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DENR

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Coca-Cola Philippines: Driving progress towards packaging circularity in the PH

Manila, Philippines - On October 14, 2022, Coca-Cola Philippines shared the 4-year progress of its World Without Waste goals—the company's global sustainable packaging initiative to support a circular economy and eliminate waste with the continual use of packaging as a valuable resource.

The company's progress highlighted in the announcement includes:

- 100% operational status of the country's first-of-its-kind recycling facility PETValue Philippines where clear plastic bottles—regardless of brand—are collected and given a new life at PETValue Philippines.
- Transition select Coca-Cola Original Taste and Wilkins Pure packaging to 100% recycled PET plastic (rPET) packaging (excluding caps and labels);
- The impact of partnerships - driving collective action toward a circular economy for plastic, and establishing over 800 collection points for used PET plastic bottles nationwide.

"At Coca-Cola, we continue to be guided by our purpose of refreshing the world and making a difference through loved brands that are produced sustainably for a better-shared future," said Tony del Rosario, President of Coca-Cola Philippines and Vice President for the East Franchise Operations of Coca-Cola ASEAN and South Pacific. "Since we started our World Without Waste journey in 2018, we have recognized the importance of partnership and collective action. Together, we are making good progress in accelerating the transition to a circular economy for our packaging in the Philippines, with much more still to do."

Pioneering recycling facility in PH now 100% fully operational

PETValue Philippines—a world-class bottle-to-bottle recycling facility using advanced recycling technologies—is now 100% operational in General Trias, Cavite. PETValue has a projected capacity of processing approximately 28 pieces of used clear PET plastic bottles, and the recycled PET resin produced will be used for Coca-Cola brands in recycled PET plastic packaging—thus situating itself as a significant contributor to a circular economy in the country and creating more job opportunities for Filipinos.

"We are extremely proud of PETValue Philippines and our partnership with Indorama Ventures, whose global expertise in recycling and green technologies will prove to be an asset to the Philippines' collective goals for sustainability," said Gareth McGeown, President and CEO of CCBPI. "Sustainability is at the heart of who we are as a company, as proven by more than a century of Coca-Cola's



(from left) Sanjay Ahuja, Executive President, Global PET Business and Recycling, Indorama Ventures; Gareth McGeown, President and CEO, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc.; Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, DENR Secretary and; Jonah De Lumen-Pemia, Director, Philippines Franchise, Coca-Cola ASEAN & South Pacific today celebrated strong partnerships made by Coca-Cola Philippines in the company's journey towards creating a World Without Waste.

existence in the Philippines. And it is through innovations like PETValue and strengthened sustainable practices that we will be here for another 100 years, serving Filipino communities."

As the world's largest producer of recycled resin used in plastic beverage bottles, PETValue Philippines is Indorama Ventures' latest and most advanced recycled PET facility, joining a family of recycling plants across Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Sanjay Ahuja, Executive President of Combined PET, Indorama Ventures, encouraged the public, "When you enjoy a Coke in a PET bottle and ensure it is collected and sent to PETValue for recycling, you play an active part in the sustainable future of the Philippines. Through the PETValue facility, every bottle will have a new life."

Supporting recycling and collection: Empowering MSMEs and the solid waste management sector

Coca-Cola Philippines uses every opportunity to bring positive change to individuals and small businesses such as sari-sari stores, waste collectors, and junk shops, with the belief that much more can be achieved through partnerships—whether with the private sector, government units, or civil society.

The company has partnered with TESDA to create TESDA-certified skills training programs that will help develop the competencies of workers in the waste sector. The National Solid Waste Management Training Program for a World Without Waste (NSWMTWP-WWW) is currently being piloted in



Department of Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized the significance of businesses investing in building resilient communities and conserving natural resources, noting that environmental investments with social impact are truly important to DENR.

the municipal government of Angono, Rizal, which has committed the full participation of all its 10 barangays.

The company's program with Plastic Bank has enabled the collection and recycling of almost 13.7M PET plastic bottles in Cavite. Informal waste collectors were also given access to training, tools, and equipment for efficient waste collection and a source of livelihood and were connected to Materials Recovery Facilities and junk shops that buy their collections to ensure the sustainability of the program.

As of September 2022, The Company has established over 800 collection points for used PET bottles nationwide. These collection points help promote the segregation and collection of used PET bottles for recycling.

With programs like Tapon to Ipon - Basta Klaro, Panelo; and Tindahan Extra Mile: Balik PET Bottle, Coca-Cola continues to grow its network and targets to activate a total of 2,200 collection hubs nationwide. MSMEs function as traditional trade outlets where community members can drop off used, clear PET plastic bottles and get incentives in return. They also earn additional income from selling collected PET plastic bottles directly to waste management companies and recyclers.

Promoting sustainable packaging solutions

Sustainable packaging remains a crucial objective for Coca-Cola. The company announced the addition of key brands Coca-Cola Original Taste and Wilkins Pure to 100% recycled PET plastic packaging (excluding caps and labels) by 2023, expanding its line-up of products in recycled plastic packaging in the Philippines. In 2019, the company was the first to launch 100% recycled PET plastic for its Vival bottles and shifted its Sprite 500ml to 100% recycled PET plastic. Meanwhile, 100% of its products in the Philippines are still in returnable glass bottles.

Coca-Cola also continues to redesign its PET plastic packaging by light weighing products to reduce the overall impact of its carbon footprint in the Philippines.



Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, highlighted the importance of the collaboration between private industries, local governments, and civil society in reducing the generation of non-environment-friendly packaging, improving the recyclability or reusability of plastic packaging wastes, as well as promoting efficient waste recovery programs aimed at preventing plastic waste from leaking into the environment.

Collaborating and cooperating to create a circular economy

Coca-Cola's efforts towards a circular economy have demonstrated that positive impact can be made through the power of partnership—whether it's connecting NGOs and the private sector with communities or empowering them through various resources and business opportunities.

The Company, together with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, The Coca-Cola Foundation in Atlanta, private sector partners, and 28 partner NGOs, has implemented programs that have collected over 119,000 kilos of waste and empowered over 680 waste pickers nationwide.

"Bringing together communities and uniting them towards a common pursuit is a crucial step in our sustainability journey," Cecile Alcantara, President of Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc., shared. "Aligned with the company's commitment to providing a better-shared future for people, communities, and the planet, we ensure that we support a circular economy. We hope that we can inspire more people to come together to help drive sustained progress and impact."

Coca-Cola looks forward to partnering with more like-minded organizations and communities to make its vision of a World Without Waste a reality—supporting and integrating a circular economy in packaging, where jobs are created and livelihoods are supported.

To learn more about Coca-Cola Philippines' World Without Waste roadmap, visit coca-cola.com.ph.



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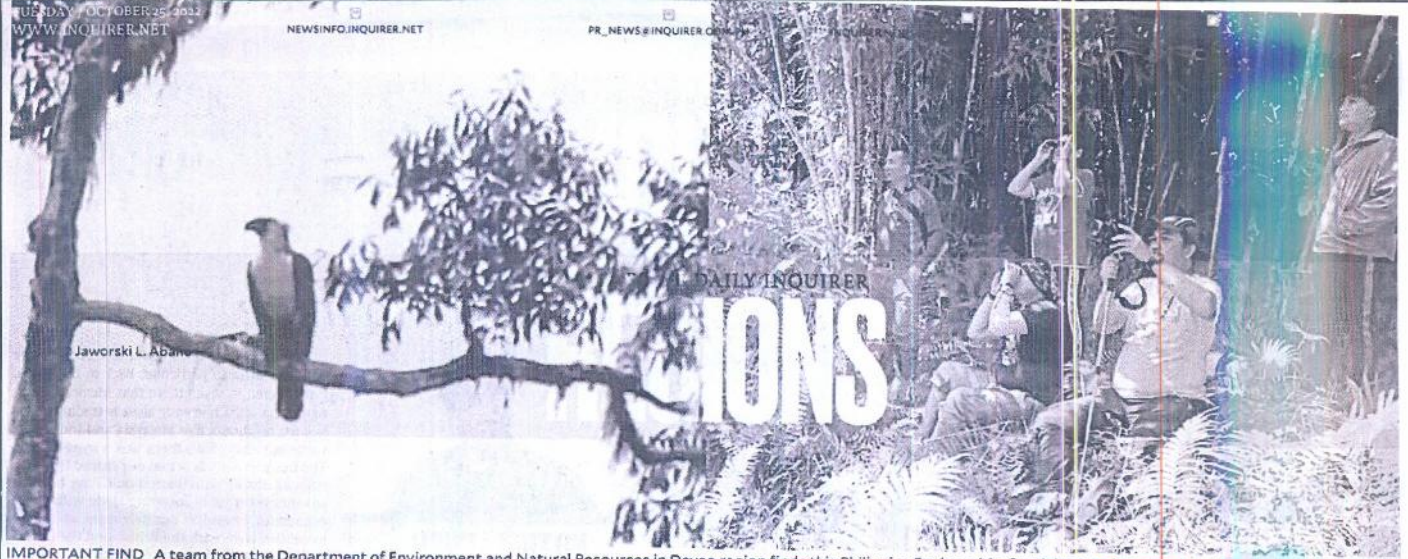
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IMPORTANT FIND A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao region finds this Philippine Eagle on Mt. Candalaga, an important sighting that is expected to boost efforts to protect the endangered bird. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENR-DAVAO REGION

BOOSTING DENR'S FOREST PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

**PHILIPPINE EAGLE SIGHTED
IN DAVAO DE ORO'S MT. CANDALAGA**

By **Germelina Lacorte**
@InqNational

DAVAO CITY—Environment officials here have confirmed the sighting of the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jeffreyi*) in the wild of Maragusan town in Davao de Oro province, an event that will likely boost their push for the inclusion of Mt. Candalaga mountain range in the list of protected areas in the region.

According to a statement released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Regional Director Bagani Fidel Evasco himself saw the Philippine Eagle at 10:55 a.m. on Oct. 12 perched on a tree in the forest canopy of Mt. Candalaga range.

The Philippine Eagle, one of the largest and most powerful among forest raptors, has already been listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature with an estimated number of only 400 pairs left in the wild.

The raptor was seen at an elevation of approximately 1,200 meters above sea level, according to the DENR regional team, which went to Mt. Candalaga after the sighting was reported earlier in the month by environment personnel from the province and the town of Monkayo.

"The group witnessed the majestic bird of prey hovering in the forest canopy of Mt. Candalaga range and was also sighted perching on a forest tree," the DENR statement said.

Flora, fauna

Evasco, who is eyeing to include the 2,100-m mountain in the protected areas in the region, also led the five-day reconnaissance climb to the mountain on April 30 last year to inventory the flora and fauna thriving in the area.

Among the flora they found

was the endemic pitcher plant *Nepenthes nebularum* and an unknown *Nepenthes* under the *N. alata* group which could be new to science, according to the DENR team. They also spotted a mistletoe plant under the genus *Amylothea* first found on Mt. Hamiguitan. It has yet to be published as a new species in Mindanao and the first record of the genus in the Philippines.

The endangered *Rafflesia mira*, one of the largest flowers in the world, was first discovered on Mt. Candalaga in 2005 although the flower was not sighted during the climb.

Still pristine

Fauna species that were documented include three species of beetles which were potentially new to science, an endangered Philippine Warty Pig, and frogs that included *Ansonia muelleri*, *Leptomantis bimaculatus* and *Limnonectes magnus* indicating that the upper slopes of Mt. Candalaga remained pristine.

The DENR described the trail to Mt. Candalaga as "highly technical and steep," hence, the department encouraged the local government of Maragusan to closely monitor and regulate the entry of visitors to the mountain and ensure that porters and guides were well equipped in wilderness search and rescue. The designated campsites in the area, however, are already well established and have access to potable water sources.

According to the DENR, protected areas are a key part in the national and local responses to climate change and other environmental challenges. But before it could be included in the National Integrated Protected Areas System, the DENR said Mt. Candalaga has to be identified first as a target for Protected Area Suitability Assessment. **INQ**



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Narrow focus on GDP fueling biodiversity losses

MAJOR biodiversity losses in the past few years are "by-products" of the world's economic growth, according to an expert from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In an Asian Development Blog, Francesco Ricciardi, a Senior Environment Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department at the Manila-based multilateral development bank, said moving away from using GDP as the main yardstick for economic growth could help reverse this trend.

Ricciardi said the increased polluting emissions in water, air and soil, land-use change, climate change and the spread of invasive species are considered the major drivers of biodiversity loss.

"Economic growth is needed to

overcome poverty and achieve prosperity targets. That same growth is responsible for potentially irreparable damage to biodiversity and to the 'ecosystem services' [such as pollination for crops, or pest control for example] it provides to humanity. These are indispensable ingredients for economic growth," Ricciardi said.

"There is no complete solution to this dilemma. The right pathway may be rethinking our global socioeconomic model, and this will take time, effort, and sacrifice," he added.

The ADB expert said if business as usual happens and no interventions are made, the global economy may continue to grow but only up to a "tipping point" which will force biodiversity to collapse. If the planet dies, he stressed, there will be no economy to speak of.

"As we are witnessing almost daily, the climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked and affect all of us, especially the most vulnerable. There is no time left to debate whether saving our planet is too expensive, or to keep promoting socioeconomic models that are clearly not working," Ricciardi said.

Some urgent steps

RICCIARDI said there are a few urgent steps in the right direction. This includes rethinking how wealth and economic growth are measured.

He said economists and media professionals should promote other indices of wealth, including natural and social capital to not only focus on GDP growth.

Some of these are the Green GDP, the Human Development In-

dex (HDI), the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI).

"There is a general global consensus that focusing on GDP is not adequate to bring the world out of the climate and biodiversity crisis, but this index is still mainstreamed in press articles, political promises, and non-specialist public perception," the expert said.

Ricciardi said there is also a need to take into account the impact of growth on biodiversity and introduce taxation and subsidies for the environment.

There is also a need, the ADB expert said, increasing protected areas and making nature-positive investments as a means to improve a country or region's natural capital.

Cai U. Ordinario



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Quirino residents receive land titles

CABARROGUIS, Quirino: More than a hundred land titles were awarded to residents in Nagtipunan town this month under the Handog Titulo Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The provincial environment and natural resources (PENR) office here said the distributed land titles covered 119.98 hectares occupied by landowners in Landingan, San Ramos, San Pugo and Anak.

The landowners secured their land titles through the assistance of Nagtipunan Mayor Noel Lim and the DENR Region 2 office led by Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan.

Lim has pledged to support the programs of the DENR on improved land administration and management and securing land titles for land occupants who have been occupying their lands for a long time.

"With the assistance of DENR, we look forward to having zero unclaimed titles at the Registry of

Deeds in the province in the coming days," the mayor said.

Lim also assured his constituents that he is going to shoulder the registration fees of those who are planning to apply for residential free patents on the land they have been occupying for a long time.

PENR officer Mariam Frances Malana of Quirino province said they will also continue to conduct information, education and communication on acquiring titles for agricultural, residential, including government lots in the province.

Meanwhile, Malana thanked the local government of Nagtipunan for partnering with the PENR office in providing secured property rights to every landowner in the municipality.

"This can be done as long as there is strong collaboration between the DENR and the LGU will even expedite the processing and issuance of patents to qualified beneficiaries," she added.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



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



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BITAOG TREE FOR FIRST LADY – Property giant Megaworld, represented by Alliance Global Group CEO Kevin Andrew Tan (right), plants a Bitag tree in honor of First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos (second from left) at the 34-hectare The Upper East township in Bacolod City on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022. The native tree is revered for its strength, beauty, and fragrant flowers and usually acts as a natural barrier on coastal areas because of its ability to withstand typhoons and other calamities. Joining the tree-planting ceremony is the youngest presidential son William Vincent Araneta Marcos (left).



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Bonding time Members of a family enjoy their time together watching boats and birds go by at the Manila Dolomite Beach near the US Embassy just off Roxas Boulevard Monday morning.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob



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'FALLING FLAT'

PLASTIC RECYCLING REMAINS A 'MYTH': GREENPEACE STUDY

WASHINGTON—Plastic recycling rates are declining even as production shoots up, according to a Greenpeace USA report out on Monday that blasted industry claims of creating an efficient, circular economy as “fiction.”

Titled “Circular Claims Fall Flat Again,” the study found that of 51 million tons of plastic waste generated by US households in 2021, only 2.4 million tons (5 percent) were recycled.

After peaking in 2014 at 10 percent, the trend has been decreasing, especially since China stopped accepting the West’s plastic waste in 2018.

Production of nonrecycled plastic meanwhile is rapidly rising

“Industry groups and big corporations have been pushing for recycling as a solution,” Greenpeace USA campaigner Lisa Ramsden told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

“By doing that, they have shirked all responsibility” for ensuring that recycling actually works, she added. She named Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Unilever and Nestle as prime offenders.

According to Greenpeace USA’s survey, only two types of plastic are widely accepted at the nation’s 375 material recovery facilities.

The first is polyethylene terephthalate, which is commonly used in water and soda bottles; and the second is high density polyethylene, seen in milk jugs, shampoo bottles and cleaning product containers.

But being recyclable in theory doesn’t mean products are being recycled in practice. —AFP



Plastic recycling remains a 'myth' — Greenpeace study

By ISSAM AHMED

Washington, United States (AFP) — Plastic recycling rates are declining even as production shoots up, according to a Greenpeace USA report out Monday that blasted industry claims of creating an efficient, circular economy as "fiction."

Titled "Circular Claims Fall Flat Again," the study found that of 51 million tons of plastic waste generated by US households in 2021, only 2.4 million tons were recycled, or around five percent.

After peaking in 2014 at 10 percent, the trend has been decreasing, especially since China stopped accepting the West's plastic waste in 2018.

Virgin production — of non-recycled plastic, that is — meanwhile is rapidly rising as the petrochemical industry expands, lowering costs.

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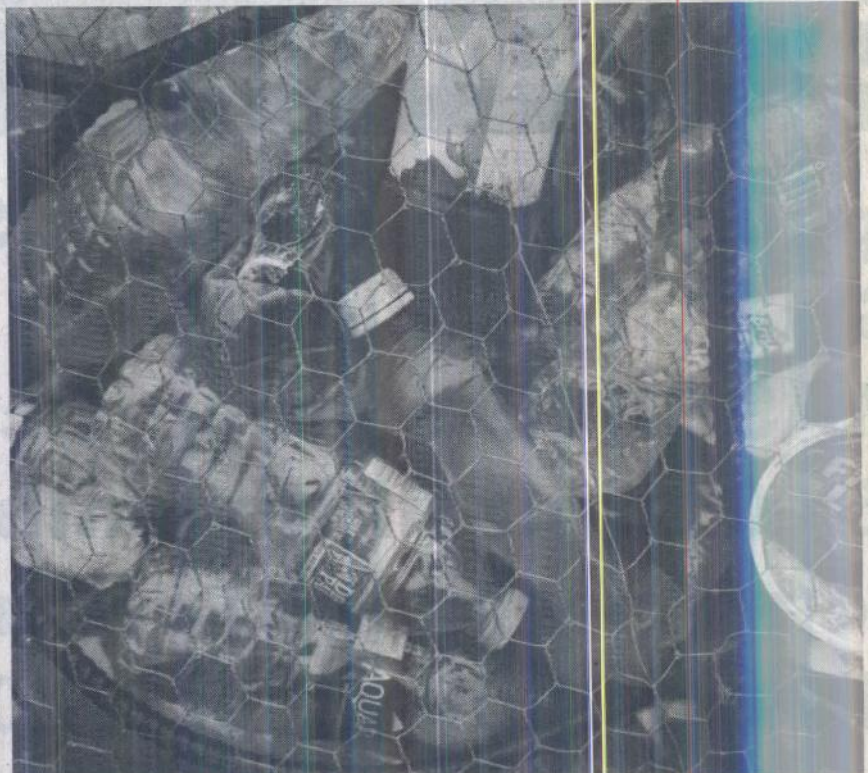
The first is polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is commonly used in water and soda bottles; and the second is high density polyethylene (HDPE), seen in milk jugs, shampoo bottles and cleaning product containers.

These are numbered "1" and "2" according to a standardized system in which there are seven plastic types.

But being recyclable in theory doesn't mean products are being recycled in practice.

The report found that PET and HDPE products had actual reprocessing rates of 20.9 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively — both down slightly from Greenpeace USA's last survey in 2020.

Plastic types "3" through "7" — including children's toys, plastic bags, produce wrappings, yogurt and margarine tubs, coffee cups and to-go food containers — were reprocessed at rates of less than five percent.



A GREENPEACE USA study found that of 51 million tons of plastic waste generated by US households in 2021, only 2.4 million tons was recycled, around five percent. (AFP)

Despite often carrying the recycling symbol on their labels, products that use plastic types "3" through "7" fail to meet the Federal Trade Commission classification of recyclable.

This is because recycling facilities for these types aren't available to a "substantial majority" of the population, defined as 60 percent, and because the collected products are not being used in the manufacturing or assembly of new items.

According to the report, there were five main reasons why plastic recycling is a "failed concept."

Economically unfeasible

First, plastic waste is generated in vast quantities and is extremely difficult to collect — as becomes clear during what the report called ineffective "volunteer cleanup stunts" funded by nonprofits such as "Keep America Beautiful."

Second, even if it were all collected, mixed plastic waste cannot be recycled together, and it would be "functionally impossible to sort the trillions of pieces of consumer plastic waste produced each year," the report said.

Third, the recycling process itself is environmentally harmful, exposing workers to toxic chemicals and itself generating microplastics.

Fourth, recycled plastic carries toxicity risks through contamination with other plastic types in collection bins, preventing it from becoming food-grade material again.

Fifth and finally, the process of recycling is prohibitively expensive.

"New plastic directly competes with recycled plastic, and it's far cheaper to produce and of higher quality," said the report.

Ramsden called on corporations to support a Global Plastics Treaty, which United Nations members agreed to create in February, and move toward refill and reuse strategies.

"This isn't actually a new concept — it's how the milkman used to be, it's how Coca-Cola used to get its beverages to people. They would drink their beverage, give the glass bottle back, and it would be sanitized and reused," she said.

Some countries are leading the way, including India, which recently banned 19 single-use plastic items. Austria has set reuse targets of 25 percent by 2025 and at least 30 percent by 2030 for beverage packaging, while Portugal has also set the 30 percent by 2030 goal.

Chile is moving to phase out single-use cutlery and mandating refillable bottles.



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Hinatuan Mining brings 'green jobs' to communities

THE weavers in Sitio Campandan in the island of Hinatuan have been contracted by Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), to produce 5,000 seedling pots made of "pandan dagat" (pandanus tectorius), which they call "jobo pots," in a per-contract arrangement worth P25,000. HMC engages the weavers as part of the mining company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives.

Rigena Perale, a 58-year old resident of Sitio Campandan, understands the value the contract contributes to HMC's goal of getting rid of plastics, which become

seedling pots and augment the income of the people in the island.

HMC is seriously adhering to the global clamor of employing ESG criteria in evaluating, measuring and reporting about the company's impact on the environment and governance.

"With all the deliberations about climate change and business sustainability, it has become critical that our business moves are intertwined with ESG concerns, and engaging the communities is a necessary aspect" says engineer Francis Arañes, resident mine manager.

Arañes explains that it is the whole process of sustainability for



Rigena Perales, 58, needs under 5 minutes to weave this seedling pot called 'jobo.' CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

which HMC is aiming. Right now, 40-percent of its seedling pots are "jobo pots." The big goal is to have at least 80 percent before the end of 2023.

Jomer Tiamson, HMC environ-

ment manager, says it entails cost because a plastic seedling bag is 25 centavos apiece while a "jobo pot," which the mining company buys from weavers, costs the NAC subsidiary P5.



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DILG vows to further strengthen barangay disaster preparedness

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) vowed to accelerate the department's efforts to strengthen barangays' preparedness in responding to disasters and other emergencies to avert loss of life and assets as the Philippines tops the World Disaster Risk Index 2022.

Responding to the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Interior and Local Government Secretary Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. Abalos said the DILG, as the Vice Chairman for Disaster Preparedness of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), seeks to equip barangays with the necessary knowledge, skills, and capacities to manage and reduce disaster risks to become disaster prepared and resilient Filipino communities.

"The President has instructed me to assure each and every one of you that this administration is committed to ensuring that the smallest yet one of the most important units of government are fully capacitated and responsive to the needs of the people, especially in their disaster response capabilities," the DILG chief said during the 2nd Barangay Resilience Exchange 2022 (BRX2022) Digital Conference.

Organized by the Cebuana Lhuillier Foundation Inc. (CLFI), the BRX2022 banners the theme "Ang Handang Barangay, Mahusay!" that highlights the significance of collaboration between the government, private and multi-sectoral organizations, and the community in surviving natural disasters, calamities and emergencies.

He said under the Marcos administration, one of the priorities was to increase the preparedness of the barangays when it comes to responding to disasters and other emergencies.

"Isa po iyan sa ating mga prayoridad — ang mapataas ang kahandaan ng mga barangay pagdating sa pagresponde sa mgapanahon ngsakuna at ibang mga emergency [That is one of our priorities—to increase the preparedness of the barangays when it comes to responding to times of disaster and other emergencies]," he pointed out.

Barangays' primary duties in disaster resilience include the establishment and operationalization of the Barangay Risk Reduction Management Committees (BRRMC), the development of barangay disaster risk reduction and management plans, and the allocation of funds for disaster response and recovery.

To increase local government

unit (LGU) capacity, Abalos said the department will persist in the implementation of Operation LISTO, its flagship disaster preparedness advocacy program cascaded to the barangay level through the Listo si Kap!, a checklist of pro-active actions taken as preparatory and necessary measures based on the manual of higher LGUs and the disaster preparedness minimum standards.

He also said the DILG is conducting several assessment activities to gauge the performance of local government units, including the barangays, in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management-Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM-CCA) in order to ensure that gaps are addressed and good practices are replicated.

"For the barangays, there is an ongoing development to assess the functionality of BDRRMCs and the initial stage of the implementation of the Seal of Good Local Governance for barangays which looks into disaster risk reduction and management as one of its core areas," he said.

The DILG Secretary also said the Department's National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) and other bureaus and offices continue to work hand-in-hand to enable access to finance and ensure that barangays, even being the smallest LGU, are given a big share of the department's projects, programs and activities (PPAs) for the local government sector.

"Inatasan na rin natin ang Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) upang tumulong sa training ng mga barangay officials upang mapataas ang kanilang kapasidad [We have also assigned the Bureau of Fire Protection to assist in training barangay officials to increase their capacity]," he added.

The World Risk Index is an annual report that calculates disaster risk for 193 countries covering vulnerability from earthquakes, hurricanes/typhoons, floods (both coastal and riverine), drought, sea-level rise, tsunamis, and conflict. It dates back to 2011 and is published by the Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr University Bochum.

Meanwhile, Abalos highlighted the crucial role the barangays played in epitomizing the resilience of Filipinos during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when they became the first line of defense in the communities against the virus and had to serve their constituents and address the situation with their available resources and manpower. *Glen Jacob Jose*



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Metro Pacific boosts livelihood opportunities of fisherfolk in eight Muntinlupa barangays by providing fishing boats

METRO Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), the country's leading infrastructure investments firm, supported the livelihood of around 800 members of the City Fisheries Aquatic Resource Management Council (CFARMC) by providing fishing boats or bancas to eight barangays in Muntinlupa.

In a ceremonial turnover last October 11, MPIC together with Huawei Philippines, Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad), the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), and the City Government of Muntinlupa, entrusted eight bancas to barangays Sucat, Buli, Alabang, Cupang, Bayanan, Putatan, Poblacion, and Tunasan. Maynilad also turned over three solar paddle wheels aerator water treatment system that improves the quality of water in rivers and lakes, to the City's Lake Management Office.

Beyond utilizing the boats to bolster the livelihoods of these fisherfolk, they will likewise be used to conduct clean-up drives in Laguna Lake, aligned with MPIC, Maynilad, and LLDA's Laguna de Bay Welfare Awareness advocacy (LAWA) of protecting Laguna de Bay.

"Fishing is one of the oldest, most basic, and most important forms of livelihood. We see it as an integral part of our company's mission to uplift fisherfolk communities, who help supply our communities and our country with adequate food," says MPIC Chairman, President, and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan.

The LAWA Initiative

UNDER Gabay Kalikasan, one of the Group's six Gabay Advocacies for a Sustainable Philippines, LAWA highlights the critical role that Laguna Lake plays with respect to the social and economic development of the region. It consolidates the group's efforts to promote awareness and establish various programs in line with LLDA's mandate to "transform Laguna Lake into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution."

Supporting this directive entails

providing the needed support to the communities surrounding Laguna Lake, most of whom rely heavily on fishing as their primary source of livelihood and income. With their dependence on the lake comes the unavoidable effects on the area's natural resources.

"MPIC's donation of bancas not only enables our community folk to sustain their existing livelihoods, but also enforces a sense of responsibility to care for the Lake that they depend on daily," says Muntinlupa City Mayor Rozzano Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon.

Given the importance of the lake to Metro Manila's ecosystem, MPIC, LLDA, and its partners, recognized the need for collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors for the sustainable development of the Laguna Lake for the benefit of present and future generations.

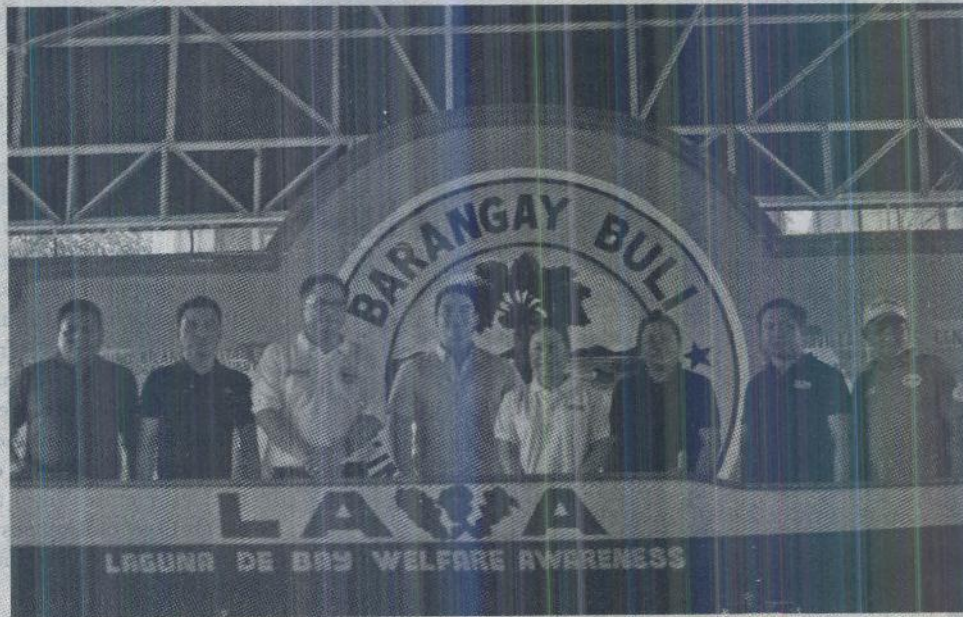
"Our unwavering commitment to build a more resilient and sustainable future for our people and our planet is the driving force behind our efforts," says MPIC Chief Finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla. "We will be relentless in our pursuit to protect Laguna de Bay to sustain our present and

future generations."

Initial priority areas to be addressed by the LAWA initiative include the communication, education, and public awareness; promotion of wastewater management systems to help address the lake's algal bloom problem; organization of clean-up drives for the tributaries; livelihood support and development; and the establishment of programs to hamper the proliferation of water hyacinths, the most damaging aquatic plant worldwide, currently covering approximately 20 percent of Laguna de Bay.

The livelihood support program under the LAWA initiative emphasizes MPIC's role as the largest catalyst for a Sustainable Philippines, aimed to improve the lives in the country through providing essential services and mobilizing advocacies that uplift the quality of life of all Filipinos.

This is also aligned with MPIC's efforts to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) particularly SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 13 Climate Action, 14 Life Below Water, and 15 Life on Land.



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



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Villanueva urges CSC to end 'endo', JO, COS

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATE Majority Leader Joel Villanueva has called on the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to address the high number of Job Order (JO) and Contract of Service (COS) employees in government.

He also exhorted the CSC to provide the workers with security of tenure especially if they have civil service eligibility.

Villanueva also lauded the move of the CSC to give "preferential rating" for JOs and COS in the next civil service examination which will put into consideration their number of years in service.

"This is a welcome development on the

part of the CSC to secure jobs for JO and COS workers in the government. Let's end endo in government once and for all," Villanueva said.

"We have been raising the issue of unfilled positions in government during budget hearings since we became a senator in 2016, and the number of JOs and COS workers in government remains a problem. It's about time that we address the issue of contractualization in government," Villanueva said.

He added that while there are 170,688 unfilled government positions, the government has 642,077 employees under JO or COS, representing 26.07 percent of

all government workers.

According to the data from the CSC, the top government agencies with the highest number of JO and COS employees are the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) (22,457), Department of Education (DepEd) (12,465), Department of Health (DOH) (8,188), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) (7,340) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (5,487).

Data also shows that these agencies have the following unfilled positions: DPWH (3,180), DepEd (47,034), DOH (21,038), DSWD (381) and DENR (2,430).



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT** of the proposed **800 MW Belisama Pumped-Storage Project of Belisama Hydropower Corporation** located in Barangays Mabato-Azufre and Dambo, Municipality of Pangil, Barangays Dorado, Banilan and Kabulusan, Municipality of Pakil, Province of Laguna.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **800 MW Belisama Pumped-Storage Project** to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
09 November 2022	9:30 AM (Registration starts at 9:00AM)	August Inn Resort and Events Place, Siniloan, Laguna

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the **Belisama Hydropower Corporation** application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Proponent	Belisama Hydropower Corporation
Project Name	800 MW Belisama Pumped-Storage Project
Project Location	Barangays Mabato-Azufre and Dambo, Municipality of Pangil, Province of Laguna Barangays Dorado, Banilan and Kabulusan, Municipality of Pakil, Province of Laguna
Components	Powerhouse complex: 20,000 m ² Power waterways: 2.26 km Upper reservoir: 312,500 m ² Access roads: 4 km
Rationale	The proposed hydropower facility as a renewable energy resource is seen to augment power supply and contribute to energy security in the country. In addition, the Project is consistent with the strategy directions of the Philippine Development Plan and the Power Development Plan.
Project Capacity	800MW

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

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

EMB CALABARZON
6th Floor 1515 DENR By the Bay Bldg.,
Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila

Pakil Municipal Hall
TBR2, Pakil, Laguna

PENRO Rizal
Don Hilario Cruz Ave., Brgy San Juan,
Taytay Rizal

Pangil Municipal Hall
Brgy. San Jose, Pangil, Laguna

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Joel G. Polintan** or at this email: joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph

MT - Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 2022