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DENR

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DENR leads multi-stakeholder dialogue to finalize list of GEF-8 proposed projects

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) will hold a multi-stakeholder dialogue on January 18 and 19 in Taguig City to come up with the final list of proposed projects under GEF-8.

Dubbed GEF National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, the two-day event will gather around 200 representatives from the national government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, the private sector, GEF Secretariat and implementing agencies to come up with a refined National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPF) consisting of the final list of proposed projects for the Philippines.

ects for the Philippines.

In the Philippines, the proposed projects for GEF-8 are divided based on five different focal areas, namely, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Chemical Waste and International Waters.

The DENR hopes to address identified gaps such as lack of policy coherence and integration between effective climate change

adaptation and biodiversity actions, weak science-policy linkage and data generation in the environment and natural resource management, limited knowledge development and management and inadequate innovative financing mechanism to support sustainable resource management.

contributions, strengthen their capacities, protect their livelihoods, uplift their socioeconomic conditions and enhance resilience.

In implementing the projects, the DENR hopes to advance the country's efforts to address environmental issues by tackling the drivers of ecological degradation and strengthening the country's commitments to multilateral environmental agreements and contributing to global environmental benefits, supporting integrated approaches and ensuring that programs are inclusive and prioritizes the most vulnerable.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and GEF CEO Carlos Manuel Rodriguez will deliver the welcome and keynote messages, respectively during the kickoff ceremony on Wednesday, January 18.

The projects are being eyed to help realign private sector capital to achieve wider scale and impact, empower local communities to harness their contri-

This will be followed by the opening of an exhibit showcasing the various projects and accomplishments of the DENR-GEF partnership in the same venue.

The dialogue will also pave the way for discussions on National Priorities and Strategies and GEF 8 Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions.

DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuta-Teh, GEF-Philippine Operational Focal Point, will be sharing the climate lens and the geospatial approach to portfolio programming and discuss the way forward to conclude the event.



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GEF-8 to tackle climate change policy, biodiversity actions

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE lack of policy coherence and integration between effective climate change adaptation and biodiversity actions, weak science-policy linkage, and data generation in the environment and natural resource management are expected to be addressed in the two-day multi-stakeholder dia-

logue to be held starting January 18, 2023, until Thursday in Global City, Taguig.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that the dialogue will address limited knowledge development and management and inadequate innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable resource management.

The DENR and the Glo-

bal Environmental Facility (GEF) will hold a dialogue to come up with the final list of proposed projects under GEF-8.

The GEF National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue will gather around 200 representatives from the national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations, the private sector, GEF secretariat, and implementing agencies to come up

with a refined National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPF) consisting of the final list of proposed projects for the Philippines.

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GEF-8

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The dialogue also aims to provide a venue for sharing progress and learnings on GEF project formulation and implementation; present national priorities and strategies; discuss inputs to the GEF-8 portfolio formulation, and gather advice and recommendation from the GEF Secretariat on the draft GEF-8 portfolio.

In the Philippines, the proposed projects for GEF-8 are divided based on five different focal areas, namely biodiversity, climate change, land deg-

radation, chemical waste, and international waters.

In implementing projects, the DENR hopes to advance the country's efforts to address environmental issues by tackling the drivers of ecological degradation and strengthening the country's commitments to multilateral environmental agreements and contributing to global environmental benefits, supporting integrated approaches and ensuring that programs are inclusive and prioritizes the most vulnerable.

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'AT NO COST TO GOVERNMENT'

LANDFILL OPERATOR PITCHES \$250-M WASTE-TO-ENERGY CLARK PROJECT

The operator of a 100-hectare landfill in Clark, Pampanga, and its foreign partners are offering to build a \$250 million waste-to-energy (WTE) project in the freeport zone at no cost to the government.

Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) said on Tuesday it was ready to start the project with partner Plambeck-Emirates, a venture between a Plambeck Germany, a publicly listed firm with extensive experience in renewable energy projects, and the Royal Family of Abu Dhabi.

In a statement on Tuesday, MWWM said they submitted an unsolicited project to the state-run Bases Conversion Develop-

ment Authority (BCDA) under the previous administration in 2019.

"MCWM is ready and eager to start groundbreaking on a WTE facility as soon as the concession is renewed, having previously submitted a proposal for the same in 2019," said the company, which is led by Rufo Colyaco, the former head of Clark Development Corp. and BCDA.

Leading waste firm

The 20-year-old MCWM is one of the leading waste management companies in the Philippines. It is the second largest landfill operator by volume, and is the only facility that "exceeds all environmental require-

ments", the statement showed.

The proposed power project is designed to reduce waste at the landfill by up to 70 percent, although other details on the project were not immediately available.

"A key feature of the proposed Integrated Waste Management System is a waste-to-energy power plant that will utilize waste as fuel," the company added.

At present, MCWM serves over 150 local government units and 1,000 industrial clients in Central Luzon.

Services to local government units (LGUs) include accepting garbage at designated pick-up points where the waste is segre-

gated. The company only accepts "residual waste" from LGUs and treated hazardous waste.

"Permitted and closely monitored by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources], the company accepts medical and industrial waste, which must first be treated by accredited treatment facilities that employ specialized techniques and processes before these can be accepted at MCWM's disposal site," the company said.

"MCWM has separate areas for regular household and treated medical and industrial waste," it added. —MIGUEL R. CAMUS INQ



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GARBAGE VOLUME SEEN TO RISE WITH TOURISTS' RETURN

BAGUIO FINDING WAYS TO CUT P200-M TRASH HAULING EXPENSES

BAGUIO CITY—With tourism finally surging again, the local government is working out a long-term solid waste management plan to stop its “fiscal bleeding” because it spends P200 million yearly to bring trash to sanitary landfills outside the city.

“The trajectory of the growth of Baguio garbage will always go upwards” because it is a top tourist destination as well as a financial and educa-

tion hub, said Eugene Buyuccan, a government accountant and head of the Office of General Services, during this week’s city council session on Monday.

Last year, trash shipped out each day to a landfill in Capas, Tarlac, cost Baguio P186.5 million, Buyuccan told the council to establish the “magnitude of waste management expenses that can never be recovered.”

Baguio’s population of 366,358 throws out about 400 tons of

trash that include recyclables and kitchen waste, according to records. The garbage generated by 500,000 visitors in December alone added to the city’s average of 140 tons of residual trash sent out to the Tarlac landfill.

Each Baguio resident or transient generates 1.5 kilos of waste, based on 2016 data, Buyuccan said. He asked for a P30-million allocation to purchase a mechanized sorting machine because volunteer garbage collectors

gathered 9,000 tons of recyclables, like soda bottles, last year.

Baguio has been paying landfill operators outside the city since 2012 when its only open dump in Barangay Irisan was ordered shut by the Court of Appeals after it was subjected to a writ of kalikasan.

The dump had been operating since the late 1970s, but it was barricaded by Irisan residents in 2008 who later went to court to stop the Baguio gov-

ernment from using the area. The dump was finally locked down following a 2011 trash slide that killed five people and polluted a community in the Benguet town of Tuba.

According to Buyuccan, the city government may reduce its spending once Urdaneta City in Pangasinan province reopens its rehabilitated and modernized environmental sanitary landfill in February. Urdaneta is the closest landfill serving Ba-

guio but the facility was closed for breaching its capacity in 2021.

Urdaneta is 80 kilometers from Baguio’s garbage transfer station along Marcos Highway, while the Capas landfill is 170 km away. Because of a management deal with Urdaneta, Metro Clark Waste Management Corp., which operates the Capas landfill, also manages the Pangasinan facility, Buyuccan said. —VINCENT CAHREZA INQ



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Vessel just about to ship out Yinglong's nickel ore that was ordered seized. PHOTO FROM BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

BoC seizes nickel ore shipment of Chinese firm that Palace official backed

Second of 4 parts

THE Bureau of Customs ordered Monday



RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO

the seizure of a vessel and its cargo of 50,000 metric tons of nickel ore that the Chinese company Yinglong was shipping out of the country from Zambales.

►TiglaoA5

BoC seizes nickel ore shipment of Chinese firm that Palace official backed

Deputy executive secretary for legal affairs (Desla) Anna Liza Logan had on December 23 lifted a cease-and-desist order issued in March and April last year by the environment and natural resources department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to Yinglong to stop its nickel-ore mining operations.

However, another line agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Environment Management Bureau (EMB), issued to Yinglong an export permit for the nickel ore on December 29.

Two DENR secretaries through another agency (the Mines and Geosciences Bureau) in January recalled the export permit, as Yinglong was found to have been mining nickel ore illegally and did not have the required environmental compliance certificate. Despite the lack of an export permit, Yinglong loaded 50,000 metric tons of the laterite nickel ore, estimated to be worth P250 million, on the freight vessel *MN Van Knight*.

Alerted by the DENR of Yinglong's attempt to evade its orders and ship out the nickel ore illegally, the Bureau of Customs' Port of Manila collector Michael Angelo Vargas the other day ordered the vessel and its contents seized, and asked the Philippine Coast Guard to assist in the execution of its orders.

As I reported in detail in my Monday column, this chaotic situation of one DENR agency ordering Yinglong to stop its allegedly illegal mining operations and another allowing it to continue is apparently the result of huge bribes that Yinglong — by its own admission —

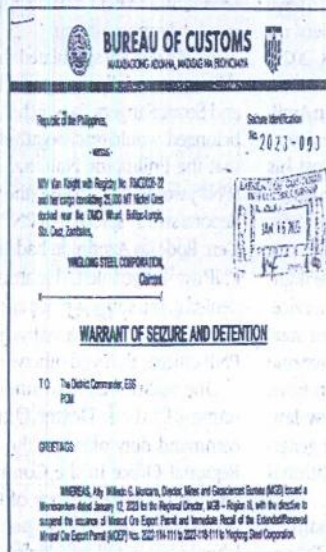


Image of BoC's seizure order vs Yinglong and its nickel ore. SOURCE: BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

had given to the department's officials in 2021 to get their cooperation.

P3 million

However, one official who had accepted Yinglong's P3 million bribe (out of a promised P10 million) reneged in helping the firm get its permits after Yinglong failed to deliver the remaining P7 million. The DENR's MGB had issued two orders last year for Yinglong to stop its operations. Yinglong simply ignored the orders, with the local governments of the province backing it.

What has made this case a huge issue

for the DENR and one that could even rock the presidency, is the issuance by the deputy executive secretary for legal affairs — Logan — of an obviously rushed order two days before Christmas, lifting the DENR's cease and desist order against Yinglong. This had never happened before, that a deputy executive secretary countermands an order of an executive department. Did she issue the order in the spirit of kindness during the Christmas season?

Desla Logan is known to be close to the first lady, Liza Araneta-Marcos, having been with her former law firm MOST for 14 years until the latter asked her to join the government as Desla, the most important deputy of Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin. The big question bugging DENR officials is whether or not Logan asked her (Mrs. Marcos) permission to issue the order favoring the erring Chinese firm.

Stockpiled

The Desla's order could have given Yinglong the freedom to export the nickel ore it had mined and stockpiled. Sources claim that Yinglong had also bought the nickel ore mined by other miners, including the small-scale ones, and was ready to ship these out, disguised as their own mined nickel.

Yinglong representatives have been telling local government officials and other miners that "Malacañang had given us the authority to export." If Yinglong had managed to export the 250,000 MT it was given the permit to export by the EMB's Region 3 office, this

would have generated for it — at laterite nickel ore's current \$100 per metric ton price — P1.3 billion. Because of the high stakes involved, rumors have been circulating that Yinglong allegedly had already given P100 million in bribes to government officials for its nickel mining operations to continue and for it to be allowed to ship the ore.

The huge revenues the Chinese firm would have generated from its mining operations — due to the recent rocketing of nickel prices in the world because of Russia's war against Ukraine — is the reason why it bought rights to the nickel mining area from Filipino firm Westchinamin in 2021 for P1 billion.

However, Westchinamin has filed several pleas to the DENR to stop Yinglong's operations as it had remitted only P47 million to it, giving it checks that were dishonored by its bank. The chairman and president of Westchinamin is Antonio Marfori, who is the finance officer of Partido Federal ng Pilipinas, under whose party registration President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ran in 2022.

Malacañang has kept mum concerning this issue that I reported last Monday. Cheloy Garafil of the Presidential Communications Office, however, said that Executive Secretary Bersamin was "looking at it, as a matter of procedure."

Third part on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023.

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Paslit nalibing ng buhay, ilang bahay natabunan din ng gumuhong lupa

NASAWI ang 8 anyos na batang babae nang matabunan ng gumuhong lupa ang kanilang tahanan dahil sa walang tigil na pag-ulan sa Zamboanga del Norte. May landslide ding naganap sa Maco, Davao de Oro.

Ayon sa Facebook post ng Coast Guard K9 Force, natagpuan ang labi ng biktima nitong Linggo sa isina-

gawang search and retrieval operation ng mga awtoridad sa Barangay Tinaplan sa bayan ng Sindangan.

Gumuho ang bahagi ng lupa sa naturang lugar noong Huwebes, Enero 12, dahil sa ilang araw na patuloy na pag-ulan.

Samantala, gumuho rin ang bahagi ng bundok sa bayan ng Maco sa Davao de Oro dahil sa masamang panahon.

Sinabi ni Engr. Ariel Capoy, officer ng Municipal Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Office ng Maco, na aabot sa 24 pamilya ang apektado ng land-

slide habang 13 bahay ang napinsala.

Yung iba [kasalukuyang] na doon sa may covered court... malapi sa barangay hall. Tapos 'yung iba nanulyan sa mga relatives nila at mga magulang nila," saad ni Capoy.

Binanggit ni Capoy na high-susceptible sa landslide ang lugar batay sa pag-aaral ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Samantala, sinabi ni Capoy na nagbigay ng food packs at financial assistance ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Davao de Oro sa mga apektadong residente.



A CALL FOR EASE IN DOING BUSINESS

Yinglong Steel Corporation (YSC) is 70% Filipino owned, set up as a local subsidiary of Yuanlong Corporation of China. Established in April 12, 2017, YSC aimed to set up initially a ferro-nickel plant and steel plant separately in Zambales this year, in response to the call of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. for an added-value to the mining industry.

After our MPSA Contract was approved in August 2021, we immediately poured more than P2 billion in investments in equipment, mine development, environmental and social management measures and programs to prove our capability.

Our aggressive efforts, however, were met with so many challenges from unscrupulous parties. There were allegations that we are **operating illegally and without an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)**. This however, is **far from the truth**, as we are ready to show documentary evidence in any forum or any court of law.

President Marcos Jr.'s call at the last Chamber of Commerce and Industry Conference to *"make the business climate streamlined, improve the ease of doing business further, and ensure consistent policies and laws are in place and not changeable*, his recent visit to China inviting investments particularly in mining has emboldened us to hold on and continue with our objective in helping the country generate the needed revenue for recovery.



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We therefore call on the government agencies to heed the call of the President for ease in doing business. We plead for your support and guidance, not hindrance.

We are here to stay to make our humble contribution for our country's recovery.

YINGLONG STEEL CORP.

Sta Cruz, Zambales

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



1M MORINGA ITATANIM SA CARAGA

AABOT sa isang milyong mga buto ng Malunggay o Moringa ang itatanim sa Caraga Region at ito magiging bahagi ng proyekto ang mga state universities and colleges (SUCs).

Ito ay makaraang pumirma ng memorandum of understanding (MOU) ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Caraga Region (DENR-13) at Commission on Higher Education (CHED) para sa pagpapatupad ng 'One Million Malunggay Plant Growing Advocacy Project'.

Ang paglagda ay ginanap noong Biyernes sa Hero Auditorium ng Caraga State University sa Butuan City, sa pangunguna nina DENR-13 executive director Nonito Tamayo at CHED-13 director Dr. George Colorado.

Sinabi ni Tamayo na iugnay ng DENR-13 ang mga SUC sa National Greening Program (NGP) ng DENR-13, partikular sa 123 asosasyon sa rehiyon sa ilalim ng Commu-



nity-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFM).

Ang DENR-13 ay may target na lugar na 1,200 ektarya para sa NGP project nito.

Ang nabuong malunggay (Moringa oleifera) seedlings ay ipapamahagi sa 123 asosasyon sa ilalim ng

CBFM para sa pagtatanim at produksyon.

Dagdag pa niya, maaari ding ibigay ang dahon ng malunggay sa mga paaralang nagsasagawa ng feeding programs.

"Mas potent ang Malunggay in terms of Vitamin C and potassium. Ang dahon ng malunggay ay mabuti para sa ating mga anak," sabi ni Tamayo.

Nagsimula ang pagpapalano para sa proyekto noong Marso noong nakaraang taon, na minarkahan ng ceremonial planting ng 50 puno ng malunggay sa bakuran ng CHED.

Sa Laoag, Ilocos Norte kung saan ito ay kilala bilang marunggay, ang Marunggay Festival ay inilunsad noong

Hunyo 2021 upang i-promote ito bilang isang superfood dahil sa promising na masustansyang nilalaman nito.

Nagtanim din ang Eastern Visayas ng isang milyong puno ng malunggay noong 2021, sa pangunguna ng National Nutrition Council. **(Dolly Cabreza)**



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PHL mangrove losses second worst in region

THE PHILIPPINES lost 10.5% of its mangrove trees between 1990 and 2010, trailing only Myanmar's losses of 27.6%, which are reckoned for the separate period of 2000 and 2014, the University of the Philippines said in a study.

The study surveyed 300 mangrove sites across Southeast Asia with the goal of filling "large gaps in our understanding of the current and future state of these already dwindling natural resources."

The study recommended priority action on mangrove restoration as a climate change adaptation and mitigation measure; monitoring the recovery of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and strengthening of the ASEAN network.

The research also highlighted the need for new technology and innovation to effect a sustainable recolonization of mangrove areas.

"As a region vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons and tsunamis, restoration programs should be designed to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts. Technological innovation for science-based green-gray coastal engineering are critical for facing changing climatic conditions," the study concluded. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



TITLE:

Why we need a forest cadastre

By Angela Arnante

IN THE PHILIPPINES, with a total land area of 30 million hectares (ha), only alienable and disposable (A&D) lands (14.2 million ha) are included in the national cadastre, and information on them can be found in a public registry. The remaining forest lands (15.8 million ha) are not included in such a system and information on them is not available in a publicly accessible database.

CADASTRE?

A cadastre is a parcel-based and up-to-date information system containing records of interests in land such as rights, restrictions, and responsibilities, etc.¹ It usually includes the geometric description of land parcels linked to tenurial instruments and the value of the land parcel and its improvements.²

Recording of land ownership has been around since Ancient Egypt but the foundations of the modern-day cadastre were laid down by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1807 when he ordered the creation of maps and cadastral records.³ Forest lands are also included in the cadastre, whether they are publicly or privately-owned.

Finland, Germany, and New Zealand have one cadastre that caters to all land classifications. In Turkey and Greece, there is a separate cadastre for forests. A forest cadastre is an inventory and record of interests in forest lands for various purposes. It is a tool for protecting, planning, development, and sustainable management of forests.

In the Philippines, although not yet established, a semblance of a pseudo-forest cadastre is being implemented through activities such as forest boundary delimitation survey and delineation of parcel forests and/or forest lands from the different tenurial instruments. However, one missing aspect of these initia-

tives is a systematic land information system and forest land registry that is publicly available.

DO WE NEED ONE?

Yes. There are proposed bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate that seek to establish a forest cadastre, to include forest lands in the national cadastral system. As the bills frame it, the forest cadastre will also include mineral lands, national parks and protected areas, ancestral land domains, reservations and proclamations — those lands that are not subject to private ownership.

Prior to any development and management undertaking, having information is imperative. The forest cadastre is a public library of information on forest lands enabling the public to make informed decisions on sustainable use, management, and/or regulation of use of forest resources. The forest cadastre is like one huge jigsaw puzzle set and each piece is one forest parcel (regardless of size) filled with relevant information regarding the land and the forest therein. Where is the parcel/ piece located? What are the dimensions? Is it tenured or not? Who are the claimants? Which parcels are available for commercial activity, and which are not? And the best part is that this entire puzzle set of information shall be made available to everyone.

It is high time that the Philippines considers its forest lands in its existing national cadastral system. Why?

First, the availability of relevant and parcelized forest land and forest information can help for the effective and efficient management, planning, and assessment of forest lands.

Second, a forest cadastre can help in monitoring resource utilization and provide a reliable basis holding stewards/managers accountable if forest lands have not been properly used and managed.

Third, there will be a better understanding and inventory of tenures that may lead to their potential registration other than absolute ownership, i.e., CB-FMA, IFMA, SIFMA, PACBRMA, CADT, and CALT among others, and this may help facilitate access to better credit in formal financial markets.

Fourth, the needed information will be publicly accessible encouraging private sector investments in green development projects, not only to provide livelihood to up to over 25 million upland dwellers but also to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Finally, the cadastre will help identify and resolve lingering boundary conflicts or issues in forest lands among different agencies with overlapping jurisdiction such as the self-delineation of ancestral domain lands.

PRIVATIZING FORESTS?

The proposed forest cadastre does not equate to privatizing forest lands as the State remains as its sole owner per the 1987 Constitution. What the forest cadastre does is that it provides a systematic and parcel-based recording and mapping of interests in forest lands similar to the existing cadastre on A&D lands. In fact, this initiative is in line with Section 53. c. of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Memorandum Circular 2010-13 as it states, "other lands which cannot be subjected to private ownership shall also be included in the lot survey and shall be issued a Cadastral Lot Number."

With the decline of the country's forest cover (7 million ha in 2015 from 14 million ha in 1950s), the increasing need to address concerns on climate change, and the decline of local wood production, it is of paramount importance that we sustainably manage our already diminished forest resources, and this is anchored on well-defined property rights and accessible reliable information. ■



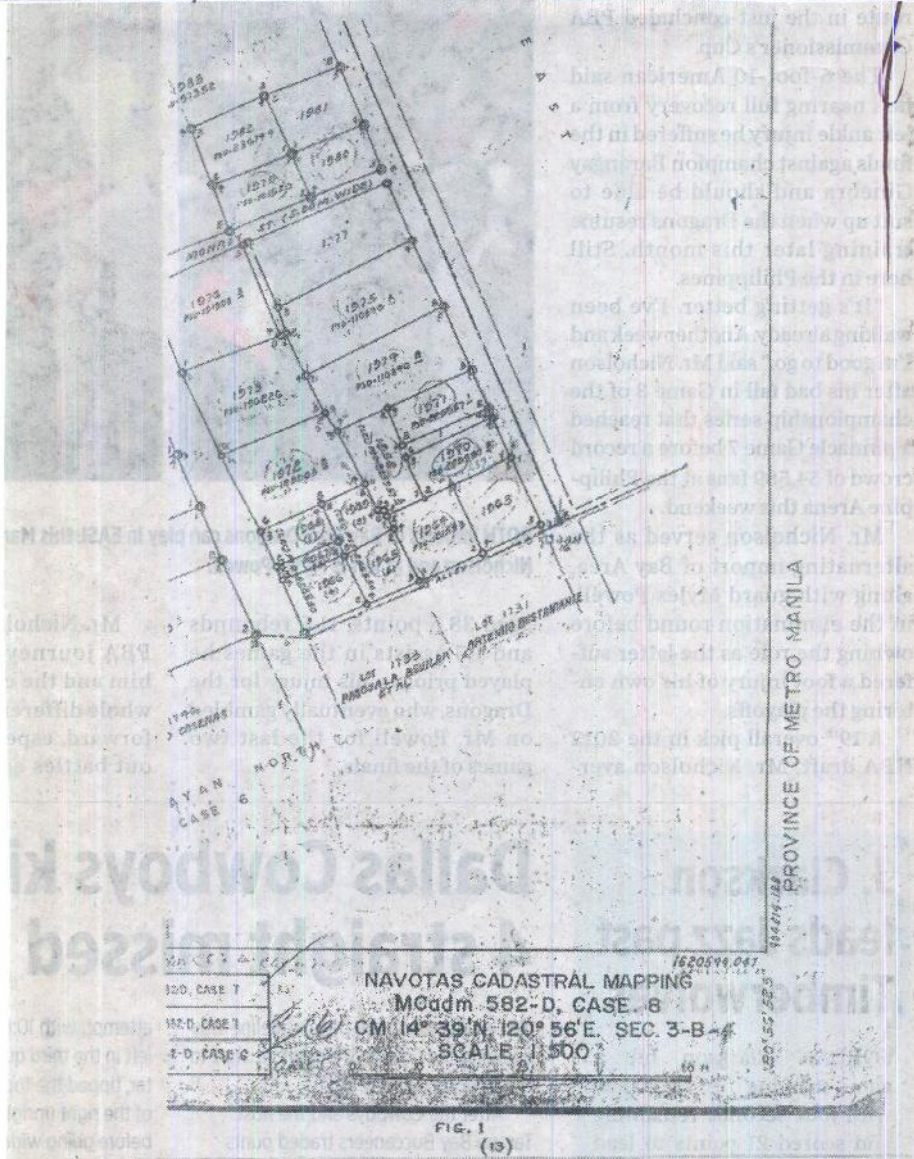
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SAMPLE graphical cadastral map from <https://cadastraltemplate.org/philippines.php>

¹Panfil, Y., Mellon, C., Robustelli, T., & Fella, T. (2019). 3D Cadastre and Property Rights. New America. Retrieved Sept. 7, 2022, from <https://www.newamerica.org/future-land-housing/reports/proprightstech-primers/3d-cadastre-and-property-rights/>.

²Ibraheem, A. (2012). Development of Large-Scale Land Information System (LIS) by Using Geographic Information

System (GIS) and Field Surveying. Engineering, 107-118.

³International Federation of Surveyors (2020). History of Cadastral Systems. Retrieved Sept. 7, 2022, from https://www.fig.net/organisation/perm/hsm/history_of/cadastre.asp.

ANGELA ARNANTE is a program officer at the Foundation for Economic Freedom.



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A change in attitude about climate finance

THERE has been a change in attitude from wealthy, industrialized countries with regard to policies and financing of climate change-related problems. They seem to be more receptive to the idea of investing in renewable energy, in keeping with the goals and targets set by the Paris Agreement. It took some time. In fact, the world will not meet the Paris Agreement target of preventing the global average temperature rise by 1.5 C by imposing a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions despite the doomsday forecasts of activists and environmental organizations. But it is interesting to see other opportunities and policies beyond renewables being discussed — investments in flood control engineering, better housing for the poor, imposition of land use plans, improving local government capacities to plan for disaster resilience and preparedness, better storm forecasting equipment, STEM education, and even nutrition.

Climate change adaptation is in the center of most discussions at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Though economic cooperation is the unifying theme and ultimate reason for the participation of the world's wealthiest billionaires, there is more than a consciousness but also an acceptance of the reality of our changed world. This puts the Philippines in an interesting, or rather opportune, position as one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We have been receiving the brunt of the effects of pollution, namely the burning of fossil fuels, by our wealthy trade partners for over a decade.

It wasn't so long ago that the Philippines' representative to the UN Climate talks in Warsaw back in November 2013 burst into tears while narrating the destruction left by Typhoon "Haiyan" ("Yolanda"). Naderev "Yeb" Sano refused to eat during the conference in solidarity with the people who were suffering in Tacloban. We have seen other environmental catastrophes since Haiyan. And the conversation about climate continued to revolve around humanitarian assistance after a calamity. It was very hard to ask the "West" to pay up. There have been times when President Duterte used



URBANISTA

**DAPHNE
OSEÑA PAEZ**

expletive words to get the point across.

This is not to say that the Philippines just waited for assistance from outside. Before the change in government, Duterte designated Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez to represent the Philippines in the Climate Change Commission. It was an interesting move to put a finance chief instead of an environmental expert at the helm of climate talks. This sent a strong message that the Philippines considered important the role of global finance in achieving climate goals in developing countries. The Philippines set the policies required by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in April of 2021 to commit to an acceptable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. We played by the rules even though the Philippines only accounts for 0.3 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and suffers the most from super typhoons.

Given that the Philippines now has most of the necessary climate policies in place, this puts us currently in an opportune situation as we are ready to implement financing of climate adaptation and mitigation. This puts the team of President Marcos in a good position every time they are in talks with potential investors or partners.

Reports show that there is a rare winter "heat wave" in Davos this season. A few days ago they were well above freezing, an unusual temperature for early January. My daughter was in New York last week, where the temperature was in the mid teens (Celsius). It has been a relatively mild winter in Toronto despite the one week "snowmageddon" storm warnings. These drastic changes in temperature signify to Westerners that, yes, indeed the climate patterns have shifted. For now it is the inconvenience of not having enough snow to ski in. But for us, on this side of the Pacific, it spells prolonged rain, landslides and floods. But that's another story.



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Accelerated climate-change agenda in PDP 2023-2028

THE Climate Change Commission has welcomed the inclusion of an accelerated climate change agenda in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, saying that it would further strengthen the government's commitment to delivering on key climate actions.

CCC vice chair and executive director Robert Borje cited the addition of an entire chapter on climate change in the PDP 2023-2028 namely "Chapter 15: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience".

"The PDP Chapter 15 reflects the Philippine Government's commitment and dedication to enhance the nation's overall resilience to climate change and its impacts, putting a premium on the need for integrated and comprehensive climate action between and among government, partners, and all stake-

holders," Borje said.

The chapter identified the goal for communities, institutions and the natural and built environment to be "more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change" by 2028.

It also listed three strategies namely increasing climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions, enhancing ecosystem resilience and enabling transition to a low-carbon economy.

To support and operationalize PDP 2023-2028, the CCC said it is updating the National Climate Change Action Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution, strengthening the implementation of the National Climate Risk Management Framework and developing the National Adaptation Plan.

These plans and frameworks pro-

vide convergence points for CCC to work with relevant government agencies on enhancing ecosystem resilience and enabling low carbon economy transition.

"Likewise, these plans and framework will allow the Philippine government to assess the required climate finance and investments on top of public resources for needed climate change actions," the CCC added.

Currently, a total of P453.1 billion has been allocated for climate change expenditure by national government institutions to be used for adaptation and mitigation programs.

Borje said the figure represents a 56 percent increase from the climate change expenditure tagged for the fiscal year 2022, "an indication of the priority of the administration given to transformative climate change agenda".



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Solving the problem of food waste in PHL

A TYPICAL Filipino household throws away 43 grams of rice daily, according to a 2015 survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology. There are nearly 23 million Filipino households, which means that total rice wasted could be around one million kilograms daily or about 1,000 metric tons. According to the BUSINESSMIRROR's estimates, the volume of rice wasted by households every year is enough to significantly reduce the country's rice imports.

Results of the FNRI survey also indicated that Filipinos waste other food items such as fish, meat, poultry and vegetables (*See, "Food waste, postharvest losses where millions remain hungry," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, October 18, 2018*). Households throw away some six grams of fish and fish products, one gram of meat and meat products, and one gram of poultry. Consumers also wasted some five grams per plate of vegetables, including the green, leafy and yellow vegetables.

Food waste does not only occur in Philippine households. Our farmers also incur postharvest losses, which the Food and Agriculture Organization has defined as measurable losses in edible food mass or nutritional value of food intended for human consumption. The International Food Policy Research Institute noted that large quantities of food are wasted or lost at each of the stages of the postharvest system every year. Citing a FAO-commissioned study, IFPRI said in a paper published in 2018 that around 1.3 billion tons of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally each year.

Reducing the amount of food thrown away by households and the produce lost after harvest will not happen overnight, but it is an effort worth pursuing. It would do well for the Marcos administration to look into this problem. A solution to our food wastage can help boost the country's food security. Beefing up the country's food supply is not only about increasing production; it also entails collective efforts to minimize postharvest losses. Authorities can also launch a strategic campaign to encourage households to stop throwing away food.

The International Rice Research Institute has warned policymakers more than a decade ago that the volume of rice being wasted by the country is worth more than \$200 million. Data from other government agencies have also shown that the Philippines could significantly reduce food imports by addressing the food waste problem. Despite the warnings made by various institutions, no campaign was launched to address the problem. Thus, the Philippines continued to import rice, as local production could not keep pace with increasing demand.

The spike in the prices of various commodities, including fertilizer, should prompt policymakers to seriously consider putting money in schemes that would help the country beef up its food supply. Investing in postharvest facilities and enabling farmers to have access to these facilities are some of the practical solutions. Unfortunately, farmers in many rural areas still lack these vital cogs in the postharvest system. As climate shocks and other threats compound the difficulty of increasing farm output, the ideal scenario we hope to see is for government to work with the private sector to implement the necessary interventions that can help stop food waste in the country.



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Mimaropa agrarian reform officers acquire skills in community organizing, agri biz devt

TO improve their skills in formulating workable and effective plans in developing farm communities, Municipal Agrarian Reform Officers (MAROs), Development Facilitators (DFs), and other implementers of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the Mimaropa region recently completed a four-day training on agrarian reform community (ARC) organizing and development (ARCOD).

The training is designed to raise the skills of implementers not only in community organizing but also in enterprise development and management, DAR Mimaropa Regional Director Marvin Bernal said in a news release.

"This training is essential for MAROs and DFs in executing entrepreneurial activities in agrarian reform communities in Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan," Bernal said.

The activity is in line with the directive of DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III to improve and uplift the lives of farmers by training them to become farmer-entrepreneurs, said Bernal.

During the training, participants were provided skills on modern approaches and ways to develop ARCs, prepare their development plan, and formulate a one-year plan for 2023.

The participants completed four modules: Enhancing Personal Effectiveness, Internalizing Community Development Perspective, Acquiring ARC Development Skills and Formulating the Learning Action Plan.

They also committed themselves to improving the quality of lives of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) to become active participants in the government's development efforts.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY
www.namria.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, Bids and Awards Committee (NAMRIA-BAC) invites interested bidders for the projects "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW-SERIES LARGE-SCALE ORTHOIMAGES AND ENHANCED TOPOGRAPHIC BASE MAPS AT SCALE 1:4,000 USING VERY HIGH-RESOLUTION SATELLITE IMAGERIES (VHRSI), covering cluster of highly urbanized cities, as follows:

CLUSTERS	Land AREA (HA.)
1. CLUSTER 15	
BATAC CITY	16,108
LAOAG CITY	11,008
Approved Budget for the Contract – PhP	28,618,500.00.00
2. CLUSTER 16	
LEGAZPI CITY	16,161
DANAŌ CITY	10,730
Approved Budget for the Contract – PhP	12,934,671.00
3. CLUSTER 17	
DIGOS CITY	28,710
SURIGAO CITY	17,391
Approved Budget for the Contract – PhP	25,445,129.00

PROJECT DURATION: Eight (8) Months per Cluster

The bidding schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Issuance of Bidding Documents: | Starting – January 12, 2023 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference: | 10:30AM January 19, 2023
NAMRIA Lecture Hall/Boardroom
Fort A. Bonifacio, Taguig City |
| 3. Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids: | 10:30AM, January 31, 2023
NAMRIA Lecture Hall/Boardroom
Fort A. Bonifacio, Taguig City |

The NAMRIA BAC reserves the right to cancel the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the government.

[Signature]
Dir. RUEL DEL BELEN
Chairman, BAC

NAMRIA OFFICES:
Lantos Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, 1634 Taguig City, PH (E) (432) 8810-4221 to 41
421 Bantwa St., San Mateo, 1010 Manila, PH (E) (832) 8261-0494 to 95



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
P.S. January 12 & 18, 2023