

19 January 2023, Thursday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DENR chief cites framework for special climate fund

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga vowed to implement projects under the 8th cycle of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 8) anchored on a sound, scientific foundation.

Yulo-Loyzaga's assurance was contained in a speech delivered by DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta-The during the kick-off ceremony of the GEF National Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue in Taguig City last January 18.

Projects in the GEF—a "multilateral environmental fund that provides grants and blended finance for projects related to biodiversity"—is expected to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits and would support the accounting valuation of the country's natural resources and accelerate the appropriate management of the country's environmental assets, the DENR chief said.

It was learned that under the GEF 8, the Philippines has one of the largest allocations in the Asean with over 120 projects and programming totaling over \$727 million. Learning from its experience in implementing past GEF projects, the DENR said it hopes to address identified gaps.

The latter include: lack of policy coherence and integration between effective climate change adaptation and biodiversity actions; weak science-policy linkage and data generation in the envi-

ronment and natural resource management; limited knowledge development and management; and, inadequate innovative financing mechanism to support sustainable resource management.

"The fund marked an important point of progress in ensuring that vulnerable countries are provided the needed support," Loyzaga said. "Further, the Philippines hopes to receive soon from the GEF Secretariat the guidance to the operating entities on the finance mechanism to support technology development, transfer and diffusion."

Planet, people

THE DENR, the DENR chief said, also 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.

The projects are being eyed "to help realign private sector capital to achieve wider scale and impact, empower local communities to harness their contributions, strengthen their capacities, protect their livelihoods, uplift their socio-economic conditions and enhance resilience."

According to Loyzaga, the sound, scientific foundation of the projects would also strengthen the national geospatial database for natural resources as a plat-

form for programmatic planning.

"We live in a multi-hazard environment and due consideration must be given to addressing highly differentiated and local scale impacts on food, water, energy and human security from ridge to reef," Loyzaga said in her speech.

The Philippines continues to face more complex challenges in advancing goals toward achieving ecosystem integrity while building a more resilient and inclusive post-pandemic community, she added.

This, she said, calls on the Philippines to optimize the opportunity to review and finalize the country's portfolio of projects under GEF 8 by developing projects that respond to the needs and priorities of the country.

As such, she said the "healthy planet, healthy people" framework as the heart of the overall global GEF 8 emphasizes the critical connection between humanity and the environment, highlighting the importance of urgent environmental threats reduction and protection of natural resources in order to improve human well-being.

Systematic, transformational

ACCORDING to Loyzaga, the GEF 8 calls for a "systematic and transformational" strategy that responds to the urgency of raising ambitions.

"The Philippines is geared up to work with GEF as its staunch partnership in strengthening national commitments to multilateral environment agreements while enhancing and institutionalizing



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capabilities to translate these commitments into meaningful actions to support sustainable development," she said.

Loyzaga said the Philippines "deeply values such exercises to design the integrated approaches needed" for several tasks. The latter includes the following: addressing "the intersectional ties between development, climate change, biodiversity and disaster resilience"; adopting a "comprehensive risk-management approach"; and, optimizing the resources available to improve quality of life.

In her speech, the DENR chief reminded the participants of the dialogue to recall the decisions of the recently concluded sessions of the Conference of Parties (COP).

She noted that the GEF, as a financing mechanism for the COP conventions, translates COP directives into operational guidelines for GEF projects.

Loyzaga, who led the Philippine delegation to the recent COP, took part in the sealing of the groundbreaking agreements during the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), which resulted in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that features concrete measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30 percent off the planet and 30 percent fo degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.

COP 27, meanwhile, ended with a breakthrough agreement to provide finance to "Loss and Damage," particularly for developing countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis.



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MARCOS STARTS PITCH FOR SOVEREIGN WEALTH INITIATIVE IN DAVOS

MINING SECTOR EARNINGS ALSO EYED TO FUND MAHARLIKA

By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla
@Philbizwatcher

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND—The Philippines—one of the most mineral-rich countries in the world—plans to unlock potential gains from the reopening of the mining industry to help bankroll President Marcos' plan to set up a sovereign wealth fund (SWF), similar to how oil-producing nations invest excess earnings for future generations.

This was disclosed by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno on Tuesday as the 18-member government delegation to the annual meetings of the World Economic Forum (WEF) started the international pitch for an SWF, to be called the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF), whose enabling legislation breezed through the House of Representatives in December despite concerns from some lawmakers and private sector groups.

Diokno explained that the SWF concept was just "ordinary" in other countries that draw from such funds to support long-term investments, like how some Middle Eastern states deploy excess cash from their oil sales.

"Those kinds of assets are exhaustible so you need to set aside something for future generations," he said.

Diokno said the country should have long ago used around \$20 billion earnings from the Malampaya gas field to jump-start such a fund, thereby benefiting future generations. This resource is now nearing depletion.

The finance chief said the Philippines would thus take its cue from other countries that have pursued the SWF path.



Benjamin Diokno

Seed money will come from a portion of dividends declared by state corporations every year, such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which pays out about P20 to P30 billion in dividends annually, Diokno said. Other corporations, such as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., could also contribute, he added.

Untapped reserves

"We reopened the mining industry after shutting it down for the last several years for environmental purposes. So our earnings from this exhaustible resource, we can put there so that the future generation could also benefit," he said.

The Philippines is the fifth most mineralized country in the world with about \$1 trillion worth of untapped copper, gold, nickel, zinc and silver reserves. The local mining industry contributed P102.3 billion to the gross domestic product in 2020 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. Less than 5 percent of the country's mineral reserves have been tapped.

Under the plan, the funds generated from mining would

then be invested in many important projects in need of funding, including infrastructure projects that to date are mostly funded by borrowings from Japan, China, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the finance chief said.

Such projects are vetted by the National Economic and Development Authority to make sure these are profitable and good for the economy, Diokno added.

"There won't be any of those what you call white elephant projects," he stressed.

'Further devastation'

But the environmental organization Kalikasan PNE criticized the proposal to use mining proceeds for the sovereign wealth fund, saying that the Marcos administration would be "ignoring the social and environmental costs of the foreign and large-scale mining operations they are encouraging in the country."

"We've seen how communities have been negatively affected by mining operations—the cases of Marcopper and Oceana-Gold are clear examples—and how communities are actively opposing mining across the country, such as in Sibuyan and Tampuan, on just grounds," Jon Bonifacio, the group's national coordinator, told the Inquirer.

"Until our mining industry puts the planet and the Filipino people first, something that can only take place after significant reforms in policy, this proposal of Sec. Diokno will only lead to further devastation for our country," he added.

'Our moment'

In his opening remarks at the Philippines Country Strat-

egy Dialogue on Tuesday, Mr. Marcos noted that the process of establishing the country's first-ever sovereign wealth fund was underway.

"Such a fund is one tool among many in our efforts to diversify our financial portfolio, which includes our existing institutions pursuing investment that will generate stable returns, but also welfare effects spanning employment creation, improvement of public service and a decrease in costs of economic activities," he said.

Diokno said he was happy that during his first year in office, Mr. Marcos has been working hard to make investment pitches for the Philippines.

"And this is the biggest audience. This is our moment. We really have a nice story to tell and it's just a matter of implementation so that we can improve the lives of Filipinos," he added.

Supersized delegation

Back home, the supersized delegation accompanying the President to the WEF annual meetings in Davos has raised some concern. The official delegation headcount is 18, comprising Cabinet-level and senior officials but excluding support staff and private sector representatives.

Sen. Mark Villar, who served as public works secretary during the Duterte administration, said the proposed SWF would generate income and improve the country's fiscal health.

"This is an investment and we have assets. The government also generates income but it's not being maximized. So through the wealth fund, we can generate additional income and improve our fiscal situation," Villar said.



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MINING SECTOR EARNINGS ALSO EYED TO FUND MAHARLIKA

FROM A2

Proponents of House Bill No. 6608, or the draft MIF Act, said the envisioned fund "adheres to the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability and shall be sourced

from the investible funds of select government financial institutions, from contributions of the national government, declared dividends of the BSP and other sources of funds."

The House measure has yet to have a counterpart bill in the Senate. —WITH A REPORT

FROM JANE BAUTISTA INQ



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Benguet asks DENR anew to allow small-scale mining

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – The provincial government is hopeful that small-scale mining activities in the province would be allowed again pending the approval of Minahang Bayan applications.

“Our constituents are living through mining, many relying on it for survival which makes it impossible to stop them from operating while the Minahang Bayan applications are pending and being processed,” Vice Gov. Ericson Felipe said.

Felipe stressed the dilemma of the mining associations in obtaining a Minahang Bayan declaration, which he said is tedious and complicated.

He added that the provincial government, in several resolutions, already requested the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to streamline the requirements that was identified as the reason for the delay in obtaining a Minahang Bayan declaration.

Following the issuance of the declaration, a small-scale mining contract that will allow the association to afford the Minahang Bayan the authority to use the same to extract minerals is also required.



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Tulfo seeks creation of evac centers for cities, municipalities

By PS JUN M. SARMIENTO

A SOLON filed a measure seeking to establish well-equipped evacuation centers in all 1,488 municipalities and 146 cities in the country.

In filing Senate Bill (SB) No. 1652, Senator Raffy Tulfo underscored the need for evacuation centers with basic facilities, accessible locations, and adequate emergency supplies, such as water, medicine, and relief goods, considering that the Philippines is one of the most "typhoon-prone" countries in the world.

"When disaster and calamities strike, covered courts, gymnasiums,

schools, and even churches serve as evacuation areas to shelter affected residents and families," the bill's explanatory note read.

"These areas are jam-packed when the situation worsens. Diseases, existing and unforeseen, may also spread because these areas do not meet standard measures for a proper and well-ventilated evacuation center," it added.

Notably, approximately 19-20 typhoons enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility annually, with 7-9 reaching landfall, according to Climate Change Knowledge Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers.

Under SB No. 1652, each location for every evacua-

tion center shall be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in close coordination with the LGUs (local government units) concerned.

The said location must be centrally located in the community, must be of a safe distance from large trees and structures with hazardous materials, must be near a health facility, must be located on geotechnically stable land, must not be located near military base camps and camps of insurgent groups.

Its structure must also be calamity-resilient and built with sturdy materials and must have the capacity to accommodate a large number of evacuees.



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The Manila Times



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US helps PH fight wildlife trafficking

THE United States government donated P1.6 million (\$30,700) worth of equipment to help the country in its fight against wildlife trafficking and other environmental crimes in Palawan.

The US Embassy in Manila said the three evidence containers for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) will strengthen the council's capacity to properly retain confiscated contraband and evidence presented in the prosecution of wildlife traffickers and persons engaging in environmental crime.

The equipment handover on Tuesday, January 17, at the PCSD headquarters in Puerto Princesa City was led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Lisa Johnson of the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

During the turnover ceremony, Johnson said the INL is strongly com-

mitted to doing everything it can to disrupt the criminal networks behind wildlife trafficking.

"Building our partners' capacity to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes is a priority for the US government," she said.

PCSD Executive Director Niño Rey Estoya thanked the US government for its continued support.

"The donation would be critical in ensuring that cases PCSD teams investigate and prosecute over several months are not dismissed for technical reasons," Estoya said.

He said the secured storage units are expected to improve the PCSD's adherence to the chain of custody requirements, making evidence more likely to be admissible in court.

The US embassy cited a report from the Asian Development Bank showing that the value of the global illegal wildlife trade is estimated at between P548 billion (\$10 billion)

and P1.26 trillion (\$23 billion) per year.

It said this makes wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking, and arms smuggling.

In 2019, INL's support for environmental justice in Palawan started through a P28 million (\$500,000) partnership with the US Forest Service.

The US Embassy said the support was aimed to strengthen the institutional capacity of PCSD and its law enforcement partners to combat and prevent environmental crimes.

The embassy added that INL assists partner governments globally in assessing, building, reforming and sustaining competent and legitimate criminal justice systems, and develops and implements the architecture necessary for cross-border law enforcement cooperation.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



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US donates P1.6M to prosecute wildlife traffickers

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"INL is strongly committed to doing everything it can to disrupt the criminal networks behind wildlife trafficking. Building our partners' capacity to investigate and prosecute environ-

mental crimes is a priority for the U.S. government," said Johnson at the turnover ceremony.

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to chain of custody requirements, making evidence more likely to be admissible in court.

According to the Asian Development Bank, the value of the global illegal wildlife trade is estimated at between Php 543 billion (\$10 billion) to Php 1.26 trillion (\$23 billion) per year, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking, and arms.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



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Fishers in Bohol town want whale sharks out

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohanINQ

TAGBILARAN CITY—Whale sharks may be welcome in the waters of most coastal towns due to their potential to attract tourists, but not in Loay, Bohol, where fishermen consider them as a threat.

Fisherfolk in Alegria Sur in Loay said they would go to the provincial board to express their sentiments and to ask officials to address the matter.

“They (whale sharks) eat our fish, our source of livelihood. It scares us because we might no longer have enough for ourselves,” Calino Permoso, 44, president of Alegria Sur Fishermen Association, said in Cebuano.

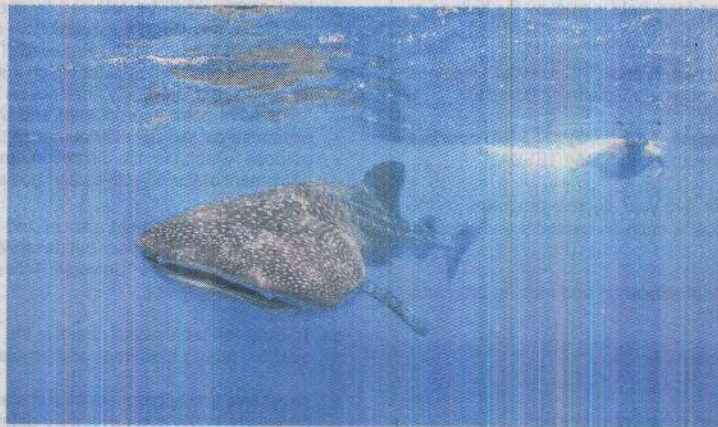
Some fishermen in the Loay villages of Palo, Alegria and Sagnap shared Permoso’s sentiments.

They said whale-shark watching in the neighboring town of Lila, at least 6 kilometers from Loay, was already enough to encourage tourists to visit Bohol.

“We don’t want them here,” said fisherman Roque Bagnol, 60.

Last year, fishermen discovered the presence of three to five whale sharks, at least 12.19-meter (40-feet) long, in the sea off Loay and Albuquerque towns.

In the past four months, Permoso said they observed two unidentified men from



SWIMMING WITH ‘BUTANDING’ While whale sharks have become tourist attractions in Lila, Bohol, where visitors can swim with them, as shown in this 2019 photo, such is not the case in the neighboring town of Loay where fishermen consider the marine creatures, locally called “butanding,” as a threat to their livelihood. —JESSE ACEBES/CONTRIBUTOR

Pamilacan Island feeding the whale sharks with “bolinaw” (anchovy) daily.

Reduced catch

According to marine conservationists, feeding the whale sharks lures them to stay in a specific area.

Permoso said they learned that the two men were paid by a local official who planned to develop the area for whale-shark watching.

Before the whale sharks arrived, Permoso said they used to catch 30 pails of anchovy daily and sold them for P2,000 to P2,300 per pail, which contains at least 24 kilos worth of anchovies.

The catch became scarce with the whale sharks feeding in their waters, he said.

“We are really affected. We would be lucky if we have at least 5 kilos of catch (daily),” said another fisherman Anthony Silagan, 43.

Whale sharks, the world’s biggest fish species and known here as “tuki-tuki,” or “butanding,” usually feed on a large variety of plankton, the small and microscopic organisms drifting or floating in the sea.

Fishermen avoided the sharks, especially their gaping mouths, while swimming close to the water’s surface.

“We almost met an accident when these whale sharks

bumped our pump boat,” Silagan said.

Protected

Whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are protected marine animals governed by local and international protection laws. They are among species on the lists of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and of the Convention of Migratory Species.

The Bohol Sea is one of the breeding grounds of whale sharks and dolphins that are popular in the seas off the towns of Jagna and Lila as well as on Pamilacan Island in Balcayon town, known as the “highway of the whales.”

But sightings of whale sharks and dolphins declined in the early 1990s due to rampant hunting.

Free the Whale Sharks Coalition-Bohol (FWSCB), composed of multisectoral groups, civil society organizations and concerned citizens, earlier condemned the feeding of whale sharks, calling it an “ecological trap.”

Whale sharks, according to environmentalists, are highly migratory animals which should not be trained to stay in one place.

“Bohol and we, the Bol-anons, must remain true to and continually pursue our ecocultural identity and ideals. Let us [allow] the whale sharks to swim freely in Bohol and elsewhere,” FWSCB said. INQ



TWO-THIRDS OF REEF SHARKS, RAYS RISK EXTINCTION

NEARLY two-thirds of the sharks and rays that live among the world's corals are threatened with extinction, according to new research published Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), with a warning this could further imperil precious reefs.

Coral reefs, which harbor at least a quarter of all marine animals and plants, are gravely menaced by an array of human threats, including overfishing, pollution and climate change.

Shark and ray species — from apex predators to filter feeders — play an important role in these delicate ecosystems that "cannot be filled by other species," said Samantha Sherman, of Simon Fraser University in Canada and the wildlife group Traffic International.

But they are under grave threat globally, according to the study in the journal *Nature Communications*, which assessed extinction vulnerability data from the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to look at 134 species of sharks and rays linked to reefs.

The authors found 59 percent of coral reef shark and ray species are threatened with extinction, an extinction risk almost double that of sharks and rays in general.

Among these, five shark species are listed as critically endangered, as well as nine ray species — all so-called "rhino rays" that look more like sharks than stingrays.

Keeping reefs healthier

"It was a bit surprising just how high the threat level is for these species," Sherman said.

"Many species that we thought of as common are declining at alarming rates and becoming more difficult to find in some places."



■ This handout image released by Simon Fraser University/James Cook University on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, shows a Bluespotted lagoon ray. Nearly two thirds of the sharks and rays that live among the world's corals are threatened with extinction, according to new research published in the journal *Nature Communications*. AFP PHOTO

Sherman said the biggest threat to these species by far is overfishing.

Sharks are under most threat in the Western Atlantic and parts of the Indian

Ocean, whereas the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia are the highest risks for rays.

These regions are heavily fished and do



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not currently have management in place to reduce the impact on these species, said Sherman.

Last year countries at a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species summit approved a plan to protect dozens of shark and ray species, adding 21 coral reef species in addition to the 18 species already covered by the regulations.

Sherman said this was "a step in the right direction," but added that a global effort was needed to improve implementation, while the regulations themselves do not stop these species being killed as "bycatch."

She added that the study showed greater risks to rays on coral reefs, but that they enjoy fewer protections.

"The solutions are similar for both sharks and rays — limits on fishing, well placed and properly implemented Marine Protected Areas, and alternative livelihood

solutions to reduce the number of fishers on coral reefs," Sherman said.

Coral reef fisheries directly support the livelihoods and food security of over half a billion people, but this crucial ecosystem is facing an existential threat by overexploitation and global heating.

Human-driven climate change has spurred mass coral bleaching as the world's oceans get warmer.

Modelling research has shown that even if the Paris climate goal of holding global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is reached, 99 percent of the world's coral reefs will not be able to recover.

At 2 degrees of warming, the number rose to 100 percent.

"We know coral reef health is declining, largely due to climate change, however, coral reef sharks and rays can help keep reefs healthier for longer," said Sherman.

AFP



LGUs urged to set up water quality committee

By ANALOU DE VERA

Local government units (LGUs) were urged to establish their own committee that will ensure access to clean drinking water in their respective areas.

This action was discussed during the meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH) last Jan. 16, said Department of Health Officer-in-Charge Maria Rosario Vergeire.

"The most important part that was agreed upon was the working of all government agencies, specifically DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government), DOH, para maipush natin ang (to push our) local governments to set up their committee on water safety quality standards," said Vergeire in a press briefing on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

"May committee dapat at yang committee na iyan ang magsisiguro na bawat local government masisiguro nila na ang iniinom na tubig ng tao are of quality (There should be a com-

mittee and that committee will ensure that every local government can guarantee that the people's drinking water is of quality)," she added.

Last November, the DOH also convened the IACEH members to discuss ways on how to address the outbreak of diarrheal diseases in the Philippines.

Vergeire, in a press briefing last November, said several areas in the country that had diarrheal outbreaks lack access to safe drinking water as well as hygiene facilities such as toilets, and clogged wastewater systems.

The IACEH is composed of 12 government agencies, including the DOH. The other departments are Interior and Local Government (DILG), Agriculture (DA), Science and Technology (DOST), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Trade and Industry (DTI), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Transportation (DOTr), Information and Communication's Technology (DILG), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA).



Phivolcs, pinawi ang bantang tsunami sa magnitudo 7.3 lindol sa Davao Occ

Walang inilabas na tsunami alert ang Philippine Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) sa mga lugar na malapit sa pinangyarihan ng 7.3 magnitudo na lindol kahapon sa Davao Occidental.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, wala pang dahilan para maglabas sila ng tsunami advisory sapagkat patuloy pa nila itong inoobserbahan.

Hinikayat nila ang mga residente sa Davao Occidental na maging mapagmatyag at maging alerto anumang oras dahil sa mga aftershocks.

Ilan sa mga palatandaan ng pagkakaroon ng tsunami ay ang kakaibang tunog ng karagatan at pagbaba ng normal sea level.

Alas-2:06 ng hapon kahapon, January 18 nang maitala ang magnitudo 7.3 lindol na may 64 kilometrong lalim ng karagatan sa Sarangani, Davao Occidental.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, ang sentro ng lindol ay nasa 352km timog silangan ng Sarangani.

Naitala ang Intensity II sa Don Marcelino, Davao Occidental; Nabunturan, Davao de Oro; Glan and Kiamba, Sarangani; General Santos City, Tupi, Santo Niño, Koronadal City, at T'Boli, South Cotabato

Intensity I sa Kidapawan City, Cotabato; Maitum and Maasim, Sarangani; Tantaran, Lake Sebu, Tampakan, Suralla, and Norala, South Cotabato; Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur.

Inaasahan ang aftershocks at damage sa naturang lindol. (Angie dela Cruz)



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel. No.: (632) 8539-4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph E-mail: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)** of the proposed **BATANGAS COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER PROJECT** of the **BATANGAS CLEAN ENERGY INC.** to be located in **BARANGAYS LIBJO AND MALITAM, BATANGAS CITY, BATANGAS.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **BATANGAS COMBINED CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing on:

Date	Time	Venue
26 January 2023 (Thursday)	9:00 AM Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.	Maribelle's Garden, Brgy. Libjo, Batangas City, Batangas

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Batangas Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Project
Project Location	Barangays Libjo and Malitam, Batangas City, Batangas
Project Capacity	1,100 MW
Proponent	Batangas Clean Energy (BCE) Inc.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through e-mail at eia@emb.gov.ph, at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the *Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found on our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB CALABARZON**
6th Floor 1515 DENR By the Bay Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
Tel. No.: (02) 8536 9784
- Batangas City Hall**
Batangas City Hall Complex, P. Burgos St., Brgy. Poblacion 17,
Batangas City, Batangas
Tel. No.: (043) 723 1511

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539-4378 loc. 116, through the project case handlers Engr. Dexter Tabada and Engr. George Silvederio.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

[Signature]

(PDI - Jan. 12 & 19, 2023)



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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

HEIRS OF CAYETANO AND CONSEJO PADERANGA HOLDINGS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Applicant. **Case No. 22-3504**

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within the municipalities of Mahinog, Guinsiliban and Mambajao, province of Camiguin, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
1/2"	P 165.00	33.30	34.60	37.30	40.80	47.00

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³
1/2"	P 990.00	69.30	77.60	82.50	92.40

Bulk

Pipe Size	Per cu. m.
1"	P 211.10

Others

Pipe Size	Per cu. m.
1/2"	P 105.60

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **6 February 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 newspaper of general circulation in the province of **Camiguin** 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 5th day of December 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

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

Affected Parties:
The Secretary - Sangguniang Bayan, Mahinog, Camiguin
The Secretary - Sangguniang Bayan, Guinsiliban, Camiguin
The Secretary - Sangguniang Bayan, Mambajao, Camiguin
The Barangay Chairmen - All the affected Barangays within the Municipalities of Mahinog, Guinsiliban & Mambajao, Province of Camiguin
The General Manager - Mambajao Water District, UMYCCO, Rizal St., Poblacion Mambajao, Camiguin 9100 (REMATE: Jan. 19, 2023)L