

14 February 2023, Tuesday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR rolls out 'TRANSFORM' in Surigao Norte

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched in Surigao del Norte its resilience and sustainability program dubbed "TRANSFORM" (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Communities) to boost the delivery of environmental, social, and economic gains for local government units nationwide.

Earlier, the DENR successfully launched TRANSFORM in Ormoc City, Leyte last Jan. 18.

The agency rolled out the project in three Surigao del Norte towns—Malimono, San Francisco and Burgos, deemed worst-hit by typhoon "Odette" in 2021.

In a January 2022 report by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, a total of 2,552,312 families across 38 provinces in CARAGA Region were affected just within hours of Odette's landfall.

These municipalities incurred massive damages in infrastructure, houses and livelihood, and suffered severe and long-term effects.

Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Loyzaga said to engage the whole of society, the DENR has collaborated with the local government units (LGUs), the National Resilience Council, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, Peace and Equity Foundation, the Zuellig Family Foundation and the Energy Development Corp. to undertake Project TRANSFORM.



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Environmental group refutes APMC

BY BELLA CARIASO

An environmental group on Monday contradicted the claim of Altai Philippines Mining Corp. (APMC) that it is operating legally in Romblon's Sibuyan Island.

In an interview with *The Manila Times*, Living Laudato Si' Philippines executive director Rodne Galicha maintained that APMC's exploration permit does not justify its violation of various laws in the country.

"The MPSA (mineral production sharing agreement) is not stand-alone. It is not a sweeping contract. It has terms and conditions. It is not a constitution for them to claim that they have the permit so they can do whatever they want," Galicha said.

In a paid advertisement, the APMC said that it has a "DENR-ap-

proved exploration work program."

"One of the conditions was for them to follow the existing laws. They need to secure the necessary permits," Galicha said.

In his letter to Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza-ga dated Feb. 10, 2023, Galicha pushed for the revocation of the exploration permit and the MPSA of APMC in Romblon amid the alleged violations committed by the mining company.

Galicha cited the abuses of APMC including its failure to secure permits for the tree cutting

and the construction of a causeway, as well as the lack of environmental compliance certificate in constructing a private port.

In a separate radio interview, Galicha also challenged the local government of San Fernando, Romblon to disclose the earnings derived from the mining operation after the APMC's statement claimed that it contributed revenues to the municipality.

"We are challenging the municipality of San Fernando and even Altai to disclose all those contributions given to anyone that will prove that they actually provided revenues. The revenues from fisheries, agriculture and tourism are still bigger compared to the earnings from the mining operation," he added.

"At the same time, Galicha said that the local government should not have allowed the two barges and a ship of APMC to leave Sibuy-

an Island amid its violations.

"Our position is that the two barges and the ship should be impounded for illegal docking at the port, including the trucks used in transporting the nickel ore, as they were accessories to the illegal activities in the area," Galicha noted.

Galicha also branded as lies the claim of APMC that the Sibuyan Island was already in poor environmental condition prior to the mining operation.

"That is a big lie as the island is known for its rich biodiversity. That is illogical and fallacious," he said.

According to Galicha, the APMC's call for an impartial investigation undermines the authority of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Senate.

"The DENR should be alarmed by this statement as it is an insult

to the competence of DENR personnel," he added.

The Senate is set to investigate the alleged violations committed by APMC after Sen Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros filed a resolution calling on the upper chamber to look into the mining operation in Romblon.

At the same time, Galicha also answered APMC's statement that it is not owned by political personalities after reports that the family of Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian owns the mining company.

"What we are saying is that it is a Gatchalian led, in particular Kenneth Gatchalian, who is the second biggest shareholder of Pelican Resources Australia that has the control over Altai Philippines Mining Corp. through the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp.," Galicha explained.

Kenneth Gatchalian is the

brother of the senator.

Galicha said that the APMC operates over 1,580 hectares of land in Sibuyan covering 3.4 percent of the total 445 square kilometer area in the island.

The DENR has suspended the operation of APMC as the former's Environmental Management Bureau issued notices of violation to APMC for violation of Section 4 of Presidential Decree 1586 or the "Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System," Republic Act (RA) 6969 or the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990," RA 9275 or the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004," and Presidential Decree 705 for cutting trees without a permit.

Galicha added that the human barricade will continue on the island after it started on Jan. 26, 2023.



7-day 'Alay Lakad' vs Kaliwa Dam slated

ENVIRONMENTAL groups and residents will hold a seven-day "Alay Lakad" to dramatize their opposition to the construction of Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province.

In a radio interview, Save Sierra Madre Network Inc. executive director and Stop Kaliwa Dam project convenor Conrad Vargas on Monday said the mobilization will be held from Feb. 15 to 23, 2023.

Vargas also contradicted the claim of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) that the Kaliwa Dam project got the approval of the affected Indigenous Peoples in the area.

"Out of the six clusters, only one agreed during an assembly organized by MWSS. The five clusters or majority of the Indigenous Peoples did not sign and were against the Kaliwa Dam project," Vargas said.

According to Vargas, the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam is a China-funded project.

"Under the project, at least 600 million liters of water will be sourced from the Kadiwa River. It has a negative impact on the residents of Infanta, Nakar. One is the flooding during the rainy season and it will affect the irri-

gation system in the area during summer," he noted.

Vargas called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to reconsider the approval of the project, saying there are other alternative sources to augment the water supply in Metro Manila without endangering and disrupting the lives of residents in the province.

"What we are proposing is to study other alternative sources of water instead of the Kaliwa Dam project," he said.

He noted that even the officials of Infanta were barred from entering the access road.

"We tried to visit the construction in the area but the uniformed personnel from the military who were manning the access road did not allow us to enter," he noted.

At present, Angat Dam in Bulacan supplies about 90 percent of the water requirement of Metro Manila and other adjacent provinces.

The government said the Kaliwa Dam project is necessary to prevent a possible water crisis in the National Capital Region.

BELLA CARIASO



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POTENTIAL THREATS OF KALIWA DAM IN DARAITAN, TANAY, RIZAL

ains



Projected Flood and Drought Zone Areas, and Land Use



Projected Flood and Drought Zone Areas, and Land Use



BATTLE VS DAM Using maps and visual aids, an elder of the Dumagat-Remontado tribe on Monday explains in a press conference the threats posed by the construction of Kaliwa Dam to their communities in the Sierra Madre.

—NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

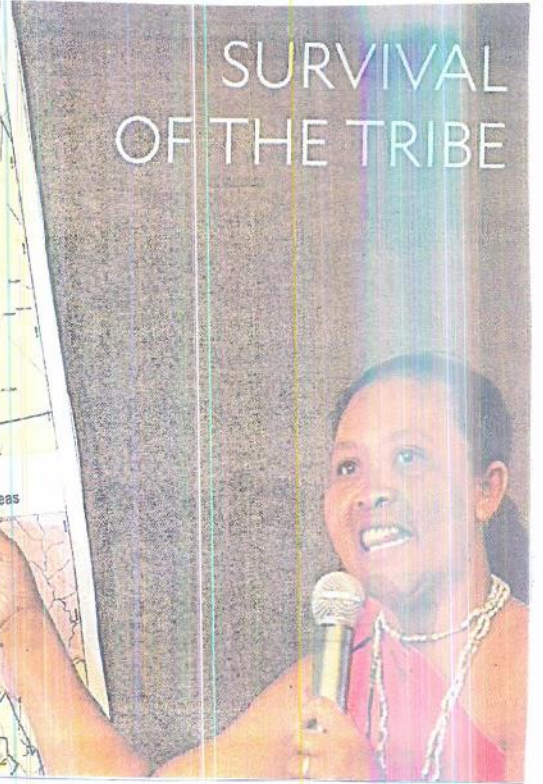
Watersheds and Agriculture



Key Biodiversity and Important Areas



SURVIVAL
OF THE TRIBE





Bulacan moves to protect poultry farms from bird flu

Raisers told to 'bird-proof' facilities as disease likely caused by migratory egrets

CITY OF MALOLOS—Commercial and backyard poultry farms in the province of Bulacan have started taking measures to prevent being hit by the highly pathogenic avian influenza or bird flu T after a commercial farm in Sta. Maria town lost at least P6.2 million due to the disease, officials said on Monday.

In an interview, Dr. Voltaire Basinang, Bulacan provincial veterinary officer, said laboratory results conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) on Jan. 31 showed that the samples taken from the commercial farm tested positive for the type A subtype H5N1 strain of bird flu.

He said the tests were carried out after at least 80 chicken layers on the infected farm died between Jan. 17 and Jan. 25, which alarmed the farm owner.

Basinang said more than 17,000 chicken layers on the farm were depopulated between Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 to contain the viral infection.

The losses incurred by the farm only covered the cost of culled chicken layers and did not take into account the potential revenue losses, according to Basinang.

Migratory birds, such as egrets (*Egretta garzetta*), that visit Bulacan's wetlands were suspected to have caused the avian flu infection, Basinang revealed.

All commercial and even backyard poultry farms were already advised to "bird-proof" their areas and facilities to prevent the entry of wild birds into their farms, he said.



AT RISK Ver San Pedro, chair of Barangay Lugam in City of Malolos, shows off the eggs produced in his poultry farm in this November 2021 photo. Commercial and backyard farms in Bulacan province are cautioned against the possible bird flu infection after the type A subtype H5N1 strain of the disease was detected in Sta. Maria town. —CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE

"The high-technology bird-proof approach uses tunnel ventilation, wherein the chickens are kept in cages that are fully air-conditioned," Basinang said.

Tunnel ventilation is designed to maximize air movement that helps cool the birds and remove dust, especially during hot weather, while preventing contact with wild birds.

Surveillance zone

A kilometer-radius surveillance zone was enforced around the infected poultry to check if other farms had also

been affected, Basinang said.

"We did not impose quarantine on the other poultry farms because chickens from the infected area were immediately culled," he said.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Central Luzon, including Bulacan, accounted for one-third of the country's chicken production last year.

In the first half of 2022, the PSA said the total volume of chicken production in Central Luzon reached 325,523 metric tons, reflecting a 19.5-percent increase from the same period in 2021.

As of July 2022, there were 26 registered commercial poultry farms in Bulacan, data from the BAI showed.

Gov. Daniel Fernando on Monday called on the province's poultry industry to strictly follow and abide by safety measures given by the local agriculture and veterinary offices in their towns and cities to prevent a similar incident.

On Jan. 8, 2021, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced that the World Organization for Animal Health had declared the country free of bird flu after controlling the outbreaks of H5N6 in a commercial layer poultry farm in Pampanga province, and backyard poultry farms in a village in Rizal province.

But the country lost its bird flu-free status more than a year later after outbreaks of the H5N1 strain were reported in Bulacan and nearby Pampanga province.

More than 42,000 quails and ducks on farms in the provinces were culled at that time.

Human infections

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said H5N1 is deadly to animals and can infect humans on rare occasions. The World Health Organization, meanwhile, reported there had been 26 H5N6 human infections reported in 2021.

The recurrence of the H5N6 strain, which also struck the country in 2017 and 2020, was confirmed by the DA on July 10, 2020, after a commercial poultry owner in Pampanga reported the sudden drop in egg production, cyanosis (dark bluish or purplish coloration of the skin and mucous membranes in chickens) and mortality.

A month later, a similar case was detected in a backyard farm in Rizal province, which affected about 500 free-range chickens and 300 Muscovy ducks.

In July last year, at least 350,000 chicken layers were culled in Pampanga's Sto. Tomas town after the detection of the H5N1 strain in samples taken in Barangay San Bartolome from June 24 to June 27.

Outbreaks of bird flu struck Pampanga on a large scale in 2017, with revenue losses reaching P198 million, and on a minimal scale in 2021.

Several quail farms at the villages of Dalayap and Mangga in Candaba town, and San Antonio in Mexico town, both in Pampanga, were also infected with the H5N1 strain in February last year.

—CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ



Carbon markets 101

AS I mentioned rather briefly in last Thursday's column, the establishment of a carbon market here in the Philippines is regarded by many as a likely next step in managing the country's energy transition and climate adaptation and mitigation objectives. That understanding is not the same as enthusiasm, however, because the Philippines as it is now is not what one would call an enabling environment for market innovation and development. Thus, the attitude toward the development of a carbon market is that, yes, it is generally a good idea, but one that will likely be confusing, time-consuming and costly to implement here.

That trepidation is further deepened by the realization that establishing a carbon market is becoming less a choice and more a necessity as time goes on.

One of the more substantial outcomes of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021 was the forging of an agreement to reform global carbon markets and improve rules governing carbon trading. The goal of establishing a uniform global carbon market framework was part of the original 2015 Paris climate accord, but had fallen by the wayside until



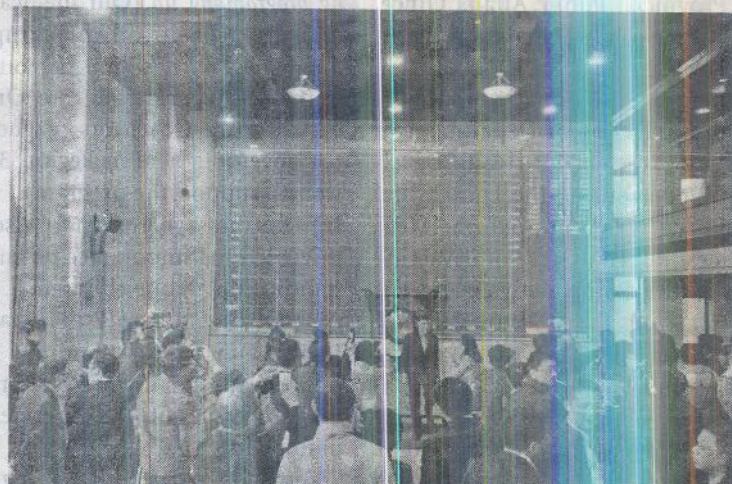
ROUGH TRADE

BEN KRITZ

the Glasgow summit. Key parts of the Glasgow agreement included a set of uniform rules for international emissions trading; the creation of a separate UN-governed carbon offset market where governments and private entities can trade emissions credits in the form of low-carbon projects; and the creation of a new adaptation fund, which will collect 5 percent of the proceeds from carbon offset trades to be applied to climate adaptation and mitigation projects in climate-vulnerable and emerging economies.

Why have a carbon market?

Remember, about 96 percent of the Philippines' commitment to emissions reduction and decarbonization in general under the Paris Agreement is conditional on receiving outside help, which is appropriate, as the Philippines contributes very little to global climate damage. The global funds to provide that help, while substantial, are not



■ The Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange, seen here at the launch of China's pilot carbon trading program in 2013. XINHUA PHOTO

limitless, and the Philippines is by no means among the group of the poorest countries with the best claim to those funds that have the least number of strings attached. The carbon market-funded adaptation fund created by the Glasgow agreement could amount to a significant pool of money — based on World Bank data on the carbon market from last year, a conservative estimate would be about \$38 billion annually — but in order to access it at little or no cost to the Philippines, a domestic carbon market would almost certainly be a prerequisite.

Even if global funding sources were not a concern and the Philippines wished to or could fund its climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives entirely on its own, not establishing a carbon market would be leaving a lot of money on the table. While carbon markets can be problematic in many ways, they certainly do not have any trouble attracting investors; the global carbon market grew in value by 408 percent in just four years between 2018 and 2021. Most of the market, about 90 percent of it, is in Europe where it

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Carbon

has been developed to a high degree and institutionalized, but areas outside Europe are growing rapidly.

Besides being a source of direct funding, carbon markets can also reduce the cost of climate mitigation. According to the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), implementing carbon trading worldwide could potentially cut the costs of implementing national emissions targets in half, saving an estimated \$250 billion annually by 2030. The IETA also said that carbon trading could facilitate the elimination of about 5 billion MT of carbon dioxide emissions per year at no

additional cost. As the IETA is not exactly an unbiased source, climate researchers and economic analysts have questioned those estimates, although they also acknowledge that even if those figures are a bit optimistic, the expansion of carbon markets would nevertheless make a substantial impact on emissions reductions.

The basics of carbon markets

Since they are based on a rather novel type of commodity, carbon markets can be complicated, and even exotic in their various iterations. In order to provide an explanation in easily digestible portions, I'll address the simplest and most common form first, the so-called

cap-and-trade market.

The fundamental goal of carbon trading is to incentivize emissions reductions by offering a financial gain for doing so. The most common type of carbon market, the cap-and-trade system, most directly does this by setting a "cap" of how much carbon emissions an individual polluter such as a power plant or factory can produce in a given period of time (usually expressed as metric tons of CO₂-equivalent, or CO₂e, per year), and then imposing a per-unit tax on any amount in excess of that cap. For simplicity, each unit, i.e., 1 metric ton CO₂e, is referred to as 1 "carbon credit."

Carbon credits become tradable commodities when the corresponding carbon tax is punitive, that is, several multiples of the price of car-

bon credits in the exchange market, so that companies are encouraged to reduce their emissions. Companies that exceed their cap, or determine that they will within the taxable period, can purchase additional credits from companies who have a surplus. When that happens, the price of a carbon credit can be very high, so in order to take advantage of this potentially lucrative additional income stream, it is in the company's best interests to cut its emissions and generate surplus carbon credits it can sell in the carbon trading market. In a sense, a new source of revenue can literally be created out of thin air.

There are a number of downsides to cap-and-trade carbon markets, which the Glasgow agreement attempted to address to some extent, but which have not been entirely

solved. The biggest and most obvious drawback is that it might not lead to any real reduction in emissions; companies that are heavy polluters can simply buy the credits they need to continue business as usual, a form of greenwashing that becomes even easier when carbon credits are exportable, which is something the signatories to the Glasgow agreement insisted on. Greenhouse gas emissions do not respect national borders, of course, so there is a real justification for permitting cross-border carbon trade, but unless it is controlled through a framework that everyone agrees to follow — which the 2021 Glasgow agreement hopes to be — things can quickly get out of hand.

The other big drawback, at least for a country like the Philippines that

is fairly unsophisticated in terms of financial market competence and development, is that setting up a cap-and-trade system is complicated, and requires constant, extremely accurate monitoring. The country first has to establish an overall CO₂e target — which should be progressively lower each year — and then accurately assess the emissions from each individual emitter in order to set the individual cap levels. In addition, in order to be effective, the carbon tax rate either has to be variable, with the legal provisions that enable allowing for it to be adjusted fairly frequently, on a monthly basis at least, or it has to be set so high that even a sharp increase in market prices will not exceed it.

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GREENWASHING

ON CLIMATE, MOST CORPORATIONS MORE TALK THAN ACTION

PARIS—The world's biggest and richest companies are failing to deliver on their climate pledges, according to an in-depth analysis released on Monday that calls on governments to crack down on corporate greenwashing.

Under growing pressure from shareholders, governments and consumers, companies are racing to roll out strategies to reduce the carbon (CO2) emissions of their operations, along with their products and services.

Twenty-four multinationals examined have all endorsed the Paris treaty target of capping

global warming at 15 degrees Celsius, and aligned themselves with United Nations-backed campaigns to ensure that business plays its part in decarbonizing the global economy.

But the 2030 pledges of the 22 companies that made them would only slice 15 percent off their collective emissions, the report found.

And net zero targets adopted by all 24 multinationals—if met—would barely remove a third of their current emissions.

"The overwhelming majority of these corporations are simply not delivering the goods

they promised," the 2023 Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor concluded.

With combined earnings of more than \$3 trillion, the two dozen companies under the microscope account for some 4 percent of all global emissions—2 billion tons of CO2 or its equivalent each year.

Analysts assessed the integrity of each corporation's climate plan, looking at the accuracy of self-reported emissions, targets set for reducing them, progress to date, and how heavily pledges depend on questionable compensation schemes

known as carbon offsets.

"Many are exploiting vague and misleading 'net zero' pledges to greenwash their brands while continuing with business as usual," said Carbon Market Watch executive director Sabine Frank.

Earning the best overall marks was shipping giant Maersk, whose plan for erasing its carbon footprint by 2040 was deemed to have "reasonable integrity."

The climate plans of eight corporate giants—including Apple, Google, Microsoft and steel-conglomerate ArcelorMittal—were judged to have "moderate integrity." —AFP



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

FORTE REALTY CORPORATION,
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3505

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Tierra Verde Residences Subdivision, Barangay Buro, Dasmariñas City, province of Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Public Tap						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	₱ 165.50	36.40	39.80	46.40	53.00	56.30

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	₱ 171.50	38.80	44.40	51.70	59.30	61.30

Commercial and Industrial					
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	₱ 994.50	82.80	99.40	99.40	99.40

Bulk			
Pipe Size	Per cu. m.	Others	Per cu. m.
1"	₱ 219.70	¾"	₱ 109.80

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **6 March 2023**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th 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 daily 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 12th day of December 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO B. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Buro
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President
Barangay Buro
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

The General Manager
Dasmariñas Water District
Camerino Avenue, Zone 1
Dasmariñas, Cavite 4114



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

GOODHANDS WATER SPECIALISTS, INC.,
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3506

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Brookstone Park Subdivision, Barangay Cabuco, Trece Martires City, province of Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Public Tap						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	₱ 164.50	36.10	39.40	46.00	52.60	55.80

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	₱ 170.00	38.30	42.40	43.40	46.30	49.30

Commercial and Industrial					
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	₱ 985.50	82.10	88.70	98.60	98.60

Bulk			
Pipe Size	Per cu. m.	Others	Per cu. m.
1"	₱ 217.80	¾"	₱ 108.90

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Trece Martires City, Cavite

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Cabuco
Trece Martires City, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President
Brookstone Park Subdivision
Barangay Cabuco
Trece Martires City, Cavite

The General Manager
Trece Martires City Water District
Cavite Provincial Capitol Site
Trece Martires City, Cavite 4109