

08 AUGUST 2022
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DepEd aims to boost 'climate literacy'

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

As a new international study urged people to start preparing for the possibility of a "climate endgame," the Department of Education (DepEd) said it was eyeing a collaboration with experts to improve climate change education, particularly at the basic education level.

"DepEd is one with the Climate Change Commission in strengthening climate literacy and supporting climate action in the basic education curriculum to hone learners and personnel who are climate literate and proactive in championing resilient and sustainable schools," it said in a statement on Saturday.

It noted that while key climate change concepts were already integrated into the K-12 curriculum, there was a need to "strengthen [their] presence... by refining learning competencies and standards, and monitoring learning delivery."

From kindergarten to junior high school, topics on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and climate change action are included in subject areas like health, science, Araling Panlipunan and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao.

On the other hand, a special subject on DRRM is offered as



[We are] one with the Climate Change Commission in strengthening climate literacy and supporting climate action in the basic education curriculum

Department of Education

part of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) strand in senior high school.

Core, specialized subjects

To also empower teachers to teach climate change competencies and "commit to climate action," DepEd, in collaboration with the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, recently conducted "Climate Changemakers," a 10-week online training course, for some 400 teachers

"Time is of the essence. Climate change is an emergency. The time to act is now," Ronilda Co, DepEd director for disaster risk reduction and management, said at the completion ceremony which took place last month.

"Following the ongoing K-12 curriculum review and revision, we will also further enhance the

Climate Changemakers online training course before its next release in 2023 and we hope to continue training our teachers to effectively teach climate education and ultimately answer the call to commit to climate action in the Philippines," she said.

The training program consists of three subjects: a core subject on the introduction to climate change, a specialized subject for teaching climate change, and a supplemental course for online learning facilitators.

'Dangerously underexplored'

The core subject ends with a "capstone project" of a personal/family/school action plan while teachers are expected to come up with a daily lesson log with climate change integration

for the specialized subject.

A new international research said that despite growing public consensus about the urgency of the climate crisis, high-impact climate scenarios still remain "dangerously underexplored" by both scientists and policymakers.

In the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists from the University of Cambridge argued that climate scientists must now look into outcomes "ranging from a loss of 10 percent of the global population to eventual human extinction."

"There are plenty of reasons to believe climate change could become catastrophic, even at modest levels of warming," said lead author Luke Kemp. "Climate change has played a role in every mass extinction event... The catastrophic risk is there, but we need a more detailed picture."

Currently, the scientists said, the consequences of global warming and its related risks remain underexamined, and much of climate-related action remain naive to extreme scenarios such as mass extinction.

At the same time, phrases like "catastrophic climate change" remain deeply ambiguous and thus undermine scientific inquiry into the crisis, they added.

—WITH A REPORT FROM
KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING INQ



Makati declares state of climate change emergency

THE City of Makati is set to acquire more electric vehicles and boost the use of solar panels following the declaration by Mayor Mar-Len Abigail Binay of a state of climate emergency as temperatures and sea levels continue to soar across the globe.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides. This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," the mayor said during "Cafe Talk for Resilient Makati," a webinar organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

Binay said the city government will step up its initiatives to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

These include the procurement of an entire fleet of electric vehicles and using solar panels in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consump-

tion and ensure continuity of services during calamities.

Makati has consistently addressed climate change concerns since Binay assumed office in 2016. With the declaration, the mayor said she wants to see the active involvement of the business sector, communities and other stakeholders.

"We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change. We heard the data. We understand the science, and we are feeling its impact. Now is a crucial time to act, and we need to act fast. We need thinkers, doers, and movers," she said.

Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration showed that there has been a 0.75 degrees Celsius increase in the country's annual temperature over the past 70 years. By 2050, the temperature increase is expected to reach as high as 1.8 C.

FRANCIS EARL CUETO



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Manila Standard

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IN BRIEF

Solon files bill creating Manila Bay council

NAVOTAS representative Toby Tiangco filed a bill for the creation of a Manila Bay Management Council (MBMC).

House Bill No. 2926 stated that the council shall supervise, manage, and control the Manila Bay and formulate a unified policy for the Manila Bay's protection, preservation, and progress.

"The Supreme Court mandamus on Manila Bay caused local governments to administer and conserve the waters within their jurisdiction. However, this led to the implementation of varied and inconsistent policies that affect our fisherfolk," Tiangco lamented. **Jun David**



Kaliwa Dam has cost Pinoys

P46M payment to Chinese lenders

BY PETER TABINGO

THE Kaliwa Dam Project has already cost Filipino taxpayers P45.782 million in commitment fees to be paid to the Export-Import Bank of China.

According to an audit report on the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) released last August 4, the project has incurred P18.77 million in 2020 and P27.012 million in 2021 in commitment fees – a charge imposed by creditors based on a pre-agreed

percentage of the undrawn loan amount set aside by a foreign or domestic lending institution.

Kaliwa Dam is funded by a \$211.215 million loan from the China Eximbank based on an agreement executed between the bank and MWSS on November 20, 2018.

Government auditors said the China Eximbank has already made available around 85 percent of the loanable sum but the MWSS has not yet drawn any amount, hence the charges.

“The incurrence of the commit-

ment fees was due to the delay in the commencement of the actual physical construction activities of the Kaliwa Dam Project. To date, the MWSS still lacks the necessary permits and licenses, as required in the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC),” the Commission on Audit said.

Among the requirements are a duly signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) with affected local government units, an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan approved by the National Commission

in Indigenous People (NCIP), establishment of a program for reforestation and carbon sink mechanisms to offset greenhouse gases, a detailed waste management program, a comprehensive inventory and assessment of threatened species that may be affected by clearing operations, and the creation of a Multipartite Monitoring Team to oversee the project and ascertain observance of all environmental policies.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also imposed restrictions against the start

of any activity until the proponent has satisfied specific conditions in compliance with RA 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (NIPAS) as amended by RA 11038; a certification from the NCIP; and identification, creation, and approval of disposal sites for excavated materials.

In its answer to the audit findings, the MWSS management said it has sought the assistance of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) to mediate with involved government agencies and expedite the

processing of the Certificate of Precondition.

It said the NCIP has also received the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) signed by leaders of affected indigenous peoples. The Dumagat people have earlier opposed the dam project that will require them to abandon their ancestral domains.

As for the land acquisition for the tunnel port area, the MWSS said the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has also adversely affected the timetable.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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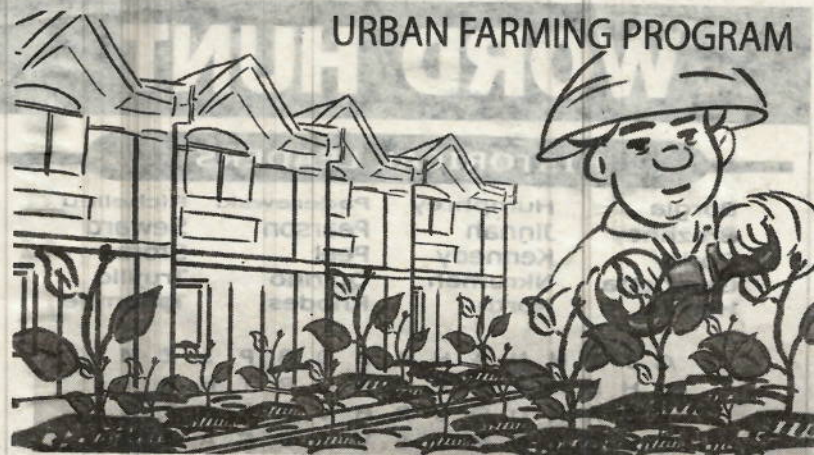
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SUNDAY AT THE BEACH — People strolling at Manila Bay's Dolomite Beach on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022. (Ali Vicoy)



EDITORIAL

Urban farming program

THE government and local government units (LGUs) would do well to adopt a highly-successful urban farming program being implemented in Quezon City, the country's capital city.

The urban farming initiative was launched way back in 2010 by then Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte to help QC residents cope with the rising prices of food and other basic commodities.

Since then, local government authorities have already established more than 160 organic farms in backyards, daycare centers, churches and communal spaces across Quezon City.

QC Councilor Alfred Vargas has urged the national government and LGUs not only in Luzon but elsewhere to implement programs similar to "our urban farming program."

"This is a model of sustainability and self-sufficiency that can be adopted by the national government and other local governments," according to the hard-working alderman.

We commend the QC government for urging the government to implement urban farming projects in the country considering the seemingly endless rising of prices of basic commodities.

Hopefully, concerned government authorities heed the call of the QC government as part of our efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency.

Of course, the new administration of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr., which ends in 2028, is committed to eradicate hunger in the country, notably in the countryside.

Like other well-meaning Filipinos, we believe that urban farming will play a crucial role in addressing the hunger problem not only in QC but also in other heavily-populated towns and cities.

Let's then support urban farming.



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Puregold strengthens sustainability strategy, moves to further reduce plastic use

Manila, Philippines — Puregold continues to strengthen its sustainability strategy by incorporating eco-friendly practices in key aspects of its business.

Two of the foremost goals of this strategy are minimizing pollution and protecting water resources.

“Puregold’s intent is to be a mindful company that reuses, recycles, and reduces whatever resources are available and as a retailer, encourages its customers to do the same,” said Puregold President Vincent Co. “We are very much invested in doing business sustainably and help the younger generations look forward to their future.”

As one of the Philippines’ key retailers, Puregold is enjoining customers to reduce their carbon footprint by bringing their own reusable bags or boxes when they shop.

Puregold has implemented no plastic use on Mondays in all its stores in the National Capital Region. The supermarket will also give Php1 cashback for every eco bag used by Perks and Tindahan Ni AlingPuring members, who can earn up to Php5 in savings for every transaction.

The program is part of a bigger goal to reduce the excessive use of plastic bags and encourage customers, particularly those who buy in bulk, to make changes in the way they consume goods and aspects related to it such as packaging, and how it can impact our planet.

For 2022, Puregold is projecting another 30% reduction on its purchases of plastic bags from a year ago. “Aside from plastic

use, Puregold’s concern is the production of single-use plastics, which requires a lot of energy and resources. It may be impossible to completely eliminate plastic from the retail industry, but we can take steps to reduce the amount we are using,” said Vincent.

Fully aware that 50% or more of their customers are sari-sari store owners, and sari-sari stores are some of the biggest sources of single-use plastics and plastic products, Puregold is doing its best, through the Tindahan Ni AlingPuring program, to educate its members on the importance of lessening plastic waste.

Vincent said it is important for everyone in the industry to look at packaging and how it can be made, used, and disposed of without damaging the environment.

“In Q3 this year, we will revive our recycling initiatives, which we started in 2019 but was temporarily halted due to the pandemic. We will once again encourage our customers to exchange their recyclable wastes for essential grocery items, in designated Puregold stores,” said Vincent.

To date, all Puregold stores are geared towards conversion to 100% LED main lighting to reduce energy consumption. Further, Puregold’s 135 wastewater treatment facilities are compliant with government regulations, as it also ventures into Rainwater Catchment, Gray Water re-use and other water savings and mitigating measures to lessen the company’s impact on water resources. Meanwhile, migration of business’ logistics requirements to optimum cross-dock operations efficiency is in position to help reduce carbon emission by an estimated 36%.



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Liveable, sustainable, resilient



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II
RISING SUN

WE'VE seen some flooding in several areas in the country recently as we go deeper into monsoon season. This leads to disruption of services, traffic, pollution, displacement of families, and loss of productivity. In Makati, Mayor Abby Binay has declared a state of climate emergency, saying that climate change is affecting low-lying coastal areas like Makati. Rising temperatures and sea levels are creating conditions that are harsher than what we've seen before. With all that the world has experienced in the realm of climate emergencies, I wonder what it would take before we all take things more seriously.

Climate change and the pandemic made a lot of people realize the importance of having liveable cities and liveable spaces. This means that we have to feel comfortable in our spaces, that we are productive, safe, and healthy in them. Sustainability is another important consideration—our buildings, homes, and communities need to have net zero carbon and reduced emissions.

These places have to be resilient, too, or able to withstand shocks and different types of changes.

Businesses, particularly real estate organizations, have to consider these issues if they want to thrive in this new environment. Like the Makati City LGU, local governments need to take heed as well and create more programs that are aligned with liveability, sustainability, and resil-

Climate change and the pandemic made a lot of people realize the importance of having liveable cities and liveable spaces. This means that we have to feel comfortable in our spaces, that we are productive, safe, and healthy in them. Sustainability is another important consideration—our buildings, homes, and communities need to have net zero carbon and reduced emissions.

ency not just on the city level but for the nation as a whole.

Technology can definitely help in terms of the design and construction of various spaces. Innovations in property technology and digital infrastructure can offer solutions to current issues and ensure that spaces adapt and respond to people's needs and environmental requirements.

The design and layouts of cities and living and working spaces also need to evolve and change with the times. For example, mixed-use areas and public spaces can be designed creatively to reach their maximum potential in terms of functionality

and even profitability. There are numerous specific examples online illustrate this. The entire community needs to be consulted and considered as far as its needs and issues are concerned. This is one way to build flexible and inclusive spaces.

Some cities are implementing environmental ordinances like waste management program, plastic ban and anti-smoking campaigns, clean air act implementation, and green building and greenhouse gas reduction ordinance among others. The use of electric public vehicles and solar panels for public buildings is also being encouraged. These are all welcome initiatives and definitely necessary at this time but we all know that should be doing more.

All sectors have to work together in a more decisive way to address climate change. Businesses, communities, stakeholders, government, and individuals have to act now and their part. It is everybody's responsibility, and in the same way, everybody has something to gain, too. This is our only home so let us make sure we keep it liveable for our children and the next generations.



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Dems' climate, energy, tax bill clears initial Senate hurdle

BY ALAN FRAM & FARNOUSH AMIRI | *The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON—Democrats pushed their election-year economic bill toward Senate approval early Sunday, starting the sprawling collection of President Joe Biden's priorities on climate, energy, health and taxes on a pathway that the party hopes will end in final congressional passage by the end of this week.

The evenly divided Senate voted Saturday to begin debating the legislation 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie and overcoming unanimous Republican opposition. A dwindled version of earlier multitrillion-dollar measures that Democrats failed to advance, the package has become a partisan battleground over inflation, gasoline prices and other issues that polls show are driving voters.

The House, where Democrats have a slender majority, could give the legislation final approval next Friday.

"The time is now to move forward with a big, bold package for the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "This historic bill will reduce inflation, lower costs, fight climate change. It's time to move this nation forward."

Republicans said the measure would damage the economy and make it harder for people to cope with sky-high inflation. They said the bill's business taxes would hurt job creation and force prices upward and urged voters to remember that in November.

"The best way to stop this tax and spend inflationary madness is to fire some of the 50 so they can't keep doing this to your family," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.

Nonpartisan analysts have said the legislation, which Democrats have named the Inflation Reduction Act, would have a minor impact on the nation's worst inflation bout in four decades. Even so, it would take aim at issues the party has longed to address for years including global warming,

pharmaceutical costs and taxing immense corporations.

Before reaching final passage, senators plodded through a non-stop pile of amendments called a "vote-a-rama" that seemed certain to last hours.

In early votes, the chamber rejected an effort by progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., to require Medicare to pay the same lower prescription drug prices paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Another, by Graham, was defeated; it would have erased a fee Democrats want to renew on barrels of oil that raises money for hazardous waste cleanups. Republicans said Democrats' proposal would boost gasoline prices, a sore point for voters after this summer's record pump prices.

Earlier, the Senate parliamentarian gave a thumbs-up to most of Democrats' revised 755-page bill. But Elizabeth MacDonough, the chamber's nonpartisan rules arbiter, said Democrats had to drop a significant part of its plan for curbing drug prices.

MacDonough said Democrats violated Senate budget rules with language imposing hefty penalties on pharmaceutical companies that boost prices beyond inflation for drugs sold in the private insurance market.

Those were the bill's chief drug pricing protections for the roughly 180 million people whose health coverage comes from private insurance, either through work or bought on their own.

Other pharmaceutical provisions were left intact, including giving Medicare the power to negotiate what it pays for drugs for its 64 million elderly recipients, a



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Democrats are using special procedures that would let them pass the measure without having to reach the 60-vote majority that legislation often needs in the Senate. To do that, they must abide by rules that include a requirement that provisions be chiefly aimed at affecting the federal budget, not imposing new policy.

longtime Democratic aspiration. Penalties on manufacturers for exceeding inflation would apply to drugs sold to Medicare, and there is a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cap on drug costs and free vaccines for Medicare beneficiaries.

Democrats are using special procedures that would let them pass the measure without having to reach the 60-vote majority that legislation often needs in the Senate. To do that, they must abide by rules that include a requirement that provisions be chiefly aimed at affecting the federal budget, not imposing new policy.

The weekend debate capped a startling 10-day turnabout that saw Democrats resurrect top components of Biden's agenda that had seemed dead. In rapid-fire deals with Democrats' two most unpredictable senators—first conservative Joe Manchin of West Virginia, then Arizona centrist Kyrsten Sinema—Schumer pieced together a package that would give the party an achievement against the backdrop of this fall's congressional elections.

The measure is a shadow of Biden's initial 10-year, \$3.5 trillion proposal, which funded a rainbow of progressive dreams including paid family leave, universal preschool, child care and bigger tax breaks for families with children. The current bill, barely over one-tenth that size, became much narrower as Democratic leaders sought to win the votes of the centrists Manchin and Sinema, yet it has unified a party eager to declare

victory and show voters they are addressing their problems.

The bill offers spending and tax incentives favored by progressives for buying electric vehicles and making buildings more energy efficient. But in a bow to Manchin, whose state is a leading fossil fuel producer, there is also money to reduce coal plant carbon emissions and language requiring the government to open more federal land and waters to oil drilling.

Expiring subsidies that help millions of people afford private insurance premiums would be extended for three years, and there is \$4 billion to help Western states combat drought.

A new provision would create a \$35 monthly cap for insulin, the expensive diabetes medication, for Medicare and private insurance patients starting next year. It seemed possible that language could be weakened or removed during debate.

Reflecting Democrats' calls for tax equity, there would be a new 15 percent minimum tax on some corporations with annual profits exceeding \$1 billion but that pay well below the 21 percent corporate tax. Companies buying back their own stock would be taxed 1 percent for those transactions, swapped in after Sinema refused to support higher taxes on hedge fund managers. The IRS budget would be pumped up to strengthen its tax collections.

While the bill's final costs were still being determined, it would spend close to \$400 billion over 10 years to slow climate change, which analysts say would be the country's largest investment in that effort, and billions more on health care. It would raise more than \$700 billion in taxes and from government drug cost savings, leaving about \$300 billion for deficit reduction over the coming decade—a blip compared to that period's projected \$16 trillion in budget shortfalls. *Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.*



MINING FIRMS BUSISIIN BAGO MAG-OPERATE

KUMPYANSA si Department of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Jr. na unti-unting makakalikom ng pondo ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. upang ipangtustos sa mga naglalakihang proyekto't programe nito sa gitna ng kakarampot na budget na iniwan ng dating administrasyon.

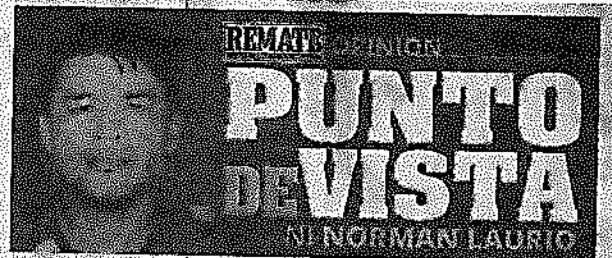
Ayon sa batikan at kilalang ekonomista hindi, aniya, kailangang ilaas ang buwis upang gastusin ang mga dambuhalang proyekto kabilang ang Build, Build, Build, sa halip ay paingitin ang koleksyon sa imports at excise taxes mula sa mga higanteng kompanya ng minahan.

Hindi nga naman makatuwiran kung iaangat pa ang kasalakyang buwis ng manufacturers ng de lata at iba pang producers ng panguna-

hing pangangailangan ng taumbayang sila rin naman ang direktang aray bunsod sa napakataas na presyo ng mga produktong ito sa gitna ng napakataas na presyo ng petrolyo.

Subalit kailangan din repa-suhin ni Diokno ang kalagayan ng mga minahan kung angkop sa nais mangyaring polisiya ni Pangulong Bongbong na isinasalangalang pa rin ang responsableng pagmimina sa bansa kaakibat ang pagtugon sa mga appektadong mamamayan.

Halimbawa, yung Filminera Resources Corporation na pag-aari ng Canadian at Australian Company na malagal nang sinatula ang kabundukan sa Aroroy, Masbate ay patuloy pa rin na nakapago-operate sa kabila nang pagiging irresponsable umano nito hinggil sa social



responsibility sa mga nasasakupang barangay bunsod sa wala namang sustainable livelihood na ibinigay sa ilan libong minerong nawalan ng trabaho mula ng lagan-han ang open pit na pagmimina.

Ipinagmamalaki pa ng mga kakutsaba nitong 'Pinoy na hindi kayang ipatigil ng gobyerno ang paggiba nito ng kabundukan dahil malaki raw ang kanilang ibimbigay na 'tongpats' sa ilang buwa-yang malataas na opisyal sa ahen-syang inikutang ng permiso nito.

Maging ang mga tradisyunal na lupain ng mga katutubong ilang

dekada nang kanlungan nita ay pinasok na rin ng mga higanteng kompanyang itinaboy na mistulang mga basang sisiw ang mga taganto kaya kailangan silipin din ng pamahalaan.

Hindi naman tama na makalikom nga ng sapat na salapi ang gobyerno upang pondchari ang mga programe nito samantalang wasak ang kagubatan ng kasuluk-sulukan ng bansang pinaninwalaang marami ang magbubuwis ng buhay dulot ng mala-delubiyong kalamidad na ang ugat naman ay ang walang habas na paggiba ng kabundukan ng mga kompanyang nagmimina.



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Pinsala ng magnitude 7 na lindol, P1.6-B na.. **Higit 3K aftershocks naitala sa Abra**

Nina DORIS FRANCHE at MER LAYSON

Inihayag kahapon ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) na umaabot na sa P1.6-bilyong halaga ng mga imprastruktura ang napinsala ng magnitude 7 na lindol na tumama sa Abra at kalapit na mga lalawigan sa northern Luzon.

Ayon sa NDRRMC, nasa P1,593,861,827.11 ang kabuuang halaga ng 1,519 na nasirang imprastruktura sa Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, at Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Nabatid na 770 imprastruktura sa CAR na nagkakahalaga ng P837,813,455.3 ang nasira na sinundan ng rehiyon ng Ilocos na may 597 infrastruktura na nasira na nasa P724,019,209 ang halaga at Cagayan Valley na may P32,029,162.81 sa 131 na napinsalang imprastruktura.

May kabuuang 35,327 bahay rin ang naapektuhan ng lindol sa Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, CAR, at National Capital Region (NCR). Sa naturang bilang, 34,699 bahay ang bahagyang

nasira, at 628 bahay ang buong nawasak.

Hindi naman bababa sa 136,612 pamilya o 502,462 katao ang naapektuhan sa 1,329 barangay sa Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, at CAR.

May kabuuang 368 pamilyang lumikas o 1,310 indibidwal ang nanatili sa 20 evacuation centers.

Samantala, 14,401 pamilyang lumikas o 52,028 indibidwal ang nananatili sa labas ng mga evacuation center.

Ayon sa NDRRMC, ang Department of Agriculture ay nag-ulat ng P33,227,895 na pinsala sa sektor ng agrikultura ng CAR, habang ang National Irrigation Administration ay nagtala ng P22,700,000 na pinsala sa Ilocos Region at CAR.

Ang naiulat na bilang ng mga namatay sa lindol ay nanatili sa 11, habang ang mga nasugatan ay tumaas sa 574 mula sa 567 noong Sabado.

May kabuuang 29 na

lungsod at munisipalidad din ang nagdeklara ng State of Calamity dahil sa lindol kamakailan.

Samantala, umaabot na sa 3,097 ang mga aftershocks na naitala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) kasunod ng magnitude 7 na lindol na yumanig sa norte noong Hulyo 27.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, ang mga aftershocks ay mayroong magnitude na mula 1.4 hanggang 5.1.

Ang 955 anila sa mga ito ay pawang plotted habang 61 naman ang naramdaman.

Sinabi ng Phivolcs na ang huling aftershock na may magnitude na 3.3 na lindol ay naramdaman sa Pilar, Abra dakong alas-11:12 ng umaga nitong Linggo.

Nakapagtala rin ng Instrumental Intensity sa Vigan City sa Ilocos Sur.

Una nang klinasipika ng Phivolcs ang lindol sa Abra bilang "major earthquake."



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3,097 na aftershocks naitala ng Phivolcs sa Abra quake

Naitala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) mula sa magnitudo 7.0 na lindol na yumanig sa lalawigan ng Abra at mga karatig na lalawigan noong Hulyo 27 ang 3,097 aftershocks.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, ang mga naturang aftershocks ay mayroong magnitudo na mula 1.4 hanggang 5.1.

Ang 955 anila sa mga ito ay pawang plotted habang 61 naman ang naramdaman ang huling aftershock na may magnitudo na 3.3 na lindol ay naramdaman sa Pilar, Abra, alas-11:12 ng umaga kahapon. Nakapagtala rin ito ng Instrumental Intensity sa Vigan City sa Ilocos Sur.

Una nang klinasipika ng Phivolcs ang lindol sa Abra bilang "major earthquake", kaya't asahan na ang pagkakaroon ng mga aftershocks sa loob ng ilang araw o buwan. *-Mer Layson-*



MWSS assures normal water supply as 244-day Angat rehab starts

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) assured the scheduled rehabilitation of the auxiliary turbine unit 2 (AU2) at the Angat hydroelectric power plant will not affect water supply in Metro Manila.

MWSS said the rehabilitation is set to begin today, August 8 and will go on until April 8, 2023.

The agency said water allocation from Angat dam is transmitted through auxiliary turbines 1 to 5 as well as through by-pass 1 and 2 which requires periodic rehabilitation to ensure they remain

in working order for the longer term and do not present any danger to third parties as they are regularly in use and exposed to a variety of weather conditions.

MWSS added the rehabilitation involves complete dismantling and replacement of old systems apart from assembly and instal-

lation of new and automated systems.

The agency also assured the Angat Dam Operations and Management Inter-agency Technical Working Group agreed to the shutdown of AU2 only after it was satisfied that the impact and risk had been substantially mitigated.

MWSS administrator Leonor Cleofas said in a statement while normal dam operations will be affected by the repair, the risk to water supply is low as the dam will maintain its ability to release water through the by-passes of the auxiliary turbines and the operation of the low-level outlet.

Cleofas said an alarm system that alerts operators to sudden decreases in flow detected by stream gauges will prevent domestic water allocation from being reduced.

Angat Dam currently supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements - *Jed Macapagal*



Regional Updates

July 27 earthquake infrastructure damage hits P1.6B

DAMAGE to public and private infrastructure from the magnitude 7 earthquake in northwestern Luzon on July 27 has reached more than P1.59 billion, based on the national disaster council's report as of Sunday.

Most of the damage were recorded in school buildings, roads, and public health facilities, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) collated information.

The Education department reported 427 affected schools as of last week, mostly in the Cordillera Administrative Region composed of the provinces of Abra, the tremor's epicenter, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao,

Kalinga, and Mountain Province, and the independent city of Baguio.

Of the 170 road sections and 11 bridges affected, only one remains impassable, a section of the Baguio-Bontoc road along Mt. Data cliff, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways' regional office.

"Clearing operation is still on-going with blasting to resume when needed," the agency said in a Facebook post on Sunday.

Blasting operations are needed to break down huge rock materials that are blocking the road following a landslide triggered by the earthquake, it said.

AGRI DAMAGE

In agriculture, damage estimate has climbed to P287 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Damage and losses have been reported primarily in the regions of Cordillera and Ilocos.

These include irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads, farm structures, fisheries, livestock and poultry.

"No damage and losses on crops have been reported as of this time," the department said.

According to the latest DA bulletin, a total of 120 agricultural infrastructures were damaged due to landslides and cracks on concrete. These include 90 irrigation systems,

six farm-to-market roads, and 24 farm structures.

Losses were also reported in livestock and poultry with a total of 129 animal heads that were either buried alive or had premature delivery.

Meanwhile, the National Irrigation Administration reported two national irrigation systems (NIS) and 24 communal irrigation systems (CIS) damaged in Cordillera, as well as 4 NIS and 24 CIS damaged in Ilocos.

"Furthermore, no damage was reported in Pantabangan and Magat dam based on initial assessment," the agency added.

The DA is providing assistance to affected farmers and fishers, which

includes 126,045 bags of rice seeds, 20,454 bags of corn seeds and 3,379 kilograms of assorted vegetable seeds in the regions of Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon.

Vitamins, antibiotics, vaccines, and de-wormers will also be available for livestock and poultry in Cagayan Valley.

DA said it will also fast-track the release of fuel subsidy and Rice Farmers Financial Assistance to affected regions and pull funds from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council and Quick Response Fund for the rehabilitation of affected areas.

DEATH TOLL

The number of confirmed dead has increased to 11 from 10 last week,

while 574 were injured, the NDRRMC reported.

The number of people affected has also gone up to more than half a million following continued validation. Of the 502,462 affected, over 10% have been displaced, although majority are staying outside evacuation centers.

Totally destroyed private houses were 628 while 34,699 were partially damaged.

NDRRMC said almost P120 million worth of assistance — mostly from the national and local governments along with donated goods — had been distributed, including food packs and temporary shelter materials. — **Marifi S. Jara and Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



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Robin seeks regular status for contractual employees

SEN. Robinhood Padilla wants casual or contractual employees who have rendered at least five years of service in government to become regular employees and avail of the benefits due them.

Padilla earlier filed Senate Bill (SB) 234 which seeks to grant civil service eligibility under certain conditions to government employees appointed under casual or contractual service.

"It is high time that we grant eligibility to our committed casual or contractual employees of the government in order to open opportunities for higher salaried positions, boost their morale and keep them motivated, and enhance their

productivity to the benefit of the public," the senator said in his bill.

"For the longest time, the government has gained notoriety for denying its employees opportunities to be regularized," he said.

Citing data from the Civil Service Commission (CSC), he said that 660,390 out of 2.4 million government employees in 2017 (or 27 percent) were under "job order" or "contract of service" status.

"Most of our casual or contractual government employees cannot seek regular employment because they are not civil service eligible," Padilla lamented.

He said there have been special laws, regulations and orders autho-

rizing the CSC to grant eligibility to "qualified individuals" including Bar/Board eligibility, Barangay Health Worker Eligibility, Barangay Nutrition, Scholar Eligibility, Barangay Official Eligibility, Electronic Data Processing Specialist Eligibility, Foreign School Honor Graduate Eligibility, Honor Graduate Eligibility, Sanggunian Member Eligibility, Scientific and Technological Specialist Eligibility, Skills Eligibility Category 2, and Veteran Preference Rating.

Covered by the bill are casual or contractual employees occupying first level career civil service positions in the clerical, trades and custodial service involving non-

professional or sub-professional work in a non-supervisory or supervisory capacity.

Government employees who will qualify should meet conditions including a certificate of no pending administrative case and should not have been convicted by final judgment of an offense or crime involving "moral turpitude, disgraceful or immoral conduct, dishonesty, examination irregularity, drunkenness or addiction to drugs."

They should also not have been dishonorably discharged from the military service or dismissed for cause from any civilian position in the government.

BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO



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Padilla bill proposes regularization for casual workers in government

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

CASUAL or contractual employees who have rendered at least five years in government service will have a chance to become regular employees if Senate Bill 234 filed by Sen. Robinhood Padilla is passed into law.

These employees, Padilla said, can avail

of the corresponding benefits given to government workers. Padilla's proposed measure grants civil service eligibility under certain conditions to government employees appointed under casual or contractual service in the career service.

"It is high time that we grant eligibility to our committed casual or contractual employees of the government in

order to open opportunities for higher salaried positions, boost their morale and keep them motivated, and enhance their productivity to the benefit of the public," Padilla said.

"For the longest time, the government has gained notoriety for denying its employees opportunities to be regularized," he added.

Citing data from the Civil Service Commission, he noted some 660,390 out of 2.4 million government employees in 2017 (27 percent) were under "job order" or "contract of service" status.

"Most of our casual or contractual government employees cannot seek regular employment because they are not civil service eligible," Padilla lamented.



5 yrs. sa gobyerno CASUAL, JOB ORDER, I-REGULAR NA

M. ALFONSO (p.2)

ISINUSULONG sa Senado na magkaroon na ng pagkakataon ang mga "casual" o "contractual" na empleyadong matagal nang naninilbihan sa gobyerno na maging regular, na may karapatan sa mga karampatang benepisyo.

Ito ang nilalaman ng Senate Bill 234 ni Sen. Robinhood 'Robin' Padilla na nagbibigay ng civil service eligibility sa mga casual at contractual na nakaabot ng 'di bababa sa limang taon sa serbisyo.

"It is high time that we grant eligibility to our committed casual or contractual employees of the government in order to open opportunities for higher salaried positions, boost their morale and keep them motivated, and enhance their productivity to the benefit of the public," ani Padilla.

"For the longest time, the government has gained notoriety for denying its employees opportunities to be regularized," anang senador.

Ani Padilla, tinaya ng Civil Service Commission na 660,390 sa 2.4 milyong empleyado sa gobyerno noong 2017 (27%) ang "job order" o "contract of service" ang status.

Karamihan ay hindi ma-regular dahil hindi sila civil service eligible.

"Most of our casual or contractual government employees

cannot seek regular employment because they are not civil service eligible," ayon sa senador.

Dagdag ni Padilla, may ibang mga special laws, regulations at orders na nagbibigay ng eligibility sa mga "qualified individuals" tulad ng Bar/Board eligibility, Barangay Health Worker Eligibility, Barangay Nutrition, Scholar Eligibility, Barangay Official Eligibility, Electronic Data Processing Specialist Eligibility, Foreign School Honor Graduate Eligibility, Honor Graduate Eligibility, Sanggunian Member Eligibility, Scientific and Technological Specialist Eligibility, Skills Eligibility Category II, at Veteran Preference Rating.

Nabatid na sakop ng panukalang batas ni Padilla ang mga casual o contractual na empleyadong nakasilbi sa gobyerno ng hindi bababa sa limang taon, at nasa first level career civil service positions sa clerical, trades at custodial service.

Dapat walang pending administrative case at hindi na-convict sa krimeng may kinalaman sa "moral turpitude, disgraceful o immoral conduct, dishonesty, examination irregularity, drunkenness or addiction to drugs".

Hindi rin dapat dishonorably discharged sa military service o dismissed for cause sa anumang civilian position sa gobyerno ang naturang empleyado. *(Mylene Alfonso)*



Couples and partners battle against each other in a guessing game.

Intimate indoor conversations on environment

BY EDISON JOSEPH GONZALES

KWENTONG Kalikasan, an advocacy project by the Association of Young Environmental Journalists and Forest Foundation Philippines, covers topics on forest conservation, indigenous narratives, biodiversity and environment through a series of intimate indoor conversations as shared by Mindanaoan.

In the first episode, young indigenous peoples and city dwellers were asked to meet and exchange talent – which highlighted the importance of forest conservation.

Reymark Puclawan of Baungon, Bukidnon uses an indigenous instrument to express his culture. Growing up, the elders taught members of the tribe how to blow the pulala (traditional bamboo flute) and create beats using kalatong (drum). His instruments are made from materials found in the forest. He urged people to look back and feel proud of who they are through music.

Also from Bukidnon, Anna Rose Achas is one of the leaders of the Anak ng Tribuang Higaonon-Talaandig Association. Dancing is the field she excels in. She performs the traditional hawk dance. She said there must be solemnity in people's actions as she pushes for the protection of nature.

In the second episode, couples and partners – Sam and Kaplan, Kaine and Katt, Kendra and Danny Jeff, Jazztine and Angela, and Junko and Q – battle against each other in a guessing game.

They had to guess whether the Squirrel Monkey, Calamian Deer, Philippine Pit Viper, Blue-Capped Kingfisher, Makahiya, Tennessee Coneflower and Philippine Jade Vine, among other species, are native to the Philippines.

They realized that there are many colorful and diverse flora and fauna native to the Philippines, encouraging them to do more for the environment.

In the third episode, survivors of the Tropical Storm Sendong read letters they wrote for their future selves.

On Dec. 16, 2011, Severe Tropical Storm Washi, locally called Typhoon Sendong, made landfall in Mindanao in the middle of the night. It caused catastrophic damage which took around 1,200 to 1,500 lives and affected over 110,000 families.

In her letter, college instructor Rechele Barraquias said children must learn the importance of caring for the environment, throwing their trash in the right bins and planting trees.



RJ Sumingsang Saway from the Talaandig Tribe of Lantapan, Bukidnon is into soil-painting and farming. For him, art is an instrument for healing. Through soil-painting, he promotes his culture and shows his people's struggles. He also noted the need to take care of nature which gives life.

Nicolo Nathan Macoy, a student from Xavier University, does graphic design, branding, layout and illustration via digital media. For Macoy, Saway's art is not just about him but also about the people he loves and the environment, thus setting his art apart from others.

Cagayan de Oro's Francis Cang likes music and production. He is focused on playing the guitar which he learned on YouTube. He describes his passion as an experience of self-discovery and a form of self-expression. He views Puclawan's flute and drum as part of their heritage and their tribe's identity which should be cared for. He is reminded of the simplicity and beauty of indigenous music.

Cheerleader Zaira Dehing is also from Cagayan de Oro. She said cheer dance offers a sense of belongingness and purpose. While performing Acha's hawk dance, she said she felt freedom and learned how their tribe uphold their beliefs.

"Help them understand the role of the forest in preventing flash floods. Let your experiences from Sendong be the guide to better care for the environment," Barraquias said.

College student Mariz Obsina, in her letter, wrote: "I just want to remind you that I am extremely proud of you for striving very hard and not giving up. I know you are still pursuing your passion to be an advocate for the protection of our environment."

Senior high school faculty Keith Paasa told himself not to give up despite the hardships. "But you are a marked survivor."

Development worker Tat Gualberto prays with all her heart that as she reads the letter, she is still working with indigenous peoples.

"I hope you still believe that protecting forests mean protecting the people from the upstream to the downstream communities," she wrote.

"You've always been fascinated by the forest ecosystem; how one thing is interconnected with the other. May you recognize that you are not alone in this journey, and do your part that in the greater scheme of things, each has a crucial role to play no matter how big or small," Gualberto added.

"We never imagined we would still be alive today. I am alive and thank heavens for all the blessings," said senior citizen Escarlita Dalumpines. "It is the reason we live; we live because of our environment."



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **EXPANSION OF BALABAG GOLD-SILVER PROJECT** of **TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PHILS.) INC.** to be located at **SITIO BALABAG, BARANGAY DEPORE, BAYOG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **EXPANSION OF BALABAG GOLD-SILVER PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
23 August 2022 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30 AM)	Municipal Gymnasium, Poblacion, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP 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	Expansion of Balabag Gold-Silver Project		
Project Location	Sitio Balabag, Brgy. Depore, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur		
Project Size	Area: 2,177 hectares		
Parameters	Extraction Rate: 11 MMTPY of ore and waste		
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industries Mining Extraction of metallic ores/minerals		
Project Rationale	The Zamboanga Peninsula has an abundance of rich mineral deposits that have attracted small-scale and larger-scale mining companies throughout the years. The mining operations have provided benefits to the local and national economy, royalties to the indigenous people communities, and livelihood programs to the host and adjacent municipalities. Meeting the Project economic parameters and off-take agreements are the primary reasons behind the need to increase the production capacity. An in-house estimate and re-optimization of the mine design had been made considering the increase in the gold price, yielding an increase in ore and waste tonnages. Some of the marginal ore classified from previous estimates have been considered for processing. To mine this marginal ore, waste stripping has also increased, thus, the overall material movement per annum.		
Project Components	Component	Existing Capacity/Area	Proposed Expansion/ Capacity/Area
	Area Coverage	189.4095 hectares	2,177 hectares
	Extraction Rate (Ore- Waste)	2 MMTPY	11 MMTPY
	Surface Mine Area	13.5 hectares	35 hectares
	Mill and Processing Plant Capacity	2,000 MT/day	2,500 MT/day
	Tailings Storage Facility	20.5 hectares	76 hectares
	Waste Dump Area	13 hectares	50 hectares
Proponent	TVI Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.		

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing 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 email at eia@emb.gov.ph, 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 EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found on our website), while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region IX**
Purok Tugas, Balangasan District, Pagadian City Tel No. (062) 945 3228
- **LGU Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur**
Municipal Hall Building, Poblacion, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur
- **Brgy. Depore**
Brgy. Hall, Brgy. Depore, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

For more details, please contact the EIA and Management Division at this Office at telephone number 8920-2240 and 8539-4378 loc 116 and look for the project case handlers, **Ms. Leonil Marie Gargar** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida**.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Tel. Nos. 8539-4378
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed EXPANSION OF CO-O GOLD PROJECT of PHILSAGA MINE, CORPORATION located at BARANGAY BAYOGAN III, ROSARIO, AND BARANGAY CONSUELO, BULAWAN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed EXPANSION OF CO-O GOLD PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
16 August 2022 (Tuesday)	9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30 AM)	Bayogan III Tribal Hall, Brgy. Bayogan III, Rosario, Agusan del Sur

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP 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	Expansion of Co-o Gold Project		
Project Location	Brgy. Bayogan III, Rosario, and Brgy. Consueelo, Bulawan, Agusan del Sur		
Project Size/Parameters	Tailing Storage Facility #5, Capacity: 5,000,000 MT, Area: 25 hectares		
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industries: Mining: Extraction of metallic ores/minerals		
Project Rationale	The proposed amendment will maximize the capacity of the existing facility to cater to the tails produced by the operation. It is estimated that the expansion of TSF can cater to up to 5,000,000 MT of mill tails. The expansion of the TSF is expected to cater to the 5-year operation of the mill plant, which will also cater to the advancement of the mine operation's production. The Project will also ensure the contextual implementation of its Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) and Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) and increase its beneficiaries. The project will also increase local employment, local and national revenues.		
Project Components	Component	Existing Capacity/Area	Proposed Expansion/Capacity/Area
	Tailing Storage Facility #5	1,373,225 MT 10 hectares	5,000,000 MT 25 hectares
	Mill Plant	Apron feeder, Conveyor belt feeder, Slurry pump, SAG Mill, 2 evaporation columns, 4 Goldwinning tanks, Filter, Solution pump, Carbon reduction, Lin, Gel scrubber, Cyanide leach facility, 1 fish hatchery	Additional of 2 leach tanks (1,100 m ³ each), 1 retorting tank (1.2m x 3.6m), 2 chlorine dosing tanks (100 m ³ each), 1 holding tank (8 tons)
	Fuel Depot	86 m ³ diesel, 4 m ³ gasoline	Additional of 72 m ³ diesel, 3m ³ gasoline
	Stockpile Area	2 stockpile areas	Additional of 2 waste dump areas (Waste Dump 1 - 11,500 m ³ with 25m height; Waste Dump 2 - 27,000 m ³ with 30m height)
Proposer	PhilSaga Mining Corporation (PMC)		

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing 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 (EIMAD) of this Office through email at gia@emb.gov.ph 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 EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website. Kindly access the [Notes of Public Hearing Consultation](#) link found on our website, while copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB Region XIII
Purok 5, Brgy. Ambagon, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Tel. No. (085) 572-1344
- LGU Rosario, Agusan del Sur
Municipal Hall Building, Poblacion, Rosario, Agusan del Sur
- Brgy. Bayogan III
Bayogan III Tribal Hall, Brgy. Bayogan III, Rosario, Agusan del Sur

For more details, please contact the EIA and Management Division at this Office at telephone number: 8020-2246 and 8539-4378 for 116 and look for the project case handlers, Ms. Leoná María Gargan and Engr. Mary Therese Gonzales



EMB No. CO-20-22-02419 Project No. EIMAD/AMB - Project 016