

22 October 2022 (Saturday)



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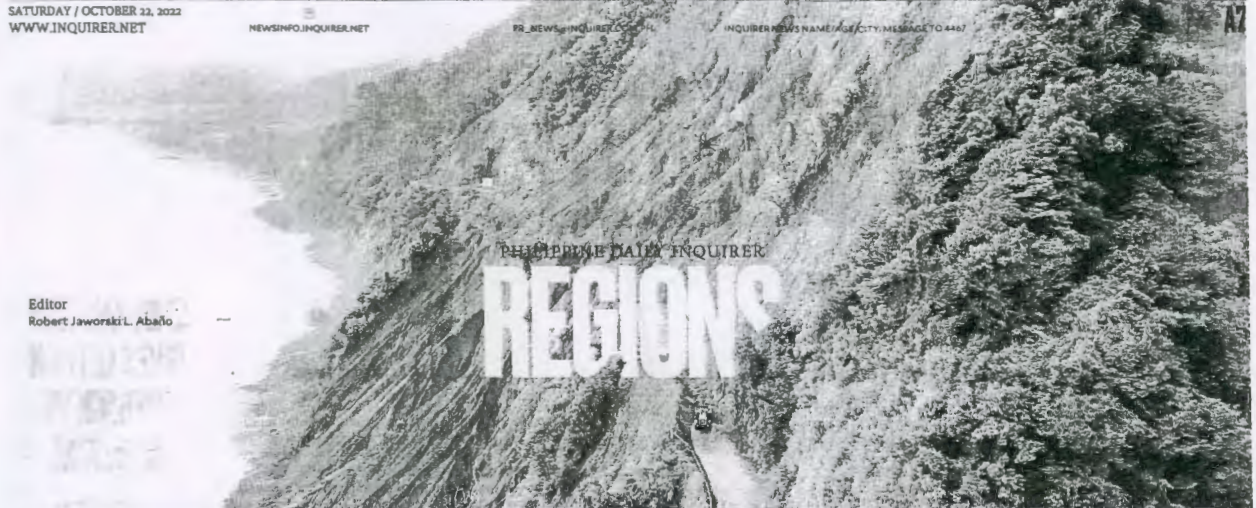
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Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abaño



ROAD CLOSURE A section of Manila North Road in Pagudpud town, Ilocos Norte, a vital link to Cagayan province, is impassable again after it was covered with landslide debris following torrential rains in the area as Tropical Depression "Obet" crossed extreme northern Luzon on Friday. The road was also hit by landslides and had to be closed for clearing operations during the two successive storms that affected Cagayan and Ilocos last week. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

2 storms leave P1-B damage in Cagayan

A third weather disturbance, TD 'Obet,' triggers widespread flooding, forces evacuation anew in the province

**By Villamor Visaya Jr.
and John Michael Mugas**
@InquirerLuzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The cost of damage to agriculture and infrastructure in Cagayan province has climbed to a little more than P1 billion following the onslaughts of Typhoon "Neneng" (international name: Nesat) and Tropical Depression "Maymay" that struck northern Luzon in a span of a week, government data showed on Friday.

According to the final report of the Cagayan provincial disaster risk reduction and management office (PDRRMO), Neneng left P474.2 million worth of damage to infrastructure and farms between Oct. 11 and Oct. 12, while Maymay caused P533 million

worth of losses in the two sectors from Oct. 15 to Oct. 16.

On Friday, the province, still reeling from the two previous weather disturbances, was once again faced with widespread flooding in at least five towns that was triggered by Tropical Depression "Obet."

The past two storms caused rice and corn farmers to lose the most, totaling at least P447.2 million in destroyed crops, PDRRMO data showed.

It said the damaged structures included houses, roads, gymnasiums, day care centers, waiting sheds, school buildings and barangay health stations.

Neneng and Maymay also affected 44,087 families, or 153,684 people, in the province's 286 villages and 18 towns.

Due to the impact of the

two storms, the towns of Santa Ana, Santa Praxedes, Allacapan and Sanchez Mira were placed under a state of calamity to allow their local governments to hasten the delivery of aid to the affected residents.

Landslides

In Ilocos Norte province, torrential rains again triggered landslides along Manila North Road at Barangay Pancian in Pagudpud town on Friday.

The road, which links Ilocos Norte to the northern provinces in the Cagayan Valley region, was previously hit by landslides and rock slides due to the inclement weather, prompting the Department of Public Works and Highways to close it to traffic several times.

According to the Ilocos



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Norte government, the road closure has hampered relief operations and the restoration of power in several areas in the province that were devastated by Neneng.

Layers of mud and rocks from the roadside mountain blocked the same portion of the highway on Sept. 10. It was closed for at least two weeks, causing some residents to hire fishing boats to reach their destinations in Ilocos Norte and nearby Cagayan towns.

On Thursday, the Ilocos Norte electric cooperative said that it could not reach the highland town of Adams, one of the hardest-hit areas in the province during Neneng, to restore power there due to the recurrence of landslides.

Ilocos Norte, which is also

under a state of calamity, sustained at least P178 million worth of losses in infrastructure and agriculture due to Neneng, according to its PDRRMO.

Class suspension

On Friday, Obet also triggered widespread flooding in Cagayan province's towns of Aparri, Baggao, Camalaniugan, Pamplona and Santa Praxedes.

The Cagayan PDRRMO said Obet, the third storm to hit the province in over a week, displaced 500 families, or 1,697 people, in these towns and were forced to temporarily stay in evacuation centers.

At least eight localities in the province also suspended classes due to incessant rain and persisting floods.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Sig-

nal No. 1 remained in effect in northeastern mainland Cagayan (Santa Ana and Gonzaga towns), Batanes and Babuyan Islands as of Friday afternoon due to Obet, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

In its 2 p.m. bulletin on Friday, Pagasa said Obet slightly strengthened as it continued its westward track toward the Luzon Strait.

The center of Obet was forecast to pass over or very close to Batanes between the afternoon and evening of Friday, the state weather bureau said.

Obet had maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of 70 kph, Pagasa said. INQ



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SHUT DOWN – The Manila North Road in Barangay Pancian, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte is closed to traffic on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, after a landslide. (DPWH photo)



3 cyclones in 10 days keep several Cagayan areas flooded

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG
and ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Tropical Depression Obet slightly intensified on Friday afternoon, Oct. 21, and may dump more rains in Cagayan, Batanes, and Babuyan Islands.

Obet is the third cyclone to hit Cagayan the past 10 days, forcing the evacuation of more than a hundred residents.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Friday that 162 residents were evacuated in the municipalities of Pamplona, Santa Praxedes, and Aparri due to flooding. These areas have been submerged in floods since Typhoon Maymay pummeled Northern Luzon on Oct. 11, and aggravated by rains dumped by Typhoon Neneng on Oct. 15.

Ankle to knee-deep floods ► 9

3 cyclones in 10 days keep several Cagayan areas flooded 1◀

were monitored in 11 residential areas and farmlands in Pamplona, Aparri, and Ballesteros.

In Barangay Dodan, Aparri, 60 residents were brought to the Aparri municipal gymnasium after they were rescued by members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)-Station Cagayan.

In Barangay Bacsay, Claveria, the Mapulapula Road was rendered impassable to motorists due to flooding.

The PCG also alerted its personnel in Ilocos Norte after Obet intensified. The PCG Station Ilocos Norte rescued a family of four in Barangay Lanao, Bangui, Ilocos Norte after the sudden rise of water in the Bolo River.

"Pahirapan ang pagtawid sa nasabing ilog dahil sa lakas ng agos kaya gumamit ng rappelling rope ang rescue team para madala ang pamilya na may apat na miyemro sa ligtas na lugar (Crossing the river was a real challenge due to the strong current so the rescue team used a rappelling rope to bring the family of four to a safe area)," the PCG said.

Rescued were Daniel Castillo, 44; Necci Joy Balibago, 30; David Lord Castillo, 13; and Thommy Daniel Castillo, 10.

As of Friday, Obet further accelerated.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), in its 2 p.m. bulletin, said Obet's maximum sustained winds increased to 55 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center, from 45 kph three hours ago, while its gustiness increased to 70 kph, from 55 kph, previously.

The center of Obet was last seen

140 kilometers east of Basco, Batanes, at 1 p.m.

"Tropical depression Obet is forecast to track generally westward until tomorrow (Oct. 22) and its center is likely to pass over or very close to Batanes between this afternoon and evening (Oct. 21)," PAGASA said on Friday.

Due to the expected strong winds from Obet, Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and the northeastern portion of mainland Cagayan (Santa Ana and Gonzaga).

"Throughout the passage of Obet, strong winds (strong breeze to near gale strength) may be experienced within any of the areas where Wind Signal No. 1 is hoisted," PAGASA said.

Moreover, moderate to intense rains are likely over Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and the northern portions of Ilocos Norte, Apayao, and mainland Cagayan until early Saturday, Oct. 22.

Light to heavy rains are also possible over the rest of Cagayan, Apayao, and Ilocos Norte.

"Under these conditions, flooding and rain-induced landslides are likely, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards as identified in hazard maps and in localities with significant antecedent rainfall," PAGASA said.

It is also not ruling out the possibility of raising Wind Signal No. 2 should Obet reach the tropical storm category prior to or during its passage over the Luzon Strait.

It said the weather disturbance may likely exit the country's area of responsibility by Saturday morning or afternoon.

EU to send ₱8.6-M aid

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) has earmarked 150,000 euros (approximately ₱8.6 million) in humanitarian aid to help the most affected regions in Luzon recover from the onslaught of Super Typhoon Karding.

The aid will benefit more than 35,000 people in some of the hardest hit localities in the regions of Central Luzon and Calabarzon, the EU Delegation in Manila said Friday.

The EU funding would support the Philippine Red Cross in delivering assistance to the victims through the distribution of relief items, such as shelter materials, food, water containers, and hygiene kits.

Multi-purpose cash grants would likewise be provided to enable people meet their basic needs.

In addition, the funding would contribute to providing medical support to those injured by the storm and repairing schools.

The funding is part of the EU's overall contribution to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Karding, which developed into a super typhoon, made landfall in Burdeos, Quezon, on Sept. 25, leaving a trail of destruction in many areas across six provinces.

More than 1.4 million people were affected by the typhoon, which also killed 12, injured 68, and left five people missing, based on the latest data from the NDRRMC. (With a report from PNA)



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DENR, DoLE to create green jobs

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 country, particularly in the environment sector.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) during the DENR Multistakeholder Forum held in Manila to realize their goal of creating jobs from the sector.

Under the MoA, both agencies agreed to promote employment opportunities aligned with the protection of the country's natural resources and ecosystems.

Loyzaga said the DENR is now working closely with the DoLE in identifying both land and coastal areas in all the regions that need support in terms of forestation and implementation of the government's greening programs.

She said the DENR's Forest Management Bureau is tasked to pinpoint possible areas where

the so-called green jobs would be available.

"There is a full range of opportunities available, and we hope that this may begin to serve as a strategic way of looking at how our environment and our economics might actually intersect, especially in the case of the most socially vulnerable and most environmentally vulnerable geographies," Loyzaga said.

She said understanding the country's geography will help national government agencies in identifying unemployment rate, poverty incidence and high value areas that would benefit the most from environmental employment opportunities.

Loyzaga said the green jobs, ranging from planting, forestation and monitoring, would alleviate unemployment in the country.

The partnership is in line with DoLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers or Tupad project that provides emergency employment for displaced, underemployed and seasonal workers. BELLA CARIASO



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Belmonte vows to create more 'green jobs'

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte has joined world leaders in pushing for the creation of 50 million "good green jobs" globally by the end of the decade.

Belmonte, who is in Buenos Aires, Argentina for the C40 World Mayors Summit, underscored the importance of creating "good green jobs" to provide livelihood opportunities while addressing the impact of the climate emergency.

"Quezon City's vision of a livable, green, and sustainable city is centered on building an economy that ensures equitable access to environmental goods now and in the future. We believe that creating jobs that sustain a healthy environment provides equal benefits to nature and people, especially the marginalized," she said in a statement.

Belmonte noted how the city's food security program, Grow QC, has provided relief to help residents recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience through nutrition and employment schemes.

Since its launch, Grow QC has already established 337 urban gardens and 10 model farms across the city.

It provided livelihoods for 4,119 urban farmers and supported hundreds of displaced workers, vendors and jeepney drivers affected by the pandemic.

C40 Cities executive director Mark Watts commended Belmonte for spearheading the program, which was named a finalist for the 2022 C40 Cities-Bloomberg Philanthropies awards.

"Mayor Belmonte has shown us the job she has created: converting idle land into urban farms in Quezon City, bringing healthy food to the table for the families when COVID lockdown had affected supplies," he said during the opening of the plenary summit.

"From 1,400 jobs there, Mayor Belmonte told me that there are now 15,000 jobs. So I guess it is the kind of inflation that we like," he added.

Belmonte said the initiative is one of the best examples of how to address climate change with opportunities that benefit both the people and the environment.

- Janvic Mateo



Ban sa pagmimina at quarrying sa Bulacan pansamantalang binawi

MALOLOS CITY - Matapos ang unang inilabas na kautusan na ipinagbabawal na ang pagmimina at quarrying sa Bulacan, pansamantalang binawi na ito ni Governor Daniel Fernando.

Sa isang follow-up meeting kasama ang sektor ng pagmimina na ginanap sa The Pavilion, Hiyas ng Bulacan Convention Center kamakalawa ng umaga, inihayag ni Fernando na pansamantalang ipagpapaliban ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Bulacan ang pagpapatupad sa Executive Order No. 21-2022 sa Oktubre 26, 2022 na nagsususpindi sa pagmimina at pag-quarry sa lalawigan.

Aniya, maaari nang magpatuloy ang mga nasa sektor ng pagmimina sa mga quarrying ope-

ration alinsunod sa mga alituntunin na ibinigay ng Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) kung saan ang mga aplikante at existing holders ng special, quarry, at iba pang katulad na permit ay binigyan ng bago at modified na mga alituntunin patungkol sa environmental sustainability ng kanilang mga operasyon kabilang na ang haulers, blasting companies, processing plants, cement companies at bentonite operators.

Dagdag ng gobernador, ginagawa na rin ngayon ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan ang ordinansa hinggil sa overloading at quarrying.

"Temporarily, I will resume the lifting of temporary suspension by October 26. Ibig sabihin,

kaya ko sinabing temporary, hindi ko bibigyan ng tuldok na regular or permanent because ginagawa pa ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan ngayon ang ordinance ng overloading at pati 'yung sa illegal quarrying. Iyon ang hihintayin natin at magresume tayo sa pagiging regular at permanent," ani Fernando.

Sa kabila nito, Iginiiit ni Fernando na kapag nakahul sila ng isa hanggang tatlong indibidwal o mga kumpanya na hindi sumusunod sa mga alituntunin at regulasyon, muli nitong ipatutupad ang quarrying ban. Mahigpit din siyang nagpaalala na huwag suhulan ang sinuman kabilang na siya at ang mga watchman para makamit ang layunin ng pagpapatupad ng E.O. 21-2022. (Omar Padilla)



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Quarrying sa Albay kinontra ng seniors, Rosal suportado

LEGAZPI CITY - Nakiisa na rin ang grupo ng mga senior citizens sa Albay sa isang krusada para protektahan ang nais ng mayoryang botante, at nanawagan na ipagpatuloy ang laban kontra sa operasyon ng quarrying sa kanilang lalawigan.

Ang nasabing elderly sector ay bahagi sa 25,000 supporters na dumalo ng prayer rally na tinawag na "Dasal para kay Rosal", isang aktibidad na sumusuporta kay Albay Gov. Noel Rosal, ng nakalipas na linggo sa Peñaranda Park, Legazpi City.

Ayon kay Selma Bahoy, 68-anyos, miyembro Legazpi City's Senior Citizens Organization at residente ng Barangay Victory Village South Legazpi City, inilarawan

nito ang ganda ng Albay kasama ang iconic Mayon Volcano sa kanilang panahon, pero dahil aniya sa illegal quarrying activities ng nagdaang dekada, sinalanta ang kanilang lalawigan ng matinding mga pagbaha ng lahar, mudslides at landslides sa may Mayon's slope na nagresulta sa pagkasawi ng maraming tao.

"Kami ay kontra sa illegal quarrying at isa ito sa mga kampanya ng ating Governor Rosal," ani Bahoy na dating parole at probation officer ng Department of Justice (DOJ) sa Legazpi City.

Sinabi rin ng mga senior citizens na "politically motivated" ang ginawang pagdiskuwalipika ng Comelec kay Gov. Rosal dahil ibinoto siya ng 469,481 mamamayan

ng Albay.

Natatamasa na umano nila ang progreso sa unang 100-days nina Gov. Rosal at kanyang maybahay na si Legazpi Mayor Geraldine na diniskuwalipika rin ng Comelec. Ang mag-asawang Rosal ay naghain na ng kanilang motion for reconsideration sa Comelec.

Hiniling din ng matandang grupo sa Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na maimbestigahan ang mga pumping stations na hindi pa operational sa lalawigan. Mahabang problema na umano ito sa Legazpi.

"Kami ay umaasa sa DPWH na kami ay kanilang matutulungan. Alam naming kung sino ang mga nasa likod ng mga proyektong ito," dagdag ni Bahoy.



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Masungi's 'Virtual Field Trips' wins award

THE Masungi Georeserve Foundation has won the Bett Asia Award under the Sustainability Initiative Category for the Masungi 360° Project.

The Bett Asia Awards champions the EdTech trendsetters and innovators who are revolutionizing education across the Asia-Pacific region.

Earlier, the Masungi Geopark Project also won the Inspire category of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action Awards.

Masungi 360° project manager Bianca Meer said that the "Virtual Field Trips for Young Filipino Conservationists" aims to bridge the

nature education gap during the pandemic.

"When the pandemic started, students could no longer go out and experience nature as part of the learning experience. We tried to bridge that gap through Masungi 360°, offering real-life stories from the ground and curated by experts and conservation practitioners," Meer said.

At least 3,300 "junior rangers" from more than 16 different schools across the Philippines graduated since the launching of the Masungi 360° in 2021, according to Meer.

Shot in 360-degree video, the

platform allows students to immerse themselves in three virtual learning trails, including the Discovery, Legacy and Beyond Masungi trails. The Beyond Masungi trail featured virtual immersions into rural and indigenous communities affected by the pandemic and climate change.

"The gamified experience features a fun and engaging way of learning by collecting badges after completing trails and conquering challenges. After completing the course, students receive certificates as 'junior rangers,'" Meer added.

Meer noted that while the Phil-

ippines is one of the 18 megabiodiverse countries, containing two-thirds of the world's biodiversity, and between 70 percent to 80 percent of the world's plant and animal species, Filipino students are not well-versed with the country's native and endemic biodiversity species.

Based on a study conducted by the Nielsen Co. in 2018, environmental awareness should be introduced early in the lives of Filipino children to ensure long-term retention and practice of environmentally conscious habits.

BELLA CARIASO



■ Photo shows part of the Masungi Georeserve. PHOTO FROM MASUNGI BIORESERVE FACEBOOK PAGE



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At the turnover rites were (from left to right): Muntinlupa City Lake Management Office Department Manager III Herminio dela Cruz; Buli Barangay Captain Hon. Ronaldo Loresca; Muntinlupa City Mayor Hon. Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon; LAWA and Gabay Kalikasan Ambassador Dominic Roque; MPIC Chief Finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla; Huawei Philippines Senior PR Manager and Program Lead Karrie Buenafe; Laguna Lake Development Authority Community Development Division Officer-in-Charge Jaime Mora; and Laguna de Bay Integrated Fisheries Aquatic Resources Management Council Chairman Lauro Protacio.

Fisherfolk in Muntinlupa get boost from MPIC

INFRASTRUCTURE firm Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), recently gave eight barangays in Muntinlupa a shot in the arm by providing fishing boats to boost their livelihood, as well as conduct clean-up drives in Laguna Lake.

Some 800 members of the City Fisheries Aquatic Resource Management Council (CFARMC), from barangays Sucat, Buli, Alabang, Cupang, Bayanan, Putatan, Poblacion, and Tunasan, received the 'bancas' from MPIC, Huawei Philippines,

Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad), the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and the Muntinlupa LGU. Maynilad turned over three solar paddle wheels (aerator water treatment system) to improve the quality of water in rivers and lakes, to the City's Lake Management Office.

Clean up drives, using the eight boats, were likewise planned for the lake, in coordination with MPIC, Maynilad, and LLDA's Laguna de Bay Welfare

Awareness advocacy (LAWA). Under Gabay Kalikasan, one of MPIC's six Gabay Advocacies for a Sustainable Philippines, LAWA will ensure the critical role that Laguna Lake plays in the social and economic development of the region. MPIC is currently working with LLDA to "transform Laguna Lake into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution".



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Pangasinan public high school wins int'l award for mangrove tree-planting

By MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

The Bonuan Buquig National High School (BBNHS) in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, won \$50,000 as the World's Best School in the Environmental Action category of T4 Education, the Department of Education (DepEd) announced.

T4 Education is a global organization dedicated to providing engaging tools, initiatives, ► 9

Pangasinan public high school wins int'l award for mangrove tree-planting ◀

and events for educators and schools that help improve the quality of education.

Out of 10 shortlisted schools worldwide, DepEd said BBNHS won first prize with their Ilog Ko, Aroen Ko (My River, My Care), a mangrove tree-planting project that helped rehabilitate the Longos River after it was devastated by Typhoon Pepeng in 2009.

Launched in 2010, the IKAK project is maintained by the past principals of BBNHS.

Currently, mangrove tree-planting activity is carried out twice a year, where fruit-bearing and shady trees are planted. An environmental research has also been launched.

DepEd said the school has already planted 50,000 mangrove trees in the Longos River, which has provided livelihood to the community.

During the awarding ceremony, BBNHS school head Dr. Renato Santillan congratulated the BBNHS Team Bakawan Philippines. "We have gone this far, only driven and powered mostly by passion and the community," he said. "We promise to continue this endeavor of environmental action until our last breath," he added.

To maintain and expand the program, DepEd said the school plans to allocate the winning amount to the construction of its nursery for seedlings of mangroves and other trees for the entire city of Dagupan.

Santillan said aside from the benefits that mangrove tree planting provides to the locals, the advocacy maintains the balance of our ecosystem which is the extensive and connective ecosystem that will safeguard them from the impacts of climate change.

"We hope that this humble endeavor reaches more people to act now to be one of us in saving mother nature through sustainable solutions," he added.

DepEd said BBNHS was able to beat the International School of Zug and Luzern of Switzerland and the Green School of Bali in Indonesia as top finalists in the Environmental Action category.

In the screening process that took place, DepEd said each school showcased its respective projects and proved its impact on maintaining the quality of education and the community.

Meanwhile, DepEd said there are also other Philippine schools included in the shortlist of the Top 10 World's Best Schools under the Community Collaboration and Supporting Healthy Lives category: the GL David Memorial Integrated School in Balanga, Bataan and Malitbog National High School in Calinog, Iloilo.



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Bodies of water all over North America drying up due to drought, climate change -- experts

BODIES of water all over North America are drying up as a result of drought and a decrease in precipitation, experts told ABC News.

Earlier this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that the 22-year megadrought affecting the West would not only intensify but also move eastward.

That prediction appears to be coming into fruition, with about 82% of the continental U.S. currently showing conditions between abnormally dry and exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

And while the U.S. and North America continue to witness water levels dropping in crucial rivers, lakes and reservoirs, a mixture of climate change and poor water manage-

ment policies are causing similar events all over the world, experts told ABC News.

"Rivers all over the world are running really low," especially the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq, as well as significant bodies of water in countries like Italy, Romania, France and China, Jonathan Deason, professor of the Environmental and Energy Management Program at George Washington University.

The experts said that a two-pronged approach that includes climate change mitigation and better water management policies will be crucial as bodies of water continue to dry up. But so much damage has already been done, that even drastic improvements or reductions in emissions will not immediately impact reducing the stress on water lev-

els, they said.

Decreasing water levels along the Mississippi River, one of the most important trade routes in the country, have been causing ripple effects worldwide.

Earlier this month, barges with shipping containers began idling along the sandbars of the river that previously contained ample water.

Waters along the Mississippi have receded so much that a ferry that likely sunk in the late 1800s or early 1900s was discovered near Baton Rouge, earlier this month, and possible human remains were located by a resident in Coahoma County, Missouri, on Saturday.

Much of the region surrounding the Mississippi River is experiencing conditions between abnormally dry and severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.



Plants and planets

SIFT out politics, shift to serene gardening for those readings of signs in the heavens—so we set out to do just that.

Two days before a new moon—perfect time for sowing seeds. The moon grows in size; so does the lunar tug on bodies of water. That includes a pull on water content of seeds and the gray matter, nearly 75% water as a child's body is. Call it lunacy, maybe a subtle passage of inner tides that touch off monthly flow in women, a bit of fattening in crabs, attempts at moonlighting to augment lousy take-home pay or Malacaniang minions turning jumpy and jittery. Why, the gag order of sorts on media including the invocation for a state of national emergency was plied when there wasn't any wee whit of a moon above—actions that could be touched off by PMS, or post-menopausal syndrome.

Call it whatever but a waxing moon sure effects a subtle pull on anything that packs water, including spittle to expend on policy pronouncements and bladder. From gray matter to groin matters. Or as the sacred texts put it: "As above, so below."

The new moon showed up at 10th degree of the sign Pisces—the degree which bears the symbol of an aviator flying through the clouds. Yes, aviator on a light plane, not a manananggal or self-segmenter out to sow mayhem and maybe. With nothing visible to see around, navigational instruments or sheer intuition guides the flyer. Clouds can impede sight so one has to rely on insight. The odd pattern suggests that we need to look through over and

MANGKOKOLUM
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**Dong
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beyond the swelter of cloudy information that pulls wool over our eyes.

The new moon is aligned with Uranus, discovered in 1781 when three revolutions were under way—the French Revolution, the American Revolution and the Industrial Revolution, humanity awakening to new possibilities including freedom as a way of life. Uranus drizzles down shake-off, shake-up energies toward transformation.

The onlineskyreader I'm subscribed to adds an interesting point: "Uranus acts suddenly to shake up the status quo...it's his job. (While the moon's) Pisces (placement) reveals to us the crack between worlds - places where realities intersect like the surface of the sea. So expect to gain a sudden insight that causes a re-evaluation, new knowledge, something hidden coming to light."

Uranus energies foment change, eccentricity, avant-garde ways, craziness, even destruction of patterns imposed by father figures. Uranus opens up new ideas.

Umm, with Uranus taking a prominent place in the moon's growth phase, gardeners can work wonders with rare tropical plants including cycads, orchids, aphrodisiac plants and similar exótica. I've done some bit of tilling and soil-mixing prior to this quaint heavenly pattern. I've sown some leeks and plain pechay that usually goes well with nilagang bulalo.

Umm, pronouncements left and right flying fast and thick in the last few days found their way into print that left me wondering if such could be infused into the soil as top-grade night soil.

By March 3, fast-moving Mercury, the planet of communication begins a backward move by appearing to stand still in the sky. The stand-still location is at a right angle to Pluto, lord of secrets, passion, and hidden psychic powers—thank God for blessing me with a powerfully placed Pluto in my birth chart, whew... Pluto's powers would see those leeks I've sown growing robust and flavorful. Those powers would be opportune for growing medicinal herbs and plants with magical uses.

Mercury's hard-angled placement with Pluto refers to dug up hidden deals, growing distrust and cynicism. Points out my online stargazer: "This square angle inclines us to look for the underlying motivation and hidden agenda behind events and statements. It's a detective's energy and during this retrograde period all of us will be asking for the facts, ma'am."

I'd have to do a lot more tilling as seedlings sown sprout up for the light and their place in the sun.



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ATENEO CITED FOR ZERO WASTE, PLASTIC-FREE EFFORTS CASE STUDY

TWO teams from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) captured top prizes in "Make the Case"—a new Asia-wide competition that challenged students to identify where plastic-reduction projects are working, and to think more seriously about ways scale can be achieved.

While start-up competitions are plentiful, Make the Case is unique as the only sustainability challenge where students are focused on existing solutions that hold the potential to be applied elsewhere.

Overall winner was ADMU's Team Dreamers and Doers, which showcased the "Aling Tindera Network"—a waste-to-cash program that involves local networks of women-microentrepreneurs, most of whom run *sari-sari* stores. In their presentation, they suggested Thailand as most ideal to gain from a similar program.

"Theme One" winner was Team Help Help Hooray, also from ADMU. Their case study profiled a zero-waste initiative on Apo Island in the Philippines. It offered a framework to extend the model to other coastal islands in the Philippines and the broader Asian region.

Teams representing 22 universities in 10 countries participated by writing a detailed case study on an initiative that significantly reduces plastic waste where it operates, and could be scaled to another location. The two themes were: 1) finding a proven project in a city, town or village that does an effective job in reducing the amount of plastic waste that enters the nearby waterway; or 2) picking an existing, proven project or program that reduces or eliminates plastic pollution which can be cost-effectively replicated and scaled.

Teams competed for prize money worth \$16,500.

Dr. Justin Robertson, associate professor at City University of Hong Kong which jointly organized the competition along with Commitments Accelerator for Plastic Pollution and Ocean Recovery Alliance, noted: "Students quickly grasp that innovation also means identifying what is working, and ensuring that good ideas do not get lost. Through research, foresight and planning, university students from a range of different disciplines proved capable of uncovering high-impact projects, and setting out a vision of how they could be replicated in other parts of the region."



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Manila Water to build 12 more

By DANESSA RIVERA

wastewater facilities

Manila Water Company Inc. is building 12 more sewage treatment plants (STP) as part of its commitment to the Clean Water Act.

This is in line with its mandate to provide sewerage and sanitation services to help improve the conditions of the water environment in the metropolis and thereby safeguard public health.

Manila Water targets to have a total of 53 wastewater facilities with 1,156 million liters per day (MLD) treatment capacity to cover 100 per-

cent of its concession area.

This will translate to a total of 715 kilometers of sewer network, serving 7.6 million population in the east zone.

Maynilad said the wastewater facilities would ensure that domestic wastewater from households does not contribute to the pollution of rivers and other water bodies.

"As Manila Water is committed to provide 24/7 clean and potable water to our customers, we are also focused on protecting the environment by making sure that we properly dispose, treat wastewater and its by-

products, as these remain essential elements of our services," Manila Water wastewater operations head Donna Perez said.

Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 was enacted to preserve and revive the quality of our country's fresh, brackish and marine waters and aims to protect our water bodies from pollution from land-based sources (industries and commercial establishments, agriculture, and community/household activities).

It provides for a comprehensive and integrated strategy to prevent

and minimize pollution through a multi-sectoral and participatory approach involving all the stakeholders.

Manila Water's wastewater treatment plants employ various technologies to treat wastes and pollution through a variety of mechanisms and processes.

Its wastewater management includes the collection of sewage and septage from households and establishments, to conveyance, full treatment and safe disposal of by-products.

From a single STP in 1997, Manila Water now operates 41 treatment

facilities, increasing the company's wastewater treatment capacity by 925 percent, from 40 million liters per day at the start of operations to 410 MLD at present.

The company has also expanded its wastewater services to cover more areas and benefit more people in the east zone.

Manila Water serves the East Zone, which encompasses parts of Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, Taguig, Marikina, most parts of Quezon City, portions of Manila, as well as several towns in Rizal.



SC affirms fines vs MWSS, Manila Water, Maynilad for violation of Clean Water Act

By JOEL R. SAN JUAN

THE Supreme Court has unanimously affirmed its ruling issued in August 2019, which found Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and concessionaires Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water Co. liable for fines for violation of the provisions of Republic Act 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act.

However, the Court modified its decision covering the fines imposed against the water concessionaires.

It can be recalled that in its 2019 ruling, the Court directed the payment of a fine amounting to almost P2 billion for violation of Section 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

The said provision requires MWSS and the two concessionaires to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system within five years upon the effectivity of RA 9275 on March 6, 2004.

The Court's ruling specifically states that "Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184" and "Manila Water Co. Inc. shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount."

The Court said the amount covers the period from May 2009 to date of promulgation of the decision.

The petitioners were given 15 days upon receipt of the decision to pay the fine.

A fine of P322,102 a day subject to further 10-percent increase every two years as provided under Section 28 of RA 9275 would be imposed against the petitioners until they have fully complied with the decision.

The Court also imposed a legal interest of 6 percent per year until the decision is fully satisfied.

However, in its resolution on the separate motions for reconsideration filed by Maynilad and Manila Water released to

the public on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, the Court modified its August 2019 decision by lowering the fines imposed against the petitioners.

It held that "Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for a base amount of P30,000 per day of violation counting from May 7, 2009 until January 21, 2022, in the total amount of P202,256,756.22.

On the other hand, Manila Water "shall be jointly and solidarily liable with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the base amount of P30,000 per day of violation counting from May 7, 2009 until January 21, 2022, in the total amount of P202,256,726.22."

The resolution added that the base amount of fines of P30,000 per day of violation "shall be subject to a 10 percent increase every two years beginning May 7, 2009 until January 21, 2022, following Section 28 of the Philippine Clean Water Act."

The Court also directed the petitioners to pay their respective fines within 15 days from receipt of the resolution.

It also imposes a 6-percent legal interest per year on the total amount of fines from finality of the resolution until full satisfaction thereof.

"The total amounts herein indicated shall be deducted from the amount of fines already paid by petitioners, if any, and the difference, if any, shall be returned to them," the Court said in a 25-page resolution penned by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando.

In its motion for reconsideration, Manila Water warned of an increase in water rates if the SC maintains its ruling.

It also suggested the remand of the case to the Court of Appeals or the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or any appropriate agency for a determination of factual issues, their liabilities and correct fines to be imposed.



Macli-ing Dulag and the Kaliwa Dam project

Perhaps the best way to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Month is to recall the story of Macli-ing Dulag and its relevance to current controversy on the construction of the Kaliwa Dam. For these stories truly capture the struggles of our 14 million indigenous peoples (IPs) and provide us an insight into their indomitable spirit.

While a hydroelectric dam was being planned to be constructed along Chico River in 1974, an elder of the Kalinga tribe, Macli-ing Dulag protested and said: "Those who need electric lights are not thinking of us who are bound to be destroyed. Should the need for electric power be a reason for our death?"

This call resonated not only among indigenous tribes but to millions of Filipinos throughout the country who joined the protest that led to the cancellation of the

project that could have submerged rice terraces and displaced thousands of Kalinga and Bontoc peoples.

Today, a similar project, the construction of Kaliwa Dam in Sierra Madre, the ancestral land of the Dumagat-Remontado communities in Rizal and Quezon provinces is under consideration. It is one of the Duterte administration's China-funded projects under its "Build, Build, Build" program.

But it needed the consent of the indigenous peoples in the area before its environmental compliance certificate can be acted upon. The Kaliwa Dam would reduce dependence on the Angat and Ipo dams. But it will submerge parts of the Sierra Madre in Tanay, Rizal, Gen. Nakar, and



PAGBABAGO
FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID

Infanta towns in Quezon. Groups that opposed the project said it would endanger more than 100,000 lives once the dam is built as it will be constructed within the zone of two active tectonic belts – the Philippine Fault Zone and the Valley Fault System. The government is now being asked to seek alternative water sources to address the water supply.

Despite a constitutional guarantee and passage of laws protecting their rights – the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the IPs still face discrimination that had limited their access to development. The intent was to empower IPs but IPRA failed to protect them. NCIP failed to seek consent from the IPs on development projects and there were difficulties in seeking certificates of ancestral domain.

Most of the 14 million IPs subdivided into some 110 linguistic groups, live in the northern part of Luzon and in southern Mindanao. Among the prominent groups are the Badjaos, B'laan, Bagobo, Mangyan, T'boli, and Teduray.

Many of them live in regions where there exists long-standing conflict – in land ownership, boundary tensions, and unresolved clan conflicts. Several mining projects had caused their displacement.

Many are concerned about becoming mere laborers in places where investors are allowed to initiate development projects.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA, created in 1992) denied eviction of Aetas but researchers estimated that about 20,000 Aetas, and 15,000 farmers were displaced by the development.

Again, some 500 Aeta families were reportedly displaced to give way to the new Clark City, a 9,500-hectare development, the first smart and green metropolis. The project leaders say some were given jobs as construction workers.

Reports during the Duterte administration showed continuing brutal dispersal of protests by indigenous peoples. Lumads were harassed by the military during the Marawi siege and martial law.

Today, we join people in 90 countries where some 476 million indigenous people live, according to the United Nations, to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Month. Our indigenous peoples account to 6.2 percent of the global population. They continue to enrich our cultural diversity. But they also continue to live in extreme poverty, marginalization, and discrimination.

Please email me at Florangel.braid@gmail.com



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BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



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THE 'GREEN' SHIFT

Marina lays down groundwork for PHL maritime industry to begin to go 'smokeless' by Q1 2023

By RORY VISCO

IN September of last year, the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) crafted what would become the country's National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP), which the agency dubbed "Green Maritime Philippines: Protect and Conserve."

According to Marina Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez, the NSAP was created "in order to ensure full and effective implementation of relevant marine environment protection standards in the country, particularly on decarbonization."

He said during the "Collaboration on the National Roadmap Study on Decarbonizing Pathways for Freight Transport in the Philippines," a stakeholder workshop hosted by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the plan will act as the roadmap in Marina's implementation of the "marine environment protection conventions enrolled as Program 10 in the 10-

year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP)."

The initiative was developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in connection with its Sustainable Infrastructure for Low-Carbon Climate Resilient Development in Asia program that seeks to help countries such as the Philippines, Southeast and Central Asia, shift towards cleaner energy, transport and industrial systems.

Is the Philippine maritime industry ready and able to comply with this global low-carbon initiative? Are its seafarers ready as well to embrace this change by increasing their level of competence? Would they still get that "top-of-mind" preference among shipping firms around the world?

Decarbonization and digitalization: a snapshot

ACCORDING to Carl Schou, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wilhelmsen Ship Management, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has already declared its target of reducing emissions by 50 percent come year 2050.

Thus, the shipping industry will shift its fleet to low- or zero-emission fuel types in the future, ships that will operate on various fuel types like liquefied natural gas (LNG), methanol, ammonia and hydrogen.

"Very soon, we will be operating in a multifuel environment as opposed to what we have today, which is one type of fuel oil. At this juncture, there are many variable



factors that may impact the future fuel demand and supply. This situation has created much uncertainty in the entire maritime value chain. The ripple effect is felt by all stakeholders in the maritime sector from engine makers, shipyards, shipowners to ship financiers," Schou said in reply to questions from the *BusinessMirror*.

On the other hand, he said digitization changed the competence requirements of seafarers and technical employees onshore. With more sensors installed on-board, data is utilized for monitoring leading performance indicators to improve vessel efficiency. Hence, he said that data sensemaking skills have become an essential competence when it comes to managing ships.

Schou added that the upcoming regulation on EEXI (Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index) and CII (Carbon Intensity Indicator), which will be implemented next year, will see further importance of digitization where monitoring emissions is a crucial factor for compliance.

Are shipping fleets embracing these trends?

HE said that as a ship manager, Wilhelmsen works with ship owners that have varying speeds in embracing decarbonization and digitization so there is no one size that fits all owners' perspectives on these topics.

"When it comes to decarbonization, there is no question of non-compliance as the consequences could be costly and severe. The upcoming rules are mandatory," he emphasized.

However, Schou expressed

optimism that the 2050 target is achievable. He said they saw some regulation tightening already to support this goal and feels that they are on the right track. He said the regulation's implementation would impact everyone, which will make it a level playing field for all.

However, he emphasized that the IMO implementing measures to ensure a globally effective and equitable transition so no one gets left behind in the shift that will prove to be crucial.

"There is no doubt that the world is facing an existential challenge due to climate change caused by emission release. Shipping, like many other industries, must play its part in reducing emissions. IMO, the governing body for the global shipping industry, has reacted to the challenge and has passed a number of regulations to curb the emission releases."

In terms of ship design and expenses, Schou said the building of ships operating on alternative fuel would certainly differ from conventional ships in many aspects such as technical specification that maximizes energy efficiency, optimized design philosophy for bunker containment system and other aspects that will change relative to safety and risk assessment.

Regarding cost factors, just like any other industry, production cost will initially be high. However, once economies of scale are achieved, Schou expects costs to normalize.

Bright future for Pinoy seafarers

DESPITE the emergence of these trends, this spells a bright spot for the Philippines which, accord-

ing to the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the global trade association for shipowners and operators, boasts of the largest supply of ratings or skilled seafarers in support roles, and the second largest supplier of officers.

Schou said having the right competence to operate ships powered by new technology is crucial, especially so when it comes to operating alternative-fuelled vessels. He explained that adaptation in human behaviors and processes must be done to address any potential safety issues when handling the new bunker.

"Our first LNG/dual-fuel vessel will enter our management in

the first quarter of next year. We have begun training some of our Filipino seafarers for the certification required to operate these vessels and so far, we have not experienced any issue and have successfully grown a healthy pipeline of seafarers with such competence," Schou pointed out.

He said that Wilhelmsen has its own training center in the Philippines, and by being a member of the Norwegian Shipowners Association, they have access to utilize the Norwegian Training Center located at the Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City, Manila. "Therefore, we are well prepared for future training needs."



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Mars Wrigley to put up \$800,000

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

biomass boiler plant in Antipolo

Confectionery manufacturer Mars Wrigley is investing around \$800,000 for a biomass boiler in its Antipolo factory as it looks to switch to renewable energy sources.

"We have a project approved for next year where we will move away from using diesel completely and we will move to biomass. It will be the first time that we will

be 100 percent renewable energy," Mars Wrigley Antipolo factory director Fernando del Castillo told reporters in an interview.

Del Castillo said the biomass boiler will be powered by rice husk or coconut shell.

He said the shift to this renewable energy source is also in line with efforts to help offset high diesel costs.

Del Castillo said the biomass boiler is expected to be up and run-

ning by October next year.

The company's Antipolo factory, which began operations in 1999, manufactures the firm's iconic brands such as Doublemint, Cool Air and Juicy Fruit.

Del Castillo said 95 percent of the factory's production is exported to various countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka, among others.

Apart from moving towards

a renewable power source, Mars Wrigley is also working to build inclusion and diversity in its Antipolo factory, in a bid to improve the quality of life of its workers.

"Aside from making our customers smile, keeping our associates happy at work has been one of our main commitments. We want to create a work environment that they will truly enjoy and be proud of," Del Castillo said.

Through the years, Mars Wrigley Antipolo has been working to build a diverse workforce by intentionally aiming to have a 50-to-50 ratio of male and female associates.

This diversity is also reflected in the company's commitment to shape future leadership of the Antipolo factory, ensuring that women are well-represented in the management team.



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Gov't mulls new rules on green energy option

By RICHMOND MERCURIO

The government is looking to fine-tune certain rules to address current issues and challenges that discourage and hamper participation in the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP).

A new report by the Clean Energy Investment Accelerator (CEIA), an international initiative, showed that a slow uptake has been seen among energy consumers within the first eight months of implementation of the GEOP, with only less than 160 end-users currently enrolled in the program.

The CEIA estimates that this only translates to less than 40 megawatts of renewable energy demand, or less than one percent of the Philippines' total electricity demand.

It said factors contributing to the lack of participation include limited awareness among potential buyers, and inability of businesses that lease their facilities to engage directly with retail electricity suppliers.

The CEIA said improvements in the design of the GEOP and clarification on ownership of the accompanying renewable energy certificates are also needed to unlock the full potential of the program.

"Improving the GEOP will not only be advantageous for the Philippines' energy transition, but will also support global companies to purchase more renewable

energy and invest in renewable energy plants," CEIA Philippines lead Marlon Apanada said.

"Policymakers should urgently address barriers to increase participation in the GEOP, which is a pathway not only for 100 percent renewable energy, but also for cheaper electricity costs, scaled investments in much-needed energy capacity, and timely realization of energy independence and climate goals," he said.

The GEOP allows energy consumers to source 100 percent of their electricity supply directly from renewable energy sources, and is available to electricity end-users with an average peak demand of at least 100 kilowatts.

The program allows consumers to potentially enjoy electricity cost savings while unlocking brand reputation benefits.

The GEOP rules took effect on Sept. 3 last year, with a transitory period of three months.

"It's quite slow on pace because there are some provisions under the Energy Regulatory Commission rules that are not harmonized with Department of Energy rules, and for that reason it slowed down a bit on the processing side, so we want to really address this with the new ERC chair," said Jordan Ballaran, senior science research specialist of the DOE's renewable energy management bureau.

Turn to B4

Gov't mulls From B1

"But again, the promotional activities are continuous and we are seeing points for improvements which we can always translate to amendments to rules or supplemental policies in the future. And hand in hand again, we really need to discuss this with the ERC," he said.

Ballaran said revising rules for GEOP would require a draft a policy, either an amendment or a supplemental policy, from the National Renewable Energy Board.

"From there, we will solicit com-

ments from the public by conducting public consultations and then the ERC will follow the policy on their rules amendment," he said.

"On this matter, we are planning to release a draft policy subject for focus group discussion by the first quarter next year," Ballaran said.

GEOP is among the DOE's efforts to attain the objectives of the Renewable Energy Act to accelerate the development of renewable energy resources, achieve energy self-reliance, and mitigate the effects of climate change.



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REPUBLIC CEMENT

IN celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day, Republic Cement's official co-processing and resource recovery group, ecoloop, partnered with Pure Oceans for a Closed Loop Cleanup in Tingley, Batangas. During the day, Republic Cement employees, along with other volunteers and community members, collected, segregated, and properly disposed of 252 kg of ocean trash. 94 kg of the collected marine litter was qualified waste, which was turned over to ecoloop for co-processing as an alternative fuel. The initiative is part of Republic Cement's commitment toward a greener environment by providing alternative waste management solutions, especially for end-of-life plastics, and embedding sustainability all throughout our value chain to build a greener, Stronger Republic. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





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Solar panels to power up 54 KFC stores by Q1 2023

KFC Philippines continues to ramp up its pioneering efforts toward more sustainable and environment-friendly operations with the installation of solar power systems in at least nine more stores by the first quarter of 2023.

KFC is the first quick-service restaurant (QSR) in the country to launch an initiative to significantly lower its carbon footprint by mounting solar panels on the rooftop of the KFC branch in San Fernando, Pampanga in April 2019.

Since then, KFC has already installed solar panels on 45 free-standing drive-thru branches from Bataan in the North to Mandaue, Cebu in the South. These stores are equipped with an on-grid solar panel system, a cost-effective option to supplement energy requirements.

It is targeting to add two more this year and another seven branches in the first three months of 2023.

"Our target is to have 54 solar-powered stores by the end of Q1 2023, and this is just one of the many steps being taken by KFC Philippines to be earth-friendly. Other ongoing programs aside from solar expansion are the use of e-bikes for delivery that was launched in 2020, and sustainable packaging," KFC Philippines general manager Maria Judith Marcelo said.

KFC currently has an estimated annual solar power generation of more than three million kilowatt-hours from the 45 KFC restaurants and commissaries. This translates to a reduction of 699,000 kgs of carbon dioxide emissions.

"This is aligned with KFC's global commitment to growing sustainably and being good stewards of the environment. KFC is using its scale to minimize environmental impact with a focus on our restaurants and supply chains," Marcelo said.



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Bulkang Taal may 19 mahihinang pagsabog

Nakapagtala ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) ng 19 na mahihinang pagsabog o phreatomagmatic bursts mula sa Bulkang Taal.

Subalit mananatili pa rin umano ang alert level 1 status sa nag-aalburotong bulkan sa Batangas.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang phreatomagmatic burst sa pagitan ng alas-8:50 ng umaga hanggang ala-1:30 ng hapon. Nakunan ito ng remote camera monitoring na nasa main crater ng bulkan.


Nasipat umano ang mga mahihinang pagsabog sa hilagang-silangan bahagi ng Bulkang Taal.

Ipinaliwanag ng ahensya na nangyayari ang phreatomagmatic burst kapag dumadampi sa groundwater ang mainit na magma na nasa loob ng bulkan.

"Some of these events produced 200-meter-tall steam-rich plumes with a few emanating from very short dark ash plumes that immediately collapsed into the Main Crater Lake (MCL). Many of the bursts were obscured by ongoing upwelling of hot volcanic gas in the MCL, while all events did not generate detectable signals in the seismic and infrasound records," pahayag ng Phivolcs.

Patuloy ang monitoring ng Phivolcs at sakaling magkaroon muli ng mga maliliit na pagsabog at may maobserbahan na iba pang aktibidad ng Bulkang Taal ay posible na itaas umano ang alert level nito. **(Tina Mendoza)**





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
6th Floor, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th

PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.
Applicant. Case No. 22-3425

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Bacolod City, province of Negros Occidental, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	P 151.50	30.80	31.20	33.10	37.60	62.20
¾"	P 242.00	49.00	50.00	52.90	60.10	99.50
1"	P 484.00	98.00	100.00	105.80	120.20	198.90
1 ½"	P 1,210.00	245.00	250.00	264.60	300.50	497.30

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	P 151.50	30.80	31.20	33.10	37.60	62.20
¾"	P 242.00	49.00	50.00	52.90	60.10	99.50
1"	P 484.00	98.00	100.00	105.80	120.20	198.90

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	P 934.50	86.20	124.30	184.40	184.40
¾"	P 1,485.50	105.90	198.90	295.10	295.10
1"	P 2,994.00	211.70	397.80	590.20	590.20
1 ½"	P 7,478.00	529.30	994.50	1,475.40	1,475.40
2"	P 18,691.50	1,323.30	2,486.20	3,688.50	3,688.50
3"	P 33,643.50	2,381.90	4,475.20	6,639.40	6,639.40
4"	P 67,287.00	4,763.90	8,950.40	13,278.70	13,278.70

Bulk

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
1"	P 193.80

Others

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
¾"	P 98.80

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **7 November 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 6th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

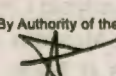
At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of **Negros Occidental** and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice,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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 30th day of August 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLE D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

The Barangay Chairman
All the affected Barangays w/in
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

The General Manager
Bacolod City Water District
Cor. Galis & San Juan Streets
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100

MT - Oct. 22, 2022



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
Rm Floor 8th Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines 1102

FIRST PEAK RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3397

SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Camella Northpoint Condominium, Barangay 19-B, Davao City, province of Davao del Sur, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	P 517.50	104.50	111.20	120.10	129.70	140.10
3/4"	P 827.50	167.20	177.90	192.20	207.50	224.10
1"	P 1,655.50	334.30	355.90	384.40	415.00	448.20
1 1/2"	P 4,138.50	835.80	889.70	961.00	1,037.50	1,120.50

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
1/2"	P 517.50	104.50	111.20	120.10	129.70	140.10
3/4"	P 827.50	167.20	177.90	192.20	207.50	224.10
1"	P 1,655.50	334.30	355.90	384.40	415.00	448.20

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
1/2"	P 2,412.00	166.70	178.50	193.30	193.30
3/4"	P 3,858.00	266.70	285.80	309.30	309.30
1"	P 7,716.00	533.40	571.20	618.60	618.60
1 1/2"	P 19,291.50	1,333.50	1,428.10	1,546.40	1,546.40
2"	P 49,228.00	3,333.70	3,570.30	3,866.10	3,866.10
3"	P 88,811.00	6,000.60	6,428.50	6,958.90	6,958.90
4"	P 173,622.00	12,001.20	12,853.00	13,917.90	13,917.90

Bulk

Others

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.	Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
1"	P 662.20	3/4"	P 331.10

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **7 November 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 20th day of September 2022

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Davao City, Davao del Sur

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay 19-B
Davao City, Davao del Sur

The Homeowners Assn. President
Camella Northpoint Condominium
Barangay 19-B, Davao City, Davao del Sur

The General Manager
Davao City Water District
McArthur Highway, Malina
Davao City 8000

MT - Oct. 22, 2022



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
Rm Floor 8th Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City Philippines 1102

PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.,
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3384

SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within 878 España Condominium, Barangay 397, Sampaloc, City of Manila, Metro Manila with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
1/2"	P 408.00	84.50	85.00	91.80	99.10	107.10
3/4"	P 653.00	135.30	136.00	146.80	158.60	171.40
1"	P 1,306.00	270.50	271.90	293.70	317.20	342.80

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
1/2"	P 1,818.00	130.90	152.70	179.30	179.30
3/4"	P 2,908.50	209.50	244.30	286.80	286.80
1"	P 5,815.50	419.00	488.50	573.60	573.60

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **7 November 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 20th day of September 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
City of Manila, Metro Manila

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay 397, Sampaloc
City of Manila, Metro Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President
878 España Condominium
Barangay 397, Sampaloc
City of Manila, Metro Manila

The Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road
Balara, Quezon City

MT - Oct. 22, 2022