

20 October 2022, Thursday



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BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



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DENR, DOLE ink pact for 'green' job generation

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to create new job opportunities in the environment sector.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma formalized the partnership during the DENR Multi-Stakeholder Forum held in Manila on Wednesday, October 5.

Both agencies agreed to promote employment opportunities aligned with the protection and conservation of the country's natural resources and ecosystems.



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DENR at DOLE nagsanib-pwersa upang makabuo ng maraming green jobs

NAGSANIB pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Depart-

ment of Labor and Employment (DOLE) upang makabuo ng mga bagong 'job opportunities' sa bansa partikular na ang tungkol sa environment sector.

Ang partnership ay nagkaroon ng pormalidad sa pamamagitan ng paglagda sa memorandum of agreement (MOA) sa pagitan nina Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga at Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma sa ginanap na DENR Multi-stakeholder Forum na idinaos sa Diamond Hotel sa Manila noong Oktubre 5.

Nabatid na sa ilalim ng MOA, napagkasunduan ng dalawang ahensiya na magkaroon ng employment opportunities na nakahanay sa proteksyon at konserbasyon ng natural resources at ecosystems ng bansa.

Sa press statement ayon kay Sec. Loyzaga, kasalukuyang nakikipagtulungan ang DENR sa DOLE upang matukoy kung

gaano karaming trabaho ang kinakailangan sa pamamagitan ng pagtukoy ng mga rehiyon, kapwa lupa at coastal areas, na nangailangan ng suporta para sa forestation at implementasyon ng greening programs ng gobyerno.

Sinabi pa ni Loyzaga na kasalukuyang pinag-aaralan ng DENR Forest Management Bureau (FMB) ang geography ng bansa na naatasan din upang magsagawa ng mapping sa mga posibleng lugar kung saan maaaring magkaroon ng 'green jobs.'

Kaugnay nito ipinaliwanag din ng environment chief na ang pag-unawa sa geography ng bansa ay makatutulong sa national government agencies na tukuyin ang unemployment rate, poverty incidence, at high value areas na siyang makikinabang ng malaki sa oportunidad para sa environmental employment.

(Boy Celario)



DIPLOMATIC POUCH

MICHÈLE BOCCOZ



The protection of oceans, a global common for the Philippines and the world

The central importance of oceans is a daily reality in the Philippines: as a major regulator of environmental balances, especially when it comes to climatic events, as a provider of natural resources and as a major channel for trade. Today, natural maritime ecosystems are challenged by human activities and often disrupted because of pollution or over-exploitation. For France too, especially through its overseas territories in the Indo-Pacific, the oceans have a paramount importance for our populations. However, the nature of oceans is that of a global common: they know no boundaries, and as such will be best protected through multilateral cooperation platforms. This is reflected in the denomination of several major events that were organized this year.

In February this year, France organized in the city of Brest the One Ocean Summit, a three-day event aimed at taking concrete action to address these challenges, through the sharing of initiatives and solutions of various stakeholders. At the end of the summit, a hundred countries stated their determination to preserve the oceans by contributing to a series of commitments, including the protection of biodiversity and ocean resources, the regulation of shipping industry or the end of plastic pollution of the oceans. The creation of protected areas in particular, including maritime areas, has been addressed through the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, launched in January by France and Costa Rica. Now, 84 countries aim to protect 30 percent of the world's land and sea by 2030. I am extremely happy to hear that the Philippines is considering joining this initiative. To this day, two thirds of the ocean cannot enjoy marine protected area status.

For this reason, the 27 Member-States of the European Union, joined by 16 third countries, have launched the "High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction" (BBNJ). It aims at concluding an effective, global agreement on the sustainable use of the high seas and the protection of their biodiversity. Sadly, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a concrete issue for many fisher folks here in the Philippines. It accounts for almost a fifth of global catches, undermines food security and often involves very poor safety and working conditions for fishers. Undoubtedly, it is another area of shared concern.

In Brest, France and Colombia also launched a global coalition for Blue carbon, which will bring together national and multilateral actors in the field, to contribute to financing the restoration



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of coastal ecosystems. The oceans play a crucial role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and some ecosystems such as mangroves or seagrass beds can absorb and store large quantities of carbon. This capacity now needs to be highlighted to speed up projects to protect and restore such ecosystems, to enable genuine "blue carbon offsetting."

In April, I attended the Our Oceans Conferences in Palau to discuss similar issues. One Ocean, Our Oceans: these are shared issues, for which we need everyone on board. For this reason, Global Commons are one of the four pillars of the French Indo-Pacific Strategy. In June at the United Nations One Ocean conference in Lisbon, a promising project from the Philippines was presented thanks to the work of Sulubaai French-Philippine NGO in Palawan. Sulubaai has been working with great success towards the restoration of coral reefs in Shark Fin Bay. It is also actively rebuilding fish stocks and marine protected areas in the region, helping to strengthen food security for local communities and training researchers to expand this program. We could say today: "Teach a man to replenish fish stocks, and you feed him for a lifetime." The 25th of November, I will have the honor of inaugurating the Sulubaai Ecological Restoration Center in Palawan with Senator Loren Legarda.

500,000 euros have been dedicated to Sulubaai's Sea Academy program by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), administered by French Agency for Development, AFD, through the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM). This Facility also invested 1.5-million euros to support the strengthening of coastal resilience to climate events.

As a long-standing shareholder, France is supporting, through its support to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), actions in favor of ocean's protection, such as, France to the Blue South-East Asia Finance Hub launched in November 2021, whose objective is to originate, develop and mainstream blue projects but also strengthen regulatory environments. I positively note that in September 2021, ADB emitted its first ever Blue Bonds in order to raise additional resources to fill the gap between financing needs and available resources.

We need to continue working together towards the protection of the oceans and maritime biodiversity.

Michele Boccoz is the Ambassador of France to the Philippines.





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48th PHILIPPINE BUSINESS CONFERENCE AND EXPO

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The Voice of Business

THE PHILIPPINES IS READY AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS

OCTOBER 19-20, 2022 | MANILA HOTEL

Duterte keynotes opening day of 48th PBC&E; Marcos to address PH business today

PCCI SUBMITS POLICY RESOLUTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT

Vice President Sara Z. Duterte gave the keynote address during the opening of the 48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo (PBC&E) yesterday at the Grand Ballroom of The Manila Hotel. Meanwhile, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is expected to address the Philippine business community today as concluding guest of honor and speaker. The 48th PBC&E is set to be the biggest business face-to-face gathering in the country after two years of grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are honored and extremely delighted to receive his confirmation to the conference. As we speak, we are now in full capacity and we are trying to find ways to accommodate those on the wait list," PCCI president George T. Barcelon said, adding that PBC&E delegates will be coming from across the country and overseas.



PCCI president George T. Barcelon

He said that PCCI has also organized a huge number of business delegations to attend the conference from countries like the USA, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Japan. They are set to explore business opportunities and joint ventures in a B2B session with Filipino businessmen.

This year's conference carries the theme: "The Philippines is Ready and Open for Business,"



Vice President Sara Z. Duterte addresses the business community during the opening day of the 48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo (PBC&E) held at the Grand Ballroom of The Manila Hotel.

a theme befitting the chamber's vision to be the Voice of Business. "We have been consistent in our position to fully open up our economy because we need to get back on track to sustain our growth momentum," Barcelon added.



48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo. Congressman Ernesto M. Dionisio Jr. of the 1st District of Manila, together with 48th PBC&E chairman Ferdinand A. Ferrer and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president George T. Barcelon, lead the opening of 48th PBC&E Hall. Joining them are (from left) Ellen Ferrer, Mila Lacson (Expo Committee chair), Irene Barcelon, and Ma. Alegria Sibal Limjoco, Chairman, Membership Committee.



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48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo

The Philippines is ready and open for business

OCTOBER 19-20, 2022 | MANILA HOTEL



My warmest greetings to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry as you hold your 48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo.

As we rise from the crises of the past two years, we welcome this platform aimed at addressing issues crucial to national recovery and development. Through the synergized efforts of our policymakers, the business sector and our industry leaders, I am confident that we can continuously create expansion opportunities and generate employment no matter the challenges that lie ahead.

Now that we resume our operations in the new normal, let us aim to improve the viability of our trading systems and foster linkages that will boost market potential. I hope that your exchange of ideas will help us manage the dynamic trends of the sector and devise resiliency measures in the field of commerce. I trust that this conference and expo will become the avenue where we can engage in productive dialogue and develop strategies that will bring robust economic growth, and ensure meaningful, lasting and inclusive progress for the Filipino.

Let us continue collaborating to make a difference in the economy and the lives of the Filipino people as we regain the losses we have incurred during the global pandemic. May your commitment to the highest standards of excellence guide you in achieving your dreams and our aspirations for the country.

I wish you a meaningful and productive event.

Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.
President of the Philippines



Assalamualaikum!

I highly commend the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry for organizing the 48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo. I also congratulate the recipients of three awards, namely the Excellence in Ecology and Economy Award, the Alfredo M. Yao Intellectual Property Award, and the Injap Sia Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award. These milestone achievements validate your performance and contributions as industry business leaders and innovation champions.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has always been a key partner of the government in planning, reviewing, and implementing business reforms, as well as spearhead promotion of investment opportunities that have brought countless gains to our economy over the years.

My first 100 days in office, the Office of the Vice President focused on making sure we reach, serve, and create a lasting impact on the lives of the Filipino people. We consolidated our operations with a single central office in Mandaluyong and opened Satellite Offices in seven strategic locations across the country. In 2023, we aim to establish three satellite offices and are currently identifying potential locations.

In terms of services, the OVP provides medical and burial assistance to assist poor, marginalized, vulnerable, and disadvantaged men and women. We also launched the Libreng Sakay to provide relief to commuters dependent on public transportation to go to work, school, and other places. We also have the Pag-baBAGO campaign to promote the love of learning among our students while educating our parents on the importance of family planning.

In the coming days, the OVP will roll out the Kalusugan Food Trucks that aim to address malnutrition in our public schools. The Mag Negosyo Ta' Day Program is a livelihood assistance program designed to assist men, women, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community and the Peace 911, a national peace-building program that brings basic services closer to people in conflict-affected areas.

I look forward to collaborating with the Philippine private sector in the coming months and years. Let us continue to work together to help make our post-pandemic recovery targets a reality while ensuring that we build a stronger and more resilient economy.

Patuloy nating mahaln ang Pilipinas. Maraming salamat. Shukran.

Shirley Z. Duterte
Vice President of the Philippines



GEORGE T. BARCELON
PRESIDENT PCCI



FERDINAND "PERRY" A. FERRER
CHAIRMAN, 48TH PBCE

PLENARY SPEAKERS

 ALEJANDRO VILLANAR E. DURAN Governor of Iloilo	 DR. RICARDO N. BALAGOSA National Executive, Civil Aviation Authority	 SECRETARY BENJAMIN ABALOS, JR. Department of the Interior, Land Management and Urban Planning	 DR. MARIA ARMENTA PILO-LOYOLA Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 SECRETARY RAMON BAUTISTA Department of Transportation	 SECRETARY JOHN LAMILE UY Department of Information and Communications Technology	 SECRETARY RAMON SISON, JR. Department of Science and Technology	 SECRETARY AL ROGIO PAREDA Department of Trade and Industry
 DR. CHRISTINA GARCIA-PRADO Department of Tourism	 DR. RICARDO SISON Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines	 MS. HEATHER VARONA Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the USA to the Philippines	 DR. ERNESTO Y. PEREZ Office-in-Charge, Anti-Police Rape Authority
 DR. ARIF C. SISON Principal Policy and Research Officer, Department of Energy	 DR. MARIA CAROLINA E. CANALE Undersecretary for Internal Affairs, Public Service Commission	 DR. JOSEPH E. SISON, JR. Director General, Philippine Space Agency	 MR. ANTHONY SISON Managing Director, National Bureau of Investigation
 MR. RAMON E. SISON Chief Financial Officer, San Miguel Holdings Corp.	 MR. DANIEL RUFFA CEO, Angkor	 MR. RICARDO SISON, JR. Executive Director, Philippine JMWG Disaster Preparedness	 MS. MARISTELA Y. SISON Vice Chair, GMA Investments Corp.
 MR. RAMON E. SISON Chief Financial Officer, San Miguel Holdings Corp.	 MR. TITO M. ALARCON, JR. Principal Member, Union Planner and Founder, Public Employees' Association	 DR. ROBERT S. ONG Executive Director, NCR Center	 MR. RICARDO SISON, JR. Chairman and President, AICP
 ATTY. DANTE R. SISON President and CEO, Sison & Associates, Inc.	 MR. DANIEL PAREDA New Product Development Group, Intel Philippines	 MR. RICARDO SISON Nepco Director, Department of Commerce and Industry	 MR. RICARDO SISON, JR. President, Cebu Pacific Air

SESSION MODERATORS

 MR. LEO SISON Chairman, Risk Estimation Corporation, PCCO	 MR. RICARDO SISON CEO, Angkor	 MR. RICARDO SISON, JR. Executive Director, NCR Center
 DR. RICARDO SISON Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines	 DR. RICARDO SISON Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines	 MR. RICARDO SISON, JR. Executive Director, NCR Center

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48TH PBC&E

By Mr. Perry A. Ferrer, Chairman, 48th PBC&E

Excellencies, PCCI Board of Directors, Area Vice Presidents, Executive Officers, Regional and Local Chambers, Development Partners, the Academe, Delegates, Media, Friends, Ladies, and Gentlemen. Good morning! Welcome to our first physical event after two years of virtual meetings, forums, and conferences. That we have a thousand in attendance speaks well of our excitement to come out and show our government, and the world, that we have finally moved beyond the pandemic crisis. As we gather today, we recognize that 2022 presents a precious moment, a period of possibility, to start things anew. This year marks the change in our national leadership. A change that has made the political environment more interesting and inviting as the new administration pronounces sound fiscal management, good governance, food security, health and public infrastructures, climate change, and energy, toward an all-inclusive, resilient recovery. Today marks the 19th day of President Bongbong Marcos' election into office. What has been done on these pronouncements, what needs to be done in his 6-year term as president will be the subject of our two-day conference. The Marcos, Jr. administration has put in place technocrats as economic and infrastructure managers, highly-skilled in their respective fields. Priorities have been set. Programs and policies are being put in place that either build on, or are departures from the previous administration. Today and tomorrow, we will listen to our policymakers discuss the path they are carving out for us. We hope that the conversations sparked by this conference will help us to contribute toward making things happen for our country. The foundation for a strong growth and recovery has been built so that while COVID-19 presented setbacks, we have been able to keep on going. Now we have the chance to use that same energy to seize the next moment. Let us match our government's ambition of a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat with bold investments and innovation. Let us show the world that "the Philippines is ready and open for business"! Now, on behalf of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I call the 48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo to order.

48TH PBC&E MEDIA BRIEFING



ABOUT THE 48TH PBC&E CHAIRMAN

FERDINAND "PERRY" A. FERRER is the chairman and CEO of Gruppo EMS Inc., a company engaged in providing semiconductor engineering and electronic assembly services in the country and overseas. Known to many as Perry, he returned to the Philippines

after 22 years of being assigned in Military & Aerospace Electronics in various foreign countries like the USA, Canada, Europe, and China.

He actively serves as a board member of several business organizations such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP); Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI); Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (PhilExport); Federation of Economic Zone Service Providers (FEZSP); and Philippine-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee Inc. (PHILJEC).

He graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management from De La Salle University, Philippines.



By George T. Barcelon, PCCI President

Honorable Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio, Honored Guests, Delegates of the Philippine Business Conference, Fellow PCCI Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

I am happy to welcome all of you to our 48th Philippine Business Conference. To meet face-to-face again after almost two years, is such a great feeling. It is also my pleasure to welcome the business delegations from Sri Lanka and USA who came to foster closer relations, to seek business opportunities, and to form alliances. Indeed the Philippines is now open and ready for business.

Like many countries, the COVID-19 pandemic contracted economic activity almost into stagnation. Extended lockdown measures dampened private consumption, restricted the movement of goods and services, disrupted the supply chain, and increased unemployment. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined as manufacturing, industry, trade, tourism and travel industry activities slowed down.

Both the government and the private sectors took initiatives to respond to the pandemic and spur economic recovery. PCCI, in particular, spent time with government officials to share and exchange views on strategic plans on both the economy and sustainability in business facing the new reality, on the need for competitive and adaptive ideas to new challenges. The PCCI Board of Directors made a round of courtesy calls on our newly designated government officials, not only to get to know each other, but more importantly, to share our views on what we can do to become more relevant, forward-looking, and be ahead of competition. Our initiatives are summarized in PCCI's work program focused on the theme REACH OUT which means:

48TH PBC&E AWARDEES



WELCOME REMARKS

- R- Re- invigorate natural resources (oil, mineral, forestry, water)
E- Education and Energy
A- Agriculture, Aquatic, Agrarian Reinvention
C- Connectivity (Land, Sea, and Air, and Digital Infrastructure), and Climate Resiliency
H- Harmonize Human Skills and Dignity
O- One
U- United
T- in Transformation and Transparency

The PBC that we will be conducting today and tomorrow, will be the venue for discussing with our key government officials, more details on how best we can work together to move the country forward. You will note that we also have several networking and learning sessions featuring business opportunities. I hope you can take advantage of these by attending and participating in the discussions during the conference.

Now that the pandemic has eased, a resurgence of business activities is expected. Long-term forecasts made by experts on the country's economic performance is robust with an average GDP growth rate projected in the range of 5.3-6.5 percent between 2023-2027. We believe that the Philippine economy's growth momentum will accelerate especially since the government is expected to sustain public spending on priority infrastructure projects under the BUILD BETTER AND MORE Program. Also noteworthy is the tax reform all designed to jump-start the investment climate.

Our local chambers are also active partners of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and LGUs, in identifying redundant and unnecessary steps in registering businesses and other regulations.

With these new developments, it is now easier to do business and more timely to invest and take advantage of the many business opportunities at hand. Therefore, now is not the time to focus on the problems, but rather, to achieving better results. As Peter Drucker said, "Results are obtained by exploiting opportunities, not by solving problems. All one can hope to get by

solving problems is to restore normalcy." And we must go beyond that. Next month, our children will go back to school to attend face-to-face classes. Two years of proper learning was disrupted due to the pandemic. Looking at the positive side, the re-opening of schools will help stimulate the economy as consumption increases, and more small businesses also open up that cater to this sector of our economy. The transport sector and the school bus service will also revive.

As for the future of business, we must build a resilient future through digitalization, enabling enterprise growth especially in the regions, foster innovation, facilitate the supply chain, and upskill our human resources. This also means that we also have to future-proof our labor force by equipping them with advance and relevant skillsets for our long-term future. It is equally important and necessary for the Department of Education to be in sync with our long-term goals and adopt education strategies taking into consideration what will be tomorrow's jobs.

The K to 12 school system must now be reviewed taking into consideration the rapid growth in technology. In the same breath, our teachers must be re-trained to keep pace with technological developments. Children now need connectivity to the internet; they need computers and modern educational tools so that they can participate fully in this digital world we now live in. It gives us comfort than no less than you, Vice President Sara, has taken the education portfolio. This gives us the assurance that reforms in the education sector will be implemented with urgency.

That is why we have designed the PBC this year with the conference theme: The Philippines is now ready and open for business. I know that many of us here are looking for new ideas, new opportunities, and new partners. The internet is now the global marketplace not only for goods and services, but also for ideas. This conference is also the venue for assessing where we are now, envisioning the future, and what we must do to be ready for it.

Thank you, and again, welcome to the 48th Philippine Business Conference.



MARCOS VOWS SUPPORT FOR FILIPINO- MADE MULA SATELLITE

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has thrown his full support behind ongoing government efforts to build the largest Filipino-made satellite to be launched by 2025.

On Tuesday, the President met with members of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSa) to discuss priorities of the agency to help in "national security and development."

The President expressed interest in the Multi-Spectral Unit for Land Assessment (MULA) satellite, which is currently being developed by PhilSa, and is expected to help the government in gathering land, air, and water data in the country's territories.

Its practical uses will include detecting air and water quality; determining abundant fishing grounds; check traffic situations in cities and urban centers and detect presence of ships in the country's territorial waters.

"I am looking forward to the development of our MULA satellite and its subsequent launching sometime in 2025," Marcos said during the meeting.

MULA, which is approximately 130 kilos, will be the largest satellite to be built by an all-Filipino team of engineers.

During the budget hearing in the Senate last Monday, PhilSa said it would be using most of its P756 million proposed 2023 budget for the development of MULA.

The agency requested for a budget of P2.8 billion for next year, but it was significantly reduced in the 2023 National Expenditure Program.

MULA was initially scheduled to be launched by PhilSa next year but was reset to 2025.

Samuel P. Medenilla



UNDP, PH to discuss development progress

THE United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Regional Director Kanni Wignaraja will visit the Philippines on an official mission from October 22 to 28, 2022.

In a statement on Tuesday, UNDP said Wignaraja's weeklong mission will primarily include meeting with senior government officials and private sector, civil society and youth representatives to discuss the UNDP's work and contribution to the country's development priorities and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNDP said the top official will also lead the launch of "Pintig: Women, Data and the Pandemic" — a documentary which highlights the invaluable work and commitment of women leaders in the Philippines who bravely stood up to the crisis brought about by the pandemic — at home and within communities.

Ms. Wignaraja's program also includes field visits to Mindanao to hand over equipment to support sustainable livelihoods for local communities. She will also

have discussions on resilience with leading thinkers, industry practitioners and civil society organizations to explore what the Philippines should do to use the economic, social and environmental policy and financing instruments to support green recovery, while also building sustainable and resilient economies and societies," the UNDP added.

Since 1965, the UNDP has worked with the Philippine government, civil society and the private sector to strengthen inclusive, green and resilient growth, and to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and to ensure no one is left behind.

Today, it continues to strengthen the country's capacities at the national and local levels to promote democratic governance, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, and resilience and peacebuilding. In all its programs, the UNDP integrates human rights and gender equality, believing that everyone should have equal access to the benefits of development.

EIRENE JAIREE GOMEZ



BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

Business' responsibility to society

The moral principles both of an organization as a whole and of the people in it, from the employees to the top-level executives to the owners/shareholders, play a significant role in the firm's overall performance. After all, the company's objectives, strategies, policies and actions are significantly influenced by what the organization represents, what it stands for, what it believes in and supports, as well as by the personal values of its strategists and decision-makers.



The most important ethic that a modern business organization should possess is a sense of social responsibility. With the recent rise to power of the business sector, it is inevitable that its influence should also increase, and with this, its responsibility to society, to the people and entities that it affects with its decisions and actions.

But what exactly is meant by corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Does it negate the business organization's primary purpose of acquiring profit? Is there a way to reconcile these two seemingly disparate goals? And most importantly, what is the best way for a company to practice social responsibility?

There is no question that the concept of the social responsibility of businesses has become, more and more, a debated topic. Nevertheless, here in the Philippines, the concept is being practiced only by a limited number of firms, and these few firms do not practice real social responsibility but simply philanthropy. They believe that CSR consists of merely sharing a portion of their profits with the less fortunate. The reason for this misconception is a failure to understand what CSR really means.

Although CSR has become a much-used phrase, it is true that there does not seem to be any consensus on its meaning. The idea has in fact taken many different forms and driven by many different motives.

In most companies, CSR has been defined in terms of a philanthropic model. Companies donate a certain share of their profits to charitable or social causes. The model assumes that social responsibility is limited to profitable companies and that its main purpose is charity.

Another model defines CSR in terms of obligations to the so-called stakeholders of a corporation, namely the owners, employees, suppliers and the community in which it operates. This model assumes that a corporation must balance its social goals with the equally important goal of increasing shareholders' value. There is also the social commitment to the general public or society at large.



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In all these models, the general theme is that CSR will ultimately benefit the corporation. For example, sustainable development is good because business must preserve the resources that it exploits. In the long run, sustainable development will translate into a sustainable business.

CSR is therefore viewed as a means rather than an obligation. This view is again based on the fundamental belief that business must be driven by "selfish" interests and not the common good.

Among the more common definitions of CSR with their sources are the following:

- Continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large. (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)

- Voluntary positive initiatives by business that look to go beyond legal compliance in a diverse range of social, economic and environmental areas. (International Organization of Employers)

- Treatment of stakeholders of the firm ethically or in a socially responsible manner. Stakeholders exist both within and outside. Consequently, behaving socially responsibly will increase the human development of stakeholders both within and outside the corporation. (Michael Hopkins: "A Planetary Bargain: CSR Comes of Age")

- Corporate management of business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society. (Mallen Baker)

In the Philippine environment, CSR must be defined as the obligations and responsibilities of business to society, that in the pursuit of the profit motive, the basis for its corporate acts and strategies should include its commitment to protecting the environment, upholding the rights of its workers and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of its community and society at large.

Today businessmen must accept that they have an obligation to society on the same levels as politicians. This demand is based on the fact that businesses are now institutions as powerful as governments in the world.

It is business that determines the price of drugs and, therefore, assumes responsibility for the lack of proper health care for the poor. It is business that hires child labor and causes floods resulting from indiscriminate logging. However, when government intervenes, business calls it socialism.

It is business that is the cause of pollution in our environment, determines the definition of a living wage and decides whether land should be used for housing or a golf course. It is business that decides what news we will read or see, what courses universities should emphasize and the type of cultural shows the public can attend.

The list can go on and on.

The business world has become the biggest exploiter of the environment. It is also the biggest

employer globally. The domains of business and government are overlapping and this now leads to the acceptance of the business world that they have obligations beyond profit that may have been the sole obligation of government at one time.

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CONSUMERS WANT FIRMS TO PRIORITIZE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT-STUDY

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonlmayuga

S EVEN in 10 Filipino consumers in the Philippines believe that companies should prioritize environmental protection over profits, with 35 percent believing governments should do the same, according to a new study by consultancy firm Sandpiper.

Sandpiper's 2022 Consumer Expectations Index for Asia Pacific looks at the expectations consumers have of public and private sector organizations and their leaders around sustainability issues. It is based on a survey of 6,000 consumers across 11 markets in the region.

The company said in a statement that consumers in the Philippines ranked the government (92 percent) as being the most responsible for solving sustainability issues, with publicly listed companies (87 percent) ranking second, ahead of consumers themselves (85 percent) and media (77 percent).

This was also reflected in responses around which individuals have the most power in relation to sustainability issues with 84 percent ranking Heads of State as being the most powerful, followed by Government Ministers at 5 percent, Consumers themselves at 4 percent, and Scientists at 3 percent.

However, while consumers in Philippines believe governments are making the

strongest contribution to environmental sustainability, they see public companies as the greatest underperformers. Over one in five or 21 percent of Filipinos believe consumers themselves are contributing to environmental sustainability.

The study reveals that an overwhelming 99 percent of consumers in Philippines believe climate change is a reality, with just (1 percent) saying otherwise. This is despite only 60 percent of consumers saying they have a strong understanding of climate change.

When asked about their feelings around climate change, the top emotions Filipino consumers feel are concern (55 percent), frustration (17 percent), guilt (15 percent), with a further 10 percent saying they are satisfied the problem is being managed, while 4 percent are indifferent.

According to the study, people in the Philippines are the most concerned about climate change among all markets, with 56 percent saying they are worried this problem will develop in the future. In addition, 60 percent are concerned about poverty and 52 percent are concerned about ocean pollution.

Looking specifically at sectors, more than 1 in 10 consumers see five sectors as irresponsible or non-compliant when it comes to regulation.

CONTINUED ON A9

Consumers want firms to prioritize protection of environment-study

CONTINUED FROM A14

The worst-performing sectors are mining (17 percent), nongovernment organizations (12 percent) and government and public service (10 percent).

While 93 percent of consumers surveyed in the Philippines say they have at least an average understanding of what sustainability means, only 54 percent have a strong understanding of it. Fewer also have an average level of understanding of more technical terms including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at 78 percent, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) at 76 percent—showing that talking to consumers about these issues in everyday, non-technical language is important.

While the underlying issues that are sought to be addressed by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of wide concern, only 47 percent of consumers in the Philippines have heard of them.

"As global sustainability challenges continue to grow, we see increasing expectations on all organizations and individuals to act. While governments are shouldering the weight of solving sustainability challenges, increasingly consumers see both private companies and themselves as critical to solutions and they have a growing appetite to learn more and be involved.



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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ALEX MAGNO

Assassin

Last Tuesday, the PNP and DILG presented to the media the man who, by his own admission, murdered broadcaster Percy Lapid.

If the man's confession holds, this is a rare instance where dogged police work produced clear results. Too many assassinations, mainly by gunmen riding in tandem, have happened and their investigation produced scarce results.

The confessed gunman, Joel Estorial, claims he surrendered to the police fearing he, too, may be eliminated to completely cover up the crime. He named his associates in the dastardly crime as the brothers Edmon and Israel Dimaculangan. He also named a certain "Orly," an inmate at the National Penitentiary, as the one who organized the assassination. The sum of P550,000 is said to have been shared by the killers.

Percy Lapid's family welcomed the dramatic development in the case. They, however, requested the police to allow a "walk through" at the scene of the crime to more solidly verify the alleged gunman's claims.

Notwithstanding Estorial's extrajudicial confession, the case is not closed. Until the mastermind is identified, this case will remain wide open.

To be sure, police officers are on the hunt for the named accomplices. They should be able to corroborate Estorial's account if they choose to cooperate with the investigation. The inmate named "Orly" still needs to be fully identified. The money trail must be found.

The investigation should, no doubt, look into the possibility that the assassins involved in gunning down Percy might have been involved in other such heinous operations. This could lead to the reopening of other cases that might have turned cold.

Since this particular murder happened, the mainstream media has been repeatedly highlighting Percy Lapid's critical commentaries on former president Rodrigo Duterte and sitting President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Ahead of any actual breakthrough in the investigation, it seems mainstream media has been framing this murder as somehow politically motivated. Consequently, international media coverage of the murder has been similarly slanted.

The PNP, in a rather ham-handed way, added to the political slant by deploying detectives to the homes of a number of media practitioners. Police officers eventually apologized for the mistake.

More solid investigation into this murder should clarify the actual motives behind it.



Quarrying

In politics, as in most everything else, what is essential is invisible to the eye.

The Commission on Elections Second Division must be surprised by the popular reaction to their decision disqualifying Noel Rosal from assuming the governorship of Albay. The commissioners found that Rosal, then sitting mayor of Legaspi City, violated the law by releasing cash aid to poor tricycle drivers after the election ban took effect. Rosal won by a surprising landslide against the powerhous incumbent.

For good measure, the Comelec also disqualified Noel's wife Geraldine Rosal who won for mayor of Legaspi City. Geraldine was cited in the complaint filed by a defeated candidate for the city council as an accomplice in the election offense.

Both have declared they will appeal the decision, bringing the case up to the Supreme Court if necessary. Since the legal issues will continue to be litigated, it should suffice to describe the decision to be a bit stern and probably tone-deaf.

In reaction to the Comelec ruling, large demonstrations have spilled out to the streets of Legaspi City. The civil society and religious groups spilling onto the streets denounce the Comelec for overturning the will of the people. Surprisingly, those protesting the Comelec ruling included Legaspi Bishop Joel Baylon.

Those familiar with the politics in the locality say that Rosal may have stepped on too many toes on the road to the governorship. The most significant of those toes belong to powerbrokers who make a killing by adding a surcharge of P15 to the P25 charged by the government for every cubic meter of sand quarried from the slopes of Mayon Volcano. The surcharge amounts to a form of extortion. This undocumented levy adds up to a pretty impressive sum considering the volume of quarrying going on.

Rosal declared the additional levy illegal and cracked down on those who collected it. It also appeared the new governor was on the way to restricting quarrying activities on the unstable slopes of the active volcano. Church leaders in Albay have been clamoring for quarrying activities to be curtailed if not totally banned. Doing so would put powerful business and political interests in the locality out of business.

Experts have been warning of the perils posed by quarrying on Mayon Volcano. Over a thousand people perished from deadly mudflows in the aftermath of Typhoon Reming that hit in 2006. Then in the wake of Super Typhoon Rolly just two years ago, 300 houses were swept away by lahar flows on Mayon's slopes. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has been warning that unregulated quarrying could "remobilize" the lahar sitting on the slopes.

Former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu suspended quarrying operations in the area. A task force was formed to study the effects of quarrying on the river systems flowing from the volcano. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau, however, recommended the lifting of the ban. More destructive lahar flows happened.

It appears the massive public support Rosal drew in the last elections was due mainly to his promise to restrict quarrying activities at Mayon. The voters understood that the quarrying activities put their lives and possessions at great risk.

But it seems this stand against quarrying is what animates the powerful groups pushing for Rosal's disqualification.





Down the drain

Imagine 100 families living in a condo all flushing their toilets at the same time. Then imagine 30 new condos, each 20 stories tall, rising in the NCR. Question: Are you comfortable drawing up such a flushing scenario?

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink, rued the poet. Chest-high floods competing for media attention with parades of drums aching to be filled with clean water. Meanwhile, the threat persists of blackouts in the provinces for lack of fuel. No water. No light at the end of the day/tunnel.

The thought of "water service interruptions" in the megacity during the rainy season is enough to fry your brains. As sure as climate change is no longer a mere buzzword is how history teaches that ancient civilizations died when their rivers ran dry.

It is no comfort to be told that the Philippines — an archipelago, by the way — isn't the only country experiencing a critical lack of water that's safe for drinking; but it is a source of distress to know how millions of children all over the world have lost their childhood fetching water for their families. Moreover, every two minutes a child dies of waterborne diseases.

President Marcos Jr.'s wish for a Department of Water Resources could not have come at a better time,

no matter that it's not an original idea. President Cory ran out of time to fulfil her dream to construct a new source of water, nor could her son, Noynoy, see it through, four presidencies later. Days ago our hopes were dashed yet again: the vaunted Kaliwa dam, what could've been the answer to our prayers, will need to sleep another century, perhaps more.

While waiting for a Department of Water to become reality, dare we expect our legislators to give stronger teeth to a law to protect Sierra Madre from murderers of endangered trees and endangered forest rangers. When senators and congresspersons return to work next month they could also legislate, one way or another, the construction of catch basins all over Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to save and harvest rainwater while preventing floods.

Just because such basins are not spectacularly expensive and massive like dams should not be a reason not to build them.



MEDIUM RARE
JULLIE Y. DAZA



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MEDIUM RARE

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Polymer banknote's sustainability hit

By PAOLO ROMERO

Senators and farmer groups yesterday warned of the adverse impact on the environment and the economy if the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) fully implements its controversial plan to issue new polymer banknotes, which it claims are recyclable and have a low carbon footprint.

Concerns on the issuance of new polymer banknotes were raised during a hearing of the Senate committee on banks, financial institutions and currencies, chaired by Sen. Mark Villar, in pursuit of the resolution filed by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III seeking a probe into the BSP's plan.

Villar said the inquiry aims to weigh the pros and cons of the recent initiatives of the BSP and provide recommendation or legislation on what is most beneficial for all Filipinos.

He noted that in 2018, the BSP introduced the new generation series of banknotes and less than 10 years later, the central bank is introducing another bank note using a new material, polymer, which may affect the abaca industry and poses important questions on sustainability and plastics disposal.

"This raises the question, is this change necessary at this point? How many incidents of counterfeiting on our new generation series have occurred in the past four years? Are the security features in the new

polymer series better than the new generation series?" Villar asked.

He noted that the government might be wasting money and causing unnecessary inconvenience to the public by changing banknotes in a span of four years, or from 2018 to 2022.

Pimentel said there was lack of consultation and apparent haste in the issuance of the new banknotes, which actually "felt fake" to many of those who have handled them.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, who chairs the Senate committee on sustainable development goals, innovation and futures thinking, questioned the BSP's claim that polymer bills use less water and can be recycled into

chairs and tables.

Robert Atienza of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority told the committee that the agency has long opposed the BSP's plan, adding that Japan and the US continue to use paper bills.

Atienza said the shift to polymer would be "very costly" for banks and other financial institutions that handle cash as they have to recalibrate and purchase new equipment, like ATMs, that may not read and handle the new material.

Federation of Free Farmers Cooperative chairman Leonardo Montemayor said the BSP appears to have violated the Constitution, which mandates the use of local products as much as possible.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1898
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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Climate change puts 1 B children at 'extreme risk'

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AFP) - Some one billion children are at "extremely high risk" due to climate change harms, a rights group warned on Wednesday, adding that youths' living standards failed to improve in the last decade.

The KidsRights index, based on figures supplied by UN agencies, also said more than one-third of the world's children, some 820 million, were currently exposed to heatwaves.

Water scarcity affected 920 million children worldwide, while diseases such as malaria and dengue affected some 600 million children, or one in every four, Dutch NGO KidsRights said.

The KidsRights Index is the

first and only ranking that measures how children's rights are respected annually, ranking Iceland, Sweden, and Finland as the best for children's rights and Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Chad as the worst, out of 185 countries.

Of the top three nations, only Sweden's ranking changed from the previous year, moving to second from fourth place.

Marc Dullaert, founder and chairman of KidsRights, described this year's report as "alarming for our current and future generations of children."

"A rapidly changing climate is now threatening their futures and their basic rights," he said.

"There has been no significant progress in the standards of chil-

dren's lives over the past decade and on top of that their livelihoods have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic," Dullaert added.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a severe impact on children, who were unable to get food or medicine due to disruptions and the closure of clinics, leading to some 286,000 under the age of five years dying as a result, KidsRights said.

For the first time in two decades, the number of child laborers has risen to 160 million, representing an increase of 8.4 million over the last four years, said the KidsRights Index, which is compiled together with Rotterdam's Erasmus University.



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1B kids at extreme risk from climate change

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which is compiled together with Rotterdam's Erasmus University.

KidsRights highlighted Angola and Bangladesh, saying the two countries significantly improved their scores in regards to children's rights.

Angola has more than halved its under-5 child mortality, while Bangladesh has reduced the number of underweight children under 5 years by almost half.

But the report also slapped Montenegro for low vaccination numbers, ranked 49 on the index.

The survey uses UN data to measure how countries measure up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

AFP



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Business group submits policy recommendations

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has crafted policy resolutions that capture the business community's collective aspirations and expectations from the new administration.

The resolutions, which cover the areas of food security, health and employment, among others, are set to be turned over to President Marcos today at the 48th Philippine Business Conference and Expo.

To achieve food security, the PCCI is urging the national government to amend the Agrarian Reform Law

to increase land retention limit from five to 24 hectares, implement a debt condonation program for unpaid amortizations of agrarian reform beneficiaries, and convert Certificates of Land Ownership Award into fee simple titles.

For its resolution on health, the group is urging the national government to reform the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. into a science-based and transparent healthcare system and encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the implementation of the Universal Healthcare Law.

In terms of employment, the

group is calling on the government to work together with the private sector to reenergize the economy by supporting new investments to generate employment, provide assistance to pandemic-surviving micro, small and medium enterprises, amend all restrictive and punitive labor laws, and enact laws that will increase productivity.

Also covered by the resolutions is education. The group is urging the government to amend the Philippine Qualifications Framework Law to create a Philippine Qualifications Authority, which will establish and maintain qualification

standards for all levels of education and training.

As for national security, the group has stressed the need for the government to deepen cooperation with neighboring states as well as expand participation in regional and multilateral defense agreements, while accelerating the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The PCCI is also pushing for the development and implementation of a nationwide internet connectivity program that is reliable and competitive by passing into law the Open Access in Data Transmission Act.

In addition, the group is urging

the government to address climate change and environmental protection by developing PPPs to establish world-class water and waste management infrastructure as part of its resolution on environment and climate change.

The group is also urging the government to accelerate the integration of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids to enable the free flow of electricity nationwide, and for the Department of Energy to amend the implementing rules and regulations of the Renewable Energy Act to allow 100 percent foreign investment in solar and wind projects.



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PCCI urges amendments to land reform law

Business group seeks increase in land retention limit to 24 has from 5 has

By Alden M. Monzon
@AldenMonzonINQ

The country's largest business organization is calling on the government to increase the land retention limit of landowners to 24 hectares from five has, and allow full foreign ownership of solar and wind projects in the country.

On Wednesday, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) listed these two among several resolutions seeking to improve the economy that will be submitted to President Marcos today during the final day of the 48th Philippine Business Conference & Expo at The Manila Hotel.

On food security, PCCI said it wanted the government to adjust the land retention limit from five to 24 hectares by amending the Agrarian Reform Law.

According to PCCI president George Barcelon, the retention limit has to be increased because the current maximum size of just five hectares was considered by many investors as too small to be viable. The proposed new limit of 24 hectares is deemed enough to support commercial production that should, in turn, contribute to securing

the country's food supply.

The resolution also recommended the implementation of a debt condonation program for unpaid amortizations of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and convert certificates of land ownership award into simple titles.

For the power sector, the PCCI is calling on the Department of Energy to amend the implementing rules and regulations of the Renewable Energy Act to allow 100 percent foreign investment in solar and wind projects.

Integration

The same resolution is also urging the national government to accelerate the integration of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids to enable the free flow of electricity nationwide.

"Both the government and the private sectors took initiatives to respond to the pandemic and spur economic recovery. PCCI, in particular, spent time with government officials to share and exchange views on strategic plans on both economy and sustainability in business facing the new reality on the need of competitive and adaptive ideas to new challenges," Barcelon said during his opening

remarks during the first day of the two-day conference.

Other policy recommendations

The other resolutions crafted by the PCCI include recommendations on health, employment, education, national security, digitalization, environment and climate change and international trade.

The health resolution is urging the government to reform the state-owned health insurance company, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., turning it into a science-based and transparent health-care system. The government was also asked to encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) in the implementation of the Universal Healthcare Law.

For employment, the PCCI is asking the government to help micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as amend restrictive and punitive labor laws and enact ones that will increase productivity.

For education, the resolution recommends amending the Philippine Qualifications Framework Law to create a Philippine Qualifications Authority that will establish and maintain qualification standards for all levels of

education and training.

For national security, the PCCI is asking the government to deepen cooperation with neighboring states, expand participation in regional and multilateral defense agreements, and accelerate the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

For digitalization, the government is being asked to pass into law the Open Access in Data Transmission Act, a proposed legislation which aims to liberalize the industry by lowering barriers to market entry, fast-tracking and lowering the cost of deploying broadband facilities, and promoting infrastructure sharing.

The environment and climate change resolution, on the other hand, wants the government to address climate change and environmental protection by developing PPPs to establish world-class water and waste management infrastructure.

To help international trade, the PCCI wants the government to hasten the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and for the Philippines to join bilateral free trade agreements and trans-pacific partnerships to minimize barriers to the free flow of goods and services. INQ



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Plastic plot

Among many efforts to recycle plastic waste polluting air, land, and oceans is one that converts such waste into useful chemicals.

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Plastic plot

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A team led by Gregg Beckham, a chemical engineer at the United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, developed this process, *Nature* reported.

Beckham's team used a cobalt or manganese-based catalyst to break down high-density polyethylene that make up food packaging, polystyrene which includes styrofoam, and polyethylene terephthalate found in drinking bottles. The plastic waste turns into oxygen-containing organic-acid molecules such as dicarboxylic acids, terephthalic acid, and benzoic acid.

The team, whose experiment was published in the journal *Science*, then used an engineered bacterium, *Pseudomonas putida*, that would eat the said acids, thereby producing biopolymers or plastics that can be made into biodegradable plastic bottles, cups and wrappers.

It's amazing that some microorganisms are capable of breaking down plastics. Humans can only go as far as unknowingly ingesting such non-biodegradable materials, microplastics, for example, with bad effects to their health. So it was not surprising that a family complained when they found a small piece of cellophane on their meals when they recently dined at the Namji restaurant in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom.

When the diners' £170 bill arrived, the mother called the waiter and showed the piece of plastic on her plate. The restaurant manager tried to appease the customers by offering them a 20-percent discount on the four starters, seven side dishes, four drinks, and six main courses they ordered and ate, according to *UK News Yahoo!*

The woman's husband refused to pay the tab and they stormed out of the restaurant.

The restaurant owner, Naseem Khan, said it was all a ruse by the customers to avoid paying for their meals. Khan said the diners were complaining about their food from the start but they finished all the meals anyway.

Khan also reviewed the CCTV footage of the diners and confirmed they were a victim of an "eat-and-run" modus as the plastic was planted. In the video, the woman was shown "tearing the wrapper off a cigarette packet she'd stored in her underwear and placing it in her bowl of chicken curry," *UK News Yahoo!* reported.

Khan, who feeds homeless people, said she would have given the family free meals if they couldn't afford them. She reported the incident to the Thames Valley Police which called on the public to volunteer information about the deceptive diners.

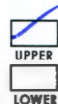
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News Briefs

Coral reef preservation highlights Zambo fest

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The local government here has launched the initiative to conserve coral reefs in the province as part of the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival recently.

Sangkalikasan Producers Cooperative goodwill ambassador Justine Robin Brett lauded the LGU's program on reef conservation.

"We in the North express our voice to the South, we recognize the importance of the Ocean and that we shall continuously support all activities to protect our Ocean and marine ecosystems. The devastating effects of climate change, drought, floods, dwindling live fish catch and ocean level rise, affect the South as well as the North," Brett said.

JUN N. AGUIRRE



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ARANETA FIRM PLANS P-41-B LAGUNA HYDRO PLANT

By **Jordeene B. Lagare**
@jordeenelagare

Belisama Hydropower Corp. (BHC) of businessman Gregorio Araneta III will build a P41-billion pumped-storage hydropower facility in Laguna, company filings with the government revealed.

In a filing with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau, BHC said the planned power project, with a capacity of 800 megawatts, will rise in the municipalities of Pakil and Pangil.

Situated along the northwestern part of the Laguna Lake, the pumped-storage hydropower facility "is seen to augment power supply and contribute to energy security in the country."

"The proposed [project] in general is envisioned to augment power supply and contribute to energy security in the country as a renewable en-

ergy resource consistent with the strategy directions under the Philippine Development Plan and the Power Development Plan," it said.

The Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 outlines the government's key strategies to support socioeconomic development in the Philippines. Meanwhile, the Power Development Plan 2016-2040 serves as a comprehensive guide for industry stakeholders about the country's energy sector.

It is also expected to contribute to the government's aspiration of increasing renewable energy sources in the country.

BHC said the proposed project, expected to be completed in approximately 53 months, will generate average energy of 1,523 gigawatt hours annually.

The entity said it is in the process of negotiating the lease over the properties forming part of the project site. **INQ**



NARRA MAHUSAY NA PANGONTRA SA DIABETES

ANG Narra tree extracts ay nangungunang pinagmumulan ng antioxidants na pumipigil sa iba't ibang sakit, kabilang ang diabetes base sa pag-aaral kaya't dapat ituloy sa tulong ng gobyerno.

"Ito ay isang mahusay na pag-unlad sa aming medikal na industriya, na dapat ituloy nang masigla sa tulong ng gobyerno," pahayag ni Melandrew T. Velasco, presidente at executive director ng Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI).

Ang Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), ang pambansang puno ng bansa ay kilala sa matigas na kahoy na ginagamit sa cabinet-work. Kaunti ang nalalaman tungkol sa mga katangiang panggamot nito.

Ito ay kasama sa 2002 listahan ng mga species ng puno sa kagubatan na may mga gamit na panggamot na pinagsama-sama ng Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau ng DENR," sabi ni Velasco.

"Ang iba't ibang bahagi ng puno ng Narra ay may gamit na panggamot, tulad ng sabaw ng balat na ginagamit sa pagtae. Ang mga batang dahon nito ay ginagamit upang gamutin ang mga pigma, ulser sa balat, at prickly heat. Ang isang magaan

na pagbubuhos ng mga dahon ay ginagamit din upang makontrol ang lagnat. Ang root extract ay ginagamit sa syphilitic sores. Ang kahoy ay may diuretic, antidiysenteric, antithermic, at antimalarial properties. Ang butil ng prutas ay ibinibigay bilang emetic.

Napansin niya ang isang pag-aaral na isinagawa ng De La Salle University-Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy na ang sanga at balat ng puno ng Narra ay naglalaman ng pinakamataas na marka ng Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) sa bansa, at kabilang sa nangungunang 10 ng US Department of Agriculture List sa nangungunang 326 na pagkain na may mga antioxidant sa mundo.

Sinabi ni Velasco na ang ORAC score ay ang yunit ng sukatan ng mga antioxidant na natural na depensa ng katawan laban sa mga nakapipinsalang compound na nauugnay sa maraming sakit.

Ito ay nakapaloob sa Narra Extract Research Report ng De La Salle-Medical and Health Sciences Institute, na nagpakita rin ng pagkakaroon ng pterocarpin at pterostilbene, dalawang makapangyarihang antioxidant na natuklasan. **(Betchai Julian)**






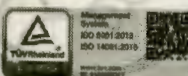
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118
Tel Nos. 8398-4379
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **Masbate Gold Pit Expansion Project - Phase 2** located in Barangays Amoroy, Bangon, Capsay, Panique, Puro and Syndicate, Municipality of Aroroy, Province of Masbate.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **Masbate Gold Pit Expansion Project - Phase 2** to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
27 October 2022	9:00AM <i>(Registration will start at 08:30 AM)</i>	Capsay Covered Court, Barangay Capsay, Aroroy, Masbate

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the Filminera Resources Corporation (FRC) application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Proponent	Filminera Resources Corporation (FRC)
Project Name	Masbate Gold Pit Expansion Project - Phase 2
Project Location	Barangays Amoroy, Bangon, Capsay, Panique, Puro and Syndicate, Municipality of Aroroy, Province of Masbate
Components	Blue Quartz Pit: 16 Hectares Old Lady Pit: 20 Hectares Blue Quartz Waste Dump: 9 Hectares Old Lady Waste Dump: 14 Hectares Access Road to Old Lady: 3 Hectares Relocation Site: 10 Hectares
Rationale	The proposed Blue Quartz and Old Lady expansion project to be operated by the company will continuously benefit the community and the local government from the programs being implemented through the SDMP. Further, generation of local taxes to be incurred by the proposed operation will boost the local and national economy.
Project Capacity	Plant Capacity: 9,000,000 MT/y Mine Extraction Rate: 34,500,000 MT/y
Area	Existing total project area covered: 2,548.4 Hectares Proposed total project area: 2,795.4 Hectares (Additional block: 247 hectares)

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

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

EMB Region V
Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City
Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO)
Municipality of Aroroy, Province of Masbate

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 85394378 local 116 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. George Silvederio** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP.**


MT - Oct. 13 & 20, 2022





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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1115
 Tel Nos. (02) 8539 4378
 Web site: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the MAALINAO-CAIGUTAN-BIYOG MINING PROJECT of MAKILALA MINING COMPANY, INC. located in BRGY. BALATOC, MUNICIPALITY OF PASIL, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, PHILIPPINES.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the MAALINAO-CAIGUTAN-BIYOG MINING PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
04 November 2022 (Friday);	09:30 AM (Registration starts at 08:30 AM)	Pasil Municipal Gym, Amdalao, Pasil, Kalinga

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

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Maalinalao-Caigutan-Biyog Mining Project
Project Location	Brgy. Balatoc, Municipality of Pasil, Province of Kalinga, Philippines.
Project Capacity	Mining: 4,500,000 MT/ yr Processing: 2,400,000 MT/yr
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industry: Extraction of Metallic Ores/ Minerals and Metallic Mineral or Ore Processing
Project Rationale	This Project endeavors to maximize the economic utility of the mineral resources in the Cordillera Administrative Region, while consequently spearheading the growth of the immediate locality through the inevitable socioeconomic development that is integral to any mineral development project. This includes increased taxes and royalties levied to the government, employment growth from mining-related activities and supporting industries (commerce) in the area, social development, and others. MMC's environmental and social development programs are also anticipated to have positive impacts on the community as required under various mining laws and regulations
Project components	Major Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• Underground Mining Area <li style="width: 50%;">• Emulsion Plant <li style="width: 50%;">• Underground Magazine <li style="width: 50%;">• Waste Rock/ Topsoil Storage Facility <li style="width: 50%;">• Surface Magazine <li style="width: 50%;">• Internal Roads and Bridges <li style="width: 50%;">• Process Plant Buildings <li style="width: 50%;">• Paste Plant Buildings <li style="width: 50%;">• Run off Mine Pad <li style="width: 50%;">• Fresh water and Contact Water Dams Support Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• General Admin Facilities <li style="width: 50%;">• Water Treatment Plant <li style="width: 50%;">• Emergency Power <li style="width: 50%;">• Maintenance and Storage Facilities
Proponent	Makilala Mining Company, Inc

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

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

- EMB CAR
- DENR Compound, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
- Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office- Pasil
Pasil Municipal Hall, Pasil, Kalinga

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers For. Mark Tuliao and Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra.

MPJ

MT - Oct. 20 & 27, 2022