nicer than normal atmosphere for a few days. That is not a bad thing; it is instructive to be reminded occasionally that Manila’s impression of itself as the center of the Philippine universe

is mostly a pretense.

The big news here in the Cebu area to start the week is an effort led by former Environment secretary Roy Cimatu on behalf of the Cebu City government to enforce the required 3-meter easement between structures and the city’s waterways. According to a report in *The Freeman*, more than 50 structures have been cited by Cimatu’s Task Force Gubat sa Baha, including a number of substantial commercial establishments — at least three malls, two hotels and several restaurants. The businesses are being given 10 days to remove their own structures from the off-limits 3-meter zone, otherwise the city will do it for them; the implication is that the latter option will not be too gentle, and will result in a very large bill for the offending businesses.

In addition, according to Monday’s report, the city has also taken steps to halt sand and stone quarrying operations in Cebu’s upland areas. These are blamed for a number of destructive landslides in heavy rainstorms over the past few months. Part of the effort also involves trying to find and shut down so-called backyard quarries, small unlicensed operations that take little care to avoid fouling streams or creating landslide hazards.

The enforcement of building codes is an impressive initiative, and all credit to the City of Cebu and ex-secretary Cimatu — one whom I have regarded with a great deal of skepticism in the past — for pursuing it. Congested Metro Manila, where the idea of an “easement” is a completely alien concept, could learn a thing or two from this.

On Sunday, I observed some environmental management of a different sort during an outing to nearby Olango Island, which is the site of a major bird sanctuary. The wide expanses of tidal flats and mangrove forest serves as a sort of rest area along major migratory bird paths stretching from northeast Asia to Australia, and depending on the time of the year — now seems to be a good time — several dozen species of threatened and critically endangered bird species can be spotted there.

In a country where far too much of the population, government and commercial sector takes an altogether callous attitude toward environmental preservation, sites like Olango Island are real gems. This is particularly true when they are staffed, as is the case here, by obviously knowledgeable personnel who demonstrate clear

➤ **KritzA12**



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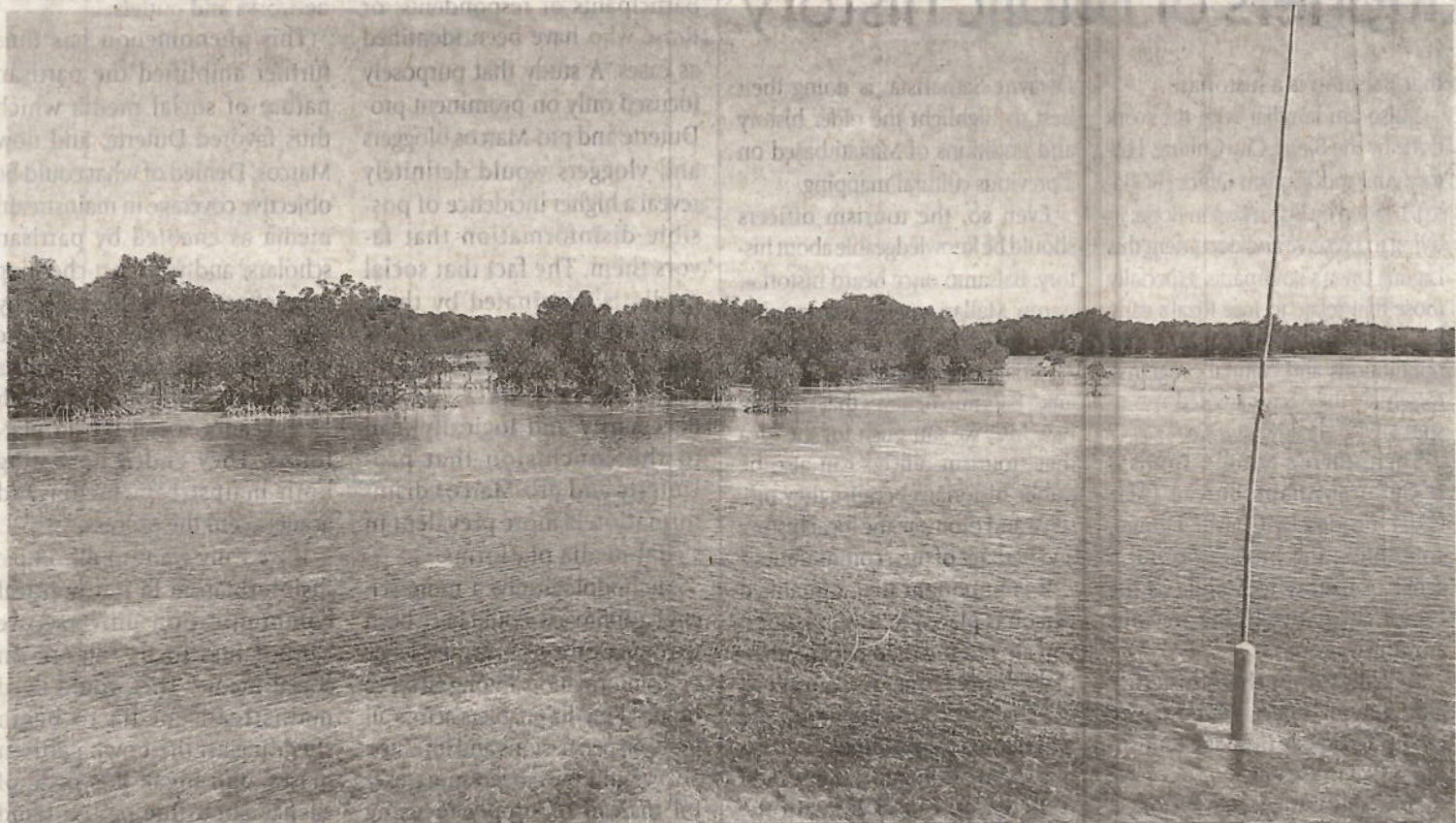
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■ KRITZ FROM A10



■ The Olango Island Bird Sanctuary, Cebu. PHOTO BY BEN KRITZ

Environmental defenders of the south

enthusiasm for educating the public. It is unfortunate, however, that there are not more of them, and that they are clearly waging a constant

struggle to make the most of insufficient resources, both to provide adequate facilities for visitors, and for their own work. This is something

the current Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) leadership should perhaps apply more focus on, rather than

quibbling with groups trying to protect the Philippines' forests, seas and wildlife.

ben.kritz@manilatimes.net



BALANSE

Ni Ba Ipe

Nagpuputok ang butse ni Cynthia Villar

MAY katwiran pumutok ang butse ni Cynthia Villar kontra DENR, Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), at ibang ahensya ng gobyerno. Ibinasura ng Korte Suprema ang hiningi niya na Writ of Kalikasan upang itigil ang 634-ektarya na reclamation project sa baybayin ng siyudad ng Las Pinas at Paranaque sa Manila Bay. Ibinatay ng Korte Suprema ang desisyon noong 2021 sa naunang desisyon ng Court of Appeals noong 2013 na nagbasura sa hininging Writ of Kalikasan. Humingi ng motion for reconsideration ang kampo ni Cynthia sa dalawang sangay ng Hudikatura, ngunit hindi pinakinggan ang kanyang katwiran.

Humingi noong 2012 ng Writ of Kalikasan sa Korte Suprema si Cynthia bilang kinatawan sa Camara de Representante ng Las Pinas City. Kasama bilang petitioner ang 315,849 residente ng Las Pinas City. Kabilang sa mga respondent sa sakdal ang pribadong Alltech Contractors Inc., PRA, DENR, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), isang ahensya ng DENR, at ang pamahalaang lokal ng ng Las Pinas City at Parañaque City at Bacoor, Cavite.

Inatasan ng Korte Suprema ang Court of Appeals na magsagawa ng pagdinig sa sakdal at magbigay ng desisyon sa hininging Writ of Kalikasan ni Cynthia. Batay sa Rules of Court, hindi nagsasagawa ng pagdinig ang Korte Suprema bilang pinakamataas na hukuman sa bansa. Nirerepero ang mga kwesyon sa batas at nagdedesisyon. Ang mas mababang hukuman ang dumidinig sa mga sakdal na inihain sa husgado.

Noong 2013, ibinasura ng Court of Appeals ang petisyon ni Cynthia dahil walang merito. Iniakyat ni Cynthia ang sakdal sa Korte Suprema at inabot ng walong taon bago ito bigyan ng desisyon noong 2021. Isinulat ni Mahistrado Rosmari Carandang (ngayo'y retirado) ang opinyon. Sinang-ayunan ito ng 11 mahistrado. Dalawa ang tumutol.

Itinuturing na isang remedyong legal ang Writ of Kalikasan upang itigil ang anumang proyekto, pampubliko o pribado, na maaaring magbigay ng masamang epekto sa kalusugan at kaligiran. Kinikilala nito ang karapatan ng bawat mamamayan na magkaroon ng malinis na kaligiran upang pangalagaan ang kalusugan. Kinikilalala nito ang probisyon ng Saligang Batas ng 1987 na nagbibigay karapatan sa mga mamamayan sa maayos at malusog na kaligiran.

Humingi ng Writ of Kalikasan si Cynthia dahil sa pangamba na babara ang reclamation project sa ilog ng Las Pinas at Paranaque upang magbunga ng malawakang baha sa dalawang siyudad. Nagsumite si Cynthia ng mga katibayan "batay sa agham" at pag-aaral ng environmental groups ngunit hindi ito isinaalang-alang ng Court of Appeals at Korte Suprema. Hindi pinakinggan ng husgado ang katwiran ni Cynthia.

Binanggit sa naunang desisyon ng Court of Appeals na hindi sapat ang mga katibayan iniharap ng kampo ni Cynthia upang patunayan ang panganib ng reclamation project sa kaligiran lalo na ang ipinagmamalaki na posibilidad ng malawakang baha sa dalawang siyudad. Wala kakayahan ang Center for Environmental Protection - Philippines (CEP-P), isang civil society organization na tumulong sa kampo ni Cynthia, upang patunayan ang panganib ng proyekto sa kaligiran.

Ayon sa Court of Appeals, may konklusyon na agad ang CEP-P tungkol sa proyekto kahit hindi ganap na inilatag ang mga katibay-

an ng panganib sa dalawang siyudad. Ibinasura ng korte ang katwiran ng kampo ni Cynthia na hindi nagsagawa ng environmental impact assessment (EIA) ang Alltech Contractors, ang pribadong kompanya na kinontrata upang gawin ang EIA. Ayon sa korte, sapat na ang Environmental Performance Report Management Plan (EPRMP) na isinumite ng Alltech bilang EIA sa proyekto. Hindi naipalawanag ng lubos ng kampo ni Cynthia ang mga panganiib sa kaligiran, ayon sa Court of Appeals.

Sinang-ayunan ng Korte Suprema ang paliwanag ng Court of Appeals sa pagbasura sa hininging Writ of Kalikasan, ngunit ipinaliwanag ng kataas-taasang hukuman ang batayan sa pagsang-ayon sa Court of Appeals. Ipinaliwanag ng Korte Suprema na sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang batas, kailangan magsumite ng environmental clearance certificate (ECC) ang mga gagawa ng proyekto na maaaring makapinsala sa kaligiran. Maaaring makakuha ng Writ of Kalikasan ang sinuman na maaaring mapinsala ng proyekto.

Ipinaliwanag mabuti ng Korte Suprema kung ano ang Writ of Kalikasan. Ayon sa kanya, ito ay isang remedyo na "special civil action" sa ilalim ng Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases (RPEC). Maaaring makakuha ng Writ of kalikasan ang sinuman na totoong tao, o organisasyon (people's organization, NGO, o public interest group) na maaaring maapektuhan ng isang proyekto ang kanyang karapatan sa ilalim ng Saligang Batas na mapangalagaan ang sarili sa pinsala dala-dala ng proyekto.

Sinabi ng Korte Suprema na hindi basta-basta nagbaba ang husgado ng Writ of Kalikasan. Kailangan ang panganib sa kalikasan ang anumang proyekto na inireklamo. Kailangan ipakita na malalabag ang karapatan ng mga mamamayan na pangalagaan ang kalusugan kung matutuloy ang proyekto.

Sa paghingi ng Writ of Kalikasan, ikinatwiran ni Cynthia ang mga sabwatan at iregularidad ng mga mga ahensya tulad ng EMB sa pagbigay ng ECC sa proyekto. Hindi ito pinakinggan ng Korte Suprema sapagkat kung totoong mayroon iregularidad, marapat na umapela ang kampo ni Villar at sabihin na nagkaroon ng abuso sa poder ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan. Hindi ito umano ginawa ng kampo ni Cynthia.

Ikinatwiran ng Korte Suprema na maaaring humingi ang sinuman ng Writ of Kalikasan kung totoong may abuso sa ECC, ngunit ikinatwiran na kailangan patunayan ng mga humihingi ng Writ ang kaugnayan ng mga depekto sa pagbibigay ng ECC sa pinsala na maaaring matamo ng kaligiran sa proyekto. Hindi nakapagbigay ng sapat ng katwiran ang kampo ni Cynthia upang magbaba ang husgado ng Writ of Kalikasan. (May karugtong)

MGA PILING SALITA: "Judge Rodrigo Pascua Jr. sentenced Caloocan police officer Jeffrey Perez to reclusion perpetua or up to 40 years of imprisonment for torturing Reynaldo 'Kulot' de Guzman & planting evidence in the case of Carl Arnaiz. Where is your boss who said, 'Akong bahala sagot ko kayo?'" - Eden Pelaez, netizen, social critic

"Some reasons I saw why many fanatics of Jr hate Leni so much were because first, Leni has an academic degree while Jr was a school drop-out. Second, Leni has many advocacies while Jr is solely out to re-establish his name. Third, Leni is respected by world leaders while Jr is shunned." - Jed Q Cepe, netizen, social critic

"Ninakaw na ng digital audience ang karamihan sa free tv audience mula nang di bigyan ng prangkisa ang ABS-CBN. Sad, no?" - Ogie Diaz, netizen, comedian, social critic

"Hindi na bago sa ABS-CBN iyan. Noong mid-1960s, lumipat mula radio papunta sa TV ang dalawang pangunahing programa - Buhay Artista at Tang-Tarang-Tang. Dumami na kasi ang nagkaroon ng TV set noong panahon na iyon. Nauulit lang ngayon. Mula TV papunta sa digital outlets kasi dumami na ang may hawak ng digital gadget. Huwag malungkot kasi may lugar pa rin sa mga talent. Hindi sila mawawala. Nag-iba lang ang teknolohiya." - PL, netizen



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EDITORIAL

PH's urban parks

DON'T look now, but developing urban parks and public open spaces across the country is one of the government's priorities in diversifying its tourism portfolio.

Everybody agrees that throughout the year, thousands of foreign and local tourists, including the elderly and youngsters, visit the country's world-class national parks.

These must-see tourist destinations include the Rizal Park, Fort Santiago and Paco Park, all located in Manila, and the American-designed Burnham Park in Baguio City.

Government records show that during the first 11 months of 2022, Manila's Rizal and Paco parks alone drew more than three million foreign and domestic tourists.

During the same period last year, only 1.5 million tourists visited the two parks.

In a speech during the first Philippine Parks Congress, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco expressed hope to see more parks in and outside Metropolitan Manila (MM).

Parks are important because they enable family members to spend quality time with each other, according to Secretary Frasco, daughter of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

The three-day congress was attended by public and private sector stakeholders involved in developing urban parks and green spaces not only in MM but elsewhere.

Hopefully, the gathering will result to the crafting of a national framework for the development of more world-class urban parks in impoverished Philippines.

Like other well-meaning Filipinos, we cannot overemphasize the need to develop our tourist industry because it remains as one of the major pillars of the local economy.



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HALA BIRA!

Puno para sa kinabukasan



**NI ALLAN
ENCARNACION**

MARAMI na akong nakitang tree planting activities na alam mong hindi ganoon ka-sincere ang programa.

Iyong iba, naka-coat and tie, iyong iba naka-barong at iyong pa naman, talagang todong naka-pangwakas sa ganda ng kasuutan.

Nitong nakaraang Sabado, naimbitahan tayo sa tree planting activities ng kaibigan nating si Port of Batangas Collector Atty. Rhea Greogorio sa Sitio Bulihan, Barangay Tabangao Ambulong, Batangas City.

Programa ito ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa ilalim ng Customs So-

cial Responsibility campaign ni Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz.

Alas siyete ng umaga dumating si Commissioner Yogi na naka-maong walking shorts at nakatsinelas. Nang magsalita siya sa pagsisimula ng programa, doon natin nalaman na by heart, magsasaka pala si Commissioner.

Sa unang tingin, iisipin mong nambobola lang si Commissioner Yogi na katulad ng ibang pulitiko na dumadalo sa tree planting activities.

Pero nang umarangkada na ang pagtatanim, tooo nga pala siyang magsasaka dahil alam ang gagawin. Sinabihan niya ang mga kasamang empleyado sa BOC na tanggalin ang plastic ng mga narra at molave pero tiyaking hindi mapuputol ang mother roots.

Si Commissioner mismo ang nagbungkal ng lupa gamit ang kamay at gardening tool. Palibhasa'y naka-shorts,

kaya ang -kaya ang sumalampak sa madamong lugar. Walang kaarte-arte na nagtanim.

Maging si Atty. Rhea na siyang host ng programa ay nagtanim din ng mga puno. Sa pagsasalita ni Collector Gregorio, sinabi niyang ang Batangas ay palaging tinatamaan ng malalakas na bagyo kaya mahalagang magkaroon ng partitipasyon ang lahat sa pagtatanim ng puno na sasagip sa maraming lugar laban sa baha at kalamidad.

Nalaman natin na sa programang Ikaw, Ako at BOC noong Sabado, Nov 26 ay isinagawa pala ang nationwide tree planting na sinalihan ng lahat ng port at mga district collectors batay na rin sa direktiba ni Comm. Yogi.

Tugon pala ito ni Commissioner sa panawagan ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos na dapat magsimula ang massive reforestation sa maraming kabundukan at kagubatan para maiwasan ang

mga flash floods na kumikitil ng maraming buhay at sumisira ng mga ari-arian.

Kung ang lahat ng government agency ay gagawin ang massive tree planting tulad ng programa ng BOC, mas marami tayong puno para sa Kinabukasan na mapapakinabangan. Sabi nga ni Comm. Yogi, ang isang puno na pinakikinabangan natin ngayon ay itinaninim 20 years ago pa kaya ang mga susunod na henerasyon naman ang makikinabang sa mga itinaninim nilang puno noong nakaraang Sabado.

By the way, bago itong tree planting, kailan lang ay nagsagawa rin ang BOC ng medical mission, bloodletting, feeding program, vaccination at jobs fair sa mismong national office

Congratulations sa BOC at sa lahat ng mga opisyal at empleyado na nakibahagi sa tree planting sa buong bansa.

allapunglo@gmail.com



MASUNGI DENOUNCES BASELESS, IRRESPONSIBLE AND LIBELOUS STATEMENTS BY DENR OFFICIALS

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation (Masungi) denounces the baseless, irresponsible and libelous statements by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during the agency's budget hearing at the Senate plenary session on 16 November 2022.

We are deeply disappointed that after we invested our own resources and risked our lives to help the government protect and restore the Masungi landscape, the DENR now belatedly claims, five years later, that the Masungi Geopark Project (MGP) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed with DENR Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017 is "illegal", "infirm", and "disadvantageous to government."

This is utterly false. As correctly observed by the Senators in the same Senate hearing, the MGP MOA is valid and binding unless otherwise declared by the court. The MOA is enormously advantageous to government. Come visit any day and see unmistakable proof of our work: once lost and degraded mountains turning into forests again. Said MOA was conceived by virtue of the DENR Secretary's broad powers under Section 10 of the NIPAS LAW to enter into agreements with private entities or non-government organizations to carry out the mandate of the law.

LIBELOUS

The unfounded allegation that the MGP is illegal and money-making discredits the hard work and sacrifice of Masungi, its rangers and partners, and assaults its integrity. The existence of a hotel in Masungi is untrue. Masungi is a duly registered non-stock, non-profit Foundation which conserves the karst landscape through research, engagement of rangers, and educational experiences that make people lovers and champions of nature. The statements made by DENR officials reveal a reckless disregard for the truth.

A plain reading of the "perpetual trust" provision in the MOA will show that this applies to the conservation character of the project which is in accord with the policy of the state. Perpetual conservation is precisely the essence of protected areas. Contrary to malicious insinuations, the MOA is not a gift or grant of land or benefit to Masungi. The reverse is true; the government, not Masungi is the beneficiary. Masungi is merely a trustee and overall project manager who could be replaced if it violates the agreement.

IRRESPONSIBLE

The DENR's irresponsible statements gravely undermine urgent reforestation and rewilding work, demoralize park rangers and embolden environmental criminals and syndicates. Worse, they put the lives of park rangers and conservationists who fight a lonely battle to defend the watershed, into even greater danger. Has the DENR forgotten compassion for the people who help protect, conserve, and manage the environment and natural resources for the present and future generations—the Department's very mission?



TITLE: *Masungi denounces baseless, irresponsible* PAGE 2

and wicked statements by DENR officials

BASELESS

- Masungi is not raking in profits. Conservation fees go to reforestation, rewilding, protection and maintenance. The MGP MOA expressly disallows compensation to Masungi and restricts the use of income from purposes other than conservation, which is exactly what the e-NIPAS law specifies.
- The award-winning Discovery Trail which brings a limited number of visitors up close to the karst terrain is found in the titled government property called Lot 10 which is the subject of a separate joint venture agreement between the DENR and Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation (Blue Star). In accordance with the terms of the said joint venture agreement, the DENR receives a fixed amount contingent upon project completion and satisfactory DENR clearing of illegal occupants, both of which conditions are not availing.
- Quite the opposite of the DENR's allusions, it is the DENR that is at fault and is showing bad faith. Until now, it continues to evade its contractual obligation to evict illegal occupants and cancel fraudulent instruments thereby unmindfully exposing Masungi trustees and rangers to the hostility and violence of watershed abusers. Instead of running after the abusers, DENR elements are even legitimizing them with Special Use in Protected Areas (SAPA) endorsements. We respectfully ask Congress to look into seeming DENR preference for business use at the expense of protection of the watershed, in possible contravention of the NIPAS Law.
- The 2018 Expanded NIPAS Law and its SAPA provision were not yet in effect at the signing of the MGP MOA in 2017. The SAPA accommodates development and special use of the protected area – invariably involving disruption of or damage to existing ecosystems – for profit. In return for this disruption/damage, the business proponent pays a user's fee.
- Masungi pursues no business and recovers and restores, rather than damages, ecosystems. Masungi is an ocean apart. It is our humble opinion – and earnest request to the government – that the unique conservation project of Masungi be distinguished from a SAPA. This could lead the way for more innovative, inclusive, and effective partnerships between civil society and the government to address enormous gaps in funding and management of protected and conserved areas.
- The Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) recommendation to cancel the MGP MOA has no leg to stand on. It was hastily crafted, apparently, to make way for the quarries, swimming pool resorts, the PENRO and police general who occupied vast tracks of land and built large structures inside the protected watershed. Masungi was not informed of any complaint lodged against it, much less given the elementary right to present its side.
- No indigenous people nor genuine farmers were evicted by Masungi. The “protestors” in a video being spread by the quarries are in fact employees of swimming pool resorts and rest houses which infringed upon the protected area. Masungi was compelled to put up emergency checkpoints and ranger stations to stem rampant encroachment and development deeper into the fragile watershed, in the absence of the DENR, the police and the LGU. Masungi sought help from and partnerships with them but received no response.



TITLE: *Masungi denounces Baseless Wrecking*

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Statement by DENR officials



- Masungi did not bill the DENR any amount to cover its costs. It is Blue Star, the DENR's joint venture partner in Lot 10, that sends monthly statements of account to prompt much-needed DENR eviction of professional squatters on Lot 10.
- Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) are some of our truest allies in conservation and resisting destructive activities including quarrying and land grabbing. Acknowledging common ground, Masungi, the DENR, the NCIP, and concerned ICCs went into lengthy dialogues in 2021 to formalize our partnerships and chart the ways forward. These dialogues concluded with our application for a Certification Precondition (CP) for the Masungi Geopark Project. However, it is the DENR that is holding up the CP process by refusing to provide a mandatory endorsement letter despite multiple requests from Masungi, the ICCs & the NCIP.
- On the basis of the Department of Interior and Local Government and police field investigations together with members of civil society and the media in 2021, former DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya recommended to the DENR the filing of cases and prosecution of watershed violators including erring government officials. The DENR ignored the DILG/police investigations and recommendations.

MASUNGI LAUDS MPSA CANCELLATIONS

Notwithstanding the hurtful statements of DENR officials, we applaud the DENR's categorical cancellation — not mere suspension — of two misplaced Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) plus another two MPSAs shortly, inside the Upper Marikina Watershed. The Secretary publicly disclosed the long-overdue cancellations in response to Senator Aquilino Pimentel III's query over the status of the quarries located within the protected area. The country is grateful to the DENR officials who did the right thing and terminated the quarries. Flood-weary Filipinos can now breathe a big sigh of relief. The MPSA cancellation shows that DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga has her heart in the right place. She is ready to make hard decisions to protect our natural heritage and the lives and future of our people.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
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Statement by DENR officials

The cancellation of the MPSAs is imperative for the following reasons:

1. Proclamation 1636 issued by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1977 as well as the Philippine Mining Act, the NIPAS Law and Department Administrative Order No. 33 penned by former DENR Secretary and National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala all prohibit mining in a national park and wildlife sanctuary.
2. Scientists from the National Museum of the Philippines warned of "expensive consequences" should major land and hydrologic disturbances like quarrying occur in the area.
3. Some 1,300 hectares of fragile mountains along the Marikina-Infanta Road will be leveled to the ground causing extensive, irreparable damage to the landscape and biodiverse ecosystems.
4. There will be scarcity of water from the destruction of the water-bearing limestone formations.
5. The Susong Dalaga shrine of the indigenous people will vanish.
6. The lives and property of cities and towns downstream will be placed in greater peril from higher flood risk due to forest loss.
7. A national geological heritage comprising ancient, 60-million-year-old Paleocene-epoch limestones will be lost, including its unique biodiversity such the rare JC's Vine, the site-endemic Masungi snail, parrot, and flying foxes.

THE SECRETARY WAS MISLED. MASUNGI IS AN ALLY, NOT THE ENEMY

We believe the Secretary was misinformed by people around her, as suggested by Senator Raffy Tulfo himself. The litany of flagrant lies unraveled here proves that facts were withheld from her.

The DENR and Masungi are on the same team. We have a common enemy and they are the environmental offenders. Masungi is not the problem but a solution. Lost in the din is the real problem which is the unchecked depredation of our natural heritage. It is a problem so huge and pressing that it requires state and non-state parties like the DENR and Masungi working together, not feuding, for common good.

We therefore take this opportunity to reiterate:

1. Our earnest cooperation in her mission to save our environment
2. Our request for her to convene the oversight committee and finally appoint a Project Manager in accordance with the MOA, and
3. Our invitation for her to see our work and the real state of the watershed.



3-pronged climate finance pushed

FINANCE Sec. Benjamin Diokno urged climate experts and leaders from the public, private, and development sectors to invest in adaptation to reduce climate risks and disasters.

"We must urgently increase the availability of adaptation and resilience finance, particularly for sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure," Diokno said during the Climate Investment Forum organized by the Climate Change Commission on November 21.

He said the country's high exposure to climate and disaster risks has pushed the government to be more proactive in prioritizing disaster risks and climate change impacts.

As such, the Department of Finance proposes a three-pronged blended approach of grants, investments, and subsidies as modalities of climate finance.

This considers the private sector, multilateral development banks, and global financial regulatory bodies as vital partners in the mobilization of financing for adaptation and mitigation projects.

The government also continues to seek support from international channels and partners to ensure sufficient fiscal space in addressing the climate crisis.



Finance Sec. Diokno

The Philippines submitted its first nationally determined contribution or NDC in April 2021.

"The first NDC commits to a projected greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent, representing the country's ambition for GHG mitigation by 2030 for the agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors," the DoF chief explained.

He said that the private sector is an important pillar in realizing a just transition to low-carbon economy through energy transition, technology development and deployment, and building of climate-resilient communities, with due regard to natural resources and ecosystem integrity.

To encourage private sector partic-

ipation, the DOF and the Bangko Sentral have established a sustainable finance ecosystem to synergize public and private investments in green projects and create the environment for greener policies.

Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission has released guidelines on the issuance of Green Bonds under the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards.

"This provides a reference point for determining the eligibility of green projects covering renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, environmentally-sustainable management of living natural resources and land use, clean transportation, and adaptation of green infrastructure," Diokno said.

The government has also developed the Sustainable Finance Framework that lays out the process for ensuring transparency and disclosure of the use of proceeds, as well as the expected environmental and social impact of eligible green and social projects, in keeping with international best practices.

"These efforts have helped us successfully issue our first-ever sustainability global bonds worth US\$1 billion, and sustainability samurai bonds worth US\$600 million," the Finance chief said.



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PH welcome 'nature-based' resilience technology project

FINANCE Sec. Benjamin Diokno thanked and commended the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Canada for the launch of a new project that would provide the country with gender-responsive and nature-based solutions for climate-resilient technologies and initiatives.

"A growing body of evidence shows that climate change impacts... disproportionately affect the poorest, the women and girls, and the most marginalized groups. Clearly, there is a need for a just transition to resilient and low emission development that sustains nature and ecosystems and protects the rights of all who are affected and at risk," said Diokno in a pre-recorded message for the launch of 'Accelerating Green and Climate Fi-

nance in the Philippines: Nature-Based Solutions'.

He called the project launch a milestone in the country's sustainability journey and national climate agenda.

The Philippines bears the brunt of the ill effects of climate change. The country's high exposure to climate risks has pushed the government to boldly and swiftly take action.

The Department of Finance and Bangko Sentral have built a sustainable finance ecosystem to synergize public and private investments in green projects. This roadmap sets the guiding principles that would create the environment for greener policies.

Meanwhile, the government's Sustainable Finance Framework seeks to ensure transparency in the use of proceeds, as well as the expected environ-

mental and social impact of eligible green and social projects, in keeping with international best practices.

The DoF chief noted global estimates that suggest that insufficient action on climate change could cost the global economy \$178 trillion by 2070, or almost double the current global gross domestic product.

He stressed the need for stakeholders to now move from negotiations and planning to implementation and action on the ground.

"I eagerly look forward to seeing how this Project will contribute to the accelerated attainment of our NDC targets and the Philippines Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and how it will improve the resilience and environmental security of Filipino women and vulnerable communities," he said.



EDITORIAL

Is climate credo in high gear?

THE two-week 27th edition of the Conference of the Parties in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt has ended – with new heroes among participants from 190 countries, including the Philippines, hopeful something positive was pushed for global climate justice.

The summit, held annually since the first UN climate agreement in 1992, concluded on November 20, with a decision to establish and operationalize a fund to compensate vulnerable nations for 'loss and damage' from climate-induced disasters.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, was upbeat and welcomed the decision, calling it "an important step towards justice" and called, in the same breath, for "a giant leap on climate ambition" as he stressed the need to "drastically reduce emissions now."

The COP27, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, has taken

what Guterres called "an important step towards justice."

How this step will be given flesh and bones in the next few months before the 28th episode of COP, in the United Arab Emirates from November 30 to December 12, 2023, bears watching.

"The worst effects of the climate crisis – for example extreme heat, flooding and crop failures – are disproportionately felt by countries and communities in the Global South"

The UN chief has underlined the aspirations of participants and the countries they represented when he said "Together let's not relent in the fight for climate justice and climate ambition. We can and must win this battle for our lives."

The ways in which we talk about the climate crisis have changed a lot in recent years.

For a long time, global warming was primarily

understood as an environmental concern – imprint images of wildfires, floods, a frightening and devastating sight in the Philippines and elsewhere, and extreme weather, along with various calls to "save the planet," "save the rainforest" and "save the polar bears."

Today, we concede that climate change is very much a human crisis; that 'the environment' isn't some niche issue that can be easily separated from human concerns; that it's not just the polar bears that are in danger, but us who inhabit the continents.

With this shift has come the recognition indeed that the solutions to the climate crisis are not just a scientific matter, but a political one too – which raises the call on governments to shift the gear to higher level of commitment.

Our discussions on the climate must include more than just data and statistics on degrees of warming and atmospheric carbon concentration, but also concepts like power, access to resources, and justice.

Since the climate setback is a human crisis and a political crisis, that means its solutions need to take into account the messy and complex world of global politics.

'Climate justice' as a hypothesis grants that, although global warming is a global crisis, its effects are not felt evenly around the world.

The worst effects of the climate crisis—for example extreme heat, flooding and crop failures—are disproportionately felt by countries and communities in the Global South.

We are affected.



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Climate justice heroes



EAGLE EYES

TONY
LA VINA

THIS week, we celebrate Bonifacio Day as we do every November 30. Time was when it was also celebrated as National Heroes Day – which has been moved to the last Sunday of August since 1987.

Andres Bonifacio is known as the “Father of the Philippine Revolution” as the founder and leader of Katipunan.

With many others, he fought for Philippine independence during colonial rule.

While his leadership and death have nuances, it is only right to say that he is one of our national heroes, equal in my eyes to Jose Rizal, Apolinario Mabini, Gregoria de Jesus, and Melchora Aquino.

Ninoy Aquino, Edgar Jopson, Lorena Barros, Macling Dulag, Lilirosa Hilao, Cory Aquino, and more recently Dinky Soliman, Chad Booc, and Kerima Tariman are in my view also heroes.

Likewise political detainees Leila De Lima and Myles Albasin are heroes.

“How wonderful it is to witness young people join the fight against the worsening climate crisis.”

So is Nobel Prize Awardee Maria Ressa and my friend Eva Galvey -- both of whom have been recognized recently by the Ateneo de Manila University for their contributions.

Indeed, when we think of heroes, we usually think of big names, past revolutions, martyrdom, and renowned awards. However, as they say, not all heroes wear capes.

A classic example of this are the diverse indigenous peoples in the Philippines who have been environmental defenders before the term was even born.

Many have become martyrs in fighting for their ancestral homelands, the most well known of whom is Macli-ing Dulag in the Cordillera who led the resistance against the Chico River Dam Project during Marcos Sr.’s martial law.

(Editor’s Note: Macli-ing Dulag, who led the opposition to the Chico Dam project, was a respected elder of the Butbut tribe in the mountain village of Bugnay, on a hillside above the rice terraces near Tinglayan town in Kalinga. He was murdered on April 24, 1980)

Another one I remember as an environmental hero is Chad Booc who I lawyered for.

Before his unjust death, he was a volunteer teacher for ALCADDEV and the Lumad Bakwit schools in Cebu and Diliman. Chad was only 26 when he was executed with a fellow Jurain and three others in Mindanao.

I had been red-tagged for my love and support for Chad and his fellow teachers and the administrators and students of the Lumad schools but I am not cowed by this. Chad is my hero as Macling Dulag is.

Finally, I saw a different kind of hero when I attended the 27th Conference of the Parties this month in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and witnessed many Filipino climate justice heroes at work.

COP 27 as my 23rd COP.

And with how often I’ve gone and how slow progress has been all this time, it is easy to succumb to despair.

However, as I found myself walking at Sharm El-Sheikh amongst tens of thousands of climate justice advocates from the youth, I found myself clinging onto hope.

How wonderful it is to witness young people join the fight against the worsening climate crisis. In a space where grievance is easier to feel, they reintroduce perseverance and resistance.

In fact, during my time in Egypt, I met with some of the youth from the Philippine delegation—Atty. Joy Reyes, Atty. Hazel Acero and Tonichi Regalado from our very own Manila Observatory team, Mitzi Tan and Alab Ayroso from Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), and Jeff Estela from Youth Strike 4 Climate Philippines.

Thanks to the Youth for Climate Justice in Mindanao, a new group, we even included other young Filipino climate justice advocates like Bernadette De Belen and Dinah Faye Balleco through Zoom.

We discussed what topics they have been following throughout COP 27 such as indigenous peoples, women, loss and damage, youth, and adaptation.

I also shared with them that frustrations in conferences like this are inevitable.

Tonichi shared that COP 27 proved to be a struggle when it came to the unification of vulnerable countries—what each country is willing to accept in terms of negotiation.

Each country has a different set of priorities and vision when it comes to the climate crisis.

But these frustrations and struggles are exactly the reason why we keep doing what we do.

Mitzi also says, in a youth panel she attended, there is resistance in caring for one another, in love, in community. And these, despite hardships, are at the core of our advocacy.

Aside from the group I met, I also note there were many other young (and older) Filipinos in Sharm, from very diverse backgrounds.

It was the biggest group I have seen in the 30 years I have participated in conferences of parties.

I am particularly proud to see so many of my long-time colleagues, mentees and former students who were there fighting for climate justice.

These included among others climate process veterans Lidy Nacpil, Ateng Ballesteros, Rodne Galicha, Albert Magalang, Baby Supetran, and Gerry Rances, scientists from MO like Fr. Jett Villarin, Rosa Perez, Faye Cruz, and Lau Jamero, lawyers Vice Yu, Anna Teh, Gia Ibay, Avril De Torres, Joyce Tan, and Cristina Munding, local government experts Marvin Lagonera and Jimmy Castellano, and young activists like Krishna Ariola and Chad Sadorra.

To see that I am fighting alongside these Filipinos whom I see as modern-day heroes gives me a sense of certainty that all will be well.

They convinced me to continue doing this work.

Most specially, the courage and hope that the youth tirelessly bring are contagious.

To work with them is to be convinced that they deserve to look forward to a future where climate justice is achieved.

Yes, we struggle together. We owe it to them to keep going. After all, real heroes don’t and can’t work alone.

Website: tonylavina.com. Facebook: [deanonymylavs](https://www.facebook.com/deanonymylavs)
Twitter: [tonylavs](https://twitter.com/tonylavs)



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Climate summit lacked ambition — gov't officials

FOSSIL FUEL producers benefited from sympathetic treatment in Egypt at the COP27 climate talks, government officials said, bringing their influence to bear in rushed final negotiations and frustrating those who hoped for a more ambitious outcome.

Officials said the host Egypt, a natural gas exporter and frequent recipient of funds from Gulf oil producers, was partly responsible, although the war in Ukraine and the subsequent European energy crisis also had an impact.

Egyptian officials have said their priority was to provide a conducive atmosphere for negotiations and act as a neutral mediator. The presidency denied that fossil fuel producers had been given sympathetic treatment.

"The end decision at COP27 was a compilation of inputs reached by consensus of all the UNFCCC parties who were all consulted," it said in a statement, referring to nearly 200 countries taking part in the summit under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Demands from environmental groups and scientists that governments and companies should leave oil and gas in the ground have had less traction this year, since European countries have scrambled to replace Russian gas.

The COP27 meeting yielded mixed results, with a hard-fought agreement on a fund for countries most harmed by climate change being welcomed by vulnerable nations, but a cover text that some officials said lacked ambition due to the influence of fossil fuel producers. The cover text summarizes key outcomes of the summit.

"The cover decision and the mitigation work program does not fully reflect the urgency of the climate crisis and did indeed cater too much to the more fossil and backward-looking forces," said Espen Barth Eide, Norway's minister of climate and environment.

Some of the countries that had pushed hardest for the new fund for loss and damage simultaneously tried to weaken language around phasing down fossil fuels, he added.

LOW-EMISSION ENERGY

The COP27 agreements are in line with what came out of the Glasgow meeting last year, to accelerate "efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies," rather than being strengthened to phasing down fossil fuels as some countries had pushed for. — **Reuters**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
bit.ly/Climate112922



COP27 climate summit missed chance for ambition on fossil fuels, critics say

FOSSIL fuel producers benefited from sympathetic treatment in Egypt at the COP27 climate talks, government officials said, bringing their influence to bear in rushed final negotiations and frustrating those who hoped for a more ambitious outcome.

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Low-emission energy

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It also included a new reference to "low emission and renewable energy." The Egyptian presidency said the language reflected part of the "just transition" adopted by all parties, which includes the use of hydrogen and nuclear energy to reduce emissions.

Egypt's COP27 President Sameh Shoukry acknowledged there had been "disappointment in certain quarters" but told reporters after the deal that "a single party cannot achieve all their ambition, and this does not take away from the value of what was reached".

For some, the Egyptian presidency had delivered a satisfactory deal by forging the agreement to set up a loss and damage fund. The

idea had been resisted for years by some of the largest emitters, such as the United States and Europe, who were worried about the extent of liabilities.

Loss and damage was "the one thing we wanted a lot for ages, and that being solved at a COP being hosted by a developing country, that in itself is a great win because it shows their diplomatic strength," said Selamawit Wubet, an adviser to a group of countries highly vulnerable to climate change.

But climate activists and some delegates said little progress had been made on most other issues, contending that the tone had been set by fossil fuel producers who played a more public and prominent role in Sharm el-Sheikh than at previous summits.

'Difficult transition'

"It has now become quite clear that the transition away from fossil fuels is going to be a difficult one," said Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram, citing the impact of the war in Ukraine.

In the final 24 hours, the COP presidency held a meeting where calls from negotiators from countries and groups including Switzerland, the United States, Latin America and small island states, for Egypt to include language initially proposed by India to phase down all fossil fuels were unheeded, officials said. At least 80 countries supported such language, they said.

Some negotiators expressed concern that Egypt had advanced its proposal without thorough consultation, as major emitters and producers

took a stand against more ambitious goals on limiting fossil fuel use.

The Egyptian presidency told Reuters the process was "praised by all parties for being focused and streamlined."

"The issue of phasing down all fossil fuels was not agreed upon by many countries," it said.

All night talks

Ahead of the final plenary meeting where a deal was struck just after 5:30 a.m. local time, a Reuters reporter saw some delegates caught off guard by the presidency's last-minute announcement of the session. Guards had to wake up some delegates sleeping on couches and chairs outside the plenary hall after 3 a.m., instructing them to go inside.

"It was very rushed towards the end," said Shauna Aminath, Maldives environment minister. "The normal procedure is that there would be more consultation and open dialogue on these things," she said.

The European Union, which had threatened to walk out, fell reluctantly in line to preserve the deal on loss and damage.

Egypt will hold the COP presidency until it hands over to the United Arab Emirates, an ally and a major hydrocarbons producer, in just under a year.

"Holding COPs in petro-states may seem counterproductive but actually we can't ignore these countries. They need to be engaged in the process and putting pressure on them as a COP host may provide bigger gains," said Mohamed Adow, founder of think tank Power Shift Africa. - Reuters



ADB touts microfinance role in building resilience vs climate change

MICROFINANCE institutions (MFIs) should be tapped in helping build resilience against climate change, especially for poorer and more vulnerable communities, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Economic development supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises contributes to the resilience of the poor and vulnerable, including in urban areas," the ADB said in a report.

"Building resilience against the impacts of

climate change and geophysical shocks is critical for economic development and poverty reduction," it added.

The world faces increasing flooding events; more frequent and longer heat

waves; and stronger tropical cyclones, the ADB said.

The world's extremely poor population is expected to rise to 132 million by 2030 due to the pandemic and climate change, according to the report. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone
<bit.ly/ADB112922>



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Ecology-friendly gov't procurement practices pushed

By Jester Manalastas

THE House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has approved another friendly measure requiring all government offices to adopt responsible and sustainable consumption and production practices.

House Bill 1272 is in support of global efforts to achieve "circular" economies and is anchored on tasking all offices in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government to give priority to the purchase or acquisition of ecologically friendlier goods and services."

Among the authors of An Act Establishing a GPP Program For All Branches Of Government, are Cam Sur Reps. Lray Villafuerte, Miguel Luis Villafuerte and Tsuyoshi Anthony Horibata and Bicol Saro Rep. Nicolas Enciso VIII.

Under the measure, all government departments, offices and agencies establish their respective SPPs (Sustainable Procurement Programs) that puts a premium on finding the lowest life-cycle cost of products and services and including a coding system for packaging products that makes possible waste recycling and reuse.

Because the Philippines is a party to the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 19th Congress' adoption of an SPP legal framework "concretizes our country's commitment to the ideals of the UN's 17 SDGs, specifically SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production."



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MTD seeks Landbank financing for New Clark City project

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The local unit of a Malaysian infrastructure conglomerate is seeking financing from state-run Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) for potential development in the New Clark City.

Landbank president and CEO Cecilia Borromeo met with MTD Philippines Inc. president Patrick David to explore collaboration initiatives for the construction of new government buildings in the New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac.

MTD Philippines is developing the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC). The project aims to ensure a more efficient delivery of basic government services by providing a one-stop-shop business processing.

The New Clark City is envisioned to decongest Metro Manila, as well as spur economic growth and provide business and employment opportunities outside the National Capital Region.

The MTD Group is seeking Landbank's support for its upcoming projects, which include the new modernization building project of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Since 2015, Landbank has been supporting the MTD Group's infrastructure projects in Central Luzon, with the construction of the Palayan Government Center and Business Hub in Nueva Ecija, as well as the Bataan Government Center

and Central Business Hub.

MTD Group's project in Nueva Ecija consists of a five-story government building for national and regional government offices, two six-story buildings for BPOs with private offices and commercial areas, and a six-story building for a business hotel with adjoining two-story commercial and retail complex.

Meanwhile, the project in Bataan serves as a one-stop shop for various government services, providing greater convenience to the constituents of the province.

It houses various provincial and national offices, including the provincial government of Bataan, the city government of Balanga, the departments of Science and Technology, Trade and Industry, Environment and Natural Resources and the Land Bank Bataan Capitol Branch Lite Lending Center and other field units.

The New Clark City, a flagship project of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and, is envisioned to be the country's first smart and green city with a mix of residential, commercial, agro-industrial, institutional and information technology developments.

BCDA plans to develop and convert an approximately 214-hectare idle government property located in New Clark City within the Clark Special Economic Zone into the NGAC.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, LPDD, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at DENR-NCR, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue Diliman Quezon City, through **sealed bidding** to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on MARCH 28, 2023, the tract of land situated in Brgy. Western Bicutan (Pinagsama), Taguig City which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007607-2195	DIANA ROSE A. SALAK	Lot 24, Block 20, Ppd 00-036894	60.30 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP8,442.00	PHP450,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. 007607-2195 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

NOV. 22, 29 DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27 EMZ

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007607-784	REYNALDO R. LUCIDO	Lot 1, Block 99, Ppd 13-001602	441 sq.m.	PHP600.00	PHP264,600.00	No Improvement

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. 007607-2195 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

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Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND
IGPSA No. (13-1) 4447	RAUL M. FARNACIO	Lot 27, Block 122, Ppd 13-001602	400 sq.m.	P600.00	PHP240,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. (13-1) 4447 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

NOV. 22, 29 DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27 EMZ

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007607-1899	ROSALDO B. BERTULAN	Lot 9, Block 7, Ppd 00-036894	84sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP11,760.00	PHP1200,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. 007607-1899 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division
MSG/JCP/DLM

NOV. 22, 29 DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27 EMZ

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007607-2260	FLORENCIO R. GENOSO	Lot 26, Block 29, Ppd 00-036894	79.40 sq.m.	P 140.00	P11,116.00	P 100,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. 007607-2260 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./BLK. NO./PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. (13-1) 3059	BERNARDITO C. ARCAMO	Lot 5, Block 106, Ppd 13-001602	450 sq.m.	P 600.00	P 270,000.00	N / A

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked " Bid for Land Described in MSA / SA / IGPSA No. (13-1) 3059 " Bids must be accompanied with cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines _____

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division



TITLE:

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Community Environment And Natural Resources Office
RXI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 8105 Philippines
TELEFAX NO. (084) 823-2011/email: cenropanabo@denr.gov.ph



PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office XI-2B, Salvacion, Panabo City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas Diyes (10:00 o'clock) ng umaga sa ika **11** ng **Enero**, taong **2023**, para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	:	San Pedro, Panabo City
Deskripsyon	:	Fis 5262-D
Sukat	:	8, 406 square meters
Tasahan ng Lupa	:	Php 9,700.00 kada metro kwadrado o Kabuuang Php 81,538,200.00
Halaga ng nakakatayong Proyekto	:	Php 21,864,350.00
Aplikante (DICT)	:	Davao International Container Terminal, Inc. represented by: Bonifacio B. Licayan

Ang karapatan na upahan ang nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong (3%) porsyento sa halaga ng lupa at isang (1%) porsyento sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang taon na sumali sa subasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang panhintulot na magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinaas para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anuman alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan. Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi sya ang aplikante ay kinakailangan tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Panabo, Pilipinas, Nobyembre 16, 2023.

LARRY A. AMBONGAN
OIC, CENR Officer