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SC affirms ruling vs MWSS, Maynilad, Manila Water 1◀

in all subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments including households to available sewerage system....”

In a resolution made public last Oct. 18, the SC granted partially the motions for reconsideration filed by MWSS and the two water concessionaires.

Instead of the more than ₱1.8 billion fine ordered in the 2019 decision, the MWSS, Maynilad, and Manila Water will now pay more than ₱404.5 million with interest until fully paid.

“Weighing all things at a calibrated perspective – petitioners indelible delay to the full performance of their obligation under Section 8, the water concessionaires’ good faith and real efforts to comply with Section 8 ... the Court resolves to reduce the fines previously imposed upon petitioners,” the SC said in its resolution.

In the resolution that modified the 2019 decision, the SC ruled:

“1. Maynilad Water Services, Inc. shall be jointly and solidarily liable with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the base amount of ₱30,000 per day of violation counting from May 7, 2009 until Jan. 21, 2022, in the total amount of ₱202,256,726.22;

“2. Manila Water Company, Inc. shall be jointly and solidarily liable with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the base amount of ₱30,000 per day of violation counting from May 7, 2009 until Jan. 21, 2022, in the total amount of ₱202,256,726.22;

“3. The base amount of fines of ₱30,000 per day of violation shall be subject to a 10 percent increase every two years beginning May 7, 2009 until Jan. 21, 2022, following Section 28 of the Philippine Clean Water Act;

“4. Petitioners shall pay their respective fines within 15 days from receipt of this resolution, and

“The total amount of the fines imposed herein shall likewise earn legal interest of six percent (6%) per annum from finality of this Resolution until full satisfaction thereof.

“The total amount 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. So ordered.”

The resolution was also written by Associate Justice Ramon Paul L. Hernandez, who penned the 2019 decision.

In its 2019 unanimous full court decision, the SC found the two water concessionaires and the MWSS to have violated Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

Maynilad and Manila Water were found to have failed to put up sewage lines and sewage treatment facilities during the period as mandated by the law.

The decision stated: “Section 8 is not to be overthought: it provides that within five years from the CWA’s effectivity, petitioners are required to connect sewage lines, and they are expected to complete the required connections after the five-year period. To accede to MWSS’ arguments is absurd. Infrastructure cannot be deemed usable at groundbreaking stage, and laws must never be interpreted to the detriment of the consuming public.”

“Withal, it remains that petitioners (MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water) violated Sec. 8 of the Clean Water Act as regards their legal duty to interconnect sewage lines,” the decision also stated.

The 2019 decision ruled: “Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of ₱921,464,184 covering the period May 7, 2009 to date of promulgation (Aug. 6, 2019).

“Manila Water shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period.

“Shall pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision.

“From receipt of the decision until petitioners have fully paid the amount stated, Petitioners shall be fined the initial amount of ₱322,102.00/day subject to further 10 per cent increase every two years as provided for under Section 28 of the Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Section 8 of the same law.

“Legal interest of six per cent per annum until fully satisfied.”

The SC decision upheld the Court of Appeals (CA) ruling which affirmed the order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which imposed fines on MWSS and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad Water.



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SC affirms P404-M fine on water firms



The high court, in its 2019 decision, found the two water firms and MWSS to have violated section 8 of the Clean Water law.

BY ALVIN MURCIA
@tribunephil_alvi

The Supreme Court upheld in a final decision its 2019 order on Maynilad, Manila Water, and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to pay a total fine of P404 million for violating the Philippine Clean Water Act since 2009 due to the concessionaires' failure to invest on sewerage facilities required under the Philippine Clean Water Act.

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SC affirms P404-M fine on water firms

The water concessionaires don't have water treatment facilities, they have been duping customers.

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The SC gave the two private firms and the government regulator 15 days to settle their obligations with the government.

The amount was far less, however than what was imposed in SC's initial decision.

MWSS was included in the original ruling of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in its assessment that the regulator failed in its mandate that contributed to the degradation of the Pasig River and Manila Bay.

The high court's resolution made public on 18 October and written by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando denied the appeals filed by the MWSS and the two water concessionaires although it lowered the fines and interest charges.

"Manila Water 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 7 May 2009 until 21 January 2022, in the total amount of P202,256,756.22," it said.

An exactly similar liability applied to Maynilad and MWSS.

If it goes unpaid, SC said the fines "shall be subject to a 10 percent increase every two years beginning 7 May 2009 until 21 January 2022, following Section 28 of the law."

The SC also imposed a six percent legal interest per year on the total amount of fines from the finality of the resolution until full payment.

"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," it said.

The high court, in its 2019 decision, found the two water firms and MWSS to have violated section 8 of the Clean Water law as they failed to put up sewage lines and treatment facilities during the period.

It was the *Daily Tribune* that brought to then President Rodrigo Duterte's attention the absence


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of investments in sewage facilities despite the concession agreements of MWSS and Maynilad, and another between the regulator and Manila Water requiring such infrastructure.

Both concessionaires were also found collecting sewage service charges in the monthly bills but without doing anything to set up the facilities.

"The water concessionaires don't have water treatment facilities, they have been duping customers," the President told *Daily Tribune* in a pre-State of the Nation Address exclusive interview on 12 July 2019.

"If you say that they have been collecting for so many years, it would amount to plunder. We have to ask everybody to provide a new system of sewage so that they can collect the water and big pipes that would run and go to the water treatments," Mr. Duterte then declared.

Fine halved

In August 2019, the tribunal voted 12-0 to impose fines on the water concessionaires.

The SC initially announced that the voting was 14-0 but later corrected this to 12-0 because

Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Andres Reyes Jr. abstained.

The amount then was higher at P921 million each for Maynilad and Manila Water, which were held jointly liable with MWSS.

"Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184 covering the period 7 May 2009 to date of promulgation. Manila Water Co. Inc shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period," according to the original ruling.

The SC *en banc* had voted unanimously to uphold a 2011 decision of the Court of Appeals but the penalty then was only P29.4 million since it covered only 2009.

The case stemmed from a Department of Environment and Natural Resources directive in 2009 which sanctioned the concessionaires for the sewage facilities breach in its covered areas.

If the MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water are still not compliant with Section 8 of the Clean Water Act, they have to pay an additional P322,102 a day until full compliance with the law, goes the original ruling.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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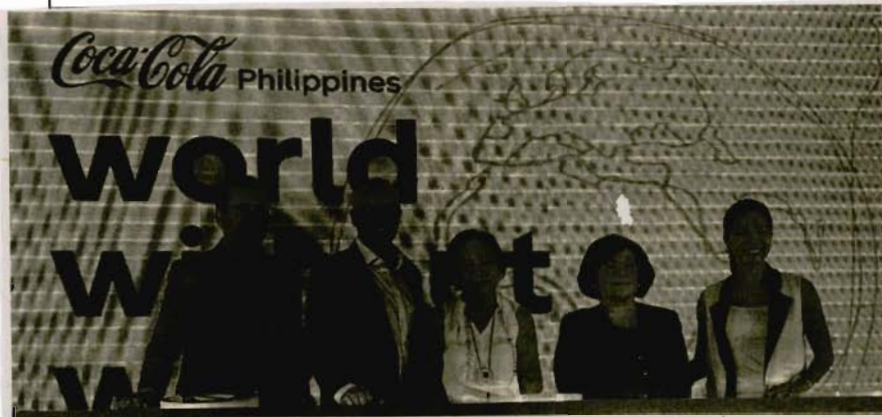
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From left: Sanjay Ahuja, Gareth McGeown, president of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Senator Cynthia Villar, DENR Sec. Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, and Jonah de Lumen-Pernia.



COCA-COLA Philippines President Tony del Rosario, who was in Singapore during the event.

The often unsung, but so important

Two events I attended the other week had me thinking of just how often the unsung, and the ones behind the scenes, deserve to get more of the spotlight firmly placed on them. When coverage and social media posts of these events are scanned, we'll see the beautiful people, the noted personages and celebrities, the "name-droppables," hogging the coverage; and that's par for the course, as they do create recall for the events. But the ones who conceptualized the event, the tireless workers — the ones who put the event together; I'd like this column to act as a well-deserved shout-out for them.

The Pink Ball of Estée Lauder was mounted for Breast Cancer awareness and early detection, with the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc. (Kasuso) and free mammograms, the beneficiary of the money raised. Kasuso does great voluntary work, and has now evolved to a patient navigation model that's tailor-fit for the Philippine setting. The afflicted who come from marginalized or economically-challenged communities are the recipients of their steadfast work.

This year's Pink Ball was the brainchild of Estée Lauder's country general manager Sharyn Wong, who hails from Malaysia. Before her taking over the reins here in the Philippines, Estée Lauder had been instrumental in assisting the foundation my sister Libet C. Virata chairs, Helping Women and Others (HWAO), put up a new

chemotherapy prep room at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH); so there's some shared history between Estée and HWAO. We met Sharyn in March 2022, and the Pink Ball was just a germ of an idea back then.

That in just six months, Sharyn had put together an event of this scale speaks volumes of her resourcefulness and determination. It marks 30 years of Estée's Breast Cancer campaign, and Evelyn H. Lauder's co-creating the now iconic pink ribbon — and Sharyn didn't want to let those milestones pass without doing something monumental in the name of Breast Cancer Awareness here in the Philippines.

While Sharyn kept the fund-raising target close to her chest, I know the over ₱9 million raised on the night will go a long way in supporting free mammograms that Kasuso can offer the cancer patients under their supervision. The indefatigable work of the Estée crew in the months leading up to the ball cannot be discounted. It's easy to witness the culmination of their concerted efforts, and mistakenly think it's all about that one evening; when the meticulous planning, organizing, and logistical work, was spread over several months. We salute Estée Lauder Philippines, and wish Sharyn more success.

The following day, I attended the Coca-Cola Philippines progress report year four of their World Without

Philippines, their recycling and sustainable packaging initiative. PETValue Philippines, a partnership of Coca-Cola Beverages Inc., with Indorama Ventures, is the country's first bottle-to-bottle, food grade recycling facility, and started operations this year in Cavite.

Senator Cynthia Villar and DENR Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga were the special guests that morning, and for us in media, this may have been of particular significance, given the acrimonious Senate hearing on the Manila Bay-reclamation projects earlier in the week. In fact, the two were very friendly during the event.

The two champions of Coca-Cola's sustainability initiatives here in the Philippines held forth on the substantive steps and achievements being made. Tony del Rosario, president for Coca-Cola Philippines/VP franchise operations for the East Region of Coca-Cola Far East Ltd. was in Singapore, but was happy to virtually welcome the guests. "As a global beverage company, we are focused on our entire packaging lifecycle, and we recognize our role and responsibility to help tackle the plastic packaging waste issue. This takes collaboration, innovation, and continued effort, and we are making progress, with much more to do."

Gareth McGeown, president and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, was on hand, and gave an enlightening talk about their Recycle Me message, and how they've been introducing brands whose bottles are made from 100 percent recycled plastic. They have their Tapon to Ipon project, which works with LGU's, and encourages people in the communities to practice proper waste segregation, and to bring their empty, clear PET plastic bottles to collection hubs.

As Gareth reminded us, "Throughout our operations, there are various opportunities to minimize waste and accelerate the move to a circular economy... we are working towards our goal of collecting and recycling every can or bottle that we sell by 2030!"



HEARD IT
THROUGH
THE GRIPE-VINE:
OUR NEW
ABNORMAL
PHILIP CU UNJIENG

Waste goals. The event was intended to put the spotlight on partnerships made during the four-year journey, and to provide an update on PETValue



Protecting the endangered tamaraw



A TAMARAW family GREGG YAN PHOTO

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

TWO motorcades were held in Calintaan and Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, on October 3. It was not for any common human activity, like for athletes, beauty queens or politicians. It was to celebrate an animal—the tamaraw.

Celebrated every October by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 273 of 2022, the Tamaraw Month is a “Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro.”

The proclamation urged all government offices and agencies on Mindoro Island to implement activities geared toward the conservation of the tamaraw and its habitats.

The Tamaraw Month highlights the need to further strengthen the protection of Mindoro’s iconic animal from various threats, including hunting, environmental degradation and habitat loss, and most recently—bullfighting among highly territorial bulls fighting for supremacy in a shrinking territory.

World’s rarest buffalo

THE revered tamaraw, with scientific name *Bubalus Mindorensis*, is the world’s rarest buffalo species.

Considered as a distant relative of the carabao, the so-called beast of burden, the Philippine tamaraw is shy but aggressive when it feels threatened.

Smaller than most buffalos, including the native carabao, it can be distinguished by its “V-shaped” horns.

The remaining population of this iconic mammal is concentrated in the hinterlands of Mindoro, in an area designated by the government as a protected area—the 106,655-hectare Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park (MIBNP).

Tamaraw conservation program

IN the 1990s, the government started

a captive-breeding program under the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP), which primarily aims to breed the wild buffalos of Mindoro in a controlled environment.

The captive breeding program failed with only one tamaraw bred in captivity in “Kalibasib,” short for Kalikasan Bagong Sibol, which eventually died of multiple organ failure due to old age.

However, the program was able to protect and conserve the MIBNP, where the population of the wild buffalos slightly, but steadily, increased based on an annual population count being conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its various partners.

Population decline?

IN the last two years, however, the protectors of MIBNP reported that the number of Philippine tamaraw is slowly decreasing.

In 2020, as the entire country was placed under a public health emergency and community lockdowns to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the population of the tamaraw dropped to less than 500.

This is a far cry from its estimated number of 600 heads, including the juveniles that were previously rarely seen with the herd inside and outside the MIBNP.

Alvin Tabuga, technical staff at the TCP, said the tamaraw population has gone down to just 403 during the last population survey in March and April this year.



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Bullfighting

NEIL ANTHONY DEL MUNDO, assistant protected area superintendent of the MIBNP and head of the TCP, said this could be attributed to the continuous hunting for food and targeting of wild animals, including the tamaraw, for trophy.

It was also caused by natural death as a result of bullfighting, or the bulls fighting for territory.

"Our rangers found dead bulls, suggesting bullfighting is now happening," del Mundo told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview on October 12.

Speaking mostly in Filipino, del Mundo noted that the tamaraw is very territorial, and death among bulls that are fighting for territory is likely to happen as the population reaches the number that exceeds an area's maximum capacity.

Regular patrolling

IN its 2022 third quarterly report, the TCP said 24 TCP rangers are assigned in three ranger stations to monitor activities in known tamaraw habitats, namely the Aruyan-Malati Tamaraw Reserve (AMTR), the Upper Amnay Tamaraw Habitat (UATH), and the MIBNP.

Also being monitored is the Mount Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS), another protected area on Mindoro that was recently identified as being inhabited by the Philippine tamaraw.

The report said camera traps were put in different places in AMTR to monitor the tamaraw population, habitat and ecological assessment.

Proposed critical habitat

THE DENR in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, along with the DENR Mimaropa, are proposing to declare as a critical habitat area outside the MIBNP.

To be called the Aruyan-Malati Siburan Critical Habitat for Tamaraw and Other Endemic Endangered Wildlife, the monitoring and assessment of wildlife is being done in partnership with D'Aboville Foundation.

While it is a known habitat of the Philippine tamaraw, it is also threatened by various illegal activities, including slash-and-burn agriculture by Mangyan tribes.

Meanwhile, in the UATH in Sta. Cruz and Sablayan towns in Occidental Mindoro, and Naujan and possibly Victoria town in Oriental Mindoro, a TCP ranger station was put up to intensify monitoring activities.

In the MIBNP report, del Mundo said besides kaingin, traps designed to capture tamaraw were found within

the "no-hunting zone."

They were eventually dismantled and destroyed, he said.

Dead bulls

ACCORDING to del Mundo, in the second quarter of 2022—on April 4, May 11 and May 19—three dead tamaraw bulls were recorded within MIBNP.

"They might have died due to bullfighting, as indicated in the wounds and injuries sustained by the carcasses that were found," he reported.

"It seems that there is really a need to expand the core habitat since it may have reached the carrying capacity and could well be on its tipping point as indicated by the frequent tamaraw deaths due to bullfighting," the report added.

According to del Mundo, the incident was also observed in the third quarter of the year.

"Disturbance in the periphery of the core habitats is now more intense, resulting in more bullfighting. Tamaraw bulls are highly territorial," he added.

According to Tabuga, they are eyeing to expand the core habitat of tamaraw by another 3,500 hectares, to accommodate the increasing population and avoid the death of bulls as a result of their fighting to dominate territories.



THE tamaraw is smaller than most buffalos, including the native carabao, and can be distinguished by its "V-shaped" horns. GREGG YAN PHOTO

Support the protectors

"THE tamaraw population recovered from less than 100 heads in 1969 to around 600 today, but without support, there's no assurance that they will survive to the next century," said Best Alternatives Director Gregg Yan.

Yan, a wildlife photographer, has been writing about the plight of the tamaraw and often join tamaraw population counts and assessments.

"First, we must continue supporting the people who are helping conserve the tamaraw: the rangers, who keep poachers at bay; tribes folk, who revere the buffalo; scientists, who generate useful data; legislators fighting for better laws; local government officials overseeing operations; and even schoolteachers, who are inspiring new generations of [Filipinos] to care not just for our tamaraw but all our endangered and endemic species," he said.

"Just as important is to protect vital tamaraw habitats, not just on the Iglit-Baco [mountain] range, but in the handful of other areas where the buffalo still roam," Yan said.

He added that there's a need to think about the dangers wrought by introduced cattle and water buffalo, which also graze in national parks.

"In the 1930s, a disease called Rinderpest almost drove the tamaraw to extinction. Another disease might just succeed if not addressed correctly. My friend Dr. Mikko Angelo Reyes [a Mindoro-based wildlife veterinarian] always underscored the importance of biosecurity for wildlife conservation," he said.



Water firms' violations affirmed, fines reduced

THE Supreme Court (SC) has affirmed its 2019 ruling that fined water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services (Maynilad) and Manila Water Co. (Manila Water) for violation of their obligations under Republic Act (RA) 9275 or the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The SC, however, modified the fines imposed in 2019 from P2 billion, or P921,464,184 each, to a total of P406 million, or P202,256,726.22 each, according to a resolution published Thursday.

The CWA obliges the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (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. In 2009, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) discovered that MWSS and the two concessionaires have completed only 16 percent of sewage facilities and will be fully compliant by 2030 yet.

The delay in the compliance, the DENR said, is a major contributor in the deterioration of Manila Bay.

In their plea before the high court in 2019, the concessionaires claimed that the original fines were "excessive, confiscatory, unconscionable, and tantamount to a criminal sanction".

They said the CWA is unconstitutional in having a retroactive effect on the liability of the concessionaires and that their good faith to comply merits a substantial reduction of the fines.

They said the fines will leave them no choice but to increase water rates as a consequence.

In reducing the fines, the SC noted that Manila Water had already started constructing 12 additional sewage treatment plants, which would have increased their treatment coverage to 30 percent, adding that 68,000 households and major commercial establishments now have full wastewater treatment and treated

water.

Maynilad, for its part, claimed that it has offered sanitation services to 30,728 customers out of its 49,336 domestic customers in Valenzuela and desludged 16,470 septic tanks since 1997. Out of 210,182 domestic customers in Quezon City, Maynilad offered sanitation services to 124,125 and desludged 62,008 septic tanks.

"Their acts indicate good faith. Good faith is a state of mind consisting of honesty in belief or purpose, faithful to one's duty or obligation, observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing in a given trade or business, or absence of intent to defraud or to seek unconscionable advantage," the SC said.

The ruling reduced the maximum P200,000 per day of violation to P30,000, counting from May 7, 2009 until January 21.

The base amount of P30,000 shall be subject to 10-percent increase every two years, beginning 2009, and a six-percent legal interest per year on the total amount of fines from finality of the resolution until full satisfaction thereof.

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

MWSS will share in the payment of fines.

In stressing the need to comply with regulatory rules the court said "while laws have always been on the hunt for the corrupt, blatantly-evil act of public officers, our citizens are usually left unguarded against the government's vice of complacency. Daily we pass by road constructions that take a questionable period of time to finish; commuters rise at 3 a.m. just to willingly drown in the endless and merciless sea of city traffic, always in doubt of all hopes that they will make it on time to work at 8 a.m.; and here, sewerage connections have been pending for more than 20 years since the enactment of the law mandating their completion in only five years," the SC ruled.

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Makati eyes finance instruments for climate action

Makati Mayor Abby Binay is pushing for the use of three climate-financing instruments to give the city access to grants, loans, and funding opportunities that will boost climate action and make Makati and other cities more resilient.

“After attending Daring Cities 2022, an event organized by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability in Bonn, Germany last week, I learned that there are three climate-financing instruments that we can use in Makati. These include the city climate finance gap fund, green cities program, and the local climate adaptive living facility,” she said.

Binay is a member of ICLEI Global Executive Committee and heads the Innovative Financing Portfolio of ICLEI World.

She said Makati is planning to apply for support from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank through its city climate finance gap fund. This climate action trust fund provides technical assistance and capacity-building to help cities in developing countries turn climate-focused ideas into concrete project proposals.

Binay said the city is exploring the possibility of tapping the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through its green cities program, which supports cities by helping them create a green city action plan that includes sustainable infrastructure investments and policy measures.

‘I think a lot of cities are missing out by not being able to tap these international organizations.’

She also said Makati is considering applying for the local climate adaptive living facility, a mechanism designed and hosted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund that provides technical assistance and tools for local governments to access climate funds and integrate climate change adaptation into local planning and budgeting systems.

“I will introduce these three climate-financing instruments to the Makati Climate Change Committee so that we can study how we can use them to improve the quality of life of Makatizens and, at the same time, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change,” she said.

Binay also represents the city in various international organizations. She is currently the Vice President of CityNet; President of CityNet National Cluster-Philippines, UCLG ASPAC Council Member; Executive Committee Member and former Vice President of WeGO; City Ambassador for Asia of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance; and Board Member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

“I think a lot of cities are missing out by not being able to tap these international organizations. It is essential for us to benchmark and get information on how successful climate initiatives were done, what mistakes were committed, and how these projects were sustained,” she added.

The mayor said she also expects to learn more about climate-financing schemes in the coming meetings with various international organizations and share new strategies with fellow local leaders to help them get access to grants, loans, and funding opportunities.

Binay is set to attend the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.





PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF US EMBASSY

TEAMS from Iligan City attend the NASA Space Apps Challenge hackathon pitching session for solutions addressing climate change and other environmental issues.

Iligan, CDO students create apps for climate change, environment

On 1 and 2 October, 54 students representing 10 teams joined the NASA Space Apps Challenge hackathon in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, where participants used NASA's open-source data to develop applications addressing the impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges.

Founded in 2012, the NASA Space Apps Challenge is the world's largest science hackathon, aimed at creating solutions to challenges related to Earth science and space exploration. Some 28,000 participants from 162 countries joined the competition in 2021.

Team Baybayin – composed of marine biology and computer engineering students from Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology – won the hackathon hosted by the US Embassy and FAB LABs Philippines at the American Corner at Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan.

This hackathon, including the mentoring to participants provided by NASA, increases the ability of Filipinos to address global challenges through science and technology.



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The team developed a web application that provides visual representations of coastal degradation to monitor coastal hazards and raise public awareness on mitigation methods. "With the Philippines having the third longest coastline in the world, we will continue to develop this project and explore data-driven solutions for the benefit of coastal communities," said Team Baybayin cofounder Preus Pridor Manulat.

To prepare students for the hackathon, experts from MSU-IIT, Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, and iDEYA, the U.S. Department of State's Global Innovation through Science and Technology Innovation Hub, provided guidance and briefings. EducationUSA also hosted an information session for students interested in completing their studies in the United States.

"Skills building is an important pillar of our American Spaces programs," said US Embassy Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Pauline Anderson. "This hackathon, including the mentoring to participants provided by NASA, increases the ability of Filipinos to address global challenges through science and technology."

Team Baybayin will compete in the final stage of the competition where NASA experts will assess all submitted projects. The global winners are expected to be announced by December. Learn more about the NASA Space Apps Challenge hackathon at www.spaceappschallenge.org.



THE NASA Space Apps Challenge hackathon made a stop at the American Corner Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan earlier this month.



Climate change touches everything



ROUGH TRADE

**BEN
KRITZ**

THIS column will not be about Sen. Cynthia Villar and her appalling statement that farmers and fisherfolk “don’t know anything” about climate change. It could be and perhaps should be, but as ignorant and disrespectful as that comment from her was, it was merely one note in a symphony of offensive nonsense coming out of the Senate this past week. It’s been a strenuous few days and I’m tired; the tarring Villar has been receiving online for putting her *matapobre* attitude on full display suggests that people already get it without my having to explain it to them.

Everyone — well, everyone except for Cynthia Villar, apparently — may take it for granted that people whose livelihoods depend on the land or sea, and whose experience is measured in generations instead of years are keenly aware of the shifting climate, but what may not be as obvious is how concern for environmental sustainability is becoming a more critical factor in other economic sectors. One example is real estate, which was highlighted recently by an item that floated through my email inbox.

The Dot Property Group is a property listing portal that operates in all the Asean countries except Brunei, and produces an occasional newsletter with interesting information about the real estate market. According to an article in its latest installment, real estate investors are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact climate change may have on a particular property, and factoring that into their investment decisions.

As Dot Property is a marketing portal, the article naturally segues into a pitch for two high-end residential developments — one located in Kuala Lumpur and one in Sydney — that are supposedly models of sustainability, but there are still some useful points that can be gleaned from it.



■ In the aftermath of September’s Typhoon ‘Karding,’ a rice farmer busies himself with knowing nothing about climate change. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN

There are three aspects to sustainability, regardless of whether is an end-use investor in a property, a developer, or a government entity responsible for permitting its construction, and they are all of about equal importance. One is the impact the project will have on the environment; another is the impact the environment will have on the project; and another is the impact the environment will have on the intended occupants. All three of these have to be considered in terms of a timescale of years or decades, or over the anticipated useful lifespan of the project, as climate “change” obviously implies that the impacts will change over time.

The first aspect, the environmental footprint of the building or project, is something that we have seen addressed more often over the past few years here in the Philippines, as “green” features are good selling points as well as being practical. These are things like high energy efficiency, water recycling systems, passive cooling and ventilation, or rooftop solar installations.

As for the second two factors, it does not seem that these have

quite caught on yet here. In climate-vulnerable countries — which, at this point, includes just about every place on Earth — built environments are going to have to contend with various extremes of the natural one. Investing in a property only to discover later that it cannot withstand violent weather events, or heat, or cold, or drought, or is at risk from flooding is obviously something to be avoided. The problem with this is that not all potential climate effects can be defined in terms that make developers comfortable with spending money to account for them, i.e., to what degree a specific impact will be felt, and when, and so developers either have to prepare for anything, or gamble on what will or will not affect their projects.

Also, it is difficult to predict how climate change will affect the market profile. People’s lives and work will change and could change abruptly. The Covid-19 pandemic might not have been a consequence of climate change — although that is something still being debated in some circles — but it has been a good example of how assumptions can be disrupted. Some developers who jumped into a hot office market

three or four years when there was nothing but growth in sight have suddenly found themselves holding a lot of empty space as work went digital. There has been some recovery, but it is also clear that a significant amount of on-site work that shifted to remote work is never coming back.

These are all the things that stakeholders in the property sector, with the apparent exception of Cynthia Villar, are considering, or soon will be if they hope to stay in business. Every economic sector is doing the same, according to whatever risks and challenges from climate change are relevant to them. It cannot be avoided; even if one is skeptical of the reality of climate change, the reality of staying competitive when one’s counterparts are implementing sustainability to improve their products and marketing forces everyone to get on board. That even lowly farmers and fishermen understand this should certainly give pause to those who pretentiously assume they deserve the sobriquet of “solon.”

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Vietnam's 'wave of repression' threatens climate goals

HANOI: A "new wave of repression" in Vietnam is jeopardizing progress in tackling climate change, human rights groups told United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday as he began a visit to the capital Hanoi.

Vietnam, which has an economy heavily reliant on coal, has committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

But its authoritarian government has also handed down prison terms to four environmental human rights defenders this year, sentencing them on "trumped-up" charges of tax evasion, the rights organizations said in an open letter to Guterres.

"These political prisoners are

emblematic victims of a new wave of repression in Vietnam which, through a combination of threats and judicial harassment, is threatening progress in combatting climate change," read the letter, signed by 15 rights groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Guterres, who is in the capital to mark the 45th anniversary of Vietnam joining the UN, warned in July that humanity was facing "collective suicide" over the climate crisis.

The letter urged Guterres to "publicly call on the Vietnamese government to release" Nguy Thi Khanh, Mai Phan Loi, Bach Hung Duong and Dang Dinh Bach during his visit.

Khanh, a globally recognized

climate and energy campaigner who won the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2018, was sentenced to two years in jail in June.

Founder of Green ID, one of Vietnam's most prominent environmental organizations, Khanh had been among the few in the communist nation challenging the government's plans to increase coal power.

Dang Dinh Bach, a community lawyer and nongovernmental organization (NGO) worker, worked to inform local people whose health and livelihoods were threatened by coal projects and other dirty industries. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

The rights groups urged Vietnam to clarify the tax obligations of NGOs,

warning the current regulations were "open to politically motivated attacks on civil society organizations."

At a ceremony commemorating the 45th anniversary of the country's accession to the UN on Friday, Guterres reminded Vietnam of its obligations "to ensure respect for fundamental freedoms including of expressions of association, to protect civil society."

It should work "to bring these rights to life and to ensure the full engagement from journalists, human rights defenders to environmental advocates."

Earlier, the UN chief met with Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and visited Ho Chi Minh's memorial.

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Editorial

PH on the right track, but hurdles lie ahead

THE Philippines seems on track to economic recovery, based on plans presented recently at a forum organized by this newspaper. The event, a part of the 124th founding anniversary of *The Manila Times*, featured Secretary Alfredo Pascual of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Undersecretary Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan of the Department of Tourism (DoT).

Mr. Pascual outlined a six-point action plan, which devotes a lot of attention to helping micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs and to creating a business-friendly environment. He also identified the industries that are vital in developing a digital economy.

"What we envision is a prosperous economy driven by competition and productivity," he said. "We want to build dynamic industry ecosystems as the foundation for generating quality jobs, creating new products and services, improving environmental sustainability, and ensuring shared prosperity for all. This is the direction that all these efforts are headed. And this is what I hope will help define the next era of growth and development in the Philippines."

His speech reinforces the message delivered by others in the Cabinet and by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. himself. At another event organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the President summarized his policy in saying the country is open for business.

An important sector that has reopened is tourism. Even during the campaign, he identified it as a priority, because it can generate jobs more quickly than other sectors. The presentation by Mrs. Pamintuan quoted from the President's State of the Nation Address, where Mr. Marcos said: "Tourism is not only an important economic development tool, but the abundance of opportunities that the sector creates in terms of regular employment and even job creation at the grassroots level is undeniable."

Mrs. Pamintuan went on to highlight DoT's plans and programs. They, like the DTI plans presented by Mr. Pascual, help calm the anxieties spawned by the lingering Covid-19 pandemic and the war between Ukraine and Russia.

Challenges ahead

Many, including officials in government, have said "external headwinds" present the biggest hurdles to robust economic recovery. Certainly, developments from abroad, particularly the trouble in Eastern Europe, can be blamed for the most serious threats today, including inflation, foreign-exchange volatility and shortages in energy and agricultural outputs.

Even so, the Philippines is not helpless in shaping its future. For instance, the programs presented by the DTI and the DoT require coordination with many other departments. But like some enterprises, government departments tend to operate like silos, at least in the past.

Mr. Pascual did mention that in implementing key parts of the DTI's plans, he has reached out to the Department of Information and Communication and Technology. Also, he has been in touch with people in the education sector, the Department of Science and Technology and others.

The DoT's efforts to make the Philippines more tourist-friendly also require coordination with agencies responsible for visas, like the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration. Of course, the infrastructure needed to bolster tourism is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation, as well as the National Economic and Development Authority.

Besides the teamwork initiated, the private sector also needs to chip in by investing in various enterprises that not only help trade and tourism, but also the economy in general. As Mr. Pascual said, the government will create the environment needed by enterprises to thrive. But the private sector is still the main engine of Philippine growth.

Unfortunately, the government has a spotty record when it comes to implementing plans, at least in the past. Plus, the Philippines continues to be weighed down by legacy issues, like corruption, red tape and poverty. And despite the calls for unity, Filipinos continue to have difficulty setting aside their political and petty differences. Many still lack the maturity to disagree with others without being disagreeable.

Then again, the country has made progress despite its imperfections. And if Filipinos support the plans of the DTI, the DoT and others in the Marcos government, perhaps the country can take leaps forward.



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Gov't eyes comprehensive roadmap for e-vehicle dev't

By RICHMOND MERCURIO

The Department of Energy and other agencies are targeting to come out with a comprehensive roadmap for the electric vehicle industry by the first quarter of next year.

The roadmap will be developed in cooperation with partner agencies such as the Department of Transportation, Department of Trade and Industry, and Department of Science and Technology to further guide the electric vehicle industry on the objective of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act or EVIDA.

It is expected to provide an annual work plan to accelerate the development, commercialization, and utilization of electric vehicles in the country.

"With our collaboration, we envi-

sion developing standards and specifications for EVs and charging stations, construction of dedicated parking slots, green routes in cities and municipalities, the installation of charging stations, development of the local manufacturing of the EV industry, research, and development, capacity building, training, and technical skills development for a safe environment for EVs," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

"In fact, we are now at the exciting stage where EVs are beginning to emerge," he said.

Lotilla said there are around 9,000 registered electric vehicles and 300 charging stations deployed nationwide.

Turn to B2



Powering EV adoption in Phl

Compared to vehicles with combustion engines, EVs are more eco-friendly as they do not emit carbon dioxide that is harmful to the environment and are considerably more economical.

Transportation is among the most severely affected sectors at the height of the pandemic. In the Philippines' case, this was exacerbated due to the implementation of the longest lockdown in the world. When mobility started increasing and the sector was finally starting its recoup, the Russia-Ukraine war sent countries into economic turmoil, with week-on-week massive increases in domestic fuel prices.

According to Statista, during the first half of the year, the average retail price of one liter of gas in the Philippines rose by 36.9 percent compared to the same period in 2021. The transportation industry is again in a crisis — one that needs to be solved efficiently and immediately, as it is a crisis that Filipinos are confronted with every day.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made a firm commitment that the transportation sector is included



THE Z PERSPECTIVE
JOE ZALDARRIAGA

in the priority agenda of his government. In his State of the Nation Address, he said he will focus on developing the railway system, building on the previous infrastructure program. During President Marcos Jr.'s campaign, there were also statements assuring improvements in the mass transport system.

The Philippine government has been spearheading the promotion of electric vehicles for more than a decade now, with the goal of sustainable development. In 2006, Executive Order 488 was issued to support the manufacturing of EVs. With it, the tariff rate for e-vehicle components was reduced, consequently allowing e-vehicle manufacturers to import components at a more affordable price. Also, in April this year, Republic Act 11697, or the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, was signed into law, providing a national policy framework to develop the electric vehicle industry in the Philippines.

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Powering EV adoption in Phl

From page 9

There is increasing interest in EVs in the country. Compared to vehicles with combustion engines, EVs are more eco-friendly as they do not emit carbon dioxide that is harmful to the environment and are considerably more economical. A report said that the energy consumption cost of using an EV or electric public utility jeepney is roughly 39 percent as against the diesel-fueled conventional PUJ.

Many companies have also incorporated EVs into their sustainability agenda. One of which is the Manila Electric Company, the largest distribution utility in the Philippines.

Over the last two years, Meralco has launched its Green Mobility Program which aimed to electrify its entire vehicle fleet. As of this writing, Meralco has successfully converted the entire fleet of its Metro Manila Business Centers into EVs.

To support the program, Meralco installed five fast chargers in strategic locations across its franchise area and looking to more than double the number over the next three months. Four more charging stations will be put up at its Power Tech facility at the Meralco Compound which can cater to almost all major commercially available protocols to date. It is also expected to feature a vehicle-to-home bidirectional charging station that will allow customers to use their EVs to supply power to their appliances.

Technology-wise, new models continue to evolve. According to Raymond Ravelo, Meralco Chief Sustainability Officer, EVs could barely run 100 kilometers on a full charge just over a decade ago. Now, new models can reach over 800 kilometers on only a single charge — roughly the distance between Pasay City and Banaue, Ifugao, and back.

In addition, Ravelo says EVs have likewise improved greatly, especially as lithium-ion battery pack prices

have gone down by already 90 percent from over \$1,200 per kWh in 2010 to just around \$130 last year. This has consequently driven down the price of an EV with a comparable range to almost a third of price points a decade ago.

Compared to neighboring countries such as Thailand and Singapore, PH's development of the EV industry is relatively curbed. This is where government participation plays a very crucial role. EV industry acceleration will happen given enough government support through policies as well as the provision of subsidies or incentives. Manufacturers will be encouraged to ramp up production, thereby bringing down the prices and having an impact on job creation.

Just as the whole world goes in the same direction, EV adoption in the Philippines is inevitable, it is just a matter of when. Best that we adapt early on, and educate ourselves and others on the benefits of an electrified and green future.

EV industry acceleration will happen given enough government support through policies as well as the provision of subsidies or incentives.



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Making PH 'more progressive, agile'

THE national government is "unwavering" in its commitment to make the country a viable option for businesses for both local and foreign investors, President Marcos said.

Speaking before the business community, the President reiterated his promise that government would take the necessary steps to strengthen the relationship between businesses with the government, consumers, and the general public.

"...We recognize the fact that our businesses cannot thrive alone. Thus, it is my commitment to foster a sound environment where businesses can flourish and continue to be a driver of our economic growth," Marcos said in his speech during the 48th Philippine Business Conference and Exposition of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Manila Hotel.

"I reiterate my vision of improving our business climate and elevating the

status of the Philippines as a top investment destination through various endeavors," he added.

He assured that his administration would continue to help ease doing business in the country by enhancing its digital infrastructure to streamline application processes of business permits, licenses, and other documentary requirements.

He said the government is also committed in developing the country's renewable energy sector to ensure adequate power supply and alleviate rising electricity costs.

By revising the Renewable Energy Law's Implementing Rules and Regulations, he said the government aims to secure energy supply in the country and attract foreign investments for renewable energy development.

"It is necessary that we make these changes because the technology for renewable energy has moved forward so quickly that we have to catch up with our regulations, with our moni-

toring of our renewable energy sector," he stressed.

The President also promised to push infrastructure development with a special emphasis on public-private partnerships in key projects.

Citing government data, he said there are a total of 74 PPP projects in the pipeline as of August this year, with a combined estimated cost of P2.25 trillion.

However, he said there is a need to "do more" and invite investors to do business in the country.

Meanwhile, Marcos lauded the business community for being crucial in the country's post-pandemic recovery.

"Indeed, you will be the main driver of our success as we emerge from the setbacks posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the shocks that the economy, the world economy has suffered in the past few months," he said.

He also expressed hope that they would help provide solutions to steer the nation towards "a more progressive, more

economically agile community".

"I look forward to see you forge new ties here and it is exciting to see the solutions that you will create to broaden our horizons ahead — one that will be teeming with opportunities that our people rightfully deserve," he said.

"After today, once deals have been closed, policies have been agreed upon, and bonds have been renewed, forged, all of us can proudly tell the world: The Philippines is indeed open and ready for business again," he added.

The 48th PBCE, organized by the PCCI, seeks to jumpstart dialogue on key policy measures and programs concerning business and the economy that are vital in navigating the Philippines toward full recovery and growth.

During the event, conference chairperson and chief executive officer of EMS Group of Companies Ferdinand Ferrer handed over 10 conference resolutions to the President.

Ferrer said the resolutions "reflect the private sector's commitment to

provide meaningful solutions to priority pressing issues and concerns that will help us deal with the significant challenges and opportunities in the years ahead".

"These resolutions will help us achieve food security; move towards a science-based and transparent health system; support new investments and generate more employment; establish and maintain qualification standards in all levels of our educational system; deepen cooperation and expand participation in the international fronts; implement a nation-wide reliable and competitive digitalization program; address climate change; assure reliable and affordable power supply to sustain the economy; provide world-class integrated transport systems, and minimize barriers to the free flow of goods and services," he said.

Marcos also led the presentation of awards for the Most Business-Friendly local government unit and Most Outstanding Chamber.



DIPLOMATIC POUCH

By KANNI WIGNARAJA and SELVA RAMACHANDRAN

Rebuilding differently for resilience in the Philippines

For Filipinos, the last months of the year spur preparations for the year-end holiday festivities, but they also come with a premonition of devastating tropical cyclones that fre-



quent the region during this season. In the past, they were few. However, the past decade has been unrelenting – dotted with a list of typhoon names, each recalling memories of destruction, of livelihoods disrupted, of lives lost.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate-related disasters. Each year, this archipelagic country experiences an average of 21 tropical cyclones with varying degrees of strength. Last year, the country was struck by Typhoon Odette, a Category 5 super typhoon that left seven provinces in ruin. Odette was the 15th to hit the Philippines in 2021 and by far the strongest. It affected more than eight million Filipinos and left hundreds of thousands of people displaced without shelter, access to food, clean water and connectivity.

A year prior, 26 provinces in northern Philippines suffered the brunt of two major typhoons – Rolly and Ulysses. These two typhoons, which swept across Luzon one after the other, upended the lives of two million Filipinos.

And deeply etched in the memory of Filipinos is Super Typhoon Yolanda, which laid waste to the whole Visayas region, in 2013. It was one of the most powerful typhoons ever recorded. Yolanda's fury affected more than 14 million people across 44 provinces, taking the lives of more than 6,000 people with 1,800 more missing.

The cost of disasters to this country is a massive burden on peoples' security and well-being and on national, local and household budgets. It tears through the social contract between leadership, state institutions and people. Local governments and communities bear the heaviest brunt, repeatedly hitting hardest at the poor and most vulnerable.

According to the Department of Finance (DOF), climate-related disasters have caused \$10 billion in losses and damage over the past decade. Located in the typhoon belt and the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines regularly incurs loss and damages amounting to 0.5 percent of its annual GDP due to extreme weather events and climate-related disasters. This is despite the country contributing only 0.3 percent of the world's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

According to the World Bank, climate change will push around 132 million people into extreme poverty over the next 10 years, unraveling a decade of hard-won development gains. This means more farmers will lose more of their yields; fishing catches will dwindle as fish stocks decline; more families will be swept into informal shelters due to the direct damages to housing and infrastructure. And these often become their state of permanent impermanence.

The 2022 Human Development Report by UNDP highlights how layers of uncer-



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tainty are stacking up and interacting to unsettle life in unprecedented ways. The disproportionate impacts of these protracted global crises, with a still ongoing pandemic, are causing an increase

in poverty, inequality and are damaging long-term economic growth prospects.

Against the backdrop of uncertainty and insecurity, these catastrophic typhoons underscore the imperative of a robust disaster response and sustainable recovery, in the Philippines, for its future development. While typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions among other natural hazards are inevitable, the high death toll and huge economic impact can be mitigated.

What would it take for rebuilding efforts to ensure greater resilience in the face of these repeated threats? The Philippines has made significant progress in the areas of disaster risk reduction and climate action, and now looks to strengthen resilience in response and outcome. This means the consideration of systemic risks and the need for deeply transformative measures that involves all stakeholders.

This means sustained efforts and investments in building the capacities of national and regional governments across sectors to work together on more joined-up solutions. This means communities being directly involved from the get-go, on how best to build-back that has people assured that their ideas and feedback has been taken into account. This means spending much more on prevention, anticipating the risks well ahead and planning for them ahead of a post-disaster recovery.

Risk-informed planning and development leverages the use of real-time data and fast evolving digital, mobile and satellite technologies that must link to provide accurate information, early warning and risk-informed protocols and regulations. These include decisions on location of settlements, industries, city centers; spatial development and safety protocols for buildings, for cities and sustainability measures for infrastructure that limits damage. This is rebuilding for resilience that saves billions of dollars in losses, and saves lives and livelihoods.

A final word on financing – it is a collective responsibility to ensure that the money follows this high-value proposition of investing in a more sustainable recovery, in resilience. Public and private capital can be blended and channeled in these directions, reducing the cost of financing and leveraging more by working together to a common end.

These changes must come soon, as time is of the essence. Every moment of inaction, or worse, still harmful action, drives the unbearable costs and losses to a point of no return.

* * *

Kanni Wignaraja is UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Development Program (UNDP) Regional Director. Selva Ramachandran is UNDP Philippines Resident Representative.



Angara seeks action on plight of IPs

While a number of programs and policies have been made to uplift the lives of indigenous peoples, IPs remain among the poorest and most disadvantaged social groups in the country, and the government should do something about it, according to Sen. Sonny Angara.

Angara emphasized that little headway has been made to improve the lives of IPs for more than 25 years since the enactment of Republic Act 8731 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA).

"The government has to do more to uplift the lives of the IPs. We have over a hundred IP groups in the Philippines, comprising anywhere between 14 million and 17 million indigenous cultural communities (ICCs)," he said.

"Much has been said to protect the rights and ensure the welfare of our IPs, but the reality is that they continue to be among the most disadvantaged groups," he added.

While IPs comprise only six percent of the global population, they account for nearly 20 percent of the world's extreme poor, according to the World Bank.

"What exacerbates the situa-

tion of our IPs is the absence of reliable public data on ICCs and, more often than not, this leads to situations where they are neglected in the delivery of basic, social, technical and even legal services," Angara said.

The senator has filed Senate Bill 1167, or the proposed Resource Centers for Indigenous Peoples Act of 2022, which seeks to establish ICCs/IPs resource centers in strategic places, as determined by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), taking into consideration their ethnological locations to help remedy the situation.

He explained that these centers would be composed of three major service areas, including the Statistical Service Area, Human Development Index Service Area and Domains Management Service Area.

The Statistical Service Area will be responsible for the documentation and recognition of ICCs and IPs, their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices, political structures and customary laws through census, appraisal and baseline reports and libraries.

The Human Development Index Service Area will address the problems of ICCs and IPs and provide basic and necessary services through link-ups with concerned government departments and agencies, such as training programs, grants of scholarships, employment, livelihood and enterprises and health services.

The Domains Management Service Area will be tasked to promote participatory programs, projects and activities for ICCs and IPs to effectively deliver their responsibility of maintaining ecological balance, restoring denuded areas, observing laws and ensuring the implementation of the Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protections Plans and other existing programs.

"Our IPs are really in a pitiful situation. Although much has been done to strengthen the culture, tradition and rights of indigenous peoples, it seems that their lives have not yet improved and they are often neglected in the provision of assistance and services by the government," Angara said.

- Cecille Suerte Felipe



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UN, Phl to discuss development goals

By **ELIZABETH MARCELO**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Philippine government would discuss a possible collaboration on development priorities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

In a statement, the group said United Nations assistant secretary-general and UNDP regional director Kanni Wignaraja will be in Philippines from Oct. 22 to 28 on official mission.

"During her week-long mission, Ms. Wignaraja will meet with senior government officials and private sector, civil society and youth representatives, to discuss UNDP's work and contribution to the country's development pri-

orities and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals," the UNDP said.

Wignaraja is also scheduled to grace the launching of "Pintig: Women, Data and the Pandemic," a documentary which highlights the work and commitment of women leaders in the Philippines at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNDP said Wignaraja would also conduct field visits in select areas in 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 statement read in part.

The UNDP has been working with the Philippine government, civil society organizations and private sector since 1965 in several projects and programs that aim to promote "inclusive, green and resilient" economic growth. The development initiatives are geared toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, it added.

"Today, it (UNDP) continues to strengthen the country's capacities at the national and local levels to promote democratic governance, sustainable man-

agement of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management and resilience and peace-building," the UNDP said.

"In all its programs, UNDP integrates human rights and gender equality, believing that everyone should have equal access to the benefits of development," it added.

The SDGs were adopted by 193 UN member-states, including the Philippines, during a world summit held in 2015.

The 17 goals, which included eliminating poverty and hunger, promoting quality education, good health, gender equality, climate action and strong justice system, among others, are targeted to be achieved by 2030.



DENR, inutil sa mga itinatayong istruktura sa beach sa La Union

ANG kagandahan ng beach sa Bgy. Pugo, Bauang, La Union ay niyurakan na ng walang habas na pagtatayo ng mga istrukturang permanente at pangnegosyo bilang beach house for rent.

Mahigit isang taon nang idinudulog sa pamahalaang bayan ng Bauang, PENRO-La Union at DENR Region 1 ang ilegal na pag-okupa sa nasabing public land na tinayuan ng pitong konkretong istruktura. Itinuring na ng mga nangamkam ang beach na pribadong pagmamay-ari.

Ang karima-rimarim— bulag, pipi at bingi ang mga kinauukulan sa pagyurak sa beach lalo na ang DENR na naatasang mangalaga at magprotekta sa kalikasan.

Dati'y ini-enjoy ng lahat ang beach, ngunit ngayo'y ng iilan na lamang. Ang masama pa, pinagkakakitaan pa ang mga ito.

Ang DENR ang ahensyang naatasang tagapangalaga ng lahat ng public lands sa buong bansa. Ito ang may mandatong mag-aruga sa kalikasan at ipagtanggol sa anumang kalapastangan.

Ngunit kung ang basehan ay ang kakulangan sa paggampan sa tungkulin o tuwirang kawalang aksyon sa nang-



yayaring paglapastangan sa kalikasan sa Bgy. Pugo, masa-sabing tinalikuran na ng DENR Region 1 ang mandato nito.

Napiringan at natakpan na ang pandinig nito sa daing ng kalikasan at ng mamamayang nakakasaksi sa pambubusabos sa beach.

Sa katunayan, itinatayo na naman ang pangwalong istruktura roon at tiyak may karagdagan pa sa mga susunod na araw.

Inaasahan ang agarang aksyon mula kay DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga sa suliraning ito dahil "bawat minuto'y mahalaga" sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan.

Hihintayin pa bang si PBBM ang kakastigo sa mga pabaya, nagbubulag-bulagan at nagbibingihang opisyal at kawani?

Kung ngayon ang naniningil sa kainutilan ay mga saksi sa pambubusabos sa beach sa Pugo, hintayin nilang kalikasan mismo ang maningil sa kanila!

Para sa suhestiyon: art.dumlao@gmail.com



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SAVING MOTHER NATURE

Around 150 mangrove seedlings, consisting of Api-api and Pagatpat varieties, are planted by volunteers from the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Group, Cavite City Centro and Crystal Shipping SeaSeed Credit Cooperative at Barangay 13, Aguila in Sta. Cruz, Cavite City on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022, as part of the city's coastal cleanup and mangrove planting program for disaster preparedness and mitigation of climate change. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA



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MANGROVE PLANTING IN CAVITE COASTAL CITY. Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxillary Group, Cavite City CENRO and Crystal Shipping Seaseed Credit Cooperative plant around 150 seedlings of mangroves consisting of Apl-api and Pagatpat varieties in Bgy. 13, Agulla, Sta. Cruz, Cavite City during their coastal clean-up and mangrove planting for disaster preparedness and mitigation of climate change yesterday. *Photo by Dennis Abrina*



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CAVITE CITY HOLDS MANGROVE PLANTING ACTIVITY – Around 150 seedlings of mangroves consisting of 'Apl-apl' and 'Pagatpat' varieties were planted by the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Group, Cavite City CENRO, and Crystal Shipping Seaseed Credit Cooperative at Barangay 13, Agulita, Sta. Cruz, Cavite City, Saturday, October 22, 2022 during their coastal clean-up and mangrove planting for disaster preparedness and mitigation of climate change. Dennis Abrina



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Dagupan school among 'World's Best,' cited for mangrove project

By Yolanda Sotelo
@InqNational

DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN—Faculty, students and personnel of a public school here erupted in cheers on Wednesday upon the announcement that it was among the winners of the inaugural "World's Best School Prizes," awarded by a leading international education advocacy group.

Bonuan Buquig National High School and four other schools abroad were selected for those awards, which were launched earlier this year by T4, a global education organization based in the United Kingdom.

The five schools shared \$250,000 in prize money for supporting youths and communities, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bonuan Buquig, which has 2,000 students, bested two private international schools in an online vote and won \$50,000 (P2.9 million), as part of the total cash prize.

The public school was cited in the environmental action category of the awards, for helping reverse the impact of climate change by planting mangroves in its fishing community and for cleaning the shoreline in Bonuan Buquig village, after which the school is named.

The awards ceremony was live-streamed from the United Kingdom at the Dagupan City Astrodome, where teachers, students and staff members of Bonuan Buquig were gathered late Wednesday afternoon.

"The students [were] ecstatic because this [was] the first time that the school [was] recognized internationally," Rena-



RECOGNITION Left photo shows the mangrove-planting project of Bonuan Buquig National High School in Dagupan City for which the school won in the environmental action category of "World's Best School Prizes," awarded by global education organization T4. Students, faculty and officials of Bonuan Buquig (right photo), joined by various government officials, gather on Wednesday to celebrate the school's victory. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF JCI DAGUPENAS FACEBOOK PAGE AND DEPED REGION 1

Santillan, the school's principal, said in a phone interview.

"Also, they are happy that they are able to show to the community how ... mangrove planting helps the environment," he added.

Seedlings, propagules

Santillan said the school will use the cash prize to establish a mangrove nursery—the term for areas reserved for tending mangrove seedlings and propagules, which are plant offshoots that grow into separate plants.

Bonuan Buquig planted 7,000 propagules last year, but only 2,000 survived.

In order for young mangroves to sprout better propagules, they had to be grown from seedlings as long as a meter, Santillan said.

"If seedlings were bigger, ... there could be a higher rate of survival," explained the principal. Santillan said the school aims

We felt we had to do something for our kids. To save our waterways, we launched a mangrove planting program [and] integrated [it] into our learning areas [to] show ... how important the activity is

Lin Ventenilla
Mangrove project supervisor

to introduce mangrove planting in other rivers in Dagupan by providing more schools with seedlings.

Impact of 'Pepeng'

So far the students have only been planting along the banks of the Longos River, which crosses the village.

The mangroves project started in 2009, soon after the onslaught

of Super typhoon "Pepeng" (international name: Parma) in Northern and Central Luzon.

In Bonuan Buquig's video entry to the awards, teacher Lin Ventenilla, who supervises the project, recalled the floods triggered by the typhoon which damaged many homes—mostly shanties and nipa huts where the students lived.

The storm also destroyed the livelihoods of the students' families, who were dependent on fishing and managing fishponds.

"We felt we had to do something for our kids. To save our waterways, we launched a mangrove planting program [and] integrated [it] into our learning areas [to] show ... how important the activity is," Ventenilla said.

"We wanted a project that was connected to the students' way of life," she added.

Santillan said the school also had the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Education and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources as well as provincial and city officials.

Other winners

There were a thousand competing schools in the category wherein Bonuan Buquig won. Its fellow finalists were Bali Green School in Indonesia

and International School of Zug and Luzern in Switzerland.

Apart from environmental action, the other four categories in the World's Best School Prizes are community collaboration, innovation, overcoming adversity and supporting healthy lives.

Dunoon Grammar School in Scotland won in community collaboration for introducing skills-based courses.

Escuela Emilia Lascar in Chile won in the innovation category for its television program which tackled a range of issues from mental health to gender identity.

Project Shelter Wakadogo, a nursery and primary school in Uganda, won in the overcoming adversity category after locals secured land, leveled roads and planted vegetables for school meals in an area that suffered from civil war.

Curie Metropolitan High School in Chicago, Illinois, won the supporting healthy lives prize for providing integrated health services and an arts program for students, many of them from minorities.

Vikas Pota, founder and CEO of T4, acknowledged the "education crisis" worldwide compounded by the pandemic.

"Far too many children will continue to be left behind in the wake of COVID unless governments take urgent action," he said in a statement.

"As a first step, they must turn to the knowledge and experience contained within our schools because those on the front lines of education know better than anyone else the change we need to see," he added. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS



Narra extracts possible cure for diabetes 'great development'

A STUDY showing that Narra tree extracts are a leading source of antioxidants that prevent various illnesses, including diabetes, is a great development that must be pursued with the help of the government.

"This is a great development in our medical industry, which must be pursued vigorously with the help of the government," Melandrew T. Velasco, president and executive director of the Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI), said in an interview with the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Tuesday.

Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), the country's national tree, is known for its hardwood used for cabinetwork. Little is known about its medicinal attributes.

"It is included in the 2002 list of forest tree species with medicinal uses compiled by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of DENR," Velasco said. "Different parts of the Narra tree have medicinal uses, such as the decoction of the bark is used for diarrhea. Its young leaves are used to treat boils, skin ulcers, and prickly heat. A light infusion of the leaves is also used to control fever. Root extract is used on syphilitic sores. The wood has diuretic, antidiarrhetic, antithermic, and antimalarial properties. The fruit kernel is given as emetic."

He noted a study conducted by the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy that the Narra tree's branch and bark contain the highest Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) scores in the country, and among the top 10 of the US Department of Agriculture List of the top 326 food items with antioxidants in the world.

Velasco said the ORAC score is the unit of measure of antioxidants, which is the body's natural defense against harmful compounds that are linked to multiple illnesses.

This was contained in the De La Salle-Medical and Health Sciences Institute's Narra Extract Research Report, which also showed the presence of pterocarpin and pterostilbene, two potent antioxidants discovered.

Velasco said a 2006 study by Pari and Sathesh on diabetic rats showed that supplementing with the antioxidant pterostilbene could improve blood sugar levels more than 10 times as effectively as metformin.

Dr. Glenn Soriano, a US-licensed medical doctor and advocate of natural medicine, said human clinical trials must be run to prove that pterostilbene from Philippine Narra extracts could treat diabetes in humans.

"However, such projects are very costly, ranging in the millions of pesos just to start, so a major sponsor like DOST (Department of Science and Technology) is needed to fund this research," Soriano said. "A significant decrease in glucose, and significant increase in plasma insulin levels were observed in normal and diabetic rats treated with pterostilbene. The effects of pterostilbene were comparable to the experimental effects of 500 mg./kg. oral metformin."

Velasco said the DOST should spearhead the funding of human clinical trials.

"Should the human clinical trials push through with positive findings, there is hope that millions of lives and millions of pesos spent in drugs for the treatment of diabetes will be saved," he said.

Velasco said it is a sad reality that diabetes mellitus is among the top 10 leading causes of mortality in the Philippines since years back.

In its latest preliminary report, the Philippine Statistics Authority identified diabetes mellitus as the fourth leading cause of mortality from January to June 2022.

Over the period, deaths due to diabetes mellitus reached 16,970, with a 6.5 percent share, making it the fourth leading cause of death in the Philippines.

"Diabetics need not despair. They can live more comfortably by consuming more antioxidants, which

can be sourced from fruits and vegetables or from supplements. One among these supplements is the Ecarma health supplement in capsule form and tea bags which are made from pure Narra extract," Velasco said.

Meanwhile, he said the MTFI intends to plant 10 million trees in critical watersheds by 2030.

"The endangered Narra has been identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as one of the suitable trees for forest restoration and urban forestry in the country," Velasco said.

"A million trees can save lives," he said, adding that the inclusion of Narra in the preferred list of species is indeed laudable.

"Not only is it the country's national tree following the Governor General Frank Murphy's Proclamation No. 652 in 1934, it is among the country's premium tree species with its various uses," he said.

PNA



Asean to recognize new Biodiversity Heroes



THE 2017 Asean Biodiversity Heroes are (from left): Eyad Samhan of Brunei Darussalam; Sophea Chhin of Cambodia; Alex Waisimon of Indonesia; Nitsavanh Louangkhot Pravongviengkham of Lao PDR; Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid of Malaysia; Dr. Maung Maung Kyi of Myanmar; Dr. Angel C. Alcalá of the Philippines; Prof. Leo Tan Wee Hin of Singapore; Dr. Nonn Panitvong of Thailand; and Prof. Dang Huy Huynh of Vietnam. ACB PHOTO

AMONG the numerous roadblocks to achieving global biodiversity targets, the lack of public awareness on the crucial role of biodiversity ranks as one of most concerning, according to the Convention Biological Diversity (CBD). Without keen awareness of the link between biodiversity and human survival, people are not likely to take conservation measures.

To help bridge this awareness gap, Asean will recognize outstanding individuals from the region who have contributed significantly to biodiversity efforts. The awards ceremony will be one of the highlights of the Seventh Asean Heritage Parks Conference to be held in Bogor, Indonesia, in November.

The Asean Biodiversity Heroes recognizes exceptional individuals from the Asean member states who have contributed significantly

to biodiversity efforts in their respective communities and countries.

"Since it was launched in 2017, the Asean Biodiversity Heroes has showcased the work of notable individuals from the business, academic, nonprofit, and government sectors to make the world a healthier place for future generations," said Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

"We shared stories of people who stood up for biodiversity and did what they can to help curb biodiversity loss. Our hope is that through the Heroes, we can boost public awareness and light a fire in people to stand up for biodiversity, too," Lim said.

One of the commemorative activities for the 55th anniversary of Asean and the 17th anniversary of the ACB, the Asean Biodiversity

Heroes Awards is a flagship initiative of the Asean supported by the European Union through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asean project; and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC). The ACB serves as the awards secretariat.

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will each nominate one Asean Biodiversity Hero to represent their country.

In nominating an individual, they will consider the relevance of the nominee's contributions to biodiversity conservation, the impact of the contributions to biodiversity conservation efforts in their respective countries and the region, the replicability of their actions, and the recognition they received in communities where they belong.

Each awardee will receive a Heroes' fund worth \$5,000 to augment the valuable advocacy efforts they are doing in their respective countries for biodiversity.

An Asean trophy and a special prize courtesy of MPIC will also be given to the awardees.

The laureates, who will be known as the faces of biodiversity conservation in the Asean region, will also be invited to share their advocacies in various regional events.

The 2017 Asean Biodiversity Heroes were Eyad Samhan of Brunei Darussalam; Sophea Chhin of Cambodia; Alex Waisimon of Indonesia; Nitsavanh Louangkhot Pravongviengkham of Lao PDR; Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid of Malaysia; Dr. Maung Maung Kyi of Myanmar; Dr. Angel C. Alcalá of the Philippines; Prof. Leo Tan Wee Hin of Singapore; Dr. Nonn Panitvong of Thailand; and Prof. Dang Huy Huynh of Vietnam.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Lionheart Farms wins 'Sustainability Company of the Year' at Asia CEO Awards 2022

Lionheart has become the first agricultural company in Asia to be certified under the international Climate Bonds Initiative supported by the US Agency for International Development and GreenInvest.

Lionheart Farms won the Sustainability Company of the Year award at the recent Asia CEO Awards 2022, the largest celebration of leadership excellence in Southeast Asia.

The South Palawan-based company was among 10 shortlisted commercial industries in the Circle of Excellence awards – an impressive group of nominees making tremendous contributions to the nation's development.

Lionheart won as Sustainability Company of the Year among more than 400 nominations received from the nation's most important organizations and leaders. It topped the judging criteria in Management Achievement, Financial Contribution, Pioneering Achievements, Recognition and Social Commitment.

The award was given at a grand event on 11 October at the Manila Marriott Grand Ballroom.

Lionheart's award was received by Christian Eyde Moeller, Lionheart co-founder and CEO. In his remarks, he said: "Sustainability guides us toward a holistic approach for the benefit of people and the planet. There is both a need and an opportunity in the transformation of agriculture and the sustainable development of rural Philippines. In our sustainable approach, we are first and foremost looking to ensure the equitable participation of everyone. Having a value-based approach forces us to rethink traditional approaches, as obviously just continuing to do the same will not bring true sustainable transformation."

"Leaving rural communities and independent farmers to navigate the complexities of the needed transformation alone will not deliver the desired outcome," he added. "Each of the four pillars of sustainability bring their own unique challenges, demanding dedicated and specialized resources to address them."

Lionheart Farms, which started its operations in 2016, is an integrated coconut farming and processing company in Rizal, Palawan that produces coconut sap to manufacture organic products such as coconut syrup, sugar, vinegar, teriyaki, and aminos. Creating work for almost two thousand people, it has become one of the largest employers in Palawan,



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF LIONHEART

LIONHEART Farms received its Sustainability Company of the Year award on 11 October 2022 at the Manila Marriott Grand Ballroom.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

23 OCT 2022

TITLE: _____

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DATE: _____

Climate activists target sports cars at Paris motor show

PARIS, France (AFP) — Climate activists glued themselves to sports cars Friday evening at the Mondial de l'Auto, a major car show in Paris.

Video from the group's Twitter account showed around a dozen campaigners crouching next to the front of a line of red sports cars or holding up a banner, and shouting

slogans.

"They are denouncing a polluting industry that is trying to 'greenwash' its image with the help of 'green' vehicles, but which continues to promote individual car ownership as the transport of the future," said a statement from the group.

They called for an end to

advertising for individual ownership of private vehicles and improvements in public transport.

The group said 11 people had been arrested.

Extinction Rebellion is one of a new wave of environmental campaigners using direct action and civil disobedience to draw attention to

their cause.

Activists from the group have also been travelling around Paris at night to switch off store signs and advertising screens at a time when the government has called on people to cut back on electricity use.

Activists from another group, Just Stop Oil, targeted an Aston Martin showroom in London, spraying it with

orange paint last Sunday.

The same group was behind the action at London's National Gallery last week when two campaigners threw tomato soup over Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting then glued themselves to the wall below it.

The gallery said there was only minor damage to the frame and the painting itself was unharmed.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Argao, Cebu

ABANG SA YUTANG PUBLIKO

GIPADANGAT KINING PAHIBALO, nga ang buhatan sa Department sa KALIKOPANHONG UG KINAIYANHONG KAHINGUHAAN (DENR), CENRO, Argao, Cebu modawat ug atubangay (binaba) o sinulat nga tanyag presyohanay sa dili molapas sa alas dyes (10:00) ang takna sa buntag petsa 5 sa Enero, 2023 para sa abang sa luna sa yutang publiko nga gihulayway dinhi sa ubos:

Numero sa Aplikasyon : MLA No. 072241 - 37

Nahimutangan sa yuta : South Poblacion & Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu

Nahulagway sa luna : Foreshore Land

Gikantidad sa a) yuta : =P= 6,000 per square meters or P 8,472,000.00 for the whole tract (1,412 square meters) South Poblacion, San Fernando, Cebu
=P= 4,500 per square meter or P 128,646,000.00 for the whole tract (28,588 square meters) Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu

Kinatibuk-ang kantidad : =P= 137,118,000.00

b) mihuras : =P= 380,295,592.00

Gi- aplayan a) para : Port Expansion Purposes

b) ni : Solid Earth Development Corporation
Represented by Mitzie Almira I. Carin

Ang malamposon nga mitanyag ning maong presyo kon lain sa nag- aply sa itaas mo- uli o mohulip sa balor gikantidad sa mihuras ug sa gasto sa pagpa subesta sa pagsukod sa maong luna sa yuta.

Ang katungod sa pag – ABANG ning maong yuya ihatag sa tawong nagtanyag sa labing taas nga ABANG tinuig, diin kini dili gayud mominus sa tulo (3%) ka porsiento sa gikantidad nga balor sa yuta ug dugang nga usa (1%) ka porsiento sa balor sa gimugna o nagplastar nga mihuras. Aron nga ang usa ka kwalipikadong aplikante sa yutang publiko, ug nga sa dili pa magsugod kini, modeposito ug balor ug tulo (3) ka bulan nga abangan. Deposito nga gawas sa kwarta lamang sama sa “CASH”, “MONEY ORDER”, “TREASURY WARRANT”, CERTIPIKADONG TSEKE”, “CASHIER O MANAGER TSEKE” ang dawaton. Ang pagtanyag-presyohanay sa usa ka tawo agig representasyon sa laing tawo nga kinahanglan ug pinalihok nga “ SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY”, panahon nga mopataas siya sa iyang tanyag – presyo aron pagkompleto sa tulo (3) ka bulan nga abangan, kon dili ang among gipatas-ang tanyag presyo dili pagadawaton.

Gireserba ang katungod sa pagdawat o sa pagsalikway sa usa ka nagtanyag- presyo o tanan niini.

Argao, Sugbo, Pilipinas, Setyembre 30, 2022.

NOLITO A. LAPINIG
OIC, CENR Officer



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Argao, Cebu

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that DENR – CENRO, Argao, Cebu will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning on January 5, 2023 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

Location of Land	:	South Poblacion & Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
Description	:	Foreshore Land
Boundaries	:	NW along line 1 -2 by FLC – 072241- 12 (Solid Earth); On the NE, SE, and SW, along lines 2-3-4-5 by Bohol Strait; on the NW, along line 5-6 by Foreshore land; and on the NW, along line 6-1 by FLC – 072241 – 12.
Area	:	30,000 square meters
Appraised Value of Land	:	=P= 6,000 per square meters or P 8,472,000.00 for the whole tract (1,412 square meters) South Poblacion, San Fernando, Cebu =P= 4,500 per square meter or P 128,646,000.00 for the whole tract (28,588 square meters) Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
Total Appraised Value of the land	:	=P= 137,118,000.00
Existing Improvements	:	=P= 380,295,592.00
Applied for	:	Port Expansion Purposes
Applicant	:	Solid Earth Development Corporation Represented by Mitzie Almira I. Carin

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

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

Argao, Cebu, Philippines, September 30, 2022.

NOLITO A. LAMNIG
OIC, CENR Officer