

26 August 2022, Friday



**DENR**

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## Offset, ban, or tax?

New and proposed  
programs to end plastic  
waste hotly debated

**BY BEN KRITZ**

Last of three parts

ONE way in which companies covered under the EPR Act can meet at least some of the requirements of the law is through a relatively new plastic offset program called Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX), a non-profit launched by social entrepreneur Nanette Medved-Po in the Philippines in 2018.

The program allows a company to achieve "plastic neutrality" — and add a badge certifying that to its brand — by purchasing offsets to its plastic footprint. The corresponding amount of post-consumer plastic waste is then gathered by the collection and processing network coordinated by PCX, either to be recycled or, as is the case for a majority of the low-value plastic waste, "co-processed" as an alternative fuel to coal or oil for cement kilns.

Although PCX has branched out with processing partners in other countries — one in Thailand, and one in India — nearly all of the plastic waste collected as offsets, about 95 percent according to PCX Standards and Compliance Manager Richard de Guzman, is gathered in the Philippines. Since 2019, de Guzman said, 31,063 metric tons of plastic waste have been removed from the environment by the program as of June 30 this year. De Guzman also highlighted that the program seeks to extend collection

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## Offset, ban, or tax?

efforts and provide additional livelihood opportunities for local communities; one of PCX's key partnerships is the Friends of Hope's Aling Tindera Waste-to-Cash Program. PCX has also partnered with SM to provide public collection points at its malls.

"The PCX model provides a systematic, transparent, traceable and scalable mechanism where brands and organizations from anywhere in the world can support grassroots, community-based and circular economy organizations to clean up plastic where they are most needed," de Guzman said. "Plastic credits provide a mechanism where the cleanup of plastics can help provide additional livelihood, drive social behavior change and feed a more circular economy where no plastic ends up in nature."

### A false solution?

Not everyone is impressed with the PCX model, however. "Policies on EPR [and] plastic off-setting...can help partially address the plastic crisis and encourage producers and consumers to curb their plastic appetite," EcoWaste Coalition Plastic Campaigner Coleen Salamat told *The Manila Times*. "However, these policies fail to address the critical problem, which

is there is too much plastic being produced. Plastics are made of fossil fuels that emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases right at the very production, which of course is being produced by consistent polluters. EPR follows the polluters pay principle, [but] the law that was recently passed clearly didn't impose hefty penalties for plastic production. The EPR law that we have legitimizes off-setting that only addresses plastic disposal not plastics as a whole and most importantly, its production."

Another major sticking point in the plastic offset program from the perspective of environmental advocates is that much of the waste is eventually burned as fuel for cement kilns, creating additional harmful emissions and potentially toxic solid waste in the form of ash.

"Plastic Credit Exchange will collect plastic waste from their partners in the communities in exchange for cash. The plastic waste will be sent to the cement kilns to burn causing toxic pollution. It will be business as usual for the plastic polluter," commented Sonia Mendoza, chairman of Mother Earth Foundation.

A 2013 research paper by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) provided some additional details. "Emissions

from facilities that burn RDF (refuse-derived fuel) are always laced with dioxins and furan, which are a result of burning plastic and materials with chlorine. The mechanical segregation technologies that form part of RDF production do not have the capacity to eliminate common toxic substances like PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic or other domestic hazardous wastes," the report stressed.

In an email statement, GAIA went further in its critique of the plastic offset concept. "[The program] allows plastic pollution to continue in one location as long as it is offset by reductions somewhere else. One bottling company in the US, for instance, can buy offset plastic credits from an offset project that pays for low-value plastic recovery in India. It is this context that could aggravate 'waste colonialism' in the Global South where developed countries as credit buyers continuously take advantage of cheap labor costs, weak regulations, etc., while waste workers and waste pickers in destination countries continue to bear the toxic burden of low-value plastic waste from developed countries."

There are also some problematic market issues with plastic offsets, in part because of their relative novelty, GAIA noted. "The plastic credits market is quite new, and there is no single globally-codified standard for determining how a credit is defined, approved, generated, verified, or tracked. Instead,

dozens of organizations have launched services aimed at the emerging plastic credits market, each with their own set of definitions and standards. Every link in the chain adds complexity and reduces transparency, resulting in a crisscrossed, international system that, as seen with carbon markets, is ripe for miscommunications, misrepresentation, and even fraud."

Asked to respond to the various criticisms, PCX Solutions Managing Director Vincent Kneefel stressed that a key facet of their program is to help companies work toward eventually reducing plastic generation to zero. "We help companies identify tangible action in their value chains, increase circularity, understand the risk and opportunities involved, and how companies can take responsibility for the plastic waste they cannot yet eliminate," Kneefel said.

PCX's de Guzman added, "Reduction and taking responsibility for plastic footprints requires comprehensive solutions sets which seek to minimize pre-consumer footprints — whatever is left after all other efforts are made, should be responsibility cleaned up and fueled back into the circular economy to prevent leakage into nature. We believe that offsets have a place as a bridge to take responsibility for essential plastics — and never as an excuse to perpetuate irresponsible behavior."

### Regulating plastic use

The next likely step the government will take toward the reduction of plastic waste is to either impose a ban on single-use plastics or levy a tax on their use. Bills calling for both have been passed by the House of Representatives — HB 9147 for a ban passed in July 2021, while HB 9171 imposing a P20/kg tax on plastic bags was passed in December — but both are still awaiting counterpart measures in the Senate.

While HB 9147 received unanimous support in the House, and was likewise endorsed by the Climate Change Commission under the Duterte administration, it would appear that preferences in the Marcos administration are for the tax measure rather than the ban. Earlier in August, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said that a tax on single-use plastics was "worth considering" as a pollution control method, a proposal that was quickly backed by the DENR.

"Imposing tax on single-use plastics is a positive development for the environment in several ways. It can promote the use of reusable packaging, reduce single-use plastic wastes, and extend the life of sanitary landfills," Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William Cuñado said in reaction to Diokno's comments.

Environmental watchdogs view the proposed ban, even if it is imposed in phases, as the ultimate

goal of reducing plastic waste, and a necessary measure for the country to get the most out of the recently enacted ERP Act. The tax proposal, however, is seen as problematic at best.

Break Free From Plastic's Miko Aliño said that the proposed tax "is a welcome measure," but suggested that the actual tax rate should be much higher.

"The cost of producing and handling plastic materials, including external cost, [should be] carefully considered by regulators. Ellen MacArthur Foundation, for instance, suggests raising the EPR fees for plastic flexibles (e.g. sachets, plastic packaging) to EUR 1,100 (P62,400) per metric ton, to address the need for additional collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure," Aliño said.

Ecowaste Coalition's Coleen Salamat was more critical of the tax proposal. "The EPR law that we have legitimizes off-setting that only addresses plastic disposal not plastics as a whole and most importantly, its production," she said. "Taxing single-use plastic will just be passed to the consumers, failing to recognize again the major responsibility of corporations driving plastic production."

Clearly, through EPR law and taxing single-use plastic, polluters are not being held accountable. These attempted steps pose more harm than good to the environment and undermine our attempt to achieve climate justice."



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## Panel approves mining tax reform bill

**THE Mining Tax Reform bill has hurdled the House Committee on Ways and Means.**

If enacted into law, this measure is projected to generate at least P37.5 billion revenues for the mining sector, for the first year of implementation.

"As part of our continuing commitment to President Marcos and the Marcos administration, with the approval of this measure, the House committee on ways and means is done with all SONA and Cabinet tax bills," Salceda said.

Salceda, who is among the first principal author of the measure, said that the committee adopted the version of the Department of Finance, which would "bring the country's effective tax rate on mining (considering all taxes) to 51 percent, up from 38 percent under the current system"

"That brings us closer to the middle of the pack among major mining countries, instead of near the bottom of the list. 51 percent is a good number, because it brings us closer to Australia's effective tax rate, at around 51 percent as well, counting royalties," Salceda said.

"Among major countries, only Chile and South Africa have lower effective tax rates than us. This proposal brings us closer to Australia and Indonesia, which are our regional comparatives. China is at a very high 71% effective tax rate for gold mines," he added.

Salceda explained that under Marcos's Medium Term Fiscal Framework, which the House of Representatives adopted, the revenue program assumes a tax-to-GDP growth of 0.3 percent annually.

Under the approved version, a royalty tax of 5 percent will be imposed on the market value of gross output of large-scale mining operations.

A minimum government share of 60 percent of net mining revenues, including all government taxes, fees, and charges, will be imposed on mining operations.

To justify this rate, Salceda cited the example of Oceana Gold's mining agreement with the government, which entitles the government to a 60 percent share of net mining revenues, and the Malampaya project, whose contract stipulates a 60 percent share of net proceeds from petroleum activities to the national government.



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## Panel okays new mining tax regime

**A HOUSE of Representatives panel has approved a new fiscal regime for the mining sector, which is expected to generate P37.5 billion in its first full year of implementation.**

The House ways and means committee approved a bill proposing a rationalized and single fiscal regime applicable to all existing and prospective large-scale metallic mines, regardless of location.

The committee adopted the version of the Department of Finance, which would "bring the country's effective tax rate on mining (considering all taxes) to 51 percent, up from 38 percent under the current system.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, committee chairman, said this would bring the country "closer to the middle of the pack" among major mining countries, instead of near the bottom of the list.

"51 percent is a good number, because it brings us closer to Australia's effective tax rate, at around 51 percent as well, counting royalties. Among major countries, only Chile and South Africa have lower effective tax rates than us. This proposal brings us closer to Australia and Indonesia, which are our regional comparatives. China is at a

very high 71 percent effective tax rate for gold mines," Salceda said.

He said the proposal would fulfill the panel's commitment to President Marcos and the DoF to raise revenues to fund the administration's priority programs.

"With this measure, we are fulfilling our commitment to the President and to the DOF to raise revenues to fund PBBM's priority programs," the Albay lawmaker said.

He explained that under Marcos' Medium Term Fiscal Framework, the revenue program assumes a tax-to-gross domestic product growth of 0.3 percent annually.

"The mining tax reform takes care of half of that assumption already. So, if enacted, it will be very good for President BBM's bigger ambitions for infrastructure, agricultural revolution, and a solid Filipino middle class," he said.

The bill proposes the imposition of a royalty tax of five percent on the market value of gross output of large-scale mining operations.

It also states that a minimum government share of 60 percent of net mining revenues, including all government taxes, fees, and charges, will be imposed on mining operations.

A 10-percent export tax would

also be levied on the market value of mineral ore exports, to encourage domestic processing of mineral products.

"Mining GVA has been declining, but exports value has been increasing, indicating that most exports are ores without domestic value-added. I hope to continue engaging stakeholders on how we can use such a charge to improve the domestic mining value-chain," the economist lawmaker said.

Each mining project would also be treated as a separate tax entity, which would help curb the practice of tax avoidance by allocating costs among related projects within the same company, he noted.

"It reduces room for transfer pricing, or the manipulation of expenses of a company with various subsidiaries or related parties in order to avoid taxes," he said.

To institutionalize transparency standards, the government would implement a mechanism for the public disclosure and scrutiny of all mining tax and revenue data in the extractives value chain.

The Bicolano solon pointed out that such standards could help mining companies access cheaper and more foreign funds and technologies to make mining more efficient.



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## ECoP urges Marcos to 'protect right to manage' workers

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines (ECoP) urged President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to improve the business environment to boost investments, protect their rights to manage their business and workers, and address the jobs-skills mismatch.

"(We want the government) to create an environment that will encourage more inflows of investments, remove red tape, allow ease and flexibility of doing business, protect employers' rights to manage their business and their workforce, and encourage productivity improvement by supporting alternative and flexible work arrangements," ECOP

said in the resolution approved during the National Conference of Employers (NCE) on Thursday.

The Philippine economy is recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, but the unemployment rate — or the share of the jobless Filipinos to the total labor force — remains high at 6% in June.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed the total number of unemployed Filipinos reached 2.990 million in June, 62,000 more than the 2.927 million in May.

Another concern raised by ECOP is the job-skills mismatch, which was exacerbated by the pandemic.

"(We ask Mr. Marcos) to take an all of government and all of society approach in addressing jobs-skills mismatch in close collaboration with the private sector by improving the basic education, higher education, and skills training systems that can help develop a world-class and globally competitive Filipino workforce equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills," the group said. — **R.M.D.Ochave**

**FULL STORY**



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link  
[bit.ly/ECOP082622](https://bit.ly/ECOP082622)



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## Editorial

### Drought drives home the threat of climate change

**M**AJOR parts of the world are in the grip of droughts, the magnitude of which is unprecedented, bringing the specter of a climate crisis dangerously closer.

In China, a nationwide drought alert has been raised after a heatwave has dried up rivers, including the mighty Yangtze. The low water level has slowed hydropower production, hampered inland shipping and temporarily closed down companies.

Similar record-breaking heatwaves have drastically shrunk the flow of the Rhine and the Loire in Europe, and the Colorado River in the United States.

The spate of droughts is not an isolated occurrence. A new UN report says drought frequency and duration has increased by nearly a third since 2000. And climatologists predict that droughts may affect more than three-quarters of the world's population by 2050.

The present figures are already ominous. The drought in China has affected at least 2.46 million people and 2.2 million hectares of agricultural land in at least six provinces.

Europe is experiencing its worst drought in 500 years, and 47 percent of the continent is under warming conditions.

Drought also has about half of the US sweltering, the worst being in the western, southwestern, and central states.

The culprit, of course, is the unabated rise in global temperature, something that countless climate summits have discussed but never fully addressed. Every summit conference ends with pledges from the world's economic giants to set carbon reduction targets, the crucial first step in limiting warming to acceptable levels.

But after the summit hoopla fades, those pledges are promptly forgotten, to be dusted off only when the next conference comes around.

Severe weather crises like droughts are reminders of nature's awesome power to wreak havoc on a global scale, and humanity's indifference to the danger it faces.

A severe drought can cripple energy production and disrupt international supply chains. It can decimate crops and trigger a drinking water shortage.

But its biggest impact is hunger. More than 18 million people in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya face famine after four consecutive years of lower-than-average rainfall.

Even developed countries are not spared, as a deadly combination of hot weather and heatwaves have spawned massive wildfires in the US and Europe.

Bernice Lee, chairman of the advisory board at the Chatham House sustainability accelerator in London, notes that countries are woefully "unprepared and underprepared" for high-impact, low-probability events like extreme droughts and heatwaves.

In 2019, the Philippines was in the throes of a drought that was generated by a severe El Niño episode. At least 10 provinces, mostly in Mindanao, were forced to declare a state of calamity. More than 13,000 hectares of rice and corn fields were parched, and losses ran up to P1.33 billion. Over 16,000 farmers were affected.

Such a devastation should have galvanized the government into reinforcing its climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. But during the same year, the Duterte administration cut the proposed funding for climate change from P267.09 billion to just P63.6 billion.

The reduction reflected former president Rodrigo Duterte's low regard for climate issues. He once said that climate summits were a "waste of time."

#### At highest risk

The Marcos government is clearly more attuned to climate developments. In his inaugural speech, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that despite having "a very small carbon footprint," the Philippines "is at the highest risk" for the fallout from climate change.

National Security Adviser Clarita Carlos also considers climate change a high-priority concern, calling it a threat to national security.

Marcos has drawn a basic strategy for tackling climate change: "First, spare victims; then help them recover, and move on to lessen the harmful impact of climate change."

His climate agenda will have to be fleshed out by the Climate Change Commission. Robert Borje, vice chairman of the commission, has said climate change needs to be mainstreamed — making the people more aware of how it affects them and what they can do to mitigate it.

That is a good place to start. But moving the climate agenda forward will require political will and focus. The Marcos administration must have both.



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## "ANTI-FLOOD MASTER PLAN" SA M. MLA., KUMUSTA BA?

**M**ULA noon hanggang ngayon, problema pa rin ang baha.

Ang masaklap, mukhang patindi nang patindi ang sitwasyon, partikular sa Metro Manila.

Kaya nais paimbestigahan sa Kamara ang estado at kakayahan ng "anti-flood master plan" para sa Kalakhang Maynila at mga kalapit na lugar. Ito ay para matiyak ang "cost-effective" na paggastos para sa naturang plano.

Layon ding makahanap ng mga solusyon sa lumalalang pagbaha.

Batid naman natin na isa ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang madalas tamaan ng kalamidad na mayroong average na 20 bagyo kada taon.

Napag-alamang mayroong P350 billion Metro Manila Flood Management Master Plan, na roadmap ng pamahalaan at naka-programa mula 2012 hanggang 2035. Kumusta kaya ang proyekto?

Samantala, bukod sa pagkakaroon ng epektibong proyekto kontra baha, napakahalaga na lahat ay nakikibahagi sa paglutas sa problema.

Kung lahat ay disiplinado, kahit paano ay mapipigilan ang grabeng baha. Matagal nang sinasabi na kontrolin ang basura, itapon nang maayos, pero marami pa rin ang pasaway.

Huwag nating hintaying mas lumala ang sitwasyon na bigla na lang tayong lumubog sa baha. Walang ibang panahon kundi ngayon.

Alamin at makiisa sa mga programa at proyekto para makaiwas sa pagbaha. Huwag nang pasaway, plis lang!



# House leader wants civil service eligibility for long-time gov't workers

To oppose government contractualization, a partylist lawmaker filed a bill that would provide long-term casual state workers automatic civil service eligibility.

House Deputy Minority Leader Bernadette Herrera's House Bill 1387 will apply to government employees in the first and second levels who have casual or contractual posts and have served for at least five years.

However, according to the bill, these employees "shall not be entitled to any promotion unless they obtain the relevant qualifying condition for that post."

"The government should set an

example as a good employer by aiming towards ending labor contractualization, also known as end-of-contract or endo, in the bureaucracy," Herrera said.

Data from the Civil Service Commission showed that the government employed around 2.4 million people in 2017, making it the country's largest employer. Over 660,000 of these people were hired as temporary or contract labor.

The lawmaker emphasized that it can start by granting civil service eligibility to qualified casual or contractual workers who cannot seek regular employment because they are not civil

service eligible.

Herrera underscored that granting regular status will serve as "an incentive towards more productive work, investing in one's job, and taking on a longer-term view at one's career advancement."

"Considering the services they extend in all government offices vis-a-vis the insufficient benefits and privileges accorded the casual and contractual employees, the government should grant these dedicated employees who have rendered efficient service in the bureaucracy an opportunity to obtain their civil service eligibility," she said.

E. OLIVINO



## Public spaces

**I**CONSIDER respect for public spaces an important civic virtue that should be taught in our schools, to our youth and more emphatically to our adult population consisting of local government officials, business concerns and the general public. On second thought, it should be proper implementation of plain rules and regulations for the adult population, if they have not yet learned how to treat public space properly.

Public space is an area to which people normally have unrestricted access. It may be a right of way as in going to a beach (which is public), reaching one's property, or a sidewalk along a street. It may be school grounds, public institutions like hospitals, even the open spaces of private buildings that are accessible.

All of the above, including



### AMBIENT VOICES

**MA. ISABEL ONGPIN**

parks, open spaces along roadways (such as islands in the middle of the road), or space along the road itself beyond sidewalks, are for everyone to be able to access but not privatize. By this, I mean that public space cannot be restricted for the use of individuals or entities to the exclusion of the public. Private use in this way would take away access to the public.

This is what is happening all over this country. Sidewalks have been taken over by vendors, stores, and even commercial entities that should know better. Local government

officials are the culprits who have allowed the privatization of public spaces for the use of a few to the detriment of the many in this way.

Note how *barangay* halls are built along roads that should have a right of way or a sidewalk. Note how an island on a street designed to be there for aesthetic and practical purposes, mobility by vehicle or on foot, suddenly springs a construction, most likely used as a commercial venture on public space.

How often do we see garage doors occupying the sidewalk which means that the homeowner or commercial enterprise has just illicitly taken over public space for private use?

Parks are magnets for vendors everywhere with all that free space. While there may be a reason why some vendors should be there, such as to service park

goers, there must be rhyme and reason to the vending such as a designated area, a limited number of vendors, and not a proliferation of vendors almost everywhere in numbers almost as big as the number of park goers. This is no aid to the relaxation or recreation or leisure that park goers go to the park for. Doing this to a park takes away from its viability. For that matter cluttering public space so as to impede its accessibility to the public takes away from the attractiveness and vibrancy of a city because it emerges crowded, uncomfortable and ugly.

The invasion of public space occurs even in our nominally protected areas such as forests, beaches and heritage sites. In forests and beaches, the ruse for invasion is resorts which are intrusive on the environment that is supposed to be protected, left to its own natural conditions, and which should have a limited carrying capacity. Resorts in these areas are destructive and invasive because they change the character of the environment which is supposed to be left as it is, as a public space to be visited carefully and on a limited basis.

Parks around the world attract homeless people who want to make them a permanent home, or rather take up the space of the public for their own convenience. Homelessness cannot be solved by taking over parks. Governments must find a more permanent, more equitable, and

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and more practical solution. Parks are vulnerable to unauthorized use or some kind of privatization. That is why in well-cared-for parks there is a limit to how long they can stay open. Certainly, they are not for nighttime use which can become the time for criminal activity or destructive behavior. This would be a nefarious use of public space.

Riverbanks, waterways and even coastlines are open spaces and should remain so because they could be a danger to whoever builds or settles there. Aside from the perils of this kind of proximity to waterways for those near them, they can cause damage to them by pollution, obstruction of water drainage, or plain destruction of their natural features so that they affect the good of the general public in the form of floods, toxic garbage, embryos for diseases. And ugliness.

Other destructive invasions of public spaces are the wanton cutting of trees on sidewalks or rights of way as well as other plant forms that could help minimize pollution, provide oxygen, and mitigate urban ills of high temperatures. No one should have the right to cut a tree or damage plants on property that belongs to the public.

In heritage sites like Mansion House in Baguio, vendors have invaded the street along it. Also near Baguio in the Itogon area where there are hot springs, the invasion for commercial uses without regard to cleanliness, order and protection of the natural hot springs has resulted in a nightmarish and unattractive so-called public space that is downright ugly and dirty. It is for the few who make a business doing this destruction, not the public. And the Itogon local government has allowed such invasion. In contrast, in the Borobodur Buddhist monument of Indonesia, there used to be vendors all around to the detriment of visitors who wanted to take in its wonders without the pressure of commerce, proliferation of merchandise and their detritus. This was true some time ago because now it has been corrected. When I visited Borobodur a few years ago, no vendors were importuning visitors. The stores had been relocated somewhere else in case one was inclined to buy a souvenir or a snack. Borobodur was left to its splendor.

In Calcutta, which has what seems to be an inordinate reputation for poverty beyond anything else, there is a park known as the maidan. It is a beautiful, expansive and uncluttered green space of trees and grass where people may come for the day, picnic, take in its verdant open space and relax. No construction, building, or any kind of commercial entity mars this park. In contrast, our Luneta is slowly being cluttered with fast-food buildings.

Everything that is happening in our open spaces here is diminishing them to pointlessness. The uglification of urban areas and the destruction of the natural environment makes the ordinary citizen, the country itself, and its environment all the poorer.

We need to learn to respect open spaces and keep them for the next generations.



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## Ilang lugar sa Mindanao, Bicol binaha kahit walang bagyo

BINAHA ang ilang lugar sa Mindanao at Bicol kahit walang bagyo sa nabanggit na mga lugar.

Sa press briefing sa Malacañang, sinabi ni Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) secretary Erwin Tulfo na binabantayan nila ang ilang lugar sa

Zamboanga at Sarangani dahil sa pagbaha dulot ng habagat.

May natanggap aniya silang report na apat na bahay ang nawasak dahil sa pagbaha.

"Binabantayan din po namin kasi may mga reports po kaming natanggap na may flooding din

po sa Mindanao bagama't wala pong bagyo doon, iyong monsoon rains lang kung tawagin," ani Tulfo.

Inalalayan aniya ng kanilang regional office ang mga naapektuhan ng baha at binigyan ng pagkain at tulong pinansyal para agad makabangon sa inabot na pinsala.

"Nabigyan na po ng assistance ng amin pong DSWD Regional Office No. 12, iyong apat na pamilya pong iyon at bibigyan po bawat pamilya ng P10,000 na Assistance to Individuals in Crisis," dagdag ni Tulfo.

Binaha din aniya ang ilang barangay sa Daraga at Camalig sa lalawigan ng Albay at inaasikaso na ang mga naapektuhang pamilya at mga residente. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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## US smuggler admits carrying reptiles in pants

**AFF** — A man who hid snakes and lizards in his trousers as he tried to sneak them into the United States as part of a \$750,000 reptile smuggling enterprise faces decades in prison, officials said Wednesday.

Jose Manuel Perez masterminded the six-year scheme from his home in southern California, which involved bringing 1,700 animals into the United States from Mexico and Hong Kong.

In a plea deal with the Department of Justice, Perez acknowledged that he had paid mules to transport some of his illicit cargo, and at other times had made border crossings himself.

The animals that he netted, which included Yucatan box turtles, Mexican box turtles, baby

crocodiles and Mexican beaded lizards, were sold to clients across the country for upwards of \$739,000, documents show.

His downfall came in March when he tried to drive from Mexico with 60 creatures secreted around his groin and in other parts of his clothing.

After initially telling customs officers he was transporting his pet lizards in his pockets, he was found to have 60 reptiles on him.

They included arboreal alligator lizards and Isthmian dwarf boas, a kind of snake that changes color and whose defense mechanisms include bleeding from its eyes.

Three of the reptiles were dead. Perez, who admitted two counts of smuggling, each of which carries up to 20 years



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**Republic of the Philippines**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
Cebu City, Negros Occidental

**LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND**

It is hereby given that the **CIENCO-CENRO** at Cebu City will accept and is willing to lease for the term of six (6) months from December 6, 2022 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

**I. P.L.A. No. 064518-02**  
Location: **Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental**  
Description: A portion of Barangay area as shown and described on Lot 79A P.O. 064518-000002

**Boundaries:**  
N.- Oduansa Street  
SE.- Oduansa Street  
W.- Oduansa Street  
S.- Lot 208, Ctd. 108, Manapla Cebu City

**Area:** 47, 186 square meters  
**Appraised Value of the Land:** P 108, 486, 40.00  
**Appraised Value of Existing Improvements:** None

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

**MARALYN T. BARRADORA JR.**  
OC. CEENRO

**Republic of the Philippines**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
Cebu City, Negros Occidental

13 June 2022

**SUBJECT:**  
P.L.A. No. 064518-02  
**MANAPLA PORT MANAGEMENT, STEVEDORING AND ARRIVAL COOPERATION** -Applicant  
Rep. by Alfredo Luis M. Sarrosa  
Manapla, Negros Occidental

**The Municipal Treasurer:**  
Manapla, Negros Occidental

**Re:**

I have the honor to receive herewith one (1) copy in Spanish and English of notice pertaining to lease of public lands covered by the aforementioned application located at Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

It is requested that this notice be posted upon receipt of the same at the Auditor's Office of Municipal Hall of Manapla and that said notice be made so posted for a period of six (6) consecutive weeks thereafter.

Upon the expiration of the said period, please return the letter by endorsement giving the inclusive dates when the notice was posted.

Very truly yours,  
**MARALYN T. BARRADORA JR.**  
OC. CEENRO

**SUBJECT:**  
P.L.A. No. 064518-02  
**MANAPLA PORT MANAGEMENT, STEVEDORING AND ARRIVAL COOPERATION** -Applicant  
Rep. by Alfredo Luis M. Sarrosa  
Manapla, Negros Occidental

**1<sup>st</sup> Endorsement:**

Respectfully returned to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Cebu City, with information that the copy of the notice above mentioned were posted at the Auditor's Office of the Municipal Hall of Manapla upon receipt of the same through a Certificate in that effect.

Municipal Treasurer

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**Republic of the Philippines**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
Cebu City, Negros Occidental

**ARRENDAMIENTO DE TERRENOS PÚBLICOS**

Se da por presente que el **CIENCO-CENRO** de la Ciudad de Cebu aceptará ofrecer arrendar o ceder a solo usar a las diez (10:00) de la mañana, el 6 de diciembre de 2022 para el arrendamiento de la extensión de tierra aquí descrita a continuación:

**I. P.L.A. No. 064518-02**  
Ubicación: **Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental**  
Descripción: Una porción del área de la zona como se muestra y se describe en el plano del lote 79A-P.O. 064518-000002

**Limites:** N.- Estrecho de Oduansa  
SE.- Estrecho de Oduansa  
W.- Estrecho de Oduansa  
S.- Lote 208, Ctd. 108, Caserío de Manapla

**Superficie:** 47, 186 metros cuadrados  
**Valor de tasación del terreno:** P 108, 486, 40.00  
**Valor de tasación de las mejoras existentes:** Ninguna

El derecho a arrendar el terreno se otorgará a la persona que ofreciera el alquiler anual más alto, que no podrá ser inferior al uno por ciento (1%) del valor del terreno más el uno por ciento (1%) del valor de las mejoras propuestas y/o existentes, a fin de que esta persona pueda tener derecho a participar en la licitación. Deberá ser exhibido un depósito equivalente a al menos tres (3) meses de alquiler. Solo se puede aceptar depósitos en efectivo, giro postal, orden de transferencia, cheque certificado, cheque de caja o cheque de gerente. Una persona que participa en representación de otra puede hacerlo bajo un poder notarial debidamente ejecutado. Durante la licitación, el postor tiene que hacer un depósito adicional cada vez que se le llama su oferta para completar los tres (3) meses de alquiler de la construcción, no se aceptará la oferta si no se hace. Se reserva el derecho de rechazar cualquier o todas las ofertas.

**MARALYN T. BARRADORA JR.**  
OC. CEENRO

**Republic of the Philippines**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
Cebu City, Negros Occidental

13 June 2022

**SUBJECT:**  
P.L.A. No. 064518-02  
**MANAPLA PORT MANAGEMENT, STEVEDORING AND ARRIVAL COOPERATION** -Applicant  
Rep. by Alfredo Luis M. Sarrosa  
Manapla, Negros Occidental

**The Editor:**  
Daily Inquirer  
Ateneo Avenue  
Recolet City 6100  
Negros Occidental

**Re:**

I wish to enclose two (2) copies in English of NOTICE pertaining to the lease of lands covered by the following public land applications located at Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

**Applicant No. Name of Applicant**  
P.L.A. No. 064518-02 Manapla Port Management, Stevedoring and Arrival Corporation

It is requested that this notice be published in your newspaper once a week for a period of six (6) consecutive weeks upon receipt of the same.

Further, after publishing the notice for the period herein above stated, send us in triplicate copies of a certificate of the Director of Printing showing the publication of the above-said public land applications. It is also requested that a copy of your paper showing the publication of the attached notice be furnished this Office immediately after each issue.

As such, if the publication cannot be started on the date indicated, please notify this Office immediately.

Very truly yours,  
**MARALYN T. BARRADORA JR.**  
OC. CEENRO