

06 JULY 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Youth, IP leaders partner for environment activity



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (File Photo)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

July 05, 2022

YOUTH leaders of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Youth Commission (NYC), along with 20 indigenous youth from Porac town, recently convened in a three-day immersion and ecotour activity advocating for environmental stewardship and climate action.

The event coined as “TImE-X: Training, Immersion, Ecotour for the Youth—the Stakeholders with the X Factor” aimed to empower the youth and help them understand the complexities of leadership, responsibility, integrity and transparency for environmental protection, natural resources conservation and climate change mitigation.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. noted that the activity allowed participating youth leaders and IP communities to share their perspectives and best practices on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

“Our youth is vital in spreading the message of environmentalism to their communities,” Moreno said.

During the event, participants planted bamboo propagules along the slopes of Mount Arayat and did soil potting for use in the DENR’s pilot bamboo production nursery.

They also visited the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco-Park to learn more about the potential of bamboo for ecotourism and carbon capture.

Indigenous youth took part in a multi-sectoral exchange with the IP and barangay leaders, the NYC, the DENR Youth Desk, and the Climate Change Service.

The event marked the opening of a photo exhibit on the so-called “blue lagoon” or “kelwad” as it is locally known—a potential ecotourism site in Porac town.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1933879/pampanga/local-news/youth-ip-leaders-partner-for-environment-activity>



DBP, DENR to establish native tree seed center

July 05, 2022

STATE-OWNED Development Bank (DBP) of the Philippines has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the establishment of an indigenous seed source center in Mt. Apo Natural Park in Digos City, Davao del Sur, a top official said.

DBP president and chief executive officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said the seed center shall serve as a storage facility of endemic species from the forests of Mt. Apo Natural Park and other neighboring forests in Mindanao for seed banking and propagation.

“The establishment of this seed center is a vital component of the DBP Seedbank Project, our corporate social responsibility initiative that seeks to preserve the genetic diversity of Philippine Native Trees,” Herbosa said.

DBP is the fifth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and has a branch network of 131 branches and 14 branch-lite units. It provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy—infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; environment; social services and community development.

Under the agreement, DBP would provide start-up funding for 20 DENR-accredited organizations for the collection of native seeds and wildlings, as well as for germination and propagation, with DENR handling capacity building for project participants as well as seed storage and accrediting partner-communities for seed collection and production.

Herbosa said planting materials from the seed center would be transported to the DBP Seedbank Nursery, located in the Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Plant Industry Bago Oshiro compound in Davao City, adding that, “these materials would eventually be sold to local government units (LGUs), other government agencies and private sector buyers.

DBP Director and DBP Seedbank Project champion Maria Lourdes A. Arcenas said the project is a testament to the concerted efforts of government agencies, LGUs, organized upland communities, and the private sector to support the government’s Expanded National Greening Program which aims to promote food security, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

She said DBP would continue to work with various development partners to enhance the capacities of rural communities in preserving the forest landscape while providing them with livelihood opportunities.

“As we encourage the establishment of agri-forestry enterprises to further boost business activity in rural economies, we also promote the DBP mindset of integrating environmental considerations in business decisions, asset management and operations towards sustained growth,” Arcenas said.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934041/cebu/local-news/dbp-denr-to-establish-native-tree-seed-center>



DENR tagging biggest trees in Cordillera

By Liza Agoot July 5, 2022, 8:01 pm



BIGGEST TREE. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Cordillera Administrative Region names this dao tree on Mt. Sedir in Nagaparan, Danglas, Abra as the biggest in the region with a circumference of 2,000 centimeters and a height of 35 meters. The tree was identified as an entry in the "Biggest Tree Contest" launched by the department in the region as part of the environment month in June 2022. (PNA photo from DENR-CAR FB)

BAGUIO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cordillera has identified the biggest trees in the region through a contest as part of the environment month in June.

Ralph Pablo, DENR-Cordillera regional director, in a message on Tuesday, said the contest aims to identify and locate the biggest trees growing in the region with the help of community members.

"It was made into a contest for those in the grassroots to inform us of what they have in their surroundings," Pablo said.

The biggest tree among the coniferous species identified through the contest was a Benguet pine tree found in Gueday, Cayapas, Baculongan Norte, Buguias, Benguet. It measures 454 centimeters in circumference and 30.8 meters high.

The tree was found and submitted by Jona Cabaling, who received a prize of PHP25,000.

The second biggest tree from the same category was in Mt. Mapao, Agawa, Besao, Mt. Province, which has a circumference of 437 centimeters and is 15.24 meters high. The third was in Moling, Cayapas, Baculongan Sur, also in Buguias, Benguet.

For the broad-leaved species entries, the biggest were all found in Danglas, Abra province.

The biggest discovered and submitted as an entry in the broad-leaf category was a dao tree found in Mt. Sedir in Nagaparan, Danglas, Abra. It has a circumference of 2,000 centimeters and is 35 meters high.

In second place was another dao tree with a circumference of 1,400 centimeters and 30 meters high, while the third place was a pasakla tree with a circumference of 1,400 centimeters and 27 meters high.

Based on the contest mechanics, an entry can be a narra, dao, or a white lauan tree which belongs to the broad-leaved species, or a Benguet pine which belongs to the coniferous species of trees.



The mechanics specifically said an entry must be naturally growing in the Cordillera and was not planted.

The tree must be healthy and without signs of or symptoms of decay or diseases.

The contest was to engage the public during the celebration of the environment month and to identify century-old trees. **(PNA)**



DENR Ilocos Sur provides health assistance to employees

Published on: July 04, 2022

By Aila Villanueva

VIGAN CITY, July 4 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Ilocos Sur provided free medical check-up to its 72 employees as part of the HR @ UR SERVICE week of the said office in celebration of the Environment Month with the theme "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo."



Employees of the DENR-Ilocos Sur poses for a photo at the Ilocos Sur Medical Center during the Free Medical Check-up provided by the office. (Photo from DENR-Ilocos Sur)

The free medical check-up which included Electrocardiography (ECG), Urinalysis, Hemoglobin Test, Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) and Blood Typing was conducted on June 29 at the Ilocos Sur Medical Center in Candon City, Ilocos Sur.



An employee of DENR-Ilocos Sur undergoing the electrocardiogram (ECG) as part of the Free Medical Check-up by the office at the Ilocos Sur Medical Center in Candon City. (Photo from DENR-Ilocos Sur)



The DENR Ilocos Sur through Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Rosemarie B. Jornacion requested the Office of Deputy Speaker Kristine Singson-Meehan for a collaboration to cater free medical check-ups for the employees.

Jornacion said the activity was conducted because the office believes that their "employees are the best asset" in the delivery of their mandates.

"Without our employees, there would be no DENR Ilocos Sur delivering excellent services to our clientele, thus, their health and wellness should be prioritized," Jornacion said.

Results of the employees' laboratory procedures were given and interpreted by the young doctors of the Ilocos Sur Medical Center wherein some were advised to take medications and further laboratory examinations.

"We are very grateful to Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan, and to the ever generous partner of the DENR, Ilocos Sur Mayor Eric G. Singson of the same town for willingly accepting our request," Jornacion said. (JCR/JPD/ATV, PIA Ilocos Sur)



USAID trains DENR, BFAR on coral reef CSI

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star July 6, 2022 | 12:00am



Under USAID's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project, 27 representatives from agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training that focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills and marine and coastal pollution.

Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), recently trained Philippine government personnel in coral reef crime scene investigation and law enforcement.

Under USAID's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project, 27 representatives from agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training that focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills and marine and coastal pollution.

The US embassy in Manila said participants attended lectures with international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios, such as destruction of coral reefs due to vessel grounding, blast fishing and poaching.

The training supports the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats.

"The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative," USAID acting environment office director John Piggot said.

"We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," he added.

A joint report by USAID and BFAR published last year found that illegal fishing comprised 27 to 40 percent of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, which amounts to roughly P62 billion (\$1.3 billion) annually.

Through its SIBOL project, USAID said it works with government, private sector and civil society partners to strengthen science-driven decision making, improve economic incentives for investments in the environment and improve environmental law enforcement.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/06/2193335/usaid-trains-denr-bfar-coral-reef-csi>



US trains DENR, BFAR in underwater crime scene investigation, law enforcement

Philstar.com July 5, 2022 | 5:21pm



Photo from US Embassy shows training participants simulating underwater crime scene investigation by locating, identifying, documenting, and collecting pieces of evidence.

US Embassy in the Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — The United States trained government partners in the Philippines in investigating underwater crime scene and enforcing laws, its embassy in Manila said Tuesday.

Twenty-seven representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources participated in the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project of the US Agency for International Development.

The training focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

According to the US Embassy, the training supports the country's national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats.

"The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative," USAID Acting Environment Office Director Dr. John Piggot said.

"We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," he added.

The Philippines is located at the apex of the Coral Triangle, which is home to 76% of the world's coral species. However, climate change and human activities such as destructive fishing, coastal development, and pollution have taken a heavy toll on the country's coral reefs.

According to a joint report by USAID and BFAR published last year, illegal fishing comprised 27% to 40% of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, which amounts to roughly P62 billion annually.

The report also found that at least 30,000 of municipal vessels remain unregistered, and commercial fishers do not report up to 422,000 metric tons of fish each year. — Gaea Katreena Cabico

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/05/2193256/us-trains-denr-bfar-underwater-crime-scene-investigation-law-enforcement>



US provides environmental law enforcement training to Filipinos

July 5, 2022 | 8:40 pm



US EMBASSY HANDOUT PHOTO

THE AMERICAN government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has trained 27 representatives from Philippine government agencies in environmental law enforcement, including investigation skills on coral reef crimes such as oil spills and coastal pollution.

“The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative,” USAID Acting Environment Office Director John Piggot said in a statement released on Tuesday by the US Embassy in Manila.

“We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations,” he added.

The training — implemented under the USAID’s Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes project — revolved around coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

Participants included members of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

They attended lectures delivered by international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios.

“The training supports the Philippines’ national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats,” the embassy said.

Illegal fishing practices accounted for about 40% of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, according to a joint report by USAID and BFAR. This amounts to roughly P62 billion annually.
— **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/07/05/459534/us-provides-environmental-law-enforcement-training-to-filipinos/>



PetroEnergy unit secures DOE, DENR approvals for solar projects

[Angelica Y. Yang](#) - Philstar.com July 5, 2022 | 3:34pm



This is a picture of solar panels.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — PetroEnergy Resources Corp. (PERC) said Tuesday that its renewable energy (RE) arm has secured approvals from the Energy and Environment departments to proceed with two new solar power projects in Pangasinan and Bohol.

The solar project in Pangasinan has a capacity of 25 MWdc (megawatts of direct current), while the one in Bohol has a capacity of 27 MWdc. PERC's unit PetroGreen Energy Corp. handles these projects.

"We have secured the solar energy operating contracts from the Department of Energy and the corresponding environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for these two new ventures," PERC Assistant Vice President Maria Victoria Olivar said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Philippine government is targeting to increase the share of renewables in the power supply mix by 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040, according to the latest Philippine Energy Plan.

The country has also vowed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% in a decade's time, with majority dependent on support and capacity development from developed countries.

Olivar said that the local governments in both provinces support the new ventures. The official added that the company is holding discussions with selected contractors and the project lender, and are due to make their final investment decision soon.

For PERC President Milagros Reyes, the two new solar projects will contribute to the company's move to add more renewables to its assets. The listed energy firm was initially engaged in upstream oil exploration and development, but has since then diversified into RE and power generation.

Its unit PetroGreen currently holds majority stakes in the 32-MW Maibarara Geothermal Power Project in Batangas and the 70-MWdc Tarlac Solar Power Project. The company also has a 40% share in the 50-MW Nabas Wind Power Project in Aklan.

For Reyes, PetroGreen's new solar ventures in Bohol and Pangasinan— which secured government approvals— will "not only contribute to the government's goal of increasing RE's share in our generation mix but will also provide fresh investments and critical power supply in two high-growth areas of the country."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/07/05/2193235/petroenergy-unit-secures-doe-denr-approvals-solar-projects>



PetroEnergy unit's solar farms get DoE, DENR nod

July 6, 2022 | 12:06 am



PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

A UNIT of Yuchengco-led PetroEnergy Resources Corp. has secured the approval of the Energy and Environment departments for two utility-scale solar farms with a combined capacity of 52 megawatts of direct current (MWdc).

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on Tuesday, the listed company said its subsidiary PetroGreen Energy Corp. has reached “key milestones” for its utility-scale solar power projects, namely: the 25-MWdc Bugallon project in Pangasinan and the 27-MWdc Dagohoy project in Bohol.

“We have secured the solar energy operating contracts from the Department of Energy (DoE) and the corresponding environmental compliance certificate (ECCs) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for these two new ventures,” PetroEnergy Associate Vice-President for Operations Maria Victoria M. Olivar said.

She added that resolutions of support for the projects had been granted by the local governments of provinces.

“Our final investment decision now awaits the closing of ongoing discussions with selected contractors and project lender,” Ms. Olivar said.

The company said the two new projects follow through with its calibrated expansion of renewable energy (RE) assets in its transition from petroleum to completely RE operations.

“These new projects not only contribute to the government’s goal of increasing RE’s share in our generation mix but will also provide fresh investments and critical power supply in two high-growth areas of the country — Bohol and Pangasinan,” said PetroEnergy President Milagros V. Reyes said.

PetroGreen has 65% stake Maibarara Geothermal, Inc., which operates the 32-MW Maibarara geothermal facility in Batangas; the 36-MW Nabas1 wind power project in Aklan under 40%-owned PetroWind Energy Inc.; and the 70-MWdc Tarlac solar power facility under 56%-owned PetroSolar Corp.

It recently acquired three new offshore wind blocks from the Energy department covering areas off the coast of northern Luzon, northern Mindoro, and eastern Panay.

PetroEnergy previously said that it was planning to develop the three offshore wind power projects in its pipeline with a foreign partner. It did not disclose the identity of the foreign partner nor the status of its partnership, but it said one of the proposed projects had secured the endorsement of the DoE on securing government permits.

The company is developing the projects through its unit PetroGreen, which in 2021 secured three wind energy service contracts from the DoE covering the three wind blocks.



On Dec. 28, 2021, the Energy department issued to PetroGreen the agency's formal endorsement for the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines to conduct system impact studies for the three blocks.

PetroEnergy also said that PetroGreen secured the DoE's endorsement to local government units and national government agencies for the northern Luzon project in January 2022.

PetroEnergy started with the primary purpose of oil exploration and development and mining activities. In 1999, it assumed Petrofields Corp.'s oil exploration contracts in the Philippines and the production sharing contract covering the Etame discovery block in Gabon, West Africa.

The company incorporated its now 90%-owned subsidiary, PetroGreen, to act as its renewable energy arm and holding company.

On Tuesday, PetroEnergy shares ended lower by P0.17 or 3.51% to P4.68 apiece. — **Justine Irish DP. Tabile**



NegOcc backs efforts to protect Philippine flying foxes

By Nanette Guadalquiver July 5, 2022, 6:27 pm



(File photo of Mambukal courtesy of PIO Negros Occidental)

BACOLOD CITY – The Negros Occidental provincial government is supporting efforts to protect the vulnerable Philippine flying foxes, also known as fruit bats.

Mambukal, situated on the foot of Mt. Kanlaon, is one of the few bat sanctuaries in the Philippines.

Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson said the hosting of the 1st National Flying Fox Forum at the Mambukal Resort and Wildlife Sanctuary in Murcia town until Wednesday is a headway in the efforts to protect the endangered species from extinction.

“While it is true that the balance of our biodiversity isn’t always easy to maintain, we must nonetheless undertake the necessary steps for its protection and balance; for ecological, medical, agricultural, and even aesthetic and recreational importance,” Lacson added.

He noted that the Philippines is host to 10 species of flying foxes, of which five are found only in the country.

In Mambukal, at least three species of flying foxes can be found, including the golden-crowned flying fox, the large flying fox, and the common island flying fox.

Attended by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional offices, the forum seeks to develop protocols for addressing issues on flying fox hunting and gather inputs for the Philippine Flying Fox Species Conservation Action Plan 2022 to 2032.

The event is organized by the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau in collaboration with the Mabuwaya Foundation Inc., Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. and Caraga State University, and supported by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services.

Before the forum proper, international partners from Indonesia and Malaysia met with their Philippine counterparts. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178267>



Eagle Star Mining Corporation issues Notice of Application for Exploration Permit



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. IV-CALABARZON
8th Floor, DENR by the Bay Bldg., Roxas Boulevard
Ermita, Manila, Philippines
Tel/Fax. No. (+632) 5316-88-07 E-mail: region4a@mgb.gov.ph
Website: region4a.mgb.gov.ph



Notice of Posting for the application for Exploration Permit deoatrestated
As EPA-IVA-175 of Eagle Star Mining Corporation

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF EAGLE STAR MINING CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 76 of Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Consolidated Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, that Eagle Star Mining Corporation with address at 153 EDSA, Barangay Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City has filed an application for Exploration Permit particularly described, as follows:

- I. Application No. : EPA-IVA-175 (formerly PMPSA-IV-178)
- II. Date of Filing : February 10, 1965
- III. Area Location : Tayabas, Quezon
- IV. Description of the Applied Area

A. Geographical Coordinates

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	14° 02' 30"	121° 43' 00"
2	14° 03' 00"	121° 43' 00"
3	14° 03' 00"	121° 42' 00"
4	14° 04' 00"	121° 42' 00"
5	14° 04' 00"	121° 43' 00"
6	14° 04' 30"	121° 43' 00"
7	14° 04' 30"	121° 44' 00"
8	14° 02' 30"	121° 44' 00"

Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"

Size: The applied area covers One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight and 1938/10000 (1,328.1938 hectares) hectares.

B. Restrictions

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 ("Entry to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- a. The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, old growth/virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b. The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned bridges, highways, waterways, railroads reservoirs, dams and other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- c. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CAL/CADT/CAL), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- d. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking sand and gravel extraction therein;
- e. Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by RA No. 667 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- f. Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- g. Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations, such as, but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

V. Description of Exploration Work Program

1. Research Work

Research Work duration two (2) months covering the activities such as survey of previous work in the area and data compilation.

2. Reconnaissance/ Regional Survey or Studies

Reconnaissance activities such as regional geological survey covering a duration of 3 months to produce a geologic map with proposed quarrying sites in a scale of 1:12,500.

3. Semi-detailed Geological Mapping Alternative Studies

Semi-detailed geological mapping alternative studies consisting of activities such as semi-detailed studies and Surface Investigation with a period of 6 months, which aim to identify the location of the correct lithological contact results of test pits with chemical analysis to be indicated in the output map.

4. Topographic Survey

Topographic Survey covering area of 50 hectares

5. Detailed Survey or Studies

Detailed survey consists of detailed geological mapping covering an area of 400 hectares in a duration of 12 months, drilling and test pitting.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims, protests and/or opposition should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of posting with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Office (RO) No. IV-CALABARZON or through any Community Environment and Natural Resources Office or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office concerned for filing in the MGB RO No. IV-CALABARZON for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of R.A. No. 7942 and DAO No. 2010-21. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

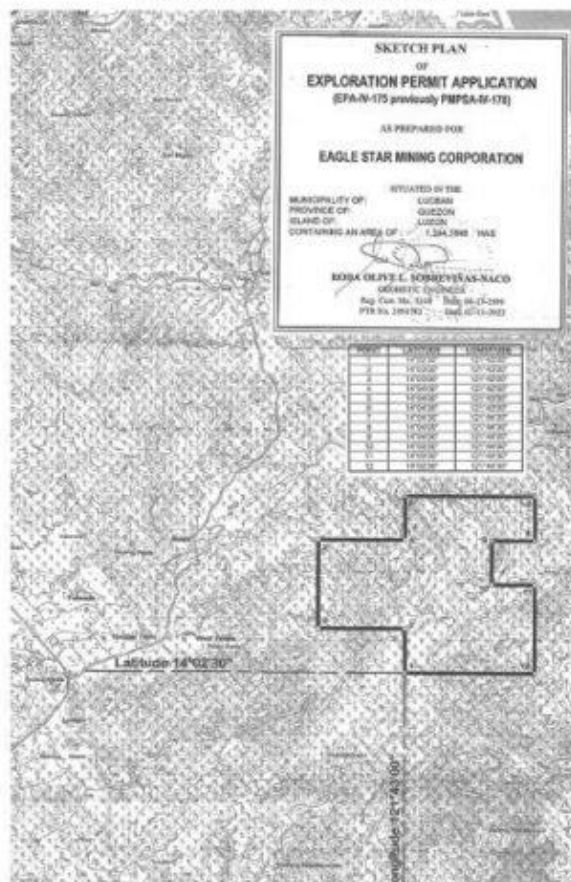
For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director, MGB RO No. IV-A (CALABARZON) located at 8th floor, DENR by the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

DONALD W. SARMIENTO
Regional Director



"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT
IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"

ANNEX A - SKETCH PLAN





Waste to low carbon fuels leadership imminent for PHL with new joint venture

BYBMPLUS JULY 5, 2022



In Photo: Chairwoman, Isabelita P. Mercado – IPM Holdings, and Chairman George Weiss – Stellar 3

Basic Environmental Systems Technologies Inc (“BEST”), a leader in waste management in the Philippines, has concluded a Letter of Intent to form a Joint Venture agreement with Stellar3 LLC (“Stellar3”), a leading US-based supplier of Waste To Energy (WTE) solutions. The envisioned Joint Venture will develop Waste To Energy projects in the Philippines, including the establishment of a number of Waste To Energy manufacturing hubs in the Philippines. The objective is to develop the Philippines as a Leading Technology Hub for Waste To Energy technologies in the Asian Pacific and to address the new Philippine Governments Energy priority programs as demanded by a rapidly growing economy.

BEST and Stellar3 management will work closely together to design, build and operate modular facilities to transform selected waste into renewable energy (low carbon fuels). The initial facility, planned at Morong Landfill Site, will transform waste plastics into low-carbon liquid fuels in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. Follow-on plans for the Joint Venture include facilities that will transform a variety of waste forms (feedstock) to provide low carbon liquid fuels, heat for electricity, and eventually, Hydrogen outputs to plan for the future growth of the Hydrogen Fueled Economy.

The BEST and Stellar3 Joint Venture will position the Philippines in a worldwide leadership position for waste management and transformation and have decided on the Philippines as the primary location to expand from especially with the fundraising platforms such as the GlobalTrade Xchange in the Freeport Area of Bataan which recognizes the latest technological breakthroughs and the Philippines track record of protecting Intellectual property owned by the Joint Venture.

“We are very excited to continue to provide forward-looking waste leadership in the Philippines, together with our new partners Stellar3,” commented Neil Mercado, CEO of BEST. “This first facility will provide a foundation for future waste transformation facilities that will also revolutionize energy resources in the Philippines.”

“Stellar3 is honored to embark on a new project and technology hub for waste transformation with BEST and the Philippines communities. This is such an exciting time for renewable and low carbon energy, and the Philippines will be waste sustainable trailblazers, ahead of many developed nations and the envy of Southeast Asia as facilities are built out and operating,” stated Stellar3, Chairman of the Board, George Weiss.



About: Basic Environmental Systems Technologies Inc (BEST), incorporated in the Philippines in 1999, engages in contracting and consulting for waste management (including waste collection – transport, and disposal; waste management – operations and maintenance of environment including transfer stations and landfills facilities; and wastewater – treatment, recycling, and resource recovery facilities). BEST’s primary mission is to provide services and facilities for comprehensive waste disposal systems, public cleansing, and material recovery that promote and implement sustainable solutions for proper solid waste disposal, repurposing, and resource conservation.

About: Stellar3 is a worldwide waste transformation with offices in the United States (Scottsdale, Arizona) and South Africa (Johannesburg). Stellar3’s Engineering Leadership has designed and implemented numerous projects for municipalities, governments, and major corporates. Stellar3 is one of the very few firms worldwide that can economically transform municipal solid waste (“MSW”) into low carbon fuels (diesel, aviation, hydrogen) in large-scale continuous processing facilities. www.stellar3.co



PH firm enters joint venture to develop waste-to-energy projects

By: [Dennis Gutierrez](#) - Contributor / [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:03 PM July 05, 2022



In the Photo are Chairwoman, Isabelita P. Mercado of IPM Holdings, and Chairman George Weiss of Stellar3. Contributed photo

MANILA, Philippines — Waste management firm Basic Environmental Systems Technologies, Inc. (BEST) has entered a joint venture agreement with a leading US-based supplier of Waste To Energy (WTE) solutions to develop waste-to-energy projects in the Philippines.

BEST has recently agreed to work with Stellar3 LLC to develop the country as a hub for “Waste To Energy” technologies in the Asian Pacific and to address the government’s energy priority programs as demanded by a rapidly growing economy.

Among their plans are to design, build and operate modular facilities to transform selected waste into renewable energy (low carbon fuels). The initial facility, planned at Morong Landfill Site, will convert waste plastics into low-carbon liquid fuels safely and environmentally friendly.

Follow-on plans include facilities that will transform various waste forms (feedstock) to provide low carbon liquid fuels, heat for electricity and eventually Hydrogen outputs to plan for the future growth of the Hydrogen Fueled Economy.

“We are very excited to continue to provide forward-looking waste leadership in the Philippines, together with our new partners Stellar3,” said Neil Mercado, CEO of BEST.

“This facility will provide a foundation for future waste transformation facilities that will also revolutionize energy resources in the Philippines.”

The joint venture will put the Philippines in a position to become a leader in waste management transformation. GlobalTrade Xchange in the Freeport Area of Bataan recognizes such technological breakthroughs even as it maintains the country’s track record by protecting intellectual property owned by the venture.

“Stellar3 is honored to embark on a new project and technology hub for waste transformation with BEST and the Philippines communities. This is such an exciting time for renewable and low carbon energy, and the Philippines will be waste sustainable trailblazers, ahead of many developed nations and the envy of southeast Asia as facilities are built out and operating,” said George Weiss, Stellar3 Chairman of the Board.

Check the website <https://www.stellar3.co>.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1622257/ph-firm-enters-joint-venture-to-develop-waste-to-energy-projects>



Group asks PBBM to review merits of SMC's proposed Pasig River expressway project

"It is not commuter-friendly because it prioritizes private cars and contrary to the claims of [SMC President] Ramon Ang, the project's technical details do not mention anything about a bus rapid transit system, bike lanes or any features for pedestrians. It is not environment-friendly as it will be detrimental to the rehabilitation of the Pasig River." — Primo Morillo, convener of commuter group and transport advocacy network The Passenger Forum

BY LORENZ S. MARASIGAN JULY 5, 2022



[Namhwi Kim | Dreamstime.com](#)

The Pasig River as seen from Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila.

Commuter group and transport advocacy network The Passenger Forum (TPF) is urging President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. to review the merits of the proposed Pasig River Expressway (PAREX).

TPF Convener Primo Morillo said the project, a proposal of San Miguel Corp. (SMC), is "peppered with a lot of issues and controversies."

"It is not commuter-friendly because it prioritizes private cars and contrary to the claims of [SMC President] Ramon Ang, the project's technical details do not mention anything about a bus rapid transit system, bike lanes or any features for pedestrians. It is not environment-friendly as it will be detrimental to the rehabilitation of the Pasig River," he said.

He added that the proposed 19.4-kilometer elevated expressway that will run along the Pasig River banks "endangers multiple heritage sites and historical buildings in Manila especially inside Intramuros," noting that its "Environment Impact Assessment report has been suspected to be plagiarized."

The supplemental toll agreement signed with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) last September gives SMC a 30-year concession to build and operate PAREX.

In the past, Ang has already clarified that PAREX has an extensive feasibility study that took into account the environmental impact of the project. It also took into consideration the presence of historical sites along its alignment.

Morillo said that instead of the PAREX, TPF is suggesting that the government rehabilitate the Pasig River and maximize it for public transportation.

"The Pasig River traverses various densely populated and busy areas of Metro Manila and it is an existing resource that we can maximize for public transportation especially now that we are in a transport crisis. We think that providing additional water buses and ensuring better passenger experience in the Pasig River Ferry Service will offer an alternative form of transportation for a lot of commuters," Morillo explained.



TPF's call for a review of the project came on the heels of Marcos's veto of the bill that grants an ecozone status for the location of the Bulacan Airport, another project of SMC.

"We know that what was vetoed is just the economic zone status of the airport city but we maintain that the San Miguel Aerocity is not necessary at this point. We should rehabilitate Naia [Ninoy Aquino International Airport] instead and then expand Clark airport. If we need another airport near Metro Manila, it is better to place it in a province south of NCR [National Capital Region] as Clark is already located north of Manila," Morillo said.

Image credits: [Namhwi Kim | Dreamstime.com](#)



Tagalog News: 'Pista Y ang Kagueban' ginanap sa 8 baranggay sa Puerto Princesa City

Published on: July 04, 2022
By Michael Escote



Ang ilan sa mga residente ng Puerto Princesa City na nagtanim ng puno sa ika-29 Pista Y ang Kagueban sa Barangay San Rafael, Puerto Princesa City noong Hulyo 2, 2022. (Larawan ni Mike Escote, PIA Palawan)

PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN, (PIA) -- Naging matagumpay ang magkakasabay na isinagawang Pista Y ang Kagueban o Pista ng Kagubatan 2022 noong Hulyo 2 sa walong northern Barangay ng Puerto Princesa City na sinalanta ng bagyong Odette. Ang tema ngayong taon ay 'More Trees, More Resilient, Better Environment'.

Ayon kay Mayor Lucilo Bayron, simula nang pasimulan ang gawain ay napakarami nang naitanim na punong kahoy na naging gubat na at tirahan na ng mga buhay ilang. Nakatulong na rin aniya ito para hindi magkaroon ng pagguho ng lupa, pagbaha at sa tuloy-tuloy na daloy ng tubig sa ilalim ng lupa.

“Mula noong nagsimulang magtanim, tinataya na mahigit dalawang milyong puno ang naitanim natin. Siyempre hindi naman lahat mabubuhay, kaya't ipagpalagay man natin na mabuhay doon ang 60%, mayroon tayong 1.2 milyong puno na nabuhay at lumaki, itong mga kahoy na itinanim natin, ito'y magiging kagubatan o kagaueban na pinapangarap nating lahat,” saad pa niya.

Samantala, kinumpirma naman ng City Information Office na nasa 6,500 assorted forest trees at may ilan pong fruit trees at flowering trees ang naitanim sa northern barangays habang sa Puerto Princesa Subterranean Natural Park (PPSRNP) ay nasa 1500 forest trees at 500 mangroves seedlings.



Ang ika-29th Pista ng Kagubatan ay dinaluhan ng mahigit 4,000 katao mula sa ibat-ibang sangay ng pamahalaan at mga ordinaryong mga mamamayan. Matatandaang dahil sa Covid-19 pandemic ay dalawang taong hindi nagkaroon ng Pista Y ang Kagueban.(MCE/PIA MIMAROPA)



Why did this distressed sperm whale get stranded in Masbate twice?

Published July 5, 2022 2:35pm

A 10-meter long female sperm whale was recently stranded in the coastal area of Dimasalang, Masbate.

According to a report on "Born to be Wild," the sperm whale was first spotted in Barangay Banahao at around 9am on June 25.

The provincial agriculture office and the PNP personnel conducted a successful rescue operations and was able to bring and release the whale toward the deeper part of the ocean at around 11am.

But strangely, at around 2pm on the same day, the sperm whale was once again spotted, this time in Barangay Suba, still in Dimasalang, Masbate.

Residents couldn't help but erupt with various emotions at the sight of the whale. Some swam near it, with other even riding on its back.

But as authorities tried to bring the whale to the deeper part of the ocean, it turned aggressive. Ronald Bacusmo, a barangay tanod who was part of the rescue mission, suffered a cut on his leg after the whale accidentally grazed his open mouth on Ronald's leg.

Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. After more than 28 hours, the whale died.

Niel Justin Romano, a report officer at the BFAR-Provincial Fisheries, explains a whale getting stranded usually means they have a problem and need to rest.

"Second strand na niya, so ibig sabihin meron siyang problema," Romano said. "Usually sa mga marine mamals, pag may sakit sila or may ecological disturbances sa area tulad ng dynamite fishing or human activities sa natural habitat — kaya sila nasa-strand, kasi gusto nila magpahinga."

"Pag hindi sila nakapagpahinga, yun din nagco-cause ng kanilang pagkalunod," Romano added.

Should you encounter a large mamal on the beach, it's best to avoid and not play with them to avoid accidents. — **LA, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/837093/why-did-this-distressed-sperm-whale-get-stranded-in-masbate-twice/story/?fbclid=IwAR0haMulCXiTbGiWtqiFGnvJ3dcBj7j_hTAhIKL9VY7njKpdDQr3ap1J4m4



Patay na pawikan sa Masbate

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How heatwaves are creating a pollen crisis



(Image credit: Ed Reschke/Getty Images)

By Carolyn Beans 4th July 2022

From Yale e360

Many of the crops we rely on need to be pollinated to produce food, but extreme heat can destroy pollen. This is a problem in a world facing climate change, so scientists are searching for a solution.

Last June, Aaron Flansburg felt the temperature spike and knew what that meant for his canola crop. A fifth-generation farmer in Washington state, north west United States, Flansburg times his canola planting to bloom in the cool weeks of early summer. But last year, his fields were hit with 108F (42C) heat just as the flowers opened. "That is virtually unheard of for our area to have a temperature like that in June," he says.

Yellow blooms sweltered, reproduction stalled, and many seeds that would have been pressed for canola oil never formed. Flansburg yielded about 600-800lbs (272-363kg) per acre. The previous year, under ideal weather conditions, he had reached as high as 2,700lbs (1,225kg) per acre.

Many factors likely contributed to this poor harvest – heat and drought persisted throughout the growing season. But one point is becoming alarmingly clear to scientists: heat is a pollen killer.

Even with adequate water, heat can damage pollen and [prevent fertilisation in canola](#) and many other crops, including [corn](#), [peanuts](#), and [rice](#). For this reason, many farmers aim for crops to bloom before the temperature rises.

But as climate change increases the number of days where temperatures reach over 90F (32C) in regions across the globe, and multi-day stretches of extreme heat [become more common](#), getting that timing right could become challenging, if not impossible.



*The pollen produced by canola is sensitive to temperature, so timing flowering to cooler days is crucial
(Credit: Frank Bienewald/Alamy)*



Faced with a warmer future, researchers are looking for ways to help pollen beat the heat. They're uncovering genes that could lead to more heat-tolerant varieties and breeding cultivars that can survive winter and flower before heat strikes. They're probing pollen's precise limits and even harvesting pollen at large scales to spray directly onto crops when weather improves.

At stake is much of our diet. Every seed, grain, and fruit that we eat is a direct product of pollination, explains biochemist Gloria Muday of North Carolina's Wake Forest University. "The critical parameter is the maximum temperature during reproduction," she says.

The creation of seeds begins when a pollen grain leaves the anther of a plant's male reproductive organ (the stamen), lands on the sticky stigma of a female reproductive organ (the pistil), and sets about growing a tube. This tube is formed by a single cell that grows through the stigma and down a stalk called the style until it ultimately reaches the ovary, where it delivers the pollen grain's genetic material.

Pollen tube growth is one of the fastest examples of cellular growth in the plant world, says Mark Westgate, an emeritus professor of agronomy at Iowa State University. "It grows up to one centimetre (0.4in) an hour, which is incredibly fast," he says.



A single cell from a pollen grain grows into a tube to deliver genetic material to a plant's ovary, but high temperatures cause the proteins involved to break down (Credit: Alamy)

Growing at such a clip requires energy. But at temperatures starting around 90F (32C) for many crops, the proteins that power a pollen grain's metabolism start to break down, Westgate says.

In fact, heat hinders not only tube growth but **other stages of pollen development as well**. The result: a pollen grain may never form, or may burst, fail to produce a tube, or produce a tube that explodes.

Not all cultivars are equally susceptible to heat. Indeed, researchers are still working out the molecular mechanisms that allow pollen from some crop cultivars to survive while pollen from others dies off.

For example, fertilisation is notoriously heat-sensitive in many cultivars of tomato – a crop that in 2021 covered **274,000 acres** (1,109sq km) of open fields in the US alone. If the weather gets too hot, says Randall Patterson, president of the North Carolina Tomato Growers Association, "the pollen will burn up".

Patterson times his tomato plantings to flower during the longest stretch of nights below 70F (21C) and days below 90F (32C). Typically, he has a three-to-five-week window in which the weather cooperates for each of his two annual growing seasons. "If it does get hotter, and if we do have more nights over 70 degrees, that's going to close our window," he says.

Muday studies pollen from a mutant tomato plant that may carry clues for keeping that window open. In 2018, her team reported that **antioxidants known as flavonols play an important role in suppressing highly reactive oxygen-containing molecules**, called reactive oxygen species (ROS), that would otherwise increase to destructive levels at high temperatures.



The hope is that breeders could then incorporate these genes into new, more resilient tomatoes

Muday is now part of a multi-university team aiming to uncover the molecular mechanisms and underlying genes that could help tomato pollen weather a heatwave. The hope is that breeders could then incorporate these genes into new, more resilient tomatoes.

Insights from her initial study have already helped Muday develop a tomato that produces especially high levels of flavonols. "They appear to be extra good at dealing with high temperature stress," she says.

Ultimately, Muday expects they'll find that the path from heat to pollen death involves many players beyond flavonols and ROS, and so potentially many targets for fixes.

Meanwhile, breeders of [tomatoes](#) and other crops are already working to develop cultivars that can better handle heat. "If farmers in the Pacific Northwest or in the Mountain States or in the High Plains are going to grow peas, and the climate is going to be warmer, then we have to have peas with more heat tolerance," says pulse crop breeder and plant geneticist Rebecca McGee of the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Pullman, Washington.

Pulse crops – so named for the Latin "[puls](#)" meaning thick soup – include dried beans, peas, lentils, and chickpeas. These plants don't require a lot of moisture. But if temperatures get too hot, the pollen aborts, says Todd Scholz, vice president of research for the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council. The same heat wave that pummeled Flansburg's crop last year decimated pulse plants. Lentil and dry pea harvests fell to about half of the average production, while chickpeas fell by more than 60%.



Climate change is expected to bring more extreme heatwaves and even just a few hours of high temperatures are enough to leave pollen damaged beyond repair (Credit: Getty Images)

McGee is breeding some of her peas and lentils to be more resilient to high temperatures. But with other projects, she's taking a different and somewhat counterintuitive approach: breeding crops that can withstand cold.

In the northern US, growers typically plant pulse crops in the spring. McGee is breeding peas, lentils, and chickpeas that are instead sown in autumn. The idea is that these cultivars will survive the winter and then get a jump-start on flowering early in the summer – giving them a fighting chance to pollinate successfully before a heat wave.

Last year, McGee released to seed producers a limited amount of the first three autumn-sown, food-quality pea cultivars for her region. She says they flower about two weeks earlier than most spring-sown peas – and with double the yield. Of course, these crops aren't guaranteed to flower before high heat arrives, McGee says, "but you don't have to worry as much".



At Michigan State University, Jenna Walters is studying how temperature affects pollen – and pollinators – in a fruit crop. On Memorial Day weekend of 2018, the temperature in southwestern Michigan lingered at 95F (35C) while bees buzzed between clusters of delicate white blossoms on blueberry bushes. Come harvest, many fruits were smaller than usual or had failed to form altogether. In a state that averages around 100 million lbs (45,359 tonnes) of blueberries a year, growers harvested just **66 million** lbs (29,937 tonnes).



The pollen of some plants are transported by the wind while others rely on visiting insects to pollinate neighbouring plants (Credit: Zuma Press/Alamy)

Walters – a PhD candidate earning a dual degree in entomology and ecology, evolution, and behaviour — is investigating what exactly went wrong. She began by pinpointing a blueberry pollen grain's heat limit – exposing pollen in petri dishes to a range of temperatures and monitoring the pollen for 24 hours. Her results, not yet published, suggest that at temperatures above 95F (35C), blueberry pollen tubes fail to grow.

Walters also simulated an acute heat wave by exposing pollen grains to temperatures of 99.5F (37.5C) for four hours and then lowering the temperature to 77F (25C) for another 20 hours. "There is basically no return," Walters says. "[Heat] exposure for just four hours is enough to lead to permanent damage."

She is now confirming these results in actual blueberry bushes in growth chambers set to different temperatures. If the findings hold, she says, 95F (35C) could trigger growers to periodically flip on their misting systems to cool fields. But they would have to consider trade-offs.

"A lot of pathogens are spread via high humidity or water, especially during that flower-opening period," she says. And when misting machines are on, most pollinators aren't likely to visit.

It's possible that overheated blueberry bushes might also lead to fewer blueberry pollinators over time, Walters says. She and her colleagues are comparing the nutritional content of heat-stressed and unstressed pollen, searching for differences in proteins, carbohydrates, and other factors that could be critical to a bee's health.

[Heat] exposure for just four hours is enough to lead to permanent damage – Jenna Walters

This year, she will fill eight 6-by-12-foot (1.8m x 3.7m) mesh-walled cages with more than two dozen potted blueberry bushes each, as well as a few female blue orchard bees, one of the many bee species that pollinates blueberry flowers. For four hours a day, over the course of four or five weeks, she'll sit inside her cages and watch the bees lay eggs and forage for pollen on bushes that, in half of the cages, had been exposed to heat stress early in their bloom.

The concern, says Walters, is that if heat is destroying pollen, nutritional stress will cause females to make more male eggs, which require less pollen to produce. But male blue orchard bees are less useful to a blueberry grower, since only the females pollinate and lay eggs to start the next generation. To compensate for pollen loss, Walters says, growers might consider planting strips of wildflowers that are more heat tolerant and could provide pollinators with additional nutrients.



There are also some technological fixes. Westgate is the chief science officer at [PowerPollen](#), an Iowa-based ag tech company focused on improving pollination for producers of hybrid corn seed – a crop in which pollen fails at temperatures above 104F (40C).

Using a tassel-shaking collection device attached to a tractor, the company gathers large quantities of ripe pollen in fields, then stores those living pollen grains in a controlled environment. PowerPollen returns to apply that pollen when weather conditions favour fertilisation – typically no later than five days after collection. The window sounds small, but it could enable farmers to dodge an especially hot day. The company is working on extending this time frame and on applying its technology to other crops.

For some, a simpler solution may be switching crops altogether. "There are pulses that grow in tropical climates, so it may be that you pick a different cultivar," says Scholz, of the Dry Pea and Lentil Council. But some pulses that stand up to heat, he notes, such as fava beans and black-eyed peas, require more moisture than dryland farmers of the Pacific Northwest can supply.

Flansburg, in Washington, doesn't want to switch. He remains hopeful that breeding efforts will help him continue to grow the canola and other crops his family has cultivated for generations. Still, he worries about the future. "There's an overall picture of a changing climate that we're going to have to address and deal with if we're going to be able to continue to feed people," he says. "There's just a limit to how much heat a plant can take."

** This story was produced in collaboration with the [Food & Environment Reporting Network](#), a non-profit investigative news organization. It was originally published by [Yale e360](#), and is republished with permission – read the original story [here](#).*

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Villar, French Ambassador celebrate 75th relations at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park



Unveiling of the "Intertwined" a statue created by Filipino artist Raphael Daniel David that depicts the intertwining of the Gallic Rooster and the Philippine Eagle, illustrating the bond shared by the French and Filipino people. In photos are (from left) Together-Ensemble (TE) vice president commissioner Ramon Morano Jr., TE Founder and President Hubert d' Aboville, France Senator Samantha Cazebonne, France representative for ASEAN economic relations Francois Corbin, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz, TE Board member Neric Acosta, Senator Cynthia Villar, Sculptor Raphael Daniel David, DENR Asec. Gilbert D. Gonzales, DENR-NCR regional director Jacqueline Caangan, Asec. Hero Masuda, assistant director Jun Almira, BMB director Natwidad Bernardino, and (seated) director Khalil Bayam.



FILE: Villar, French Ambassador celebrate PAGE 2

DATE

75th relations of the Las Piñas - Parañaque Wetland Park

Senator Cynthia Villar and French Ambassador to the Philippines Michele Boccoz together with French Senator Samantha Cazebonne of the Parliament of France celebrate the 75th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

The officials led the unveiling of a sculpture named "Intertwined" to symbolize the Inauguration of the Philippines-France Friendship Day.

Villar stressed she is happy that the events were held at LPPWP which was declared as "Ramsar Wetland of International Importance." It is also a wetland protected area under the 2018 E-NIPAS Law.

"It gives me an opportunity to once again thank the French community here in the Philippines particularly the 'Together Ensemble Foundation' which partnered with us since last year to further maintain and preserve this wetland, which as most of you know is listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance," said Villar.

"This is a joyous day. The relations between France and the Philippines has always been strong. I believe, the French' joie de vivre (enjoyment of life) and the Filipinos' hospitable nature have a lot to do with our flourishing relations over the centuries."

-Sen Cynthia Villar

As to her part, Ambassador Boccoz said, "This is all the most valid as France and Philippines share the importance they attach to protect the environment and biodiversity."

The diplomatic ties between the Philippines and France were established on June 26, 1947, after the signing of a Treaty of Amity in Paris by then Philippine Vice President Elpidio Quirino, who was also foreign affairs secretary and then French foreign minister Georges Bidault.

"France remains one of our country's largest trading partners and investors from the European Union (EU) with most of the investments going into private services, electricity, gas, water and manufacturing industries," Villar added.

As she braces for stronger ties between the two countries, Villar emphasized that the relations between our two countries and our people cover such a diverse scope, and the mutual interest and benefits of our people remain at the heart of it all.

We also have our mutual concern regarding overseas Filipinos in France, particularly our OFWs, who are part of my main advocacies too," related Villar.

The event was organized by Together-Ensemble Foundation Inc. in partnership with the DENR-NCR, Las Piñas - LPPWP and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO)

It was also attended by OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Gilbert Gonzales who represented DENR-OIC Mr. Joselin Marcus Fragada Jr. and DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Ms. Jacqueline A. Cañcan, among others.



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FILE: Villal, French Ambassador Celebrate PAGE 3

75th relations of the Las Puntas - Paramague Wetland Park.

"It is truly an honor for me to be posted in the Philippines to witness this new chapter in our countries' shared history. Although we find ourselves on different sides of the globe, we are united by common values that form the foundation of the Franco-Philippine partnership. This day is therefore an occasion to reflect on the past, present and future of our friendship."

-Ambassador Michele Boccoz





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75th relations at the Las Poñas - Parangaque Wetland Park





USAID trains DENR, BFAR on coral reef CSI

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), recently trained Philippine government personnel in coral reef crime scene investigation and law enforcement.

Under USAID's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project, 27 representatives from agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training that focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills and marine and coastal pollution.

The US embassy in Manila said participants attended lectures with international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios, such as destruction of coral reefs due to vessel grounding, blast fishing and poaching.

The training supports the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats.

"The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative," USAID acting environment office director John Piggot said.

"We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," he added.

A joint report by USAID and BFAR published last year found that illegal fishing comprised 27 to 40 percent of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, which amounts to roughly P62 billion (\$1.3 billion) annually.

Through its SIBOL project, USAID said it works with government, private sector and civil society partners to strengthen science-driven decision making, improve economic incentives for investments in the environment and improve environmental law enforcement.



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US provides environmental law enforcement training to Filipinos

THE AMERICAN government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has trained 27 representatives from Philippine government agencies in environmental law enforcement, including investigation skills on coral reef crimes such as oil spills and coastal pollution.

"The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative," USAID Acting Environment Office Director John

Piggot said in a statement released on Tuesday by the US Embassy in Manila.

"We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," he added.

The training — implemented under the USAID's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes

project — revolved around coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

Participants included members of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

They attended lectures delivered by international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios.

"The training supports the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats," the embassy said.

Illegal fishing practices accounted for about 40% of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, according to a joint report by USAID and BFAR. This amounts to roughly P62 billion annually. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



U.S. trains PH in underwater crime scene investigation

THE United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), recently trained Philippine government partners in coral reef crime scene investigation and law enforcement.

Under USAID's "Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes" or SIBOL project, 27 representatives from agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training that focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

Participants attended lectures with international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios, such as the destruction of coral reefs due to vessel grounding, blast fishing, and poaching.

The training supports

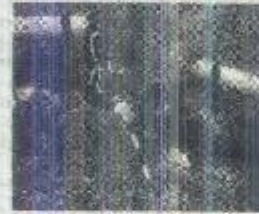
the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats.

"The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving these resources in a sustainable and regenerative way," said USAID Acting Environment Office Director Dr. John Piggot.

"We hope this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," he added.

A joint report by USAID and BFAR published last year found that illegal fishing comprised 27 to 40% of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, amounting to roughly P62 billion (US\$1.3 billion) annually.

Through its SIBOL project, USAID works with government, private sector, and civil society partners to strengthen science-driven



Training participants simulate underwater crime scene investigation by locating, identifying, documenting, and collecting pieces of evidence.

decision-making, improve economic incentives for investments in the environment, and improve environmental law enforcement.



DENR anticipates Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve recognition

THE Sibugay Coastal Wetlands (SCW) will be renamed Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve (SWNR) as the Philippines anticipates its inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance when contracting parties meet in Gland, Switzerland in December this year.

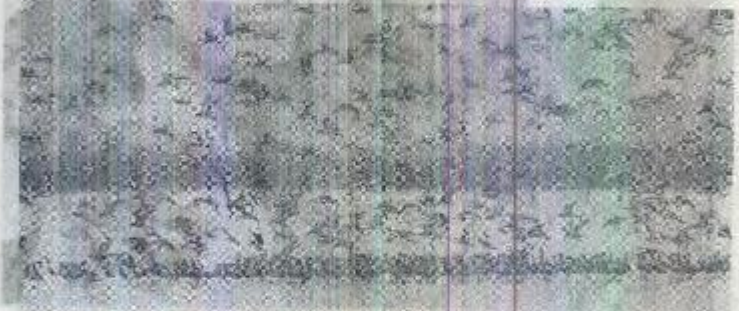
Georgina Fernandez, Conservation and Development chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Zamboanga Sibugay, says the Ramsar Site designation will open opportunities for international cooperation on research.

It will help raise funding for conservation and protection of the site. Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Edgardo Montojo says it is important to advocate for the wise use of the wetlands' resources in order that it will be enjoyed by future generations. Here, the Ramsar list will play a unique role.

DENR-Region 9 is preparing the documents for the inclusion of the SWNR into the list. These will be submitted to the Biodiversity Management Bureau, the designated Ramsar National Administrative Authority for endorsement to the Office of the DENR secretary, who will then endorse it to the Ramsar authorities.

The effort toward the declaration of SWNR as a Ramsar site is part of conserving its rich biodi-



The wetlands ecosystem also serves as a staging, roosting and foraging ground for various waterbirds. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

versity and the cultural heritage of Subanens and other ethnic tribes in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Its designation also supports the country's commitment to the Ramsar Convention as well as to the Convention on Bio-

diversity and Convention on Migratory Species, says Michael dela Cruz, Penro Sibugay Technical Services chief.

The listing will protect the rich biodiversity of SWNR, which is home to 68 waterbird species.



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IN BRIEF

PetroGreen gets nod to build solar projects

PETROGREEN Energy Corp., the renewable holding unit of publicly-listed PetroEnergy Resources Corp., said Tuesday it secured regulatory approvals for two new utility-scale solar power projects.

These projects are the 25-megawatt Bugallon solar project in Pangasinan and the 27-MW Dagohoy solar project in Bohol.

"We have secured the solar energy operating contracts from the Department of Energy and the corresponding environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for these two new ventures," PERC assistant vice president Maria Victoria Olivar said.

"Resolutions of support for the projects have also been granted by the local governments of Pangasinan and Bohol, for which we are grateful. Our final investment decision now awaits the closing of ongoing discussions with selected contractors and project lender," Olivar said.

PERC president Milagros Reyes said the two new solar projects are part of the company's calibrated expansion of renewable energy assets. **Alena Mae S. Flores**



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Bagong water project ng Maynilad, inilunsad

Inilunsad ng West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) ang kanilang bagong water project na kinapapaloban ng pag-recycle sa used water para gawing malinis na inuming tubig.

Ang okasyon ay pinangunahan nina Maynilad President at CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez at Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrellaad na nanguna sa pag-inom ng recycled water para patunayan na malinis na inumin ang tubig mula sa proyektong ito.

Kasama sa launching sina Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Chief Regulator Atty. Patrick Lester N. Ty, Parañaque Mayor Eric L. Olivares, City

Environment and Natural Resources Office Head Bernardo Amurao, Department of Health-Environmental and Occupational Health Center (DOH-MMCHD) Head Dr. Wency Bias, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas at Environment Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cun at MWSS Administrator Engr. Leonor C. Cleofas. Sa kanilang pilot implementation ng bagong Water project, nagtayo ang Maynilad ng may P450-million modular treatment plant na kokolekta sa treated used water na na-discharged ng Parañaque Water Reclamation Facility at mai-convert itong drinkable water.

May kakayahang itong magbigay ng 10 milyong litro ng malinis na tubig kada araw na idaraan sa distribution system para ihalo sa standard drinking water mula sa Maynilad's La Mesa Treatment Plants bago isuplay sa mga narangays San Isidro at San Dionisio sa Parañaque City.

Ang New Water Project ng Maynilad ay nakakuha na ng Certificate of Potability sa Parañaque City Health Office. Ang New Water project ay isa sa inisyatiba ng Maynilad upang madagdag ang mga alternatibong raw water source options para isuplay sa dumaraming customer at magamit itong panuplay sa panahon na may water shortage sa Metro Manila. (Angie dela Cruz)



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LAGUNA WATER PLANTS BAMBOOS FOR LAKE PROTECTION: Laguna Water answers the call of the local government of Santa Rosa City to plant bamboo for the continuous protection of Laguna Lake. The company adopted a portion of the 13-hectare coastal land in Brgy. Aplaya, Santa Rosa City, Laguna that the local government dedicated as a bamboo planting site. To kick-start the lifetime commitment, employee-volunteers of Laguna Water initially planted 120 propagules on June 28. In photo (from left) forester Erick Flores, forest and water resources management division head of the Laguna Provincial Environment and Resources Office; Shoebe Hazel Caong, general manager and COO of Laguna Water; Fe Villanueva, chairman of Brgy. Aplaya, Santa Rosa City; and Engr. Maria Amor Salandanan, EnP., head of the Santa Rosa City Environment and Natural Resources Office.



Friday declared clean-up day in Manila

Lacuna said that cleanliness, or the lack thereof, reflects on the people working in such places, thus local government officials and personnel should set a good example

BY PAT SANTOS

Friday is clean-up day in the City of Manila, Mayor Honey Lacuna decreed under Executive Order (EO) 6, one of many she signed Monday during the first day of her three-year term.

EO 6 mandated all city departments, offices and bureaus to tidy their areas of operations down to the barangay level.

Lacuna said that cleanliness, or the lack thereof, reflects on the people working in such places, thus local government officials and personnel should set a good example.

"It (cleanliness) mirrors

orderly management. Here we can also see the cooperation of each individual that forms part of the entire city," she said.

Meanwhile, Manila Health Department chief Dr. Arnold Pangan called on all qualified city hall personnel to get their booster shots against Covid-19.

He bared that presently, 69 patients are being treated for Covid-19 in city hospitals this week, compared to the 19 the previous week.

"I call on all employees of city hall to get boosters shots that are readily available in our six hospitals and four malls (serving as vaccination sites)," Pangan said.



JOEY GALICIA-VENANCIO
Sumbong at Reaksyon...
Phone: 09193297810
Email: venanciojoey@gmail.com

Sibuyanon nagwawala vs mining sa isla

TION that in times like this our precious and paradise island is at the verge of deystation, you will protect. But where are you? Yes you are here but instead of doing remedial measures to stop this mining, you even protect them instead. Therefore I am contrained much to regret to say "We are bandedoned by your administration."

Pinupulutan din sa group chat ang kinatawan ng lone district ng Romblon na si Jesus Madrona. Na iba raw ang ginagawa sa sinasabi, matapos ang inaugural speech niya kungsaan binanggit niya ang pagpayabong sa turismo sa Romblon.

"In their inaugural speeches, President Bongbong Marcos and Congressman Budoy Madrona prioritize tourism. Tourism industry in Sibuyan island will generally be difficult to market if this natural beauty will be mined. Hence, the local government units in Sibuyan island must find all the ways to reject all mining applications and revoke the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation/Dynamo Atlantic Ltd. immediately." - Bayay Sibuyanon

"Tang inang bakla yan...Iba ang gina-ubra sa iya ginahambay. Maayo ina saksakan bo*#@# ang nguso. Subrang sipsip." - Nonong

NAGWAWALA na ang mga concerned Sibuyanon sa nangyayaring pagmimina sa kanilang isla.

Sa kanilang group chat, Protect Sibuyan, minumura nila ang mga politiko na sa tingin nila ay responsible sa pagpasok ng Altai Philippines Mining Corporation/Dynamo Atlantic Ltd. na pag-sari umano ng isang Kenneth Gatchalian.

Kaano-ano kaya ni Senador "Win" Gatchalian itong Kenneth Gatchalian?

Sinisisi ni Ben ang kanilang alkalde sa bayan ng San Fernando na si Nanette Tansingco: "Honorable Mayor Nanette Tansingco, we place you to a sensitive position in our municipality as Father with HOPE and EXPECTA-

"Sana matuod ina ang mga ginahambay ninda," - Daxie

"Wala na ang hugis puso sa kaisipan ni Boday kundi hugis pilak na. Kay dako gid ina ang kikitain nya." - Lan

"Ang hambay gani ng mga pulis dire sa amon, mapatay nalang naghimo pa kabalastugan. Igwa gali ina sakit, hambay ng pulis na taga-Romblon. Hangit man sinda kay Budoy kay nagtugot kuno na minahon ang Sibuyan." - Mary Jane

Kung ano-ano pang mga brutal na salita ang mababasa sa group chat laban sa mga politiko na sa tingin nila ay silang nasa likod ng pagmimina sa isla ng Sibuyan.

Ang Sibuyan island, na mayroong tatlong bayan, ang tanging lugar sa Pilipinas na mayroong virgin forest at kahanga-hangang hugis ng bundok, Mt. Guiting Guiting, na nanganganib ding masira dahil sa planong paggawa rito ng mga kalsada patawid sa bawat bayan tulad ng ginawa sa Tablas island.

Sa totoo lang, mga pare't mare, isang tao lang ang may plano o may gawa ng lahat ng ito, ang trapo na kinikilalang diyosa ng politika sa probinsiya.

Mapipigilan lang ang pagkasira ng mga kabundukan sa lalawigan at mapalayas ang pesteng nagmimina sa Sibuyan kapag nawala sa puwesto ang isang trapo na higit 30 years nang nagsasamantala sa kapangyarihan.

Oo! Hangga't nasa puwesto ang trapong ito, mauubos sa pagkasira ang mga bundok sa Romblon. Mismo!

Kung bakit gumagawa sila ng mga kalsada sa mga bundok na hindi naman nadadaan, aba'y easy money kasi ito. Tagong korapsyon!!!



Is Green Financing in the Philippines Ripe for the Picking?

By ERIC LUCHANGCO

THE world is experiencing the many effects of climate change. From rising temperatures to melting polar ice caps and rising sea levels, the environmental damage caused by humans is becoming increasingly apparent. Climate change poses a threat to lives and livelihoods, and it will not resolve itself.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecasts that the global temperature will likely reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming within the next two decades, suggesting that climate-related damage will only get worse. This is a bleak prediction, and the way to address this problem is for everyone to do their part in creating a more sustainable and livable world.

International organizations have started to commit to more sustainable activities amid the growing climate-related problems. These efforts include The Paris Agreement, which mandates countries to reduce carbon emissions; the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include the development of climate-resilient structures; and global social movements that advocate for holistic climate action.

International initiatives

There are also initiatives from governments and financial institutions to be more sustainable. One example is the financing of projects that aim to mitigate climate change impact. This is referred to as green financing. The World Economic Forum defines green financing as a structured financial activity that aims to ensure better environmental outcomes. Simply put, more money is allocated to projects that help save the environment. But how does this work exactly? Let us take a look at some practices in other countries.

In 2018, the US government issued USD 118.6 billion of green bonds to finance renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, transport, and water management. Additionally, large US financial institutions have also invested in sustainable activities. Goldman Sachs committed USD 150 billion

(around Php 8 trillion) for clean energy investment, while the Bank of America committed USD 125 billion (around Php 6.7 trillion) for investing and lending to low-carbon businesses.

Another example is France's support for the green bond market, which is institutionalized through the Energy Transition and Green Growth Act. To comply with this law, the French government issued its first green bond commitment worth 7 billion euros (Php 394 billion) in 2017 and the same amount in 2021 for its second green bond commitment. Proceeds of these bonds are used to fund sectors under Green Eligible Expenditures, i.e., energy efficiency investments, sustainable public transportation, and renewable energy.

These are significant developments because the US and France are two of the largest industrial countries in the world and it is encouraging to see that they are leading the way to sustainable financing.

Local frameworks

We do not have to go far to see green financing at work. Our very own Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has issued two policy frameworks to help its supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) fund climate-friendly projects and to include sustainable principles in their operations. These are the Sustainable Finance Framework (BSP Circular 1068) and the Environmental and Social Risk Management Framework (BSP Circular 1128).

As one of the largest banks in the country, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), guided by these policies, is leading the way in sustainable financing in the Philippines. In line with BSP's sustainability goals, BPI has instituted its own Sustainable Funding Framework, which includes the bank's issuance of Green or Sustainability Bonds to finance projects that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture and water management.

A crucial component of BPI's Sustainable Funding Framework is an exclusion rule that states that the net proceeds of its green bonds and loans shall not be used towards financing of fossil-fuel-related assets and activities. As of 2021, 48% of BPI's power portfolio is dedicated to clean energy and 48% of its corporate portfolio financed

projects contributing to the SDGs. BPI has now disbursed Php 157.8 billion for renewable energy projects, Php 28 billion for energy efficiency projects, and Php 35.2 billion for climate resilience projects.

Balancing priorities

For businesses, the shift to green financing requires a delicate balance between prioritizing profitable activities that can potentially harm the environment (use of fossil fuels) and investing in opportunities that do not endanger the earth's ecosystems. We need to remember that doing business should not come at the expense of the environment. The examples above show that it is possible for companies to be environmentally responsible by incorporating sustainability practices in their strategies.

In my opinion, green financing in the Philippines is already ripe for the picking. We already have a policy environment that allows financial institutions to invest in environment-friendly projects. All we need to do is follow through with these commitments and remember that the future of our planet is at stake if we do not act.

Climate change is not just an environmental problem. It can adversely affect the way we live in many ways. This is especially true for the Philippines because it is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change hazards like floods and storm surges. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we take a collective action against the effects of climate change to protect our economy, infrastructures, biodiversity, and lives.

About the Author: Eric Luchangco is Chief Finance Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI).

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E-governance bill seeking to digitize gov't services refiled in House

LEGISLATORS have refiled a bill in the House that seeks to move most government transactions online after it failed to pass in the previous Congress.

House Bill 3, or the proposed E-Governance Act of 2022, is based largely on the previously filed Senate Bill 1738, which was stuck in committee when the 18th Congress ended.

"The shift to digital platforms has been a long time coming," Leyte Rep. Martin G. Romualdez, who is expected to become the next Speaker, said in a statement accompanying the bill. "The COVID-19 pandemic only expedited the need for its execution."

Mr. Romualdez said the government should be responsive to the needs of the populace instead of adding to their burdens. Digitalization of services "is evidently the most efficient solution to the gap in the delivery of government services."

The proposed measure "seeks to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information, resource sharing and communications network, which shall include internal records, management information system, information database, and digital portals spanning the entirety of the national and local government for the delivery of public services," according to the bill.

The measure will promote the use of the internet, intranets, and emerging technologies to provide "citizen-centric government information and services." It also pushes for the end of paper-based workflows.

Under the bill, the head of each agency, local government unit or state corporation, will be responsible for implementation.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) was designated the principal implementor of the proposed E-Governance Act through a project

management office organized within a year from the effectivity of the law.

If the measure passes, the DICT will be tasked with harmonizing and coordinating all information technology-related plans and initiatives "to ensure knowledge, information and resource sharing, database-building, and agency networking linkages among government agencies, consistent with e-government objectives in particular and national objectives in general."

It must set up an Integrated Government Network which will be the primary means of sharing resources, information, and data on digital platforms across all government offices.

The bill also directs the government to establish and maintain a database of information on all citizens, whether residing here or overseas, and foreigners entering the country through legal channels. Agencies will have access to such data "for legitimate and valid purposes, subject to the Data Privacy Act."

A Philippine Public Service Directory will also be made available to the public with a listing of all government officials, with their contact information and office location, among other details.

The bill also requires the establishment of a service portal, allowing the public to transact with agencies online. The bill sets timelines for responsible personnel to act or decide on requests or applications. Another portal will be set up for online payments.

If signed into law, a Citizens' Concerns Center will also be set up as a channel for the public to report their complaints, grievances or concerns.

The bill also requires the government to provide free internet access to the public, including internet-capable devices in all barangay centers.

— Alyssa Nicole O. Tan



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House bill pushes digital shift among govt offices

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

✉ cejavccmarie

FOR more efficient and transparent services, a bill mandating government agencies to shift to digital or internet platforms has been filed in the House of Representatives.

Representatives Martin G. Romualdez of Leyte, Ferdinand Alexander Marcos of Ilocos Norte, and Yedda Marie Romualdez and Jude Acidre, both of party-list group Tingog, are the authors of the proposed E-Governance Act of 2022, embodied in House Bill 3.

"The shift to digital platforms has been [a] long time coming. The Covid-19 pandemic only expedited the need for its execution. The policies in the 'new normal' must be responsive to the needs of the populace and allow them to truly feel a sense of normalcy, rather than burden them with inevitable but avoidable restrictions," stated the bill's explanatory note.

It said digitalization of services "is evidently the most efficient solution to the gap in the delivery of government services."

"It is high time to enact a law that would require all government agencies to transition to digital platforms," it said.

The proposed E-Governance Act seeks to establish integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information, resource sharing and

communications network, which shall include internal records, management information system, information database, and digital portals spanning the entirety of the national and local government for the delivery of public services.

"The proposal will promote the use of the Internet, intranet, and emerging technologies within and across government agencies and be able to provide citizen-centric government information and services. It likewise pushes for the digitization of paper-based and other traditional modes of workflows for a more efficient and transparent public service," according to the explanatory note.

It seeks to encourage government cooperation with the private sector in providing resources, assets, and services, and transforms agency operations by utilizing best practices from public and private sector organizations, both local and international.

It would provide easier access to government information and services in a manner consistent with laws regarding protection of personal privacy, national security, records retention, access for persons with disability, and other relevant laws, they said.

It would cover all government offices and agencies, including local government units and government corporations.

It defines e-governance as the "use of information and commu-

nications technology [ICT] by the government and the public to enhance the access to and delivery of government services to bring about efficient, responsive, ethical, accountable, and transparent government service."

The proposed law holds each head of agency, local government unit or state corporation responsible for its implementation.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) would be the principal implementer of the proposed E-Governance Act through a project management office (PMO) that would be organized within one year from the effectivity of the proposed law.

The bill mandates the DICT to harmonize and coordinate all ICT plans and initiatives "to ensure knowledge, information and resource-sharing, database-building, and agency networking linkages among government agencies, consistent with e-government objectives in particular and national objectives in general."

It tasks the department with setting up "an integrated, interconnected and interoperable internal government network known as the 'Integrated Government Network' [IGN], which shall act as the primary means for the sharing and communication of resources, information, and data through and on digital and electronic platforms across all of the government."



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An internal e-mail network, to be known as "GovMail," would be established to facilitate communication among agencies. Paper-based communications would be shifted to digital.

The bill directs the government to establish and maintain a database of information on all Filipinos, whether residing here or abroad, and foreigners entering the country through legal channels.

The database would include names, addresses, national identification numbers, dates and places of birth, citizenship, civil status, biometrics, and similar information.

State agencies would have access to such data "for legitimate and valid purposes, subject to the Data Privacy Act [Republic Act No. 10173]."

The proposed law also calls for the maintenance of a listing, to be known as the Philippine Public Service Directory, of all government officials throughout the country, including their names, titles, phone numbers, facsimile numbers, names and locations of offices, and e-mail addresses. The directory would be made accessible to the public.

There would also be a service portal to allow the public to transact business with agencies and for state offices to render service online.

The bill sets timelines for responsible personnel to act or decide on requests or applications.

Another portal would be set up for online payments.



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BILL MANDATES GOV'T AGENCIES TO GO DIGITAL

By Jester Manalastas

FOUR lawmakers, led by incoming Speaker of the House Martin Romualdez, filed a measure mandating government agencies to shift to digital or internet platforms.

House Bill No. 3 – authored by Romualdez, Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos and Tingog Party-list Reps. Yedda Marie Romualdez and Jude Acidre – aimed at making government services more efficient and transparent.

Also known as “E-Governance Act of 2022,” the digitalization of services “is evidently the most efficient solution to the gap in the delivery of government services.

“The shift to digital platforms has been long time coming. The COVID-19 pandemic only expedited the need for its execution. The policies in the ‘new normal’ must be responsive to

the needs of the populace and allow them to truly feel a sense of normalcy, rather than burden them with inevitable but avoidable restrictions,” stated the bill’s explanatory note.

“It is high time to enact a law that would require all government agencies to transition to digital platforms,” it said.

The proposed E-Governance Act seeks to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information, resource sharing and communications network, which shall include internal records, management information system, information database, and digital portals spanning the entirety of the national and local government for the delivery of public services.

The proposal will promote the use of the internet, intranet, and emerging technologies within and across government agencies and be able to provide citizen-centric government infor-

mation and services. It likewise pushes for the digitization of paper-based and other traditional modes of workflows for a more efficient and transparent public service.

It seeks to encourage government cooperation with the private sector in providing resources, assets, and services, and transforms agency operations by utilizing best practices from public and private sector organizations, both local and international.

It will provide easier access to government information and services in a manner consistent with laws regarding protection of personal privacy, national security, records retention, access for persons with disability, and other relevant laws, they said.

The bill is entitled, “An Act institutionalizing the transition of the government to e-governance in the digital age, appropriating funds therefore, and for other purposes.”



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VIGNETTE

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Regularization of gov't contractual workers pushed

ACT Teachers party list Rep. France Castro on Tuesday called on President Marcos to end contractualization and regularize contractual government workers who have been serving for years. Castro noted that over 500,000 out of some 2.3 million government employees have remained contractual workers. "Most contractual workers of the government have been in service for years. It is only right to regularize these workers," Castro said. As of Aug. 31, 2021, she said there were 582,378 contracts of service or job order personnel out of the 2,337,802 government employees, government data showed. Agencies with the most number of contractual workers include the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Health, Education, Environment and Natural Resources, and Social Welfare and Development. Castro lamented that contractualization among government workers had grown more widespread. "How could we expect private companies to end the practice of *endo* (end of contract) if the government itself takes part in the practice?" she asked.

—JEANNETTE L. ANDRADE



ORA MISMO

NI BUTCH M. QUEJADA



Gawing regular ang mga endo

HINIMOK ni ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro si PBBM na gawing regular ang mga contractual government employees kasunod ng Memorandum Circular No. 1 na nagdeklarang bakante ang ilang posisyon sa iba't ibang ahensiya at opisina.

"Karamihan sa mga kontraktwal na manggagawa ng gobyerno ay nasa serbisyo ng maraming taon. Tema lamang na gawing regular ang mga manggagawang ito kasunod ng Memo Circular No.1 na nagdeklarang bakante ang ilang posisyon sa iba't ibang ahensiya at opisina," birada ni Castro.

Inihain ni Castro, ang House Bill 204 na Security of Tenure and Civil Service Eligibility para sa Non-Regular at Regular Employees in Government Act noong Hunyo 30. "As of August 31, 2021, ayon sa Inventory of Government Human Resources, mayroong 562,378 contracts of service o job order personnel mula sa 2,337,602 government employees. Kabilang sa mga nangungunang ahensyang may pinakamaraming JO at COS ang DPWH, DOH, DepEd, DENR at DSWD," ani Castro.

Tirada ni Castro, habang tumatagal, lalo lamang dumarami at lumalaganap ang kontraktwalisasyon sa loob ng gobyerno. Paano natin aasahan ang mga pribadong kumpanya na itigil ang endo kung mismong gobyerno ay may malaking bahagi sa practice na ito?

"Ang kontraktwalisasyon sa paggawa ay isang tahasang paglabag sa karapatan ng manggagawa sa seguridad ng panunungkulan. Ang mga manggagawang kontraktwal ay walang seguridad sa panunungkulan, wala o mas mababang benepisyo, walang proteksyon sa social insurance, walang karapatan sa sailing organisasyon, walang mga pagkakataon sa promosyon, may mas mataas na withholding taxes, at madalas silang nagiging target ng diskriminasyon sa trabaho. Ang pagwawakas sa kontraktwalisasyon ay isang hindi natupad na pangako ni dating Pangulong Duterte. Nangahas kami kay Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na pangunahan ang pagtatapos ng kontraktwalisasyon at gawing regular ang mga kontraktwal na manggagawa sa gobyerno na maraming taon nang naglingkod," sabi ni Castro.

Ang kontraktwalisasyon sa paggawa, sa lahat ng anyo nito, ay dapat itigil at dapat gawing regular ang mga manggagawa sa panghong pampubliko at pribadong sektor.

Dapat pangunahan ng gobyerno ang pagwawakas ng hindi makatarungang gawang ito sa pamamagitan ng pagregular sa lahat ng mga manggagawang kontraktwal nito, pagbabawal at pagpaparusa sa pagkuha ng mga kontraktwal, at pagtiyak sa seguridad ng panunungkulan ng mga manggagawa sa gobyerno.



Balancing political optimism

COMMENTARY

DINDO MANHIT

Leadership change or political succession is a regular occurrence in a democratic system. At the conclusion of the recent electoral cycle and the proclamation of the new president, acting beyond politics is imperative for the new administration in the new normal.

Confronted by provocative and challenging views from all sides of the political spectrum, the Marcos Jr. presidency is welcomed by a generally optimistic attitude from the Filipinos. This is evidenced by a historic victory of more than 31 million votes.

In this era of the Marcos Jr. presidency, we hope to see a democratic revival and the strengthening of civic-mindedness to contribute to society's betterment.

Widely urged to disclose a clearer agenda and government program, President Marcos Jr., in his inaugural address, embarked on what he calls the "biggest electoral mandate in the history of Philippine democracy" and on the urgent concerns on "jobs, wages, personal safety, and national strength, and ending want in the land of national plenty."

He talked about the identified sectors and issues to be prioritized, namely, agriculture, OFWs, teachers, the energy supply, infrastructure plan, the need for investments, pollution, climate change, pandemic management, and tourism among others. He also talked about having a comprehensive, inclusive economic plan.

He emphasized throughout his speech,

talking about the future and not of the past, of all being part of the solution, reconciling, having wider cooperation and trust, recovering and moving on, rejecting the politics of division, and saying that the people's dreams are his, as well.

He talked about his first State of the Nation Address and said that it would show how we are going to get things done in terms of repairing and rebuilding the nation, addressing challenges in new ways, and making the divided nation whole again.

Unity and cooperation are crucial in the process where "agile, resilient republics are made."

Mr. Marcos concluded his address eloquently: "And if you ask me why I am so confident of the future, I will answer you simply, that I have no million reasons to start with. Such is my fate in the Filipino. Believe and have hope..."

Political optimism, nonetheless, should also be grounded and anchored on the ability of the new administration to address the pressing social, political, and economic problems such as rising inequality and a decline in good governance practices.

And because poverty and inequality are so painfully connected, the government

could ultimately make a dent in the lives of the poor and the vulnerable if poverty reduction is propelled by inequality reduction reforms. This way, inequality in the intergenerational, political, social, and economic lenses could be comprehensively addressed.

Good governance, primarily demonstrated by transparency and accountability, should be the overarching framework of all government actions and decisions. The seriousness of the new administration in promoting good governance will result in decreased incidence of corruption, the fulfillment of the country's international commitments, and the improvement of our competitiveness.

It will also arrest the eroding integrity of national political institutions and the continued weakening of Philippine democracy.

With the clarity of this new administration's priorities, the private sector and civil society likewise renew their commitment to contribute to nation-building.

With the promise of being proactive, innovative, and collaborative in dealing with governance challenges and economic difficulties, the Marcos Jr. presidency appears to be on the right track. We will now watch whether its first 100 days could in fact be a pivotal step toward recovery and, more importantly, unity in its true essence.

Dindo C. Manhit is the founder and CEO of the Stratbase Group.



FILE:

PAGE

DATE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
1700 East Asepi, 20th Floor, Quezon City, Philippines 1104

AQUADATA, INC.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3351

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within **Barangays Aplaya, Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 4, Bolo, Cupang, Manghinan Proper, Manghinan Uno, New Danglayan, San Miguel, San Roque, Sta. Maria, Sto. Domingo, San Andres Proper and San Andres Uno, municipality of Bataan, province of Bataan**, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-3 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
1/2"	P 200.00	42.00	44.00	46.00	48.00	52.10

Residential and Commercial						
Pipe Size	0-3 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
1/2"	P 200.00	42.00	44.00	46.00	48.00	52.10

Commercial and Industrial					
Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min.)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³
1/2"	P 1,201.50	85.10	96.10	104.10	120.10

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **25 July 2022**. The hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the **NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, RDSA, Quezon City**, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days** prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Bataan and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this **10th** day of June 2022.

By Authority of the Board:
Dr. SEVILLANO, DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sargunling Dayan
Bataan, Bataan

The Barangay Chairmen
Barangays Aplaya, Poblacion 1,
Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 4,
Bolo, Cupang, Manghinan Proper,
Manghinan Uno, New Danglayan,
San Miguel, San Roque, Sta. Maria,
Sto. Domingo, San Andres Proper
& San Andres Uno
Bataan, Bataan

06 JULY 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH logs over 10,000 active COVID-19 cases

Rhodina Villanueva - The Philippine Star July 6, 2022 | 12:00am



Residents of Quezon City lined up at the local Comelec office in the city on Tuesday (July 5, 2022).
STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) logged more than 10,000 active COVID-19 cases on Monday.

Latest data from the DOH showed an additional 1,188 new COVID-19 infections were recorded, bringing total active cases to 10,094.

Meanwhile, the nationwide COVID-19 tally reached 3,709,386 cases.

Recoveries rose to 3,638,690, up from Sunday's 3,637,976. There were 60,602 deaths recorded.

In the past two weeks, the top regions with new COVID infections were the National Capital Region with 5,783, followed by Calabarzon with 2,263 and Western Visayas with 1,014. Central Luzon posted 813 cases, and Central Visayas with 575.

As to cities and provinces, in the last 14 days, Quezon City recorded 1,249 cases, followed by Cavite with 810 and Manila with 774.

Available data from the DOH tracker also showed that a total of 13,323 individuals underwent COVID-19 tests on July 3.



DOH detects more cases of Omicron subvariants

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 5, 2022 8:12:21 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 5) — The Department of Health (DOH) detected additional cases of Omicron subvariants BA.5, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4 in the country.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the DOH announced that there are 43 new BA.5 cases, 20 more individuals tested positive for BA.2.12.1, and seven more were infected with BA.4.

Of the 190 individuals who tested positive for Omicron and its sublineages, 185 are local cases and five are returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs).

Out of the 185 local infections, 42 are BA.5 cases, 16 are BA.2.12.1 cases, and seven are BA.4 cases. Meanwhile, the four other BA.2.12.1 cases and one BA.5 patient are ROFs.

There are now 7,919 confirmed Omicron cases, the DOH said.

However, Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario Vergeire said that total hospital bed utilization nationwide still remains at low-risk category and there were no deaths reported among the confirmed cases of Omicron subvariants.



EDITORIAL - Winning the air war

The Philippine Star July 6, 2022 | 12:00am



Since the first year of the COVID pandemic, health experts have stressed the importance of providing proper indoor ventilation to prevent infection. Physical distancing of at least two meters was enforced because experts said the coronavirus spreads through both large droplets and fine aerosols when an infected person opens his mouth to cough, talk or even breathe.

Proper ventilation, the experts point out, helps keep out not only the COVID virus but also many other airborne pathogens – apart from promoting healthy lungs and preventing allergies. When the call for good ventilation was made, many people understood its necessity and building owners committed to improve ventilation systems.

The commitment appears to be flagging, however, as the COVID threat dissipates. Worried health experts have stressed that vaccination is not enough to stem the pandemic tide, and improving indoor air quality must be the new phase in the battle against COVID-19.

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The pandemic is not over, as the World Health Organization keeps saying. The director of the Institute of Global Health in the University of Geneva describes the global situation as a “fragile, armed peace” with COVID-19. That peace can be broken any time. Before this happens, all available weapons must be in place to fight the virus. One of those weapons is proper ventilation. The world cannot afford to lose the air war.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2022/07/06/2193415/editorial-winning-air-war>

06 JULY 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

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