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DENR

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Greening project at UMRBPL to ensure water supply for 500,000 households—DENR chief

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

OVER 500,000 households will benefit from a massive reforestation activity to be jointly implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo Inc. (WJI) at the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-

Loyzaga said.

"This particular endeavor will actually ensure that we will be supplying over 500,000 households in the East soon, and we're very grateful that some of our work in terms of keeping our forest whole in generating blue forest will be part of the work of this group as well," Loyzaga said in a statement.

The country's chief steward of the environment and natural resources has committed to the reforestation

of a 1,800-hectare area in the UMRBPL during the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo Inc. (WJI) Chairman Enrique K. Razon Jr., February 20, in Makati City.

The partnership aims to integrate water security, watershed protection, and forest carbon and biodiversity management in the area.

UMRBPL is a 26,126-hectare basin that was declared a protected area in 2018. It straddles territories belonging to the city of Antipolo, and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, all in Rizal province.

The basin plays a vital role in regulating the flow of water toward the highly urbanized National Capital Region and provides ecosystem services such as protection from floods and landslides.

Under the MOU, both parties will conduct joint site assessments, surveys, mapping, and planning activities in line with the mandate of the DENR, and Prime Infra's Environmental, Social, and Governance framework that integrates sustainability thinking in resource management and decarbonization strategies.

The DENR, in its mission to integrate strategies for science-based,

risk-informed, ethical, and equitable stewardship of the country's environment, has agreed to design, develop, and establish afforestation, reforestation, and revegetation programs within UMRBPL based on internationally accepted voluntary carbon standards.

WJI, in turn, supports this by handling activities based on science-based interventions that complement the National Climate Change Action Plan and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the national government.

The partnership also affirms the commitment of DENR and WJI to exert only the best practices in stakeholder consultations with the involvement of the local community and indigenous peoples.

"This MOU for environmental stewardship between government and the private sector reflects the commitment of both parties to develop and implement science-based strategies in support of sustainable development," said Razon Jr.

WJI is the developer and operator of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project in Rizal province designed to deliver reliable water supply of at least 518 million liters per day to Manila Water and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.



DENR registers over 500 companies seeking to comply with EPR law

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Thursday that more than 500 companies have registered to comply with Republic Act 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, which holds companies responsible for managing the impact of their product packaging over their full life cycle.

"Since we launched the EPR program, more than 500 private companies have registered. We also hope to simplify the entire process. I'm hopeful with the EPR program, having heard the willingness of the private sector to be part of the program," Environment Undersecretary Carlos Primo C. David said during a Stratbase ADR Institute briefing.

"After we collect all the plastics collected by the producers themselves, what do we do with it? Maybe one alternative, beyond recycling, is waste-to-energy," he said.

According to Mr. David, among the projects being proposed to the DENR are reclamation, offshore wind power, offshore quarrying, and waste-to-energy projects.

Apart from reclamation, he noted that the rest are new .so there is a need to develop systems for project evaluation and monitoring once they are in operation.

Environment Management Bureau Director Gilbert C. Gonzales noted that the "linear" approach of waste management must shift to a "circular economy" model, which minimizes waste and incentivizes recycling.

Climate Reality Project Philippine Branch Manager Nazrin D. Castro said that shifting to the circular economy model "can help avoid excessive consumption, waste, and use of fossil fuels by using, reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products."

According to a survey conducted by Pulse Asia, 8 out of 10 Filipinos expressed a preference for products and services produced by firms that they believed to be environmentally responsible.

"Given this message, there is at least one challenge and this is for firms to satisfy this preference by providing products and services within the reach of consumers," Pulse Asia President Ronald D. Holmes said.

— **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



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NEDA proposes P15-T projects for Marcos OK

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Infrastructure Committee is looking at P15 trillion worth of projects to be proposed to President Marcos for implementation in the medium term.

During the Makati Business Club's F2F with Cabinet Secretaries event yesterday, NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the NEDA Infrastructure Committee will meet today to finalize the list of projects to be recommended to the NEDA Board chaired by the President on March 9.

"That list is quite a big number of projects. Indicatively, we are talking about 3,700 projects worth P15 trillion in the medium term," he told reporters.

He said these projects are being proposed to be part of the Public Investment Program, which lists the government's priority projects.

Of the 3,700, he said 98 are public-private partnership (PPP) projects in the pipeline worth P3.044 trillion.

The bulk or 45 of the PPP projects in the pipeline are on transport, 14 are roads, 11 on property development, eight on water and sanitation, six on health, five on information and communications technology, three on tourism, three on solid waste management and three on energy.

Balisacan said the list includes projects that have been prepared under previous administrations and those returned to proponents.

"Hopefully, the Cabinet, the President will approve that. We have identified what are likely PPP, but we are open to accommodating any of those as candidates for PPP," he said.

From the list that would be approved by the President, he said the government would be coming up with a shorter list of flagship projects.

"This is what we will really focus on. It has to be very

consistent, relevant to the PDP (Philippine Development Plan). Those are the ones that will address constraints to growth and employment generation as identified in the PDP," he said.

He also said that not all projects to be approved would be implemented immediately.

"Some of them will spill into the next administration. We don't know yet what those ones are. But since they will be developed over time, not all those projects will be implemented right away," he said.

He said tapping the private sector for infrastructure development is the way to go given the government's limited resources.

"The fiscal space is very narrow because a lot of the responses to the pandemic have raised the level of debt

high, and while some say that we have enough space, personally, I don't think so. Unfortunately, we are a country which does not have a good history of sustained economic development," he said.

While the government has al-

ready amended the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law implementing rules and regulations to make PPPs more attractive for the private sector by addressing the concerns raised on the financial viability and bankability of the projects, he said much more need to be done.

NEDA is also pushing for the amendment of the BOT law.

"That will improve the governance of PPP, removing the obstacles, the challenges in PPP, clarifying rules of the game," Balisacan said.



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Lawmaker backs foreign media ownership under Cha-cha

An ally of President Marcos in the House of Representatives has expressed support for amending the 1987 Constitution, which he said should include "foreign investments in mass media" as long as management is left

"exclusively" to Filipinos.

At present, Article XVI Section 11 of the Constitution provides: "The ownership and management of mass media shall be limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations,

cooperatives or associations, wholly owned and managed by such citizens."

But Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr. of Pampanga wants this provision to be "rewritten" to make media ownership limited to Filipinos with at least 60

percent share, and that management should be left to their expertise.

"This amendment means that mass media will remain to be majority-owned and controlled and run

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Lawmaker From Page 1

exclusively by Filipinos, with foreign ownership to be limited to 40 percent," explained Gonzales, whose proposals are contained in a memorandum submitted to the House committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez.

One of his other proposals is to allow foreigners and foreign corporations, associations and entities to own land not exceeding five hectares, provided they use it for manufacturing or trading activities.

Also, he proposes to leave to Congress the discretion on relaxing the present 40-percent foreign participation limit on the exploitation of the country's natural resources by inserting the phrase, "or as may be provided by law" in Article XII Section 2.

Gonzales is also suggesting that Congress be allowed to create autonomous regions in other parts of the country by amending Article X Section 15 on Local Government, which provides that such regions be established in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras.

He said the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's development - 7.5-percent economic growth - shows that "additional autonomous regions could be created as this could be of great help in the country's economic expansion."



EDITORIAL

BuCor's whimsical move

Why are environmental groups up in arms over the Bureau of Corrections' (BuCor) proposed plan to relocate its offices, administrative facilities, and staff housing to a portion of the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal? Are they just being "alarmist," as Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla has described them?

At first glance, the plan seems aboveboard and reasonable enough. After all, the site being eyed is government-owned land and was awarded to the bureau through a 2006 proclamation of then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. There also seems to be ample space in this 1,600-hectare conservation area, some 47 kilometers east of Manila, for the 270-ha intended site of the BuCor headquarters. Currently, BuCor is sitting on 254.73 ha of the 551-ha New Bilibid Prison (NBP) compound in Muntinlupa City.

BuCor acting chief Gregorio Catapang Jr. said the proposal to relocate to Rizal province was part of the agency's five-year development plan approved in line with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 of President Marcos Jr. A separate NBP Master Development Plan based on Arroyo's 2006 proclamation would meanwhile convert the remaining 366.7 ha of the NBP reservation into a mixed-use complex that would generate funds for the national government, he added.

Addressing fears that relocating prison facilities in this protected area could present security problems for nearby residential communities, Catapang said that only the BuCor offices and not the penitentiary building would be transferred.

Despite the reassurances and clarifications, a general sense of unease and disbelief continues to cast doubts on the soundness of the BuCor plan and the integrity of its intention. Why, for one, would the agency need an onsite agro-production area supposedly to sustain their "basic institutional food requirements" if only the BuCor staff would be transferred from Muntinlupa? And who would tend the agro fields if prison inmates are not part of the relocation, as Catapang consistently claims? There were also no details about how many housing units will be built for the BuCor personnel, and how living there would impact the fragile environment.

That NBP facilities would most likely be relocated to the site can be gleaned as well from Remulla's defense of the proposed transfer, saying it was in line with the justice department's plan to build regional prison facilities to decongest its Muntinlupa facilities. The choice of location was within the agency's mandate to improve the country's penal management system, he stressed.

While a trustee of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc., the government-designated caretaker of the geopark since 2017, has brought up the site's mountainous terrain as being unsuitable for the construction of BuCor housing and offices, the more critical issue on the relocation plan is its impact on the environment. Masungi Georeserve was declared a protected area in 2011 by then President Benigno Aquino III.

Ironically, the BuCor's proposed move was announced just days after a coalition of environmental groups scored a "major victory" when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last week ordered the cancellation of the quarrying permits of three companies within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Masungi Geopark Project.

In a statement, the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition described the protected area as being home to a diverse population of flora and fauna, and as the ancestral land of the indigenous Dumagat-Remontado community. It added that the DENR action would not only preserve their cultural heritage, but was also a significant step toward the conservation and protection of the ecological services and natural resources of the Upper Marikina watershed. Together with the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, it is instrumental in "regulating the flow of water" toward Metro Manila, the group said. "We stand to lose a geological heritage," added Masungi Foundation trustee Ann Dumaliang of the georeserve that straddles the rocky spine of the southern Sierra Madre mountain range.

Alas, the construction of BuCor housing, offices, and possibly penal facilities on this protected area—with trees cut, ground soil excavated and loosened, and the natural habitat of birds and forest animals destroyed—has undermined the DENR's protective stance.

It also gives the lie to Remulla's and Catapang's claims of being "pro-environment," as they would rather destroy a national park and geological treasure than find an alternative site for its offices and staff housing. It behooves the DENR to make a stand on this whimsical move in order to protect a vital ecosystem. If they really care for the environment, just how hard would it be for the BuCor and the Department of Justice to secure other, less fragile, government lands for mere administrative quarters?



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Basilan solon eyes ecotourism site

BY EDJEN OLIQUINO
[@tribunephil_eao](#)

Basilan lawmaker Mujiv Hataman is moving to transform his province's Lampinigan Island into an ecotourism zone to boost the local economy and tourism industry.

Lampinigan Island is within Isabela's jurisdiction, the province's central city.

"Many of our communities live on tourism in these two islands. And because of the peace that the citizens of Basilan worked together to achieve, more and more tourists

are coming to Malamawi and Lampinigan," Hataman said.

Should his bill be passed into law, the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies will be mandated to prioritize the protection and development of Lampinigan Island.

Hataman's House Bill 6293 or the "Malamawi Ecotourism Zone Act" which seeks to declare another of Basilan's hidden gems as an ecotourism zone has hurdled the House plenary.



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Solon wants 'Boracay of Basilan' declared ecotourism zone

By Jester Manalastas

A LAWMAKER filed a measure in the House of Representatives that seeks to declare Basilan's white sand beaches as ecotourism zone.

In filing House Bill 7159, Deputy Minority Leader and Basilan Rep. Mujiv Hataman said Lampinigan Island could help fast-track the development in the area and boost the province's tourism industry.

Lampinigan Island is one of the jewels of Basilan tucked within the jurisdiction of the province's capital city of Isabela, with long shorelines of fine white beaches.

The island is a premier tourism spot in Isabela

City that is being frequented by thousands of visitors both foreign and local every year. As far as white beaches go, Lampinigan Island is said to be one of the best white beaches in the country, at par with more popular ones such as Boracay Island.

Hataman said tourism is one of the main sources of livelihood of people in Basilan and the province has so many tourist spots that need government help for their development.

The former governor of the now-defunct ARMM has earlier filed HB 6293 or the "Malamawi Ecotourism

Zone Act," to declare another one of Basilan's hidden gems also as an ecotourism zone to achieve its promise as the next must-see tourist destination in the Philippines.

The bill has already been approved on final reading in the House of Representatives.

"Maraming komunidad sa amin ang nabubuhay sa turismo sa dalawang islang ito. At dahil sa kapayapaang pinagtulangang maabot ng mga mamamayan sa Basilan, parami nang parami ang dumadating na turista sa Malamawi at Lampinigan," Hata-

man said.

"And as the number of tourists grows, we must prepare the infrastructure in these islands to accommodate the influx of visitors, and at the same time protect the pristine conditions of Lampinigan and Malamawi islands," he added.

If passed into law, the measure mandates the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other concerned government agencies to prioritize the protection and development of Lampinigan Island.

It also provides that the

development plan ensures the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the locality.

The measure also calls for the establishment of a Lampinigan Ecotourism Board to be chaired by the mayor of Isabela and will have officials from the DOT and DENR as co-vice chairpersons.

Other members of the board include the representative of the lone district of Basilan, the city Tourism officer and Natural Resources officer, and representatives from NGOs.



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PHL to take part in ASEAN river management project

AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL organization recently launched a project in Manila aimed at reducing water pollution and restoring rivers in southeast Asia, especially those where major urban centers have been built alongside.

The Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) project was launched in Manila on Feb. 16 "to develop practical and innovative ways for communities, industries and governments to work together to revitalize Southeast Asia's rivers," the Partnerships in Environmental Management

for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) said in a statement.

Inthavy Akkharath, chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) working group on water resources management, said the IRBM will integrate knowledge about the connections between rivers and seas.

"Best practices and pitfalls shall be shared for other rivers to emulate and avoid.

"Philippine Environment Undersecretary Carlos Primo C. David, for his part, said that "effective governance will allow us to continue to utilize the water and

other ecosystem services that river basins provide despite the threats of extreme events and climate change.

"The project is supported by the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme or UNDP.

— Patricia B. Mirasol

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link < bit.ly/BWTheNation >



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Enforce cease mining order, LGUs told

BY GILBERT GORGONIO JR.

GENERAL SANTOS CITY — The Mines and Geoscience Bureau Regional Office 12 has asked all local government units in the region to implement the cease and desist order against all forms of illegal mining activities in their localities.

The MGB-12's call follows its discovery and confiscation of illegally processed gold ores and other mineral products

along with illegal processing equipment at a small-scale mining plant in Barangay Poblacion 3, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat.

MGB-12 recovered 10 kilograms of gold ores and ore concentrates together with mineral processing equipment and tools such as ball mills, metallic rods, rubber belts, belt liners, wheel, modified sieves, among others.

According to the MGB-12, the town of Lebak has no declared Peoples'

Small-Scale Mining Area/*Minahang Bayan* nor any small-scale mining contract or Mineral Processor's License.

MGB-12 also warned of potential hazards posed by illegal mining activities especially the use of the sluice mining method that is being considered as one of the most dangerous way of extracting minerals using pressurized water. One of the results of this kind of method is landslides and flooding in lowland areas.



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MGB affirms GFNI unit's right to mine in Brooke's Point

By Jenniffer B. Austria

NICKEL miner Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. said Thursday the Mines and Geosciences Bureau affirmed unit Ipilan Nickel Corp.'s exclusive right to conduct mining operations in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

The MGB declared that the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement between the government and INC covering 2,835 hectares of land in Brooke's Point remained valid until April 2025, GFNI said in a stock exchange filing.

GFNI said Engr. Glen Marcelo Noble, regional director of MGB-MI-MAROPA Region, issued the clarification in a letter dated Feb. 21, 2023

to Brooke's Point vice-mayor Mary Jean Feliciano in response to a resolution by the Sangguniang Bayan seeking to halt INC's mining operations in the area.

Residents of Brooke's Point early this week set up human barricade to prevent INC from further conducting mining activities in the property. The resolution aimed to investigate the operations of INC following questions on the alleged renewal of its MPSA in 2018. IPC was also operating without a mayor's permit in 2023.

Noble said, however, the MPSA did not expire on Aug. 5, 2018. MPSA No. 017-93-IV was amended on April 10, 2000 to conform to RA7942, otherwise

known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, he said.

GFNI said INC was in the process of securing a mayor's permit for mining operations for 2023.

"We are awaiting the renewal of our mayor's permit as we have already submitted the necessary documents and complied with all laws and regulations," said IPC resident mine manager Alex Arabis.

INC employs over 1,500 workers, 90 percent of whom are residents and indigenous peoples of Brooke's Point.

INC said it spent close to P53.3 million to fund various projects to improve the quality of life in Brooke's Point and nearby areas.



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Reforestation of upper Marikina River basin underway

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has committed to the reforestation program of 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) which is seen to ensure supply of water to over 500,000 households in the East.

Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Prime Infra-led WawaJCo Inc. (WJI) Chairman Enrique Razon,

for the water security, watershed protection and forest carbon and biodiversity management in the area.

UMRBPL is a 26,126-hectare basin that was declared a protected area in 2018. It covers the city of Antipolo and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay.

"This particular endeavor will actually ensure that we will be supplying for over 500,000 households in the East soon, and we're very grateful that some of our

work in terms of keeping our forest whole in generating blue forest will be part of the work of this group as well," Loyzaga said.

Under the MOU, both parties will conduct joint site assessments, survey, mapping and planning activities in line with the mandate of the DENR, and Prime Infra's Environmental, Social, and Governance framework that integrates sustainability thinking in resource management and decarbonisation strategies. **Joel dela Torre**



Wetlands shield vs disaster, climate change effects

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

WETLANDS such as mangrove swamp forests are critical as they serve as a barrier and the first line of defense of the communities against natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

This was stressed by Marcial Amaro, Jr., assistant secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) was recog-

nized as "Wetland of International Importance" during the recent celebration of the World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2023.

"The wetlands of Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape or SIPLAS serve as a testament to these ecological functions during the height of typhoon Odette. If not for these mangrove forests, the damage to the communities of SIPLAS could have been worse, and more people could have suffered. This testament is one of the many reasons we should protect our wetlands from further degradation," Amaro said.

The DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau

(BMB) led the national celebration of WWD 2023 with the theme "It's Time for Wetland Restoration."

The Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte local government unit hosted the event.

The celebration showcased the ecological benefits of a restored wetland and the restoration efforts in the Del Carmen mangroves, reaping the fruits of wetland conservation, protection, and restoration work with increased fishery resources, alternative livelihood from tourism, and increased protection from storm surge, especially during the onslaught of typhoon "Odette" in December 2021.



EDITORIAL

Domestic mineral processing

IF THE the Department of Trade and Industry had its way, the government should stop the direct sale abroad of our mineral ores and instead encourage investments in minerals processing in the country.

This is a step in the right direction, since mineral ores such as nickel and copper are depletable resources.

The DTI wants to encourage new entrants if they will invest in processing of the ore into high value-added products.

In other words, we have to move up the value chain.

As a case in point, the agency wants to convince Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd., which already has operations in the country, to pursue higher value processing of ore in the Philippines.

The Japanese firm has two subsidiaries in the country, namely the Coral Bay Nickel Corp., operating in Palawan, and the Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp., operating in Surigao del Norte.

“The DTI’s green metals initiative is anchored on the need for an immediate global transition to clean-energy technologies”

What’s important is that there should be an environmentally friendly way of processing nickel ore in mining areas, and to migrate the processing to even higher value-added stages of the production chain to include, for instance, the manufacture of lithium ion batteries.

DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual favors the policy shift.

He believes mineral processing is crucial, given our resources of green metals such as nickel, copper and cobalt.

These minerals can be used for downstream industries, such as electric vehicles battery manufacturing, hyperscaler data centers and renewable energy projects.

What is happening at present is that the country is an exporter of raw materials. The ideal situation,

however, is for us to process and produce semi-finished and finished products.

The proposed shift toward mineral processing falls under the industrial, manufacturing and transport cluster.

Across these IMT subsectors, the common denominator is electronics and electrical parts that are now part of the global value chains.

The IMT sector also includes industries such as aerospace, electric vehicles, advanced electronics chips and products, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing technologies.

The DTI is also encouraging more investments in electric vehicles as part of its green metals initiative.

To join the EV or electric vehicle global value chain, it wants to invite investments in relevant technologies, such as producing and developing pollution reduction and green vehicles, IT in vehicles, and precision metal components of electric vehicles.

Recent visits of the Chief Executive to other countries, such as Japan, underscore this.

The DTI’s green metals initiative is anchored on the need for an immediate global transition to clean-energy technologies.

The Philippines is fortunate in having a rich lode of green metals.

We have an estimated two billion metric tons of nickel reserves, 1.1 billion metric tons of copper and 260,000 metric tons of cobalt.

If we can process these instead of exporting them in raw form, then we sustain economic growth, reduce poverty levels and improve the quality of life of Filipinos.



MGB clears Palawan mining firm's operations

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) yesterday said the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) between the government and Ipilan Nickel Corp. (INC) remains in force and valid until April 10, 2025 despite protests from locals on the company's operations in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

Residents said the company has been operating without a mayor's permit.

MGB said a valid MPSA allows INC to maintain its exclusive right to conduct responsible mining operations in the area covering 2,835 hectares with 260 hectares partially

declared as a mining area.

INC said Glen Marcelo Noble, regional director of MGB in Mindanao, explained this in a letter dated Feb. 21, 2023 to Brooke's Point Vice Mayor Mary Jean Feliciano in response to a resolution by the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) of the municipality.

The resolution of SB sought to investigate the operations of INC following claims the alleged renewal of its MPSA in 2018 was without the endorsement of the municipality of Brooke's Point and that it is operating without a certificate of precondition (CP)

from the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) clearance.

Noble said INC does not need to secure a CP as the company is not covered by this requirement.

INC said it has concluded the process of securing a CP in preparation for the renewal of its MPSA in 2025. It added during a series of community consultations last June to August 2022 about 3,739 indigenous peoples (IPs) from barangays Aribungos and Calasaguen voted in favor of the company's operations against 614 dissenters

from barangay Aribungos.

IPs from Barangays Barong-Barong, Ipilan, Mambalot and Maasin then conceded in favor of INC, the company said.

INC said MGB stated there is no need for a PAMB clearance as the MPSA predates the proposed final boundary of the Mt. Mantalingahan protected landscape.

Alex Arabis, resident mine manager of INC, said they are still awaiting for the renewal of their mayor's permit following submission of all documents and compliance to all laws and regulations. - *Jed Macapagal*



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOLOGICAL BUREAU RD V
DEPT ANEX BLDG, REGIONAL CENTER, RAJAS, LEGASPI CITY
Cebu Province, Philippines 6110
Telephone No. (052) 421-1500 Fax no. (052) 421-1188



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

FILMINERA RESOURCES CORPORATION

FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, Series of 2010, Providing for a consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order for the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995", Filminera Resources Corporation with office address at 3F Corinthian Plaza Building, 121 Paseo de Roma, Legaspi Village, Alabang City, Philippines, has filed an application for Exploration Permit for the exploration of Gold and other associated valuable minerals and particularly described as follows:

- I - Registration No. : SXP/A-000187-V
 II - Date of Registration : September 23, 2010
 III - Area Location :
 Barangays of : Baga-uma, Tinago, Jaboyson, Bengon, Syndicate, Pinaragan, and Batele
 Municipality of : Aroroy
 Barangays of : Cagpandan, Benesse, Legta, Batale, Caraga, Gargano, Eastern Cagayan, Gabi, Lahong Interior, Dpool, and Baso
 Municipality of : Baleno
 Province of : Masbate
 Island of : Masbate

IV - Technical Description of the Area:

LOT-1

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	12° 28' 42.808"	123° 24' 18.500"
2	12° 28' 48.582"	123° 24' 21.782"
3	12° 28' 55.187"	123° 24' 25.891"
4	12° 28' 57.781"	123° 24' 30.000"

LOT-1

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
5	12° 28' 08.568"	123° 24' 28.457"
6	12° 28' 09.028"	123° 24' 34.088"
7	12° 28' 08.457"	123° 24' 38.881"
8	12° 28' 02.408"	123° 24' 41.888"
9	12° 28' 38.208"	123° 24' 01.871"
10	12° 28' 48.558"	123° 24' 18.418"
11	12° 28' 28.410"	123° 24' 28.888"
12	12° 28' 37.758"	123° 24' 48.377"
13	12° 28' 48.328"	123° 24' 41.822"
14	12° 28' 58.874"	123° 24' 58.070"
15	12° 28' 38.220"	123° 24' 48.860"
16	12° 30' 08.147"	123° 24' 40.888"
17	12° 30' 51.010"	123° 24' 17.057"
18	12° 30' 58.947"	123° 24' 21.418"
19	12° 31' 01.820"	123° 24' 18.883"
20	12° 31' 08.899"	123° 24' 25.750"
21	12° 30' 57.831"	123° 24' 34.750"
22	12° 30' 52.881"	123° 24' 41.038"
23	12° 30' 58.840"	123° 24' 48.702"
24	12° 31' 10.883"	123° 24' 52.970"
25	12° 31' 18.884"	123° 25' 06.283"
26	12° 30' 58.578"	123° 25' 08.112"
27	12° 30' 48.478"	123° 25' 23.248"
28	12° 31' 02.777"	123° 25' 27.721"
29	12° 31' 05.884"	123° 25' 48.900"
30	12° 31' 00.000"	123° 25' 00.000"
31	12° 30' 30.000"	123° 25' 00.000"
32	12° 30' 30.000"	123° 25' 00.000"
33	12° 28' 40.230"	123° 25' 00.000"
34	12° 28' 41.828"	123° 24' 57.883"
35	12° 28' 48.817"	123° 24' 46.088"
36	12° 28' 48.832"	123° 24' 43.578"
37	12° 28' 58.421"	123° 24' 38.478"
38	12° 28' 43.711"	123° 24' 31.970"
39	12° 28' 38.770"	123° 24' 30.000"
40	12° 28' 34.802"	123° 24' 28.418"
41	12° 28' 34.803"	123° 24' 19.883"
42	12° 28' 38.617"	123° 24' 21.975"

LOT-2

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	12° 27' 46.884"	123° 27' 01.891"
2	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 02.174"
3	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 00.000"
4	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 00.000"
5	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 02.430"
6	12° 27' 18.082"	123° 27' 28.900"
7	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 28.900"
8	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 18.948"
9	12° 27' 30.000"	123° 27' 00.000"
10	12° 27' 17.887"	123° 27' 00.000"
11	12° 27' 18.815"	123° 27' 14.370"

LOT-2

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
12	12° 27' 04.428"	123° 28' 28.333"
13	12° 27' 00.000"	123° 28' 24.380"
14	12° 27' 00.000"	123° 28' 30.000"
15	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 28' 30.000"
16	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 28' 58.842"
17	12° 28' 35.070"	123° 28' 57.584"
18	12° 28' 45.187"	123° 29' 18.910"
19	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 29' 21.588"
20	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 29' 30.000"
21	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 29' 30.000"
22	12° 28' 30.000"	123° 29' 00.000"
23	12° 24' 30.000"	123° 28' 00.000"
24	12° 24' 30.000"	123° 28' 30.000"
25	12° 24' 00.000"	123° 28' 30.000"
26	12° 24' 00.000"	123° 27' 30.000"
27	12° 23' 35.000"	123° 27' 10.001"
28	12° 23' 38.854"	123° 27' 05.870"

- * Easements.**
- The proposed Contract/Permit Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications") and Section 18 ("Ancestral Lands), of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Series of 2010, Annex 1, other things:
- The following shall be closed to mining applications: areas with valid and existing mining rights; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
 - The following shall also be closed to mining applications except upon the written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to technical evaluation and validation by the Bureau: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations or valuable crops;
 - Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering: small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations; areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain claims; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the areas applied for;
 - Tourism development areas as identified in the national and local tourism development plans;
 - Prime agricultural lands, in addition to lands covered by RA No. 6457 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and strategic aquaculture and fisheries development zones, and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.
- # Notes**
- The approval of an Environmental Clearance Certificate, with all the necessary public consultations, shall be required prior to any and all mining construction, development and production.
 - The notice must be accompanied by a map showing the nearest municipality(ies) and any major environmental feature(s).

V- Size of the Area: Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Nine and 4,183/10,000 (2,529.4183) hectares

VI - Duration of the Permit:
 Exploration shall have a term of two (2) years renewable for the period but not to exceed a total term of six (6) years;

VII - Extent of Operation to be Undertaken:
 Gold and other associated valuable minerals.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above mentioned application(s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of publication/posting, directly with the Regional Office concerned or Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies). Adverse claims, protests or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 200 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, series of 2010 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, apply or come your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. V, DENR Annex Building, Regional Center, Rajas, Legaspi City.

GUILLEMO A. MOLINA, JR. IV
 Regional Director





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SIERRA MADRE'S VOICE Around 300 members of the Dumagat-Remontado tribe on Thursday march along Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on their ninth day of trekking from General Nakar, Quezon, to Malacañang to urge President Marcos to stop the construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam in their ancestral community in the Sierra Madre. —**MARIANNE BERMUDEZ**

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PROTEST MARCH. Members of the indigenous Dumagat tribe and peasants residing at the Sierra Madre mountain range stage a protest march to Malacañang to call for a halt in the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, saying the project threatens their very existence. **Danny Pata**



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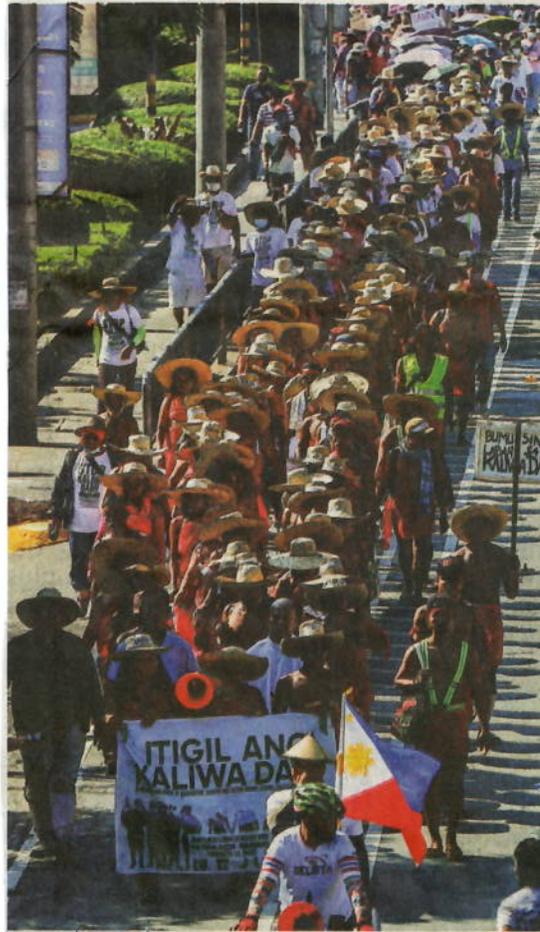


LONG MARCH Members of the Dumagat-Remontado community who marched from Quezon to Manila arrive at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System office in Quezon City on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, where they held a rally to protest the building of Kaliwa Dam. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN

ITIGIL ANG KALIWA DAM

IPROTEKTAN ANG BUHAY AT KABUHAYAN, SA OPIYUNANG SIERRA MADRE, RAGTAG ANI PAMPUNAS SA SIERRA

ALYAN-LAKAD LABAN SA KALIWA DAM
GEN. NAKAS QUEZON - MALICANANG
PEBREHO 18-23, 2023



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MARCH
— The Dumagat-Remontado Indigenous Peoples' community march to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in Quezon City on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, to protest the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon. They called on the government to pursue sustainable and long-term solutions to water security, human welfare, and environmental protection. (Noel B. Pabalate)



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Siargao mangrove reserve gets recognition

BY JING VILLAMENTE

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Thursday announced that the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve in Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape has been recognized as a Wetland of International Importance during the World Wetlands Day 2023 celebration.

DENR announced the recognition at the national celebration of WWD 2023 which was headed by the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau and hosted by the Local Government Unit of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte, that is anchored on the theme, "It's Time for Wetland Restoration."

The celebration showcased the ecological benefits of a restored wetland and the restoration efforts in the Del Carmen mangroves, reaping the fruits of wetland conservation, protection and restoration work with increased fishery resources, alternative livelihood from tourism, and increased protection from storm surge, especially during the onslaught of typhoon 'Odette' in December 2021.

In a video message, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Marcial Amaro Jr. emphasized the importance of wetlands, such as mangrove swamp forests in serving as a barrier and the first line of defense of the communities against natural disasters and effects of climate change.

"The wetlands of Siargao Island Protected

Landscape and Seascape or SIPLAS serve as a testament to these ecological functions during the height of typhoon 'Odette.' If not for these mangrove forests, the damage to the communities of SIPLAS could have been worse and more people could have suffered. This testament is one of the many reasons we should protect our wetlands from further degradation," Amaro said.

He encouraged the municipal government of Del Carmen, Protected Area Management Office of SIPLAS, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Surigao del Norte, and DENR-Caraga, along with local communities to "continue the quest for good wetland governance to uphold its distinction as among the tourism gems of the country."

The recognition of Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve serves as a precursor to its nomination for inclusion in the global network of significant wetlands known as the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites.

The mangrove reserve has already fulfilled two of the criteria for being a Ramsar Site. Its rich biodiversity and the ecological benefits of 4,800 hectares of mangrove that cover one of the largest contiguous mangrove reserves in the country, and the presence of an assemblage of endemic, native and migratory species, make this part of SIPLAS globally important.

In 2010, the municipal government of Del

Carmen worked to restore the mangrove forest and save it from illegal activities, such as mangrove cutting and poaching. The area now covers about 53 percent of Siargao Island's total mangrove forest.

DENR-Caraga Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo reiterated the call for cooperation and support of the DENR, local officials, and the community of Del Carmen to "never stop and continue pursuing environmental advocacies that are beneficial for Siargao."

The WWD 2023 celebration also featured an exposure trip to the Del Carmen mangroves, 1.8 kilometer mangrove boardwalk, and SIPLAS mangrove view deck.

The event concluded with the launch of the view deck led by the Protected Area Management Office of SIPLAS with PENRO Surigao del Norte and Mayor Alfredo Matugas Coro II of Del Carmen.

The WWD 2023 is in collaboration DENR-Caraga, PENRO Surigao del Norte, PAMO-SIPLAS, municipal government of Del Carmen, USAID-Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes project, DENR-United Nations Development Fund/Global Environment Facility Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines project; Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor project, and FPE-UNDP/GEF Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme in the Philippines project.



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Do we need carbon tax?

A proposal to impose carbon tax on the use of electricity to raise extra funds for initiatives against climate change is up at the House of Representatives.

The measure was filed by Camarines Sur 2nd District Rep. LRay Villafuerte, together with fellow congressmen from the province — his son Rep. Miguel Luis Villafuerte (5th district), Reps. Tsuyoshi Anthony Horibata (1st District), and Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Nicolas Enciso VIII, who has just been replaced as the partylist's nominee.

Under the House bill, the carbon tax on the use of electricity will be equivalent to ₱1 for every kilogram (kg) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission per kilowatt hour (kwh) of power consumption. This will be tucked in the monthly electricity bills of consumers.

"Abrupt climate change is not only imminent; it is here. It is consequently necessary for us to make a significant contribution to the global effort to stabilize GHG [greenhouse gas] concentrations in the atmosphere," the elder Villafuerte stressed in justifying the measure. "The swift congressional approval of HB 4739 will send a strong message to the global community of our country's steadfast commitment to international climate action policy and the 19th Congress' affirmation of the people's right to a balanced and healthy ecology as well as the State's paramount duty to safeguard such right for the present and future generations."

Nothing is wrong with any move to address the effects of climate change. In fact, any effort

to mitigate the effects of climate change is a welcome development.

But proposing a new tax to help address climate change may have come at the wrong time. The country is still reeling from the ill effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and Filipinos are still in the recovery stage. In fact, some — particularly those in the fringes — have yet to even start recovering.

While the ₱1 tax for every kg of CO₂ emission per kwh may appear pittance, this is still a burden too heavy to bear under the current economic environment. This carbon tax will take a chunk from families' respective budgets. Besides, it appears like a punitive measure for consumers who have no other choice but to make use of greenhouse gas-emitting energy that is offered on the table. Filipinos are already bearing a heavy yoke, and adding another tax may be too much to bear.

If the intention is to send a strong message of the Philippines' commitment to global climate action, we believe it can be done in other ways without necessarily adding another burden on Filipino families' shoulders.

Rather than burdening Filipinos, particularly those on the fringes, with another tax, why not come up with more measures to encourage the use of renewable energy (RE) — like stimulus package for the power and transport sectors that utilize non-fossil energy, and incentives for car firms and other companies that offer products that use clean energy.



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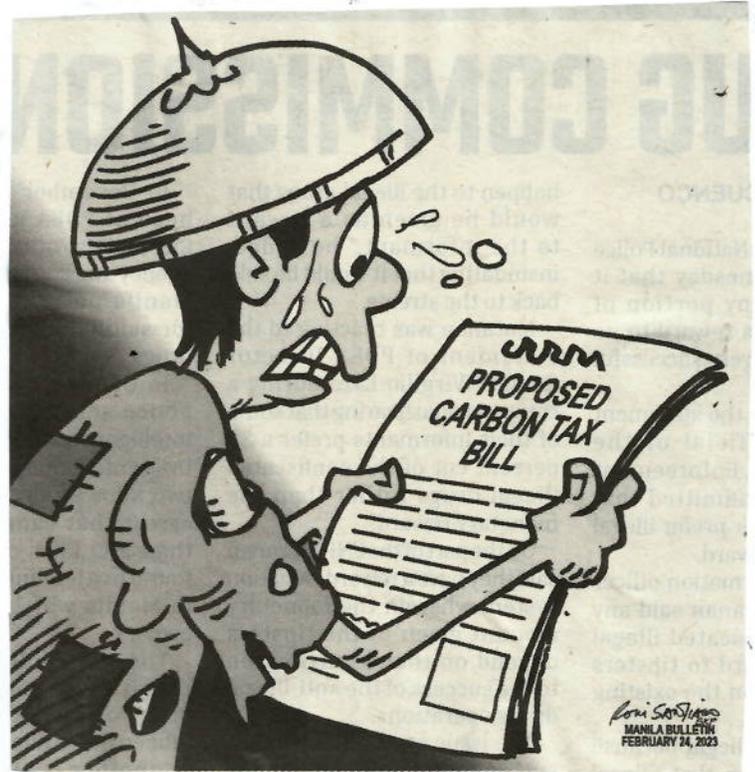
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Phl attracts more speculative funds

'Hot money' net inflow hits \$292 M in Jan

By LAWRENCE AGCAOILI

The net inflow of foreign portfolio investments or speculative funds hit a two-month high of \$292.12 million in January, 20 times the \$14.6 million inflow recorded in the same month last year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Michael Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said that the net hot money inflow continued for the fourth straight consecutive month and was the highest since the \$488.75 million booked last November.

Ricafort attributed the strong inflows to the gains in the global and local financial markets last month amid the economic reopening in China after COVID restrictions were eased, as well as the market sentiment supported by the continued easing trend in US inflation, along with the smaller rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

The economist also cited the government's measures to further reopen the local economy toward greater normalcy that fundamentally led to more employment, sales, earnings/net income and better investment valuations.

Foreign investments registered by the BSP through authorized agent banks are also known as hot money or speculative funds, as these flow regularly between financial markets as investors attempt to ensure they get the highest short-term interest rates possible.

Data released by the central bank showed that gross inflow of speculative funds jumped by 37.2 percent to \$1 billion in January from \$731.42 million in the same month last year.

According to the BSP, the bulk or 62.8 percent of the funds were invested in securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), particularly in banks; holding firms; property; food, beverage and tobacco, as well as electricity, energy, power and water.

The central bank said 37.2 percent went to investments in peso government securi-

ties, while the balance of less than one percent went to other instruments.

Inflows, the BSP added, came from the United Kingdom, the United States, Singapore, Luxembourg and Hong Kong.

These places accounted

for 83.8 percent of the total inflows last month.

On the other hand, the amount of withdrawals was almost unchanged at \$711.79 million last month from \$716.82 million in January last year.

Turn to B4

Phl attracts From B1

Ricafort said the better net foreign investment data was also due to a relatively stronger peso exchange rate that supported market sentiment, amid recent measures to stabilize both the peso exchange rate and overall inflation.

Due to the aggressive rate hikes delivered by the BSP and its active participation in the foreign exchange market, the local currency has rebounded strongly back to the 53 to \$1 handle early this month after slumping to a record low of 59 to \$1 last October due to the aggressive rate hikes delivered by the US Fed.

However, for the coming months, offsetting risk factors include higher inflation, higher interest rates, higher Fed rate peak/terminal rate amid slower-than-expected easing in US inflation gauges in the quest to bring

down US inflation to the Fed's target of two percent, risk of recession in the US, complicated economic reopening narrative in China, and geopolitical risks," he added.

The Philippines booked a net inflow of foreign portfolio investments or speculative funds amounting to \$886.7 million last year, reversing the net outflow of \$574.5 million recorded in 2021.

The net inflow was way below the revised \$3.5 billion projection set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The Philippines missed its \$3.5 billion target, as it only booked a net inflow of foreign portfolio investments amounting to \$886.7 million, but a reversal of the \$574.5 million net outflow recorded in 2021.

For this year, the BSP is looking at a net inflow of speculative funds amounting to \$5 billion.



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BOI hikes 2023 investment target to P1.5 trillion

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The Board of Investments (BOI) is raising its investments registration target this year to P1.5 trillion, driven by strong investment approvals in the beginning of the year and the robust pipeline of investment leads.

"Initially, we have set an already significant 37 percent growth target, or P1 trillion for 2023, but with the very healthy flow of investment project applications during the first month of the year, we are adjusting the target upwards to P1.5 trillion or more than double the actual 2022 figure," Trade Secretary and BOI Chairman Alfredo Pascual said, referring to the P729 billion investment approvals in 2022.

"I thank the BOI for enthusiastically welcoming this challenge, and of course the president for his hard work in promoting the Philippines as a hub for sustainability and innovation-driven manufacturing and services in the region," Pascual said.

Pascual reported that BOI-approved investments surged by 143 percent to P414.3 billion as of Feb. 9.

He said earlier that the agency still has potential investment leads of around P344 billion that will still be processed, adding that "more likely than ever, we may have 80 to 90 percent of the target even before the middle of the year."

"We continuously work hard to ensure the actual investment application by companies in our robust pipeline of investment leads," Pascual said.

"Specifically, these are in the areas of renewable energy, data centers, electric vehicle assembly and infrastructure, export-oriented manufacturing, and telecommunications, among others," he added.

Pascual said the visits abroad of President Marcos have contributed significantly to the list of investment leads, including companies that did not participate directly in activities held during the visits but are strongly encouraged by the positive projection of the Philippines in the overseas trips.

The DTI chief said the increase in investments is proof that Marcos' promotional visits abroad are effective, adding that there is a growing number of investors from around the globe, from Southeast Asia, the United States, Belgium, China and most recently Japan, that have shown strong interest in putting more investments into the country.

Of the year-to-date BOI-approved investments, Pascual said foreign investment approvals accounted for nearly 40 percent or P163 billion, a dramatic growth from the P249-million foreign approvals in the same period last year.

Based on latest BOI figures, the bulk of foreign capital is from Germany with P157 billion, followed by the Netherlands (P2.7 billion), Japan (P524 million), the United States (P509 million) and the United Kingdom (P194 million).

Turn to B4

BOI hikes From B1

In 2022, BOI registered the largest approvals in 2022 among the investment promotion agencies (IPAs), accounting for P729 billion of the total P927 billion or equivalent to 76 percent of total IPA foreign and domestic-approved investments.

"BOI-approved foreign capital for barely the first two months of 2023 has already reached 56 percent of the total figure for all IPAs last year. This year looks very promising with heightened prospects and through our collective efforts, we are on course to sur-

pass the 2022 figure way ahead of time," Pascual said.

Meanwhile, BOI figures show that year-to-date domestic investment nods accounted for around 60 percent of the investment approvals at P251.3 billion, a 47.6 percent rise from P170.3 billion last year.

In terms of regional dispersion, investments in Western Visayas led the way with P293.3 billion, and CALABARZON took up second place with P111.7 billion. Eastern Visayas (P3.5 billion), Central Luzon (P3 billion), and National Capital Region (P783 million) completed the top five regions.

Moreover, the renewable energy/power sector remains dominant with P398.7 billion in approvals to date, up 138 percent from the same period last year.

Manufacturing is also on the upswing with P12.3 billion in approvals, up 13,982 percent from just P87 million in the same time frame in 2022.

Administrative services (P1.3 billion), agriculture (P901 million), and transportation (P847 million) also make up the biggest sectors.

Among the top projects approved for January is German-owned wind farm located in Cavite, Negros Occidental and Guimaras, which will provide greener power solutions to local communities and businesses.

"We aim to be a global hub for sustainability and green projects that align with the national government's policy of promoting cleaner sources of energy, for which full foreign ownership is now allowed under the amended implementing rules and regulations of the Renewable Energy Act," Pascual said.

Allianz PNB LIFE INSURANCE	Net Asset Value Per Unit of the Investment Funds* of Unit-Linked Products	
	February 22, 2023	February 15, 2023
PESO FIXED INCOME FUND	2.409604	2.414342
PESO BALANCED FUND	2.584530	2.583859
PESO EQUITY FUND	2.692858	2.691758
PESO OPTIMIZED DIVIDEND EQUITY FUND	1.090627	1.104366
PESO MONEY MARKET FUND	1.084560	1.083986
PESO MULTI-SECTOR EQUITY FUND	0.795793	0.792569
PESO DYNASTY EQUITY FUND	0.753683	0.753543
PESO-HEDGED GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY EQUITY FUND	1.281098	1.308439
PESO-HEDGED ASIAN MULTI-INCOME PLUS DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.808614	0.827247
PESO-HEDGED DIVERSIFIED INCOME DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.795442	0.806322
PESO-HEDGED GLOBAL REAL ASSETS DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.766280	0.780501
PESO-HEDGED INCOME AND GROWTH DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.975634	0.998923
PESO-HEDGED SYSTEMATIC GLOBAL EQUITY DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	1.014318	1.028433
DOLLAR FIXED INCOME FUND	2.056676	2.085370
DOLLAR FLEXI ASIA BOND FUND	0.755280	0.765272
DOLLAR INCOME AND GROWTH FUND	1.357915	1.384106
DOLLAR FLEXI ASIA DIVIDEND PAYING BOND FUND	0.558751	0.568426
DOLLAR INCOME AND GROWTH DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.844215	0.866121
DOLLAR GLOBAL INCOME DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.898604	0.908010
DOLLAR GLOBAL OPPORTUNISTIC DIVIDEND PAYING BOND FUND	0.853086	0.857954
DOLLAR GLOBAL EQUITY PLUS FUND	0.804610	0.820786
DOLLAR GLOBAL REAL ASSETS DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	0.759833	0.773809
DOLLAR SYSTEMATIC GLOBAL EQUITY DIVIDEND PAYING FUND	1.055874	1.071259
INDEXLINK 20190927	1.087643	1.092560
GLOBAL TREASURES FUND 1		1.189881

*Total Fund Value is equal to the Net Asset Value per Unit (NAVPU) multiplied by outstanding number of units.
*These investment funds are linked to variable life insurance contracts and are not mutual funds, thus, subject to regulations by the Insurance Commission.

Visit or call us at: 9th Floor Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Ave. cor. Legaspi Street, Makati City
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24 FEB 2023

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DBP earnings surge to P5.6 B last year

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The full reopening of the economy that intensified lending activities fueled the bottomline of state-run Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) in 2022, with its profit jumping by 50 percent to P5.61 billion.

In a statement, DBP said its net income surged by 50 percent to reach P5.61 billion last year from the P3.74 billion earnings in 2021.

DBP also exceeded its 2022 target of P3.85 billion by 46 percent.

DBP president and CEO Michael de Jesus said the increase was driven by the growth in its total loans to borrowers, as well as the continued rise in net interest income.

He said the bank's financial performance was complemented by the 18 percent increase in gross margin, as well as prudent management of interest expense even with the rise in loan loss provisioning of P5.9 billion.

In 2022, DBP's total loans reached P527 billion, up 12 percent from P469.4 billion in 2021 as its lending accelerated with the reopening of the economy.

Nearly 60 percent of the total loans, at P297.14 billion, were allocated for the infra-

structure and logistics sector – with some of the projects situated in Metro Manila, Central Visayas, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Eastern Visayas and Davao.

Some P105.91 billion or 20 percent of the bank's loan portfolio financed social infrastructure and community development projects.

Another P70.04 billion was earmarked for projects in finance and insurance, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services.

Likewise, DBP provided P54.62 billion in loans for environment-related projects, P45.58 billion for the agriculture sector, and P32.14 billion for micro, small and medium enterprises.

Further, DBP's net income before provisions stood at P12.5 billion, a 44 percent hike from the P8.66 billion recorded in 2021.

De Jesus emphasized that DBP's 2022 performance would further support its capacity to fund the government's goal toward sustainable and equitable economic growth moving forward.

DBP is the eighth largest bank in the country in terms of assets. It provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy namely, infrastructure and logistics, MSME, environment, and social



TITLE:



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

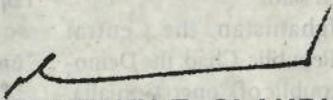
DEC 09 2022

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

NOTICE is hereby given the DENR-CENRO at Brooke's Point will accept oral or written bids not later than 02 MAR 2023 on 10:00 A.M. for the lease of the tract of foreshore land herein below described:

- Location** : Barangay Maasin, Brooke's Point, Palawan
- Description** : Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 045301-13 Adjacent to Lot No. 1166, Pls. 96 identical to Lot No. 5701, Cad 796-D Survey Plan Mlc No. 045306-13-D
- Boundaries** : Foreshore land is bounded on the North-west by Lot No. 1166, Pls 96; in the East by Sulu Sea; in the South by Sulu Sea and in the West by Sulu Sea,
- Area** : 118,580 sq.m.
- Appraised Value of the Land** : 7,470,540.00
- Appraised Value of Improvements** : 1,825,684.14
- Annual Rental** : 9,296,224.14
- Applied By** : Ipilan Nickel Corporation
Rep. by Carlo Matilac

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


LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV
Regional Executive Director



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region



Doc ID: 83688



24 FEB 2023

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE



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

LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Bangkal, Davao City, will accept sealed or written bids not later than ten o'clock (10:00) A.M. on March 24, 2023, for the lease for Industrial purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Panacan, Davao City
Description	: Lot Mlc-11-001240-D
Area	: 7,567 square meters
Appraised Value of Land	: Php 8,300.00 per square meter or Php 62,806,100.00 for the whole tract
Existing Improvements	: No Improvements
Applicant	: NEW DAVAO OIL MLL, INC. Rep. by: Richmond L. Lopez MLA-112402(XI-DC) 20

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

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

Davao City, Philippines, February 1, 2023.

JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC CENR Officer

Km. 7, SPED Road, Bangkal, Davao City
Email Add: cenrodavao@denr.gov.ph Telefax No. (082) 228-2557



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

PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bangkal, Davao City ay tatanggap ng seliyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas 10:00 ng umaga sa ika 24 ng Marso 2023, para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito:

Lugar	: Km. 14, Barangay Panacan, Davao City
Deskripsyon	: Lot Mlc-11-001240-D
Sukat	: 7,567 metro kwadrado
Tasahan ng Lupa	: Php 8,300.00 kada metro kwadrado o kabuuang Php 62,806,100.00
Halaga ng Nakatayong Proyekto	: 0
Aplikante	: NEW DAVAO OIL MLL, INC. Rep. by: Richmond L. Lopez MLA-112402(XI-DC) 20

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 naka-deposito 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 tao na sumali sa subasta na nagpresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinataas para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan.

Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Dabaw, Pilipinas, Ika 01 ng Pebrero, 2023.

JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC CENR Officer

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Email Add: cenrodavao@denr.gov.ph Telefax No. (082) 228-2557