

23 February 2023, Thursday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



23 FEB 2023

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Ayala Land divorces SGV

## BIZ BUZZ



It sounds like an innocuous, almost routine, event. But it's a big thing in the tightly knit community of auditors in the Philippines.

We're talking about yesterday's announcement by Ayala Land Inc.—arguably the most prestigious property developer in the country—that it is replacing its external auditor after a tight relationship of over three decades.

And it's not just any external auditor that Ayala Land is replacing. We're talking about the famed SGV & Co.—formerly SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.—which is, despite all the challenges they've faced in recent years, still the biggest name in the local accounting industry.

But that could change with this announcement.

Ayala Land told the stock exchange that it will be ending its rela-

tionship with SGV, which has been in place since 1988, in favor of PwC Isla Lipana & Co., which will now serve as the independent auditor of the firm starting this year.

Ayala Land said the change was recommended by its audit committee, supposedly to align the firm with a 2014 European Union audit rule that requires firms to rotate their auditors regularly, with a maximum prescribed period of 10 years, extendable to 24 years.

Industry insiders are naturally wondering why Ayala Land is even adopting an EU policy that was put in place over a decade ago. Was it just an excuse to justify the change?

All eyes in the industry are now on PLDT, another big SGV account, to see whether the telecommunication giant will announce a similar change in auditors, especially after the bombshell revelation late last year that the firm unearthed at least P48 billion worth of "budget overruns" that the au-

ditor had failed to detect over a period of at least four years.

Will SGV's clients stay loyal? Or will Ayala's move precipitate and exodus? *Abangan!*

—DAXIM L. LUCAS

### 'Woke' employer

Sun Life of Canada isn't going to wait for any enabling legislation to recognize same-gender partners as beneficiaries of its health maintenance organization (HMO) for employees in the Philippines.

The financial giant announced yesterday that domestic and common-law partners, as well as same-gender partners, could now be enrolled as qualified dependents under its new HMO policy.

"As an equal-opportunity employer, Sun Life strives to provide all employees with top-notch health-care benefits that prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion," said **Michelle Cordero-Garcia**, chief human resources officer of Sun Life Philippines. "With this en-

hanced medical package, we hope to foster an inclusive culture that respects and embraces the diversity of our people."

The company said this move would further foster its ethos of "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" through its recognition of the diverse needs of its employees.

—DORIS DUMLAO-ABADILLA

### Loving the trees

WawaJCo Inc., a joint venture of Razon-led Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc. and Viologo-led San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group Inc., is contributing to the country's tree-planting efforts.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and WawaJCo recently signed a non-binding accord for the reforestation of a 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

WawaJCo is the project proponent of the P26-billion Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project in

Rizal which, once completed, will supply at least 518 million liters per day of water to Manila Water Co. Inc., which caters to the East Zone concession area.

"This 1,800-hectare reforestation will ensure the sustainability of our water supply, while providing a natural carbon sink program and ultimately, protect our environment and support local communities," said Prime Infra president and CEO **Guillaume Lucci**.

This integrates water security, watershed protection as well as forest carbon and biodiversity management in the area. Both parties will design, develop and establish afforestation, reforestation and revegetation programs within the UMRBPL.

Such programs also intend to generate carbon units based on internationally accepted voluntary carbon standards, enabling investments in sustainable social and environmental projects for the communities where Wawa-

JVCo and Prime Infra operate.

Carbon credits are usually created by individuals or projects that destroy or offset greenhouse gases. These credits are usually sold or bought through a cap-and-trade program.

Further, the agreement affirms WawaJCo's commitment to exerting best practices in stakeholder consultations with and involvement of the local community and indigenous peoples.

"This MOU for environmental stewardship between government and private sector reflects the commitment of both parties to develop and implement science-based strategies in support of sustainable development," said Prime Infra chair **Enrique Razon Jr.** —**JORDEENE B. LAGARE** INQ



Email us at [BizBuzz@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:BizBuzz@inquirer.com.ph)

Join our Viber community:

[inq.news/inqbusinesscommunity](https://www.inqnews.inqbusinesscommunity)



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

**Abante**  
UNA SA BALITA

1  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

23 FEB 2023

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE



Sec Yulo-Loyzaga

*Kinunsinte illegal mining ng Joseph Sy firm*

# DENR CHIEF BINABOY PALAWAN, KINASUHAN

PAGE  
2

(gfn.com.ph)

## DENR CHIEF BINABOY PALAWAN, KINASUHAN

INIREKLAMO sa Office of the Ombudsman ang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na si Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga dahil sa pagkawasak ng virgin forest ng Palawan bundod ng pagpapahintulot umano nito sa operasyon ng mining company na minamay-ari ni Joseph Sy, chairman ng Global Ferronickel Holdings (FNI).

Ang reklamo ay isinampa ni Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples representative Jose Romel Agustin Murio o Datu Kasaligan, laban kay Secretary Yulo dahil umano

sa paglabag sa Republic Act 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) at RA 6173 noong Enero 6, ayon sa report ng Bilyonaryo.

Ang ibang respondent sa kaso ay sina acting Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Wilfredo Moncano, DENR Undersecretaries Ernesto Adobo at Jim Sampulna, at dating DENR secretary Roy Cimat.

Inakusahan ni Murio sina Yulo at Moncano sa pagkunsinte sa ilegal na operasyon ng Ipilan Nickel Mining sa kabila ng matinding pagtutol ng mga katutubo, residente at religious leader sa Brooke's Point, Pala-

wan.

Ang Ipilan, sinasabing minamay-ari ng isang dayuhan, ay nabigong magbayad umano ng obligatory one percent royalty sa mga katutubo noong hinakot ang 54,700 tonelada ng medium-grade nickel ore patungong China noong September 2022.

Hiniling naman ni Murio sa Ombudsman ang suspensyon kay Yulo at habang iniimbestigahan ito.

Noong nakaupo pa si dating DENR Secretary Gina Lopez, pinarusahan niya ang kompanya ni Sy dahil sa ilegal na pamumutol ng punong kahoy sa Palawan.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

## Editorial

### BuCor plan is worrisome, but need not be destructive

**I**N spite of vocal opposition from a number of environmental groups, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) has said that it is determined to push through with a plan to construct a new administration facility and employee housing on a property in Tanay, Rizal located within the Masungi Georeserve. The natural area has faced numerous threats over the years, and so concerns over the potential harmful impact of BuCor's plan is justified.

However, while it may be preferable to everyone but BuCor that its planned facility be built somewhere else, the issue is not that simple.

Acting BuCor Director General Gregorio Catapang said on Friday that the bureau is intent on carrying out its five-year development plan, the key parts of which are housing for BuCor employees and "the development and implementation of land use development plans and policies of the BuCor for the sustainment of its basic institutional food requirements." Details of the plan were not disclosed, but would also include administrative offices and related facilities. Catapang also clarified in an earlier statement that the development would not include any prison or detention facilities.

The reason the property in the Masungi Georeserve was selected is quite simple; the 270-hectare parcel straddling the villages of Kuyumbay, Layban, San Andres and Tinucan in Tanay already belongs to BuCor. The land was originally set aside as a site for a replacement for the New Bilibid Prison by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2006; the title for the land was officially transferred to BuCor last September, presumably when the working version of the land-use plan was completed.

Thus, there are two equally valid objectives that have been put into conflict. BuCor needs new facilities for employee housing and food production, and has the land to construct them; using that land, rather than seeking a different site that would have to be purchased, or perhaps traded with another government agency, is the most efficient and cost-effective option. That property, however, lies with a protected area where, by definition, any sort of development should be prohibited in order to preserve the natural environment.

We believe there is a way to achieve both objectives, but it will require, both BuCor and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to exercise a great deal of diligent environmental management. In fact, the concerned agencies should look at the development of the project as an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility in sustainable development.

### Environmentally sound

First, that will require BuCor and DENR to work together to develop the detailed project plan in strict accordance with existing environmental regulations, and implementing "green" features in the various buildings and infrastructure to be constructed. Particular attention must be paid to the most potentially damaging facilities and services that will be needed, such as roads, water supply and disposal, and solid waste management. The description by BuCor director Catapang of the area's use to meet the bureau's "basic food requirements" also implies that some farming activity and food production will take place; these facilities must also be environmentally sound.

Most importantly, it must be realized that the development plan does not end with the construction of the BuCor project, but will require constant monitoring and management for as long as it exists. For example, strict zoning and construction rules must be put in place for the housing area, to ensure that residents' activities to upgrade and expand their homes or create small businesses — efforts that are pursued in communities anywhere, and should be otherwise welcomed — do not pose environmental or safety risks. Likewise, activity that spills outside the boundaries of the BuCor property must be prevented, or strictly controlled if it is unavoidable.

Finally, allowing BuCor to pursue its development project on its own property within the Georeserve must not be used to justify development elsewhere in the protected area, especially commercial development. The BuCor, as a government agency, should be regarded as an exception, and one whose privilege to build in the area will depend on it doing so responsibly. If it does so, however, it will not only have the facilities it needs, but will set a standard for development anywhere in the country.



23 FEB 2023

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRST PERSON

ALEX MAGNO

### Corporatize

#### Dredging

For months now, a Chinese dredging company has been quarrying sand from rivers in Zambales to be used as landfill for a reclamation project in Manila Bay that is still being contested in the courts. Last week, the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) described the operation as "illegal."

The NCWC is the principal inter-agency mechanism for maritime surveillance and coordinated response. It is the operating arm of the National Coast Watch Council. The lead agency here is the Philippine Coast Guard and the Center is attached to the Office of the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary.

A special report was issued by the NCWC after close monitoring of the "suspicious" Chinese dredging operation. The report concluded that the Chinese company was "operating outside their approved areas of operation as against the issued Special Permit by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)."

In addition, the report found that the dredging activity was without a clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and had no Environmental Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB).

Furthermore, there was no memorandum of agreement between the DENR and the dredging company. There was no accreditation and no ore transport permit from the MGB. The Office of the National Security Adviser had not issued any "No Objection Clearance" for the dredging company. On top of it all, there is no formal Notice to Proceed for the reclamation project.

To compound this litany of irregularities, the Chinese dredging vessels were found operating with a false Automatic Identification System (AIS). The system allows Philippine authorities to properly monitor and record their exact movements inside our territorial waters. The vessels routinely turned off their AIS during their dredging operations. This is, after all, the same company that was sanctioned for its role in building the artificial islands Beijing now uses in the South China Sea. The material used to build up these now fortified artificial islands are suspected to have come from our own rivers.

In a word, the entire operation appears to be running on impunity alone.

On Nov. 29, 2022 the NCWC special report was endorsed by Malacañang through Executive Secretary Naealla Aguinaldo to the MARINA for appropriate action. According to one newspaper report, the MARINA has taken action on the matter.

MARINA National Capital Region director Marc Anthony Pascua responded by text message to inquiries made by journalists. He says the agency "already investigated" the vessels in question and "were issued show-cause orders and accordingly penalized." The actual penalties were not disclosed.

Pascua disclosed that "vessels whose Special Permits have been revoked and have paid the corresponding penalties may nonetheless apply for another permit so long as they are going to comply with the requirements of the relevant MARINA Circular."

This does not sound very reassuring.





23 FEB 2023

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## letters

### Environmental suicide

It would seem that, while we were quarantining and then busy looking for onions, some people have been very, very busy dredging and quarrying and filling in Manila Bay in relentless reclamation efforts.

The photos of the landscaped garden and pool area of the Philippine Plaza hotel now looking out onto a grayish mass of land posted in a viber group I belong to gave me a real shock. I even thought these could be fake photos until I Google'd it and found out that it's very real indeed. In the last few years we have lost quite a bit of our beloved bay.

It seems there are up to 25 reclamation projects in Manila Bay, from Navotas all the way to Cavite, seeking to

reclaim some 10,000 hectares. Actually, reclaim is the wrong term, since these projects are claiming, taking areas from the bay, and not re-claiming or seeking to recover what was previously lost.

Semantics aside, what are we doing? Grabbing land from the sea to do what? Build more casinos, hotels, condos, malls? How will all these projects – imagine, 25 of them! – impact the existing cities in terms of flooding, climate and the environment? Did the government – local and/or national – give permits for all these projects? This is not progress or development; this is greed and environmental suicide.

- BENJAMIN JOHN TAN, Parañaque City



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Wetter storms, deforestation: Manila faces worsening floods

By MIKHAIL FLORES

**B**ARAS, Philippines (AFP) – From her house in a Manila suburb, Rowena Jimenez can't see the bare mountains around the built-up city. But she feels the impact of deforestation every time her living room floods.

Slash-and-burn farming, illegal logging, open-pit mining and development fueled by population growth have stripped the once-densely forested Philippines of much of its trees.

In Manila, where more than 13 million people live, low-lying areas are often inundated when storms lash the Sierra Madre mountain range, which lies east of the city and acts as a barrier to severe weather.

But without enough trees to help absorb the rain, huge volumes of water run-off the slopes and into waterways that flow into the metropolis, turning neighborhoods into disease-infested swamps.

Jimenez, 49, has lost count of the number of times the Marikina River has broken its banks and flooded the ground floor of her family's two-bedroom concrete house, a few blocks from the water's edge.

"There is always fear that it will happen again," said Jimenez, who lives with her husband, youngest daughter, sister, nephew and mother.

"Your heart sinks because you realize the things you worked so hard to buy will be destroyed again."

Jimenez blames environmental "abuses" upstream in the nearby Upper Marikina River Basin – a catchment spanning roughly 26,000 hectares (64,500 acres) in the southern foothills of the Sierra Madre.

Only 2.1 percent of the watershed was covered by dense "closed forest" in 2015, according to a World Bank report.

Runoff from the mountains drains into the basin, which is critical for regulating water flow into Manila.

It was declared a "protected landscape" in 2011 by then president Benigno Aquino, under a law aimed at ensuring "biological diversity and sustainable development."

That was two years after Typhoon Ketsana, known in the Philippines as Tropical Storm Ondoy, had submerged 80 percent of the city and killed hundreds of people.

But by then, many of the trees in the catchment had been cleared to make way for public roads, parking lots, private resorts, and residential subdivisions.

Jimenez still shudders at the memory of the water reaching 23 feet (seven meters) high and forcing her family to huddle together on the roof of their house.

"We didn't salvage anything but ourselves," she said.

## Wetter storms

The combination of development in the catchment and wetter storms caused by climate change have exacerbated flooding in Manila, said Rex Cruz, a watershed management expert at the University of the Philippines.

"The surface of the Marikina watershed has been modified into something that is not able to absorb a lot of rain-

But there are disputes over whether the land should be conserved or developed.

Some people want to use it for quarrying, burning wood for charcoal, building resorts, or growing crops.

The Bureau of Corrections wants to put its headquarters there.

Masungi forest ranger Kuhkan Maas, 32, has been abused and even shot for trying to protect the land, where he has planted thousands of trees in the past decade.

He refuses to be intimidated.

"My dream is to see all the trees we planted flourish and to see the land that used to be barren become a lush forest,"



THE MASUNGI GEORESERVE Foundation has spent years trying to reforest about 3,000 hectares in the upper Marikina basin. (AFP)

water," he said. This also leads to water shortages in the dry season.

Cruz said the situation will worsen if "business as usual prevails" in the country, which is ranked among the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change.

Official data show "closed forest" cover in the archipelago – which has a total land area of 30 million hectares – declined from 2.56 million hectares in 2003 to 1.93 million in 2010.

It rose to 2.22 million hectares in 2020.

Protecting existing forests and replanting others are made difficult by corruption and sometimes violent conflict over land ownership and usage.

Watchdog Global Witness ranks the Philippines as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmentalists, with 19 killed in 2021 and 270 slain in the decade preceding it.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation has spent years trying to reforest about 3,000 hectares in the upper Marikina basin, which is less than 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Manila.

said Maas, still bearing the scar from where a bullet punctured his neck in 2021.

## 'Wicked problem'

Without a land use policy and integrated environmental laws to govern the competing uses of resources, it has been difficult to develop sustainably, said lawyer Tony La Vina, describing it as a "wicked problem."

Manila resident Jimenez said her family's house never flooded in the 1980s when she recalls the Marikina river being "pristine" and surrounded by farms, trees and a handful of families.

But as more and more land was developed for the growing population, their house began to flood in the following decade.

Since then, Jimenez said the family home is inundated once or twice a year, sometimes more.

The slightest drizzle sends her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease, into a panic.

"She'll pack things, put them in a plastic bag and nag us to start packing," said Jimenez.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Manila faces worsening floods

The Philippines is one of the countries most impacted by climate change. Places in the country that never saw typhoons now experience frequent storms and flooding. Where before it was mainly the northern island of Luzon that saw water-borne damage, today the islands of the Visayas and Mindanao are getting their fair share of calamities. **Turn to page A6**

Slash-and-burn farming, illegal logging, open-pit mining and development fueled by population growth have stripped the once densely forested Philippines of much of its trees.

Official data show "closed forest" cover in the archipelago — which has a total land area of 30 million hectares — declined from 2.56 million hectares in 2003 to 1.93 million in 2010. It rose to 2.22 million hectares in 2020.

Protecting existing forests and replanting others are made difficult by corruption and sometimes violent conflict over land ownership and usage.

Watchdog Global Witness ranks the Philippines as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmentalists, with 19 killed in 2021 and 270 slain in the decade preceding it.

## Masungi reforestation The Masungi Georeserve

Foundation has spent years trying to reforest about 3,000 hectares in the upper Marikina basin, which is less than 30 kilometers from Manila, the capital city.

But there are disputes over whether the land should be conserved or developed.

Some people want to use it for quarrying, burning wood for charcoal, building resorts, or growing crops. The Bureau of Corrections wants to put its headquarters there.

Masungi forest ranger Kuhkan Maas, 32, has been abused and even shot for trying to protect the land, where he has planted thousands of trees in the past decade. He refuses to be intimidated.

"My dream is to see all the trees we planted flourish and to see the land that used to be barren become a lush forest," said Maas, still bearing the scar from where a bullet punctured his neck in 2021.

In Manila, where more than 13 million people live, low-lying areas are often inundated when storms lash the Sierra Madre mountain range,

which lies east of the city and acts as a barrier to severe weather.

But without enough trees to help absorb the rain, huge volumes of water run off the slopes and into waterways that flow into the metropolis, turning neighborhoods into disease-infested swamps.

### 'Always the fear'

From her house in a Manila suburb, Rowena Jimenez can't see the bare mountains around the built-up city. But she feels the impact of deforestation every time her living room floods.

Jimenez, 49, has lost count of the number of times the Marikina river has broken its banks and flooded the ground floor of her family's two-bedroom concrete house, a few blocks from the water's edge.

"There is always the fear that it will happen again," said Jimenez, who lives with her husband, youngest daughter, sister, nephew, and mother. "Your heart sinks because you realize the things you worked so hard to buy will be destroyed again."

Jimenez blames environmental "abuses" upstream in the nearby Upper Marikina River Basin — a catchment spanning roughly 26,000 hectares in the southern foothills of the Sierra Madre.

Only 2.1 percent of the watershed was covered by dense "closed forest" in 2015, according to a World Bank report.

It was declared a "protected landscape" in 2011 by then President Benigno Aquino III, under a law aimed at ensuring "biological diversity and sustainable development."

That was two years after typhoon "Ondoy" (international name "Ketsana") submerged 80 percent of the city and killed hundreds of people.

But by then, many of the trees in the catchment had been cleared to make way for public roads, parking lots, private resorts and residential subdivisions.

Jimenez still shudders at the memory of the water reaching seven meters high and forcing her family to huddle together on the roof of their house.

"We didn't salvage anything but ourselves," she said.

### 'Wicked problem'

The combination of development in the catchment and wetter storms caused by climate change have exacerbated flooding in Manila, said Rex Cruz, a watershed management expert at the University of the Philippines.

"The surface of the Marikina watershed has been modified into something that is not able to absorb a lot of rainwater," he said. This also leads to water shortages in the dry season.

Cruz said the situation will worsen if "business as usual prevails" in the country, which is ranked among the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change.

Without a land use policy and integrated environment laws to govern the competing uses of resources, it has been difficult to develop sustainably, said lawyer Tony La Viña, describing it as a "wicked problem." **WITH AFP**





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

23 FEB 2023

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## 5 NABBED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN RIZAL

**By Hector Lawas**

**OPERATIVES** of the National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) arrested five people for alleged illegal dumping of solid waste materials in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Nabbed were Elmer Coniedo, Rhandolf Ric Razo, Rovegelio Ongoy Jr., Ricky Custodio, and Juana Neri.

The five were accused of indiscriminately disposing and dumping waste materials without regard for environmental and health standards.

Following an investigation, NBI-EnCD agents, along with personnel from the DENR-EMB Region 4-A, reportedly went to an open dumpsite where the suspects are believed to be employed.

The operation led to the arrest of the suspects in February 13. They were presented for inquest proceedings on the same day before the Office of Provincial Prosecutor, Taytay, Rizal for violation of Sections 48(9) and (13) of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



23 FEB 2023

REF:

PAGE

DATE

### 5 katao kulong sa pagtatapon ng solid waste material

**INARESTO** ang limang indibidwal ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) dahil sa illegal na pagtatapon ng solid waste material na nagdudulot ng panganib sa kalusugan.

Kasama ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) ang DENR-EMB Region IV-A nang personal na magtungo sa target open dump site na pinapatakbo ng MRF.

Nagresulta ng pagka-kaaresto sa limang indibidwal ang nasturang operasyon na sina Elmer R. Coniedo, Rhandolf Ric L. Lazo, Rovegelio E. Ongoy Jr., Ricky T. Custodio at Juana M. Neri.

Isinailalim ang nabanggit na mga indibidwal sa inquest proceedings sa Office of Provincial Prosecutor, Taytay, Rizal para sa paglabag sa Section 48(9) at (13) ng R.A. 9003 o "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000".  
(Jocelyn Domenden)



23 FEB 2023

DATE

THE:

PAGE

## 5 kalaboso sa pagtatapon ng basura

Inaresto ng National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) ang limang indibiduwal dahil sa ilegal na pagtatapon ng basura kamakailan sa Rodriguez, Rizal.

Kabilang sa mga inaresto sina Elmer Coniedo, Rhandolf Ric Razo, Rogelio Ongoy Jr., Ricky Custodio at Juana Neri.

Nabatid na ang mga

suspek ay inaresto dahil sa pagtatapon ng mga waste material nang hindi sumusunod sa environment at health standard.

Naganap umano ang pag-aresto sa mga suspek noong Pebrero 13 matapos na pumunta ang NBI-EnCD, kasama ang personnel sa DENR-EMB Region IV-A sa open dumpsite at dito naak-

tuhan ang mga suspek na nagtatapon ng waste materials na naging daan para sila arestuhin.

Sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa Sec (13) ng R.A. 9003 kilala bilang "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" sa Provincial Prosecutor Office ng Taytay, Rizal, ang mga suspek. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



23 FEB 2023

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

# LOPEZ CALLS FOR NATIONAL DECARBONIZATION BLUEPRINT

**By Jordeene B. Lagare**  
@jordeenelagare

It is about time for the government to establish a comprehensive national blueprint to decarbonize the Philippines, according to First Philippine Holdings Corp. chair and CEO Federico Lopez.

"We need a comprehensive, integrated and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan of our own, backed by constant feedback from what science is telling us," said Lopez in his speech during the 4th Philippine Environment Summit held in Tagaytay City.

Lopez pointed out that although the Philippines accounts for only 0.4 percent of

global emissions, the country is among the most vulnerable to climate change.

Currently, the country does not have a national decarbonization road map.

Lopez, also the chair and CEO of listed First Gen Corp., expressed hope this was something that the government would work on and adopt in the future.

In an interview with the press, he said crafting a master plan to solve climate change would cover several facets, including agriculture and energy.

"That one is mixed. You're looking [at several factors] because there are so many aspects there," said Lopez, when asked if decarbonization plan should

be integrated in the energy transition plan.

"Decarbonization has many aspects, not just energy but also agriculture, waste, food ... That one crosses many. That's decarbonization but then, the other is adaptation that involves many, from Climate Change Commission to DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) because adaptation is you have to know what's coming, the kind of climate impacts," he explained.

Lopez also said the Philippines should also look into decommissioning fossil fuel-powered power plants—first, the coal-fired power plants that still dominate the Phil-

ippine energy mix and then oil and natural gas plants—as it continues to inject more clean energy and storage into the power grid.

"For the latter, they can either be repowered with green fuels like hydrogen as they become feasible in the coming decade or outrightly decommissioned before 2050, similar to the process done for the coal plants earlier," he said.

Further, Lopez noted that international funding for the early retirement of fossil fuel plants was increasingly becoming more available.

"Decarbonizing and scaling up a green electricity grid over the next three decades is probably the greatest energy transition in the history of mankind," he added. INC



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

## ICCP Group and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines join hands for inclusive environmental protection

The ICCP Group, through its social development arm, the ICCP Group Foundation, Inc. (IGFI), and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc. (CCFPI), have collaborated on a Community Solid Waste Management Project to strengthen community members' capacity and competence in the arena of inclusive and long-term environmental protection.

This joint project of IGFI and CCFPI aims to improve community members' environmental knowledge and skills, allowing them to be advocates and effective partners of local government in community development.

In coordination with local government units, this project will encourage community participation in environmental protection by providing capacity building through solid waste management training and orientation and establishing "Bantay-Kaagapay Advocates". These advocates will take part in solid waste management initiatives as environment stewards for the community.

The project will benefit community members from 16 different urban areas of Sto. Tomas and Malvar in Batangas; City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu; and the City of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental.

At least 510 community members will form the "Bantay-Kaagapay" Group, which will receive training and workshops from project management and environmental experts invited as resource persons to provide necessary knowledge, appropriate skills, and proper attitudes and values on waste management.

Following the completion of the training



program, Bantay Kaagapay advocates will conduct house-to-house campaigns on proper waste segregation, the 4Rs of environmental protection (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse), and other environmental issues. Bantay Kaagapay advocates will also work with their respective local government units to adopt its waste management agenda.

"The key to the project's success is the involvement of key stakeholders and having policies that will be included in the budget and programs of local governments," said the ICCP Group.

The project intends to assist in the development of local legislation governing people's participation in proper waste management within the context of inclusive environmental protection, such as a barangay resolution formulated and enacted by the barangay council recognizing the Bantay Kaagapay's role and agenda in environmental protection.

This Community Solid Waste Management Project will run until October 2023.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Marubeni: A Century of Strong Partnership with the Philippines

For more than 100 years, Marubeni has been walking hand-in-hand with the country's development through infrastructure, IT, business and agri-related businesses and other basic industries.

Through its extensive global network of human, financial, and technological resources, this *sōgō shōsha* (general trading company) provides exceptional service to its clients in various industries, including domestic and international trade, project management, risk management, finance, logistics, joint ventures, and investments.

And in the face of an ever-changing economy, Marubeni is committed to promoting infrastructure projects, expanding trade activities, and introducing innovative solutions to drive progress and create a brighter future.

### HOW IT ALL STARTED

Marubeni Philippines Corporation, a key company in Marubeni's global network, has been operating in the Philippines since 1909. It began by exporting abaca fiber and importing Japanese textiles, gradually evolving its business to meet the country's ever-changing needs.

Marubeni played a crucial role in the development of the country's sugar industry, introduced modern power plant equipment, and helped build the first copper smelting plant in Southeast Asia. It also established the local Nissan assembly plant and introduced the iconic "Love Bus" through Pilipinas Hino Inc.

### THE 'POWER' TO SERVE

In the '90s power crisis, Marubeni responded swiftly by building the 600MW Limay Power Plant in two years and four months under the government's Fast Track Energy Program, addressing 60 percent of the country's power shortage. Marubeni also led the construction of the 435MW San Roque dam in Pangasinan in 1998, providing continuous electricity to the region. The Mt. Apo Geothermal Power Plants in Mindanao were also built by Marubeni and transferred to the Energy Development Corporation.

In 2006, Marubeni and JERA won the bid for Mirant Corporation's assets in the Philippines. Today, they manage the 1,218 MW coal-fired Sual Power Station in Pangasinan, the 735 MW coal-fired Pagbilao Power Station in Quezon, and the 420 MW coal-fired Pagbilao Unit 3, in partnership with Therma Power Inc. of Aboitiz Power Corporation under Team Energy Corporation. It has partnered with AC

Energy in operating the 150 MW diesel-fired power plant in Pila, Rizal, to boost the power reserves in the Luzon grid.

Marubeni is a key contractor for mass railway projects in the Philippines. It modernized the LRT Line 1 fleet in 1998 and led the construction of the civil and electro-mechanical structures for the LRT Line 2 in 2004. In 2021, it completed the LRT Line 2 East Extension Project, adding two stations.

Marubeni acquired a 20 percent stake in Maynilad Water Services, Inc. to enter the water utility sector and provide clean water to households in the west zone of the metropolis. Its subsidiary, Maxima Machineries Inc., supplies Komatsu heavy equipment to mining and construction companies supported by SBM Leasing, Inc. in heavy equipment leasing. Hino Motors Philippines Corporation, a joint venture company, assembles and distributes heavy duty trucks and buses.

### 'FAIRNESS, INNOVATION AND HARMONY'

Marubeni has expanded its exposure to trade in food, feed grains, chemicals, petroleum products, non-ferrous metals, automobile parts, and industrial machinery. It aims to increase trade in consumer products such as pulp, paper, synthetic rubber, and medical supplies. It partnered with LSI Medience Corporation and Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. to form the first centralized clinical laboratory testing service for hospitals in the Philippines.

The company is also pursuing opportunities in smart technology, digital transformation, healthcare, fintech, and decarbonization efforts, responding to changing consumer demands and the pressing issue of climate change.

Marubeni envisions to supply electricity to New Clark City through a smart meter system. MarCoPay provides financial stability for seafarers through its e-wallet, while AND Financing Corp. operates the TOMO micro-lending app based on successful AI technology. Marubeni partners with DENR, Dacon Corp., and UP College of Forestry to develop a reforestation-based carbon credit program in the Philippines.

Marubeni upholds its company creed of "fairness, innovation and harmony" by conducting responsible corporate activities that promote social and economic development and protect the environment.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
 8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

6  
 PAGE  
 OFFER  
 STORY  
 BANNER  
 EDITORIAL  
 CARTOON

23 FEB 2023  
 DATE



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
 8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

HOMEMARK, INC., Applicant. Case No. 23-3527

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Greensite Homes Subdivision, Barangay Molino II, Bacoor City, province of Cavite, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m <sup>3</sup> (min)	6-10 m <sup>3</sup>	11-20 m <sup>3</sup>	21-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-40 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 40 m <sup>3</sup>
1/2"	₱ 199.00	44.80	49.60	50.80	54.20	57.70

Commercial and Industrial					
Pipe Size	0-15 m <sup>3</sup> (min.)	16-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-500 m <sup>3</sup>	501-1000 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 1000 m <sup>3</sup>
1/2"	₱ 1,153.50	96.10	115.40	115.40	115.40

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **13 March 2023**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing**, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

By Authority of the Board:

**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**  
 Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
 Sangguniang Panlungsod  
 Bacoor City, Cavite

The Barangay Chairman  
 Barangay Molino II  
 Bacoor City, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President  
 Greensite Homes Subdivision  
 Barangay Molino II, Bacoor City  
 Cavite

The Administrator  
 Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
 MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
 Balara, Quezon City



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
 8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

HOMEMARK, INC., Applicant. Case No. 23-3538

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Greengate Homes Phases 1, 2 and Extension, Greenmark Homes, Greenplace 1, 2 and 3, Greenplace Annex A and B Subdivisions, Barangay Malagasang II-A, II-B and I-G, Imus City, province of Cavite, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience.

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on **13 March 2023**, hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing**, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any affected party to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

By Authority of the Board:

**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR. CESO III**  
 Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
 Sangguniang Panlungsod  
 Imus City, Cavite

The Barangay Chairman  
 Barangay Malagasang II-A, II-B & I-G  
 Imus City, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President  
 Greengate Homes Phases 1, 2 & Extension  
 Greenmark Homes, Greenplace 1, 2 & 3  
 Greenplace Annex A & B Subdivisions  
 Barangay Malagasang II-A, II-B & I-G  
 Imus City, Cavite

The Administrator  
 Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
 MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
 Balara, Quezon City