

17 October 2022, Monday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



10-17-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



**Big business conglomerates and corporations showed their all-out support to the new administration's environment and natural resources direction, as shown in the recent 2022 Multi-Stakeholder Forum of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. President Marcos delivered the keynote speech wherein he guaranteed that the Philippines' resiliency and adaptation to the 'new normals' of climate change are on top of his administration's national agenda. In photo with the President are (standing, from left) Manuel Paolo Villar of Vista Land and Lifescapes, Mariana Zobel-Aboitiz of Ayala Corp., Piki Lopez of First Philippine Holdings, Hans Sy of the SM Group, Christian Gonzalez of International Container Terminal Services Inc., lawyer Mike Toledo of the MVP Group of Companies, Lance Gokongwei of JG Summit Holdings, Ramon Ang of San Miguel Corp.; (seated, from left) Special Assistant to the President Anton Lagdameo, Labor Secretary Benny Laguesma, Speaker Martin Romualdez, DENR Secretary Maritoni Loyzaga, Presidential Management Staff head Zenaida Angping and Sen. Cynthia Villar.**



NOV 17-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## DENR keen to fix row on 'erroneous cadastral survey' in Mabini, Batangas

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will conduct a resurvey to address the erroneous cadastral survey that has led to boundary disputes surrounding the town of Mabini in Batangas province.

DENR's Land Management Bureau (LMB) Director Emelyne V. Talabis and DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria gave their assurance on the corrective measure to prevent potential legal disputes that may arise from the flawed cadastral surveys.

The faulty inspections were raised during the House of Representatives' deliberations last September 2 on DENR's proposed P23.04-billion budget for 2023.

Rep. Gerville R. Luistro of Batangas's Second District expressed his concern on the "extremely erroneous" cadastral analysis that has led to boundary disputes and filing of cases in the province.

In response, Talabis said one of the remedies available in cases of erroneous surveys, or those with lacking records, is the conduct of a resurvey of the cadastral.

"We recognize that there are cadastral errors, particularly in Mabini, which was done a long time ago," Talabis said in a news release. "We will look into the possibility of proposing a program for Mabini, Batangas... We will discuss

this with the regional executive director of Calabarzon."

For his part, Tamoria said that DENR will also work on the resurveying of Batangas City, which is near the municipality of Mabini.

"That particular issue with Mabini is also the same... with Batangas City. And with the representation of Congressman [Mario Vittorio] Mariño, there will be reconstruction in the survey of the Batangas cadastral that will really have an impact also on the boundary in Mabini. So, we already have a proposal with the congressman, and the corresponding work will be done by the DENR field offices," assured Tamoria.

During the same hearing, Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas of Pangasinan's Sixth District had also requested DENR chief Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga to assist in creating a technical working group (TWG) that will address boundary disputes with the provinces of Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac.

Primicias-Agabas proposed that the TWG will include DENR's regional directors, as well as experts from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority and LMB.

"We will certainly look into that, and... revert... with a specific action," Loyzaga responded to the Pangasinan solon. "We will bring that group together, and hope that we may be able to resolve the long-standing boundary dispute."



20-17-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Dahil sa pag-alma ng mga katutubo

## Kaliwa Dam project sa Quezon, ipinatigil

**GENERAL NAKAR, Quezon** -- Ipinatigil muna ang konstruksyon ng kontrobersyal na Kaliwa Dam Project sa bahagi ng General Nakar ng lalawigan ito dahil na rin sa mahigpit na pagtutol ng mga katutubong residente.

Ito ang ibinahagi ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. matapos magpahayag ng pagtutol sa naturang proyekto si Sen. Raffy Tulfo dahil sa natanggap nitong mga reklamo, sa isinagawang hybrid brief-

ing ng Senado para sa panukalang 2023 Annual Budget ng ahensya.

Ayon kay Usec. Adobo, hindi pa naglabas ang kaniyang ahensya ng Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) para sa naturang proyekto dahil hindi pa nakakapag-sagawa ng zoning sa protektadong lugar.

Aniya, hindi pa rin nagbibigay ang mga Indigenous People (IPs) ng kaniyang Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) na kinakailangan base sa itinatakda ng Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 na kumikilala sa

mga karapatan ng mga IPs sa kaniyang ancestral lands.

Napag-alaman na ang FPIC ay isa sa kinakailangan para sa pagpapalabas ng isang Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas mula sa DENR.

Ayon kay Tulfo, maraming sektor ang tutol sa New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project dahil sa magiging epekto nito sa kapaligiran, maliban sa masamang epekto sa buhay at kabuhayan ng mga naninirahan dito. *(Tony Sandoval)*



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER



TOWER



PAGE 1



STORY



BANNER



STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

10-17-22

III

PAGE

DATE

# Ecology groups slam SMC project

SMC-EERI's liquefied natural gas power plant and AG&P-Linseed's LNG import terminal facility in Batangas City threaten the biodiversity of the Verde Island Passage and the livelihood of people who depend on it

Local stakeholders and advocates has filed a complaint with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against San Miguel Corporation subsidiary Excellent Energy Resources, Inc. and Linseed Field Corporation with Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company for the companies' alleged violation of environmental laws in a liquefied natural gas project. The oppositors were led by Protect VIP (Verde Island Passage), Bukduran ng mga Mangingisda sa Batangas, Caritas Philippines, and Center for Energy, Ecology and Development.

AG&P-Linseed is building a liquefied natural gas import terminal facility in Batangas City, and SMC-EERI is constructing a 1.75 GW LNG power plant in the same vicinity.

Both projects threaten the biodiversity of the Verde Island Passage and the livelihood of the people who depend on it, the complaint said. "In their seeking to bring their LNG facilities online, we are highly concerned about how SMC-EERI and AG&P-Linseed treat rules, regulations, and laws concerning environmental protection," said Fr. Edwin

Gariguez, Lead Convenor of Protect VIP.

The complaint cited three violations — the companies' continued construction despite failure to secure coconut tree-cutting permits from the Philippine Coconut Authority; failure to secure tree-cutting permits from DENR; and failure to secure a land conversion order from the Department of Agrarian Reform, which would warrant the cancelation of the environmental compliance certificate for the projects. "We fear that such attitude will be carried over to the detriment of the VIP if ever the facilities start operating," Fr. Gariguez said.

## Cease-and-desist order

DAR issued a cease-and-desist order against SMC-EERI and AG&P-Linseed on August 8, 2022 for the companies' violation.

"We don't need gas for electricity. It will only drive up the cost of bills for Filipinos, poison the environment, and threaten the beauty of the VIP and the food and livelihood of many who depend on it. There is no reason that will justify the means or ends of these two companies. We ask that

DENR promptly act on our complaint and cancel the ECCs to avoid further damage to the area," Gerry Arances, Executive Director of CEED and co-convenor of Protect VIP, said.

Batangas is at the forefront of the expansion of LNG in the country, with 15 LNG projects underway or being proposed, despite the danger posed by the fossil fuel to the delicate ecology of the Verde Island Passage.

"SMC-EERI and AG&P-Linseed are the primary example of His Holiness Pope Francis' warning about profits at the expense of the environment. This project will enrich their investors, who are based far away but drive our fisherfolk and those who work in the tourism industry to poverty," Fr. Gariguez said. **CHITO LOZADA**



## 2 traders convicted of illegal wildlife trading

By Jun Legaspi

THE Bureau of Customs-Port of NAIA (BOC-NAIA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secured the conviction of two illegal wildlife traders after the Metropolitan Trial Court in Pasay City found them guilty of smuggling wildlife species.

The court found the accused individuals guilty for violation of Section [i] of Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) and Section 1401 (a) of Republic Act No. 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) when they claimed smuggled wildlife species

on Sept. 22 and Oct. 4.

The first accused was sentenced to 10 days imprisonment and a fine of P26,000 for smuggling 10 tarantulas. The 10 heads of tarantula worth approximately P75,000 were declared by the accused as "origami."

The second accused was the claimant of a parcel containing 41 various wildlife species which were declared "Lego Toys." He was sentenced to seven months imprisonment and meted a fine totaling P125,000.

The accused was arrested on May 28 after claiming 41 wildlife species (sulcata tortoise, black pond turtle, bearded dragon, corn snake, and savannah lizards) with an

estimated value of P284,000.

Joint operatives from the BOC-NAIA, Enforcement and Security Service-NAIA, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-NAIA, X-ray Inspection Project-NAIA, DENR-National Capital Region, and the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit-NAIA discovered both imported parcels without the required licenses and import permits from the DENR.

The BOC and DENR said the conviction only showed the long arm of the against smugglers of illegal goods and contraband and this would serve warning to others engaging in similar unlawful activities. Jun Legaspi



10-17-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Illegal wildlife traders get prison terms

By JUN I.  
LEGASPI

THE Bureau of Customs-Port of NAIA (BOC-NAIA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secured the conviction of illegal wildlife traders after the Metropolitan Trial Court in Pasay City convicted two claimants of smuggled wildlife species on Sept. 22 and Oct. 4, 2022.

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The first accused was sentenced to 10 days imprisonment and a fine of P26,000 for smuggling 10

tarantulas. The 10 heads of tarantula worth approximately P75,000 were declared as "origami."

Meanwhile, the second accused was the claimant of a parcel containing 41 different kinds of wildlife species declared "Lego Toys." He was sentenced to seven months imprisonment and meted a fine totaling P125,000. The accused was arrested on May 28 after claiming 41 wildlife species (sulcate tortoise, black pond turtle, bearded dragon, corn snake, and savannah lizards) with an estimated value of P284,000.

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ered both imported parcels without the required licenses and import permits from the DENR.

The conviction manifests the commitment of the BCC, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to penalize smugglers of illegal goods and contrabands; and serve as a deterrent and warning to others engaging in similar unlawful activities.

BOC-NAIA District Collector Carmelita Talusan, under the leadership of Commissioner Yogi Filmon Ruiz, commits to enforce its mandates on border protection, trade facilitation, and revenue collection and ensure continuous collaboration with other agencies aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.



30-17-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

## Sa paglabag sa environmental laws

# CEASE AND DESIST ORDER VS YINGLONG

**DAHIL** sa paglabag sa umiral na batas sa kalikasan, isang mining company na nag-o-operate sa Zambales ang inatasan na huminto ng operasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sa pamamagitan ng 'cease and desist' order na pir-mado ni Engr. William Cuñado, hepe ng Environmental Management Bureau, inutusan ang Yinglong Steel Corporation na huminto sa kanilang ginagawang pagmimina.

Sa isinagawang imbestigasyon, napag-alaman ng ahensya na ilegal ang mining operation ng Yinglong dahil wala itong environmental compliance certificate at iba pang DENR requirements para

makapagmina.

Ang ECC at iba pang permits ay nire-require ng gobyerno para masiguro na ang isang kompanya o mining firm ay maayos na sinusunod ang environmental laws. Ang paglabag nito ay may kaukulang parusa at multa para sa mga violator.

Napag-alaman ng DENR na umabot na sa 88 ektarya ang ilegal na binungkal at hinukay ng yinglong steel sa bulubunduking lugar ng Sta. Cruz at Candelaria sa lalawigan ng Zambales na nagdudulot ng pangamba sa mga environmentalist at residente malapit sa mining site.

Kung patuloy umano ang operasyon ng Yinglong, baka

matulad ang Zambales sa mga probinsya na binaha at nagkaroon ng landslide dahil sa pagkasira ng kalikasan na naging dahilan ng pagkasira ng bilyong halaga ng ari-arian, kabuhayan at pagkamatay ng napakaraming Pinoy.

Ang huling lalawigan na nakaranas ng delubyo dahil sa baha at landslide ay ang karatig na probinsya ng Bulacan kung saan limang volunteer rescue personnel ang nalunod, bukod pa sa ilan na namatay at pananim at kabuhayan na nasalanta na nagkakahalaga ng daang milyong piso.

Ang ilegal na pagmimina ng Yinglong ay matagal nang inireklamo ng ilang grupo ng mga environmentalist at residente ng Sta. Cruz at Candelaria dahil nasisira ang mga bukid at iba pang pangkabuhayan subalit bulag, pipi at bingi ang mayors at mga

elected officials sa lalawigan.

Hini kayat ng mga apektadong mamayan si DENR Sec. Maria Antonia Tulo-Loyzaga na bukod sa stop operation order ng departamento ay sampahan ang mga may-ari ng Yinglong ng kaukulang demanda, isama na ang local officials na tumukunsinti sa ginagawang illegal mining operation ng naturang kompanya.

Ilang mining firms na patuloy na nag-o-operate na responsible sa pagkasira ng ilang bukid at gubat sa bansa, kasama ang yinglong ay pinaimbestigahan na ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos.

Sa kanyang ulat sa first 100 days ng kanyang panunungkulan, ibinahagi ng Pangulo ang kanyang pagkadamaya sa patuloy na pagkasira ng kalikasan na dahilan ng trahedyang kada taon tuwing sumasapit ang tag-ulan at tag-bagyo. **RNT**



**HABANG** isinasagawa ang ilegal minig operation ng Yinglong Steel Corp. Sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Zambales, nakikitang naghihintay ang malaking barge na pagsasakyan patungo sa buyer nito mula sa China.





TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# MINING OPS NG YINGLONG STEEL CORP. ILIGAL, IPINATITIGIL NG DENR!

**DAHIL sa samu't saring environmental violations, iniutos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Yinglong Steel Corporation na huminto sa kanilang mining operations.**

Sa 'cease and desist' order na inisyu ni Engr. William Cuñado, Environmental Management Bureau director ng DENR, nakitaan ang mining firm ng paglabag sa pagmimina sa lalawigan ng Zambales.

Ayon kay Cuñado, ang Yinglong Steel ay nag-operate ng nickel mining sa mga bayan ng Sta. Cruz at Candelaria na walang Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) at iba pang government permits.

Ang ECC at iba pang environmental requirements ay nire-require ng DENR sa mining compa-

nies para para masiguro na hindi masisira ang kapaligiran alinsunod sa pinapairal na batas sa kalikasan.

Ang operasyon ng Yinglong ay kinokondena rin ng ilang grupo ng environmentalist dahil sa pangambang magdudulot ito ng pagkasira sa mga pananim ng mga residente na ang ikinabubuhay ay pagsasaka.

Sa imbestigasyon ng DENR, umabot na sa 88 ektarya ng lupain ang binungkal at hinukay ng nasabing mining firm, dahilan ng pagkakalbo ng bulubunduking mining site.

Nangangamba ang mga residente at mga environmentalist na kung patuloy ang pagmimina ng Yinglong Steel sa lugar ay baka magdulot ito ng trahedyang sa kinalaunan.

Hindi lang daan kundi libo na ang mga Pinoy na nagbuwis ng buhay sa tuwing bumabaha na dahilan ay ang pagkasira ng kalikasan na ayaw mangyari ng mga Zambaleño.

Ang huling nakaranas ng trahedyang ay ang karatig na probinsya ng Bulacan na kamakailan lamang ay binaha at ikinamatay ng limang provincial rescue

volunteers at ilan pang mamamayan.

Dahil sa pangyayaring ito, nagkaisa ang local government units na suspindehin ang mining operations sa buong lalawigan na itinuturing salarin sa malawakang pagbaha at trahedyang nitong nakaraang buwan.

Samantala, umabot marin sa kaalaman ni Pangulong "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. ang nangyayaring iligal na

pagmimina sa probinsya kung kaya't iniutos ang malawakang imbestigasyon sa kumpanyang Yinglong Steel Corporation.

Matatandaan na sa kanyang ulat sa kanyang unang 100 days bilang Presidente kamakailan, isa sa mga nabanggit ng pangulo na kanyang pagtutuunan at bibigyan ng pansin ay ang mga problema sa kalikasan.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## “Yinglong Illegal Mining” idinadaing ng Zambaleños!

SA bayan ng Sta. Cruz at Candelaria sa lalawigan ng Zambales ay galit na galit ang mga residente dahil sa walang patumanggang paninira ng isang kompanya ng pagmimina sa kanilang likas na kapaligiran.

Kasama ang ilang grupo ng environmentalist, kinokonde-na nila ang Yinglong Steel Corporation, isang Chinese mining firm na bigla na lamang daw sumulpot sa kanilang lugar para magsagawa ng ilegal na pagmimina.

Matagal ang ginagawang pagbubungkal ng naturang mining firm sa kanilang bulubunduking lugar sa mga bayan ng Sta. Cruz at Candelaria, Zambales pero ang pinagtataka nila’y hindi kumikikos ang kanilang gobernador, mayor at iba pang halal ng bayan.

Pero nitong mga nakaraang araw ay nadinig ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kanilang idinadaing na pansasalaula ng kompanyang Yinglong Steel Corporation sa kanilang kapaligiran na ayon sa kanila ay nagdulot na ng malaking problema at pahirap sa kanilang pamumuhay.

Sa pamamagitan ng “Cease and Desist Order” na inisyu ni Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Chief, Engr. William Cuñado ay ipinag-utos ng DENR sa Yinglong Steel Corporation management na huminto sa kanilang mining operations sa lugar.

Bago ang issuance ng order ay nagsagawa pala ng imbestigasyon ang DENR at napag-alaman na umabot na sa 88 ektaryang lupain ang nahukay at nasira ng nasabing kompanya ng pagmimina para makakuha ng mineral na nickel na dinadala at ibenebenta nila sa China.

At ang masaklap dito, ito palang Yinglong Steel Corporation ay nag-ooperate, nagmimina sa mining site na walang Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) at iba pang kaukulang permit na dapat makuha sa DENR bago simulan ang kanilang pagmimina.

Ang ECC ay rekisitos para masiguro na maayos na susundin ng isang kompanya o mining firm ang mga alituntunin o batas na itinatakda ng pamahalaan dahil sa bawat maling kilos nila’y may kaakibat na penalty o parusa sa mga lumalabag nito.

Sa inisyal na findings ng DENR, maliwanag pa sa sikat ng araw sa tanghaling tapat ang pambabastos, pananalaula at paglabag ng Chinese firm na ito sa mga umiiral na Mining Act, ang batas na sumasaklaw sa pagmimina sa Pilipinas.

Kaya dapat ay hindi lamang mahinto sa mining operation ang Yinglong Steel Corporation kundi kasuhan at managot ang operator, mga opisyaes at tauhan nito sa ating batas.

Mantakin na lang natin mahigit 88 ektaryang bulubunduking lupa ang nagkawindang-windang dahil sa walang habas na pinaguhukay at paniniranira diyan sa Sta Cruz at Candelaria, Zambales?

Nakatitiyak na pinagkakitaan at nagbigay ng di matatawarang ginawa sa may-ari ng Yinglong Steel Corporation at protektor ng mga ito na kumita ng milyones mula sa Chinese buyer nila ng namiminang nickel ngunit nagdala ng takot at pangambang magdulot naman ito ng trahedyang at kahirapan sa mga taga-Zambales.

Ang trahedyang dulot ng di mahinto-hintong illegal mining ay taun-taon na nararanasan ng bansa dahil sa tuwing may bagyo ay may kaakibat na landslide at baha na ang resulta’y pagkasira ng mga ari-arian, kabuhayan at ang masaklap marami ang nagbubuwis ng buhay.

Noong nakaraang buwan lamang, ang pinakahuling naging biktima ng landslide at baha na nagdala ng trahedyang at lamang-hati sa mga Bulakeños ay ang walang patumanggang illegal mining operation sa mga bahagi ng Sierra Madre mountain.

Limang rescue volunteer at ilan pang Bulakeño ang namatay at daang milyong halaga ng ari-arian at pangkabuhayan ang nasalanta sa kasagsagan ng baha na ang isinising dahil ay ang mga kalbong kagubatan na nakapaligid sa lalawigan.

Kung ‘di masasawata ang ilegal na pagmimina ng Yinglong Steel Corporation, nakini-kinita natin na nanganganib ang buong lalawigan ng Zambales at maring mangyari ang malungkot na naging karanasan ng mga Bulakeños na marami ang namatay, libo ang pamilyang nawalan ng tahanan, bukod pa sa daang milyones na nasirang ari-arian at pangkabuhayan.

Bago ang ibang problema, siguro’y ang problema sa kalikasan ang dapat na maging prayoridad na bigyang pansin ng kasalukuyang administrasyon pagkat, di lang ari-arian kundi buhay ang isinusugal ng mga Pincy tuwing dumaratang ang trahedyang na puno’t dulo ay ang irresponsible mining na sa napakatagal nang panahon ay hindi masuloyunan ng pamahalaan.

Sa kanyang paglalagom sa first 100 days nitong panunungkulan, ang problema sa kalikasan ay nabanggit ni Pangulo Bongbong Marcos bilang isang sulitanin na kailangang pagtuunan ng pansin ng kanyang administrasyon.

Kaya ipinag-utos niya kay DENR Sec. Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga na imbestigahan ang mga kompanyang ilegal na nagmimina, kasama ang Yinglong Steel Corporation dahil ayon sa palasyo umabot na sa kanilang kaalaman ang ginagawang pambabastos at pambabalahuring maraming mining firm sa mga batas na may kinalaman sa kalikasan. Mag-sisilbing bantay naman ang SIKRETA sa ginagawang kabulastagan ng Yinglong Steel Corporation.

Teka nga pala, bakit Yinglong Steel Corporation lamang ang sinisilip ng DENR, bakit di rin ng mga ito tutukan ang mga kompanya at indibidwal na nagmimina, naguhukay at nagko-quarry sa bayan ng Taysan, Batangas at iba pang mga bahagi ng CALABARZON area? Mga anak ba ng Diyos ang mga operator ng minahan at quarry doon kaya di malipo ng DENR?

Maraming tukoy na legal kuno at naging illegal mining sites ang ating mga KASIKRETA, ngunit karamihan sa mga sangkot ay maiimpluwensyang tao sa CALABARZON Region. ABANGAN...



Para sa komento: CP # 09293453199 at 09664066144; sikretangpinas@gmail.com.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## DASHBOARD

### Toyota 'adopts' Laguna, Batangas forests

TO EXPAND its "climate mitigation and biodiversity protection efforts," Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) "adopted" an upland forest block in Siniloan, Laguna and mangrove forests in Calatagan, Batangas.

Under the National Greening Program or NGP, TMP will sign two separate agreements with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region IV-A CALABARZON this month to formalize the adoption of the planting sites. TMP commits to plant 41,000 tree and mangrove saplings over a span of five years — aiming for a 80% survival rate.

In the initial phase of reforestation activities, TMP mobilized groups of volunteer team members to plant 10,000 tree and 5,000 mangrove saplings in the two areas in the month of September. TMP also participated in the International Coastal Clean-up Day, turning over to the local authority 150 kilograms or 21 sacks of plastic waste collected from the Calatagan coastline.

"Toyota shares the responsibility in protecting the planet Earth and in fighting climate

change in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," said TMP President Atsuhiko Okamoto, who spearheaded the simultaneous mangrove-planting and coast clean-up activities. "Global Toyota implements the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 to achieve zero carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and net positive environmental impact by year 2050."

As a biodiversity conservation effort, TMP will plant native and fruit-bearing tree species in a 50-hectare area at the tail-end of Sierra Madre mountain range in Siniloan, Laguna. This area, according to University of the Philippines Los Baños, is the habitat of endemic flora and fauna such as the Philippine Hornbill, Gray's Monitor Lizard, Civet Cat, Cave Nectar Bat, and Wax Plant species. Moreover, the Sierra Madre hosts some of the country's oldest forests and serves as a natural barrier against typhoons with its long mountain range on the east of Luzon.

TMP also commits to plant 16,000 mangrove propagules in an eight-hectare area on



PHOTO FROM TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES

Toyota Motor Philippines' local tree-planting, mangrove-planting, and coastal and riverside clean-up activities are part of the "All Toyota Green Wave Project," a Global Toyota initiative which was started in 2015.

the coast of Calatagan. This project extends TMP's existing NGP planting site in Lian, Batangas where the company has already planted 30,000 mangroves since 2018. These two

coastal sites are both part of the Verde Island Passage which is considered as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity" in the world.

According to TMP Environment Manager Mark Anthony Marcelo, mangroves are a distinct part of Toyota's climate change solution in the Philippines. "Mangroves have a high capacity to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as they store up to 10 times more per hectare than terrestrial forests. Mangroves also serve as a blockade against storm surges and are crucial to marine life and livelihood of coastal communities," he said.

TMP's local tree-planting, mangrove-planting, and coastal and riverside cleanup activities are part of the "All Toyota Green Wave Project," a Global Toyota initiative which was started in 2015. This project connects the Toyota Network — including TMP team members, dealers and suppliers — to nature conservation activities while mitigating climate risks and supporting livelihoods of local communities in the long run.

In April 2022, TMP also adopted a 40-hectare NGP planting site in the rainforests of Maragondon, Cavite and initially planted 10,000 seedlings of native and fruit-bearing tree species.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

1/8  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-17-22

DATE

# Toyota furthers green push



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TMP

TMP team members plant native and fruit-bearing tree species to reforest a portion of Sierra Madre in Siniloan, Laguna.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

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527  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-17-22

III

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PAGE

DATE

As an initial phase of reforestation activities, TMP mobilized groups of volunteer Team Members to plant 10,000 trees and 5,000 mangroves in the two areas in the month of September. TMP also participated in the International Coastal Clean-up Day, turning over to the local authority 150 kilograms or 21 sacks of plastic wastes collected from the Calatagan coastline

Leading automotive and mobility company Toyota Motor Philippines expands its climate mitigation and biodiversity protection efforts with the adoption of an upland forest block in Siniloan, Laguna and mangrove forests in Calatagan, Batangas.

Under the National Greening Program, TMP will sign this month two separate agreements with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region IV-A CALABARZON to formalize the adoption of the planting sites. These projects' commitment is to plant 41,000 trees and mangroves in a span of five years, aiming at 80 percent survival rate.

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"Toyota shares the responsibility in protecting the planet Earth and in fighting climate change in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," according to TMP president Atsuhiko Okamoto who spearheaded the simultaneous mangrove-planting and coast clean-up activities.

"Global Toyota implements the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 to achieve zero carbon dioxide emissions and net positive environmental impact by year 2050."

As a biodiversity conservation effort, TMP will plant native and fruit-bearing tree species in a 50-hectare area on the tail-end of Sierra Madre (mountain range) in Siniloan, Laguna. This area, according to University of the Philippines Los Baños, is the habitat

of endemic flora and fauna such as the Philippine Hornbill, Gray's Monitor Lizard, Civet Cat, Cave Nectar Bat, and Wax Plant species. Moreover, the Sierra Madre hosts some of the country's oldest forests and serves as a natural barrier against typhoons with its long mountain range on the east of Luzon.

TMP also commits to plant 16,000 mangrove propagules in an eight-hectare area on the coast of Calatagan. This project extends TMP's existing NGP planting site in Lian, Batangas where the company has already planted 30,000 mangroves since 2018. These two coastal sites are both part of the Verde Island Passage which is considered as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity" in the world.

According to TMP environment manager Mark Anthony Marcelo, mangroves are a distinct part of Toyota's climate change solution in the Philippines.

"Mangroves have high capacity to absorb CO2 as they store up to 10 times more per hectare than terrestrial forests. Mangroves also serve as a blockade against storm surges and are crucial to marine life and livelihood of coastal communities," Marcelo said.

TMP's local tree-planting, mangrove-planting, coastal and river-side clean-up activities are part of the "All Toyota Green Wave Project," a Global Toyota initiative which was started in 2015. This project connects the Toyota Network – including TMP team members, dealers and suppliers – to nature conservation activities while mitigating climate risks and supporting livelihoods of local communities in the long run.

In April 2022, TMP also adopted a 40-hectare NGP planting site in the rainforests of Maragondon, Cavite and initially planted 10,000 seedlings of native and fruit-bearing tree species.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Pilipino Star  
**NGAYON**  
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

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10-17-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### ***P30-M giant clams nasabat sa Cebu***

Nasa P30 milyong halaga ng giant clams o "taklobo" na itinuturing na endangered species o nanganganib ng maubos ang nasabat ng mga awtoridad sa isang magsasaka sa Borbon, Cebu, ayon sa ulat kahapon.

Kinilala ang suspek na si Anecito Pogado, 46, at residente sa Barangay Bongoyan, Borbon, Cebu.

Sa joint buy-bust operation ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Lapu-Lapu City Field Unit (CIDG-LCFU), 300th Air Intelligence Security Wing of the Philippine Air Force, Naval Forces Central, at mga tauhan ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, nadakip ang suspek sa naturang

lugar.

Nakuha kay Pogado ang 120 giant clams na may bigat na higit sa 2 tonelada at tinatayang aabot sa halagang P30 milyon.

Ayon kay CIDG-LCFL, Capt. Nigel Sanoy, ang mga taklobo ay nabebenta sa ibang bansa sa halagang P15,000 bawat isa. (Doris Franche)



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### **P30m taklobo nasabat sa Cebu**

**MAHIGIT** 200 piraso ng endangered giant clam shells na nagkakahalaga ng P30 milyon ang nasabat sa Borbon, Cebu mula sa isang illegal wildlife trader.

Sa pamamagitan ng entrapment operation, nahuli ang isang mag-sasaka na kinilalang si Anecito Pogado, 46 anyos, na napaulat na nagbebenta ng taklobo.

Ayon sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG-7) at Lapu-Lapu City Field Unit ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), kinumpiska nila ang nasa 200 piraso ng giant clam shells na tumimbang ng kabuuang 2,000 kilo's at nagkakahalaga ng P30 milyon.

Sinabi naman ni Police Capt. Nigel Sanoy ng CIDG, ang benta ni Pogado sa taklobo sa mga customer nito sa abroad ay P15,000 kada kilo.

Kasalukuyan nasa kustodiya ng Lapu-Lapu City Field Unit ng CIDG si Pogado na nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Philippine Fisheries Code.



NO-17-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Halloween costumes are displayed for sale at an antique shop in Kamuning, Quezon City yesterday. JESSE BUSTOS

NDAY | OCTOBER 17, 2022



## Unvaxxed minors barred in Manila cemeteries

Only fully vaccinated minors will be allowed at the Manila North and South cemeteries during the observance of *Undas*.

In an advisory posted on its social media page, the city government said it is now allowing fully vaccinated minors to join their parents in visiting their dead from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

But they should present their vaccination cards upon entry, city hall added.

Adults who will visit their dead are also required to present their vaccination cards.

The local government said alcoholic beverages, flammable materials, firearms, sharp objects, videoke machines and gambling cards are prohibited in cemeteries.

Vendors are also not allowed in the two cemeteries.

### Trash-free *Undas*

Meanwhile, environmental groups EcoWaste Coalition and Mother Earth Foundation are asking the public to observe zero-waste and toxic-free activities during the commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

In a joint statement yesterday, EcoWaste and Mother Earth called on the public to abide by Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act as well as local ordinances in conducting cleanup in cemeteries.

The groups said those who would clean up cemeteries must refrain from burning fallen leaves, plastics and other discards to avoid generating health-damaging toxic fumes. □

— Marc Jayson Cayabyab,  
Elizabeth Marcelo





TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

## Eco-friendly clean-up of tombs urged

By JEL SANTOS

Two environmental groups have called on the public to dispose of their garbage properly as they clean up the tombs of their departed loved ones this "Undas."

The EcoWaste Coalition and the Mother Earth Foundation urged the public to follow the provisions of Republic Act 9003 and corresponding local ordinances as tombs are cleaned and prepared for All Saints' and All Souls' Day on Nov. 1 and 2.

Mother Earth Foundation chairperson Sonia Mendoza said "ensuring ecological waste management as prescribed by RA 9003 during the pre-Undas clean-up will prevent and reduce the generation of garbage and toxins and make our visits to the tombs of our dearly departed more pleasant and safe."

EcoWaste Coalition's Jove Benosa said garbage from the clean-up of tombs adds to the huge amounts of rubbish hauled from gravesites before and especially after Undas.

"Implementing RA 9003 will surely trim down the tons of mixed trash collected from cemeteries and buried somewhere else," said Benosa.

RA 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, emphasizes the importance of eco-friendly practices in solid waste management, which will contribute to solid waste prevention and volume reduction, and, ultimately, to the protection of public health and the environment.



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PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Planet Earth in the middle of a climate emergency – Villar

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

Saying that we occupy the same "suffering" planet because of climate emergency, Senator Cynthia Villar urged Filipinos to "learn to live in partnership to solve our biggest problems together."

Speaking at the Coca-Cola "World Without Waste" event with the theme, "The Role of Partnerships in Driving a Circular Economy," Villar noted that the globe is in the middle of a climate emergency.

"Because of this, every individual is bound not only to reduce his or her own footprint, but also find strategic interventions to drastically redeem what would have been valuable materials from the waste stream," she said Saturday, Oct. 15.

"Cradle to grave management of products is no longer sufficient. Responsibility must begin at product conceptualization, before it even sees production," Villar said.

While thriving corporations have already adopted the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework as their ethical responsibility, Villar stressed that it is about time we

turn this ethical responsibility into a legal one.

"The law introduces a better policy than simply expecting all our citizens to segregate and manage their wastes, and let the local governments in our scattered settlements and islands deal with the massive problems brought about by the lack of legal responsibility among the top producers of plastic wastes," she said.

Villar is the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

She said EPR requires manufacturers to reach collection targets.

The lady senator hopes, "What is collected will no longer find their way back to the environment as unmanaged waste."

The EPR Law places responsibility for products squarely on the shoulders of the manufacturer from cradle to grave.

The senator also commended Coca-Cola company for not only looking at collection compliance, but also developing ways to incorporate recycled materials in their packaging.

According to Villar, large enterprises should be able to recover and recycle a minimum of 20 percent of all packaging waste distributed for the year before the end of 2023.

This target rises to 40 percent on the second year, 50 percent on the third year, and so on until 80 percent by 2028.

"It is actually my hope that your considerable resources will allow your industries to fast track research and development, reach and breach these targets and go beyond mere compliance," Villar added.

When these very realistic targets are met or exceeded, she said EPR expenses would be deducted from taxable annual income.



## Point of view

# An environmentally resilient Philippines

(Conclusion)

By FEDERICO R. LOPEZ

**Cornerstone 3: Electrify everything.** With a greener grid you should now seek to “electrify everything” from transport to various industrial processes where possible. Innovation in the transport and industrial sectors that accomplishes this is crucial for this cornerstone too.

**Cornerstone 4: Use carbon-neutral fuels for hard-to-tech sectors.** With a green grid there will now be the possibility of producing carbon-neutral fuels like green hydrogen and green ammonia for industrial processes and transport sectors (such as long distance trucking, shipping and aviation) that cannot be electrified by 2050. This as the technology matures and gets cheaper during this period.

**Cornerstone 5: Deploy carbon capture use and storage (CCUS).** A zero-emissions grid will be a critical component for deeper deployment of electricity-run Carbon Capture and Sequestration technology to arrest more emissions from other hard-to-reach sectors. Innovation in CCUS technology is also expected to accelerate in the coming decades. Eventually, post-2050, these are envisioned to be deployed at scale in Phase 3 to get the world to net negative emissions and atmospheric carbon concentrations back to the deemed safe levels of 350 ppm.

The global energy transition appears straightforward when viewed from its five cornerstones. However, they have immense implications for the central role of the electricity grid. The most important point is that by 2050 we will need five times the electricity we use today; and we will need 10 to 12 times the clean energy in use today. Even as we do this, we must continue to improve access to 24/7 electricity for billions of people (in the case of the Philippines, millions of households) who currently do not have it reliably in their lives, if we are to even begin uplifting them from poverty.

Decarbonizing and scaling up a green electricity grid over the next three decades is probably *the greatest energy transition in the history of mankind*. It's not just changing the electricity system but building a new global energy system with components we have never built before and on a massive scale. This will need nothing short of collaborative action among various players that today often consider themselves competitors. And these also need well-coordinated and timely action on the part of leaders, policymakers and regulators who must be decisive and well-versed in the elements that make for a successful and just energy transition.

If we're not prepared and conveniently kick the can down the road, we'll be overwhelmed and not recognize the world around us in the coming 30 years. The science tells us we no longer have a choice. Unless we have more of these pandemics that choke growth, there will no longer be any time extensions.

It must. The impacts of the climate crisis as well as climate action that will be demanded of everyone are among the forces in history which will transpire “gradually and then suddenly.” Global finance, supply chains, service providers, employees and consumers will reflect this.

If we're not prepared and conveniently kick the can down the road, we'll be overwhelmed and not recognize the world around us in the coming 30 years. The science tells us we no longer have a choice. Unless we have more of these pandemics that choke growth, there will no longer be any time extensions. Since we have limited resources, we must choose to spend it judiciously and in a future-proof manner. The earlier we build on these five cornerstones of the energy transition, the better positioned our country will be for the massive change that's coming.

The last point I'd like to make is something I remember Al Gore saying in 2016 at the Climate Reality Project leadership training at the Sofitel Manila. He said: “All our infrastructure was built for a world that's now changed.”

At 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming, where we are today, the world has already changed, but it will be more so even as we successfully navigate the journey to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Warmer global temperatures have multiple knock-on effects on the global climate system that were stable as we know it for thousands of years. That's all changing now. We should begin by understanding what the science is telling us to prepare for and how it will affect each of us locally – stronger typhoons, higher rainfall, flooding, longer drier summers, freshwater shortages, wildfires, more mosquito-borne diseases, sea-level rise and more violent storm surges, etc.

With 60 percent of Filipinos living in coastal areas, sea-level rise is a major threat. This is compounded by the fact that land subsidence is widespread, given the over-extraction of our freshwater aquifers. Sea-level rise will be uneven throughout the world and even locally. Not only will this threaten coastal infrastructure, cities and communities with storm surges but will also affect freshwater aquifers even more with seawater intrusion.

Temperatures on the planet are rising fastest at the poles. This will have grave consequences for sea-level rise here as tipping points are triggered in the world's cryosphere. The book “Vanishing Ice” by Vivien Gornitz gives you a sense of the kind of

You may ask why the Philippines should undertake this energy transition given our limited resources and the fact that we account for only 0.4 percent of global emissions. I would answer that in this way: It's apparent that the world is changing, not as fast as it needs to yet, but eventually it will, and



10-17-22

TITLE:

An environmentally...

PAGE

210

DATE

fire we're playing with. "The last time carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere were 417 ppm was in the Pliocene epoch 3-5 million years ago, average temperatures were 3-4 degrees warmer than today and 10 degrees warmer at the poles. Consequently, sea levels were 5-40 meters higher than they are today."

Almost every major developed city has climate change action plans. Tokyo has its network of underground tunnels and cathedral-sized cisterns that can divert flooding with high-speed pumps that can empty a 50-meter Olympic-sized pool in 6 seconds flat. They originally built for rains of 55 millimeters (mm) per hour but are now upping this standard for new flood control projects to 65-75 mm per hour. Malaysia has its famous 9.7-kilometer SMART Tunnel that converts an underground roadway into a flood diversion tunnel when needed. London has its famous Thames barrier that protects London from similar flooding events. I've heard of similar projects being planned for Singapore, New

York, Boston and other major cities around the world.

We need a comprehensive, coherent and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan, backed by continuous feedback that engages with what the science is telling us we should prepare for. This, in turn, should be mirrored in all succeeding Philippine Development Plans and budget appropriations and relentlessly executed. We have very little time.

Try as we might to solve many of our sustainable development goals, it will be futile if we don't build for the resilience we need, and if we don't collaborate locally and as a global community to decisively "solve climate change." Having a credible vision and a dynamically executed plan is the most effective way to attract the scale of investment and funding we need to build a resilient Philippines in "a world that's now changed."

\* \* \*

*Remarks delivered by Federico Lopez, chairman of First Philippine Holdings, at the DENR Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Oct. 5, 2022 at the Manila Diamond Hotel.*



10-17-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

NEW AGENCY

# MARCOS RENEWS PUSH FOR WATER DEPARTMENT

**By Jerome Aning**  
@JeromeAningINQ

President Marcos has again pushed for the creation of a new government body to efficiently manage the country's water resources for drinking and irrigation needs.

"Water is too important. Supply, our freshwater supply, is generally going down and irrigation is not as widespread as it should be," the President was quoted on state television saying at last week's Legislative-Executive Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting that he might support the measure establishing the Department of Water Services.

"The problem is too large that we need to have a team of experts directing the 20 different concerned agencies under one roof to ensure that they would manage our water resources efficiently," Mr. Marcos said.

There are pending bills in both houses of Congress for the creation of the Department of Water Resources and the Water Regulatory Commission. Some lawmakers, however, said that to save money, a commission should just be created in-

stead of a full department.

In his State of the Nation Address in July, Mr. Marcos included the creation of the Department of Water Resources in his legislative agenda that he presented to Congress.

He said the government would also look into the "precarious" freshwater supply situation in the country, especially in urban areas. He added that many water supply systems date back to the 1950s, and they must now be rehabilitated and improved.

The new department will implement the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which Mr. Marcos has proposed as the strategic framework for national water management, policy making and planning.

In August, the President described the IWRM as "an approach to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising our ecosystem."

Meanwhile, the President also discussed at the Ledac job generation, trade policy, pandemic recovery efforts and the need to improve tourism services and infrastructure. INQ



# UN: Half the world not prepared for disasters

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

With half of the world not protected by multi-hazard early warning systems, developing countries on the frontlines of climate change count among those least prepared for disasters and where mortality rates can be eight times higher, a United Nations agency warned.

According to the Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems – Target G report released by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), less than half of the Least Developed Countries and only one-third of Small Island Developing States have a multi-hazard early warning system.

Analyzing latest data, the report showed that countries with limited early warning coverage have disaster mortality that is eight times higher than countries with substantial to comprehensive coverage.

“The world is failing to invest in protecting the lives and livelihoods of those on the frontline. Those who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are paying the highest price,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

He called on all countries to invest in

early warning systems: “Extreme weather events will happen. But they do not need to become deadly disasters.”

WMO was asked to spearhead new action to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems in the next five years.

Early warning systems are a proven means to reduce harm to people and damage to assets ahead of impending hazards, including storms, tsunamis, droughts and heatwaves.

Multi-hazard early warning systems address several hazards that may occur alone, simultaneously, or cascadingly. Many systems only cover one type of hazard – like floods or cyclones.

As climate change causes more frequent, extreme, and unpredictable weather events, investment in early warning systems that target multiple hazards is more urgent than ever.

This is because of the need to warn not only against the initial impact of disasters, but also second and third-order effects. Examples of these include soil liquefaction following an earthquake or a landslide, and disease outbreaks following heavy rainfall.

WMO Secretary-General professor Petteri Taalas said the number of recorded di-

sasters has increased fivefold, driven in part by human-induced climate change and more extreme weather.

Taalas said this trend is expected to continue, noting that early warning systems are a proven and effective climate adaptation measure to save lives and money.

“But we can and must do better. We need to ensure that early warnings reach the most vulnerable and that they are translated into early action,” Taalas said. “This is why WMO is spearheading a UN initiative on Early Warnings for All in the next five years.”

The report recommends investment in all elements of early warning systems, but particularly in risk knowledge to better plan early warning systems and in building the capacity of at-risk communities for early action.

It also recommends investing in enhanced data and better access to technology for stronger hazard monitoring, faster communication of warnings, and better tracking of progress.

Implementation of the report’s recommendations by donors and countries would support the realization of the UN secretary-general’s call that every person on the planet be covered by an early warning system in the next five years.



10-17-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Province of Siquijor

### LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that DENR-PENRO, Siquijor will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 o'clock A.M. on November 15, 2022 for the lease for Commercial Purposes of the tract of the land below described:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Location of land        | : Tacloban, Siquijor, Siquijor  |
| Description             | : North - Mindanao Sea;<br>East - Mindanao Sea;<br>South - Lot Nos. 1226 and 1006, Pls. 1086-D;<br>West - Lot No. 1226, Pls. 1086-D |
| Area                    | : 741 square meters   |
| Appraised Value of Land | : Php 300.00/sq.m.  |
| Total                   | : Php 222,300.00  |
| Existing Improvement    | : Php 2,670,850.00  |
| Applied for             | : Commercial Purposes   |
| Applicant               | : Christa Lyn T. Samson   |
| Application No.         | : M.L.A. No. 076106-05  |

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of the improvements and the expenses for the publication of the Notice of Auction and the survey of the land.

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

Larena, Siquijor, Philippines August 15, 2022.

Very truly yours,  
(Sgd.) LAURENTINO A. BAUTISTA  
OIC, PENRO