

26 October 2022, Wednesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



NEWS

DENR tells couple: Stop river project

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued a show cause order against a couple—a British national and his Filipino wife—behind construction activities at the Lanatin River in Tanay, Rizal, citing their lack of a permit. Concerned residents have expressed fear the unauthorized project may affect the flow of the river that runs through the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve. —STORY BY MARIEJO S. RAMOS

A6

Private dev't on Tanay river alarms locals; DENR steps in

By Mariejo S. Ramos
@MariejoRamosINQ

Concerned residents in Tanay, Rizal province, have sounded the alarm over a private development project, which they fear will disrupt the natural flow of a river that runs through a protected area.

The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has acted on their complaint against the construction and dredging activities being done on a portion of Lanatin River in Barangay Cayabu.

A representative from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), the DENR's local office in Rizal, confirmed on Tuesday that a show cause order was delivered to Neil Short, a British national, on Oct. 14.

Short, however, refused to receive the document, according to the Penro representative.

The order, a copy of which was seen by the Inquirer, was dated Oct. 10 and addressed to both Short and his Filipino wife, Blessilda.

It noted that the couple "have been conducting unauthorized activities [using] heavy equipment and excavating the



UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES Screenshot of drone footage shows British national Neil Short operating a backhoe at the Lanatin River. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lanatin River" within the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve without a permit from Penro and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

Explanation sought

Penro Rizal ordered the Shorts to immediately stop the project and explain in writing within five working days why it should not be terminated. The office said they may be cited for violating Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Area System Act.

Under the law, unauthorized use of mechanized equipment to the detriment of a protected area is penalized with a fine of between P200,000 and P1 million, or imprisonment of one to six years, or both. Illegal construction or occupation of a piece of land without a PAMB or DENR clearance carries a P1-million to P5-million fine and a prison term of six to 12 years.

The show cause order issued to the Shorts was signed by Penro officer Ramil Limpiada.

Tanay environmental offi-

cer Suzette Villanueva said her office went to the project site for a "follow-up operation" on Tuesday afternoon but did not see the couple.

Backhoe operations

On Saturday, a group of Cayabu residents posted on social media a purported video of the 59-year-old Short operating a backhoe at the site.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Salvador Lao said he and his fellow villagers were questioning whether anyone could just alter the natural terrain within a protected area, noting that Lanatin River was within the Kaliwa watershed and forest reserve.

"We don't own the land here. We were only given permits by the DENR to provide tourism and livelihood opportunities for the locals," said Lao, who operates a tourist camp in the barangay.

And yet, he said, "this foreigner claimed he owns 20,000 hectares of land here."

He recalled that on Oct. 6, they noticed Short laying the foundations for a "dam" and redirecting the flow of the river. By Oct. 13, laborers had started transporting cement and steel bars to the project site. INQ



Senators firm up PHL-France bilateral ties with Paris visit

By BUTCH FERNANDEZ @butchfBM

SENATE President Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, taking advantage of the Congress session break, led a delegation of Philippine senators set to meet with their French counterparts to firm up and enhance bilateral ties between Manila and Paris.

Legarda, in a pre-departure statement, affirmed their upcoming talks with top French officials are expected to be "an opportune time for us to assess our country's strong ties with the French Republic and discuss how we can foster our friendship and cooperation, especially on areas that concern both the Philippines and France."

She added "matters relating to the environment, and the blue economy would be among the topics to be tackled in their meetings, stressing deliberating on the issues is timely and significant as these are connected to climate change, which remains a top global concern."

"Our visit to France is a chance for the Philippines to convey our vision, plans, and involvement in addressing global challenges such as climate change," added Legarda.

The Senate President Pro Tempore assured, "Our country fully recognizes France's steady allegiance to be a global leader in addressing the issue, and we are fully committed to supporting the Paris Agreement."

At the same time, Legarda reminded that the Paris Agreement, also referred to the Paris Climate Accord as an international climate change treaty adopted in 2015 by members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

It will be recalled that in 2017, Legarda, who chaired the Subcommittee on the Paris Agreement under the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, also sponsored the Philippines's concurrence in ratifying the agreement.

In addition, Legarda likewise led the Philippine contingent into assenting to the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People after United States Senator Russell Feingold sought her guidance and leadership in bringing the Philippines to the HAC, an agreement started by France, among other nations.

"These are just some of the issues we intend to bring to the table during our meetings," she added recalling that the Philippines and France "enjoy 75 years of fruitful and vibrant friendship and cooperation in various areas such as economy, defense, food security, and people-to-people relations, and these, too, are part of our agenda."

Legarda, likewise, affirmed that "it is an honor to be part of the Philippine delegation once again, and I look forward to making our bilateral ties with France stronger," she concluded.

At the same time, she confirmed that the Philippine delegation is also meeting with the France-Southeast Asia Parliamentary Friendship Group led by its president, Senator Mathieu Darnaud.



70-26-22

TITLE:

PAGE 1/2

DATE

Climate inaction puts economy at risk

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jolson
Reporter

THE IMPACT of climate change is likely to slash the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) by as much as 13.6% by 2040 if there is no action by the government and private sector, the World Bank said on Tuesday. "Damages from climate change are a threat to the Phil-

ippine economy. It is likely to reduce GDP substantially, but the range of possible outcomes is wide," World Bank Lead Economist Souleymane Coulibaly said at a briefing on its Philippines Country Climate Development Report.

Mr. Coulibaly said World Bank estimates showed the Philippines may see a 3.2% average loss in GDP by 2030, and as much as a 5.7% loss in GDP by 2040.

"However, the impact could be much worse reaching 13.6% in 2040 if no actions are taken... with the worst effects in capital-intensive industries," he added.

World Bank Country Director for the Philippines Ndiame Diop said that the Philippines is "uniquely vulnerable" to climate change.

"In 2022, the Philippines ranked number one among the countries most affected by ex-

trreme weather events...climate change is often called a silent crisis, but in the Philippines, it is not silent. It's an imposing problem and a real threat," he added.

Climate-related hazards have caused P506.1 billion in losses and damage to the Philippines over the past decade, the Department of Finance (DoF) said last year.

Signs of climate change can be seen through rising temperatures, longer and more intense

droughts, more severe tropical storms and increasing sea levels.

The Philippines is struck by around 20 tropical cyclones every year, but has seen much stronger typhoons in recent years.

"Temperatures in the Philippines will continue to rise by the end of the 21st century. Rainfall patterns will change and intensify, and extreme weather will become more frequent. Without action, climate change will im-

pose substantial economic and human costs, affecting the poorest households the most," Mr. Diop said.

Stefano Pagiola, World Bank senior environmental economist, said climate change poses major risks for development in the Philippines and that policy inaction would result in substantial economic and human costs, especially for the poor.

Climate, SI/II



Climate, from SI/1

"These will hamper economic activities and development...adaptation is a priority for the Philippines. It is not just reducing risk and damage but addressing slow onset events like sea level rising," he said.

In the report, the World Bank noted the Philippines has taken action against climate change but this has been mostly "uneven."

"Responsibilities over climate action are often dispersed and duplicative, policies are partially implemented, and there is no capacity or resources from local government units," Mr. Pagiola said.

Agriculture, which contributes around a tenth of GDP, is one of the most vulnerable sectors against climate change, he added.

"It is affected directly by temperature changes and direct damage by typhoons. Because of climate change, productivity of many crops will decline. Rain-fed crops are most affected, such as rice, sugarcane, and maize," Mr. Pagiola said.

The Philippines should adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, but this would depend on whether or not this is financially attractive for farmers, he added.

According to Mr. Coulibaly, the Philippines' early adaptation can reduce the impact of climate change on the economy. "Measures to adapt to climate change will reduce economic losses by two-thirds," he said.

World Bank economists said the Philippines should ramp up efforts to reduce emission levels.

The Philippines has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% from 2020 to 2030.

"Mitigation measures could be associated with a positive impact on GDP if carbon tax revenues are used for investment. The GDP could increase by about 0.5% and generate about 80,000 jobs in 2040," Mr. Coulibaly said.

He noted there is a need for public and private investments to finance climate-resilient infrastructure and accelerate the adoption of green technologies.

"On the private side, issuing environmental social and governance bonds under the recently introduced Sustainable Finance Framework (SFF) could leverage private financing for climate actions," he added.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, who also heads the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), said there is a need to integrate climate action in the country's development plans.

"Perhaps no other issue is more important — none more existential and critical to humanity's future, at least, at this point in history, than climate change," he said in a pre-recorded message.

"The Philippines also has a running ecological deficit, wherein our ecological footprint goes beyond our area's natural capacity. If we do not get our act right soon, more communities will be routinely displaced, more economic activities disrupted, and more agricultural systems devastated due to these extreme, climate change-induced weather conditions," he added.

Mr. Balisacan said the upcoming Philippine Development Plan for 2023-2028 includes priority actions for a "greener economy and more sustainable, affordable, and livable residential areas by 2028."

"Examples of such priority actions will include mechanisms involving carbon pricing and incentivizing local government units to focus on more climate-friendly projects, such as electric vehicles, sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection, and energy efficiency," he added.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Climate change economic damage may hit 7.6% of 2030 GDP

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

Economic damage to the Philippines could reach up to 7.6 percent of gross domestic product by 2030 and by 13.6 percent of GDP by 2040 if no action is taken to address climate change, according to the World Bank.

Souleymane Coulibaly, program leader for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions in the World Bank, said during the launch of the multilateral lender's Philippines Country Climate and Development Report yesterday that they have estimated the average GDP loss due to climate change to be at least 3.2 percent by 2030 and at least 5.77 percent by 2040.

"GDP would be lower by that much if climate change is left unaddressed," said Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The World Bank used historical typhoon information in coming up with the estimates. Citing the World Risk Index for this year, Diop said the Philippines ranks first among countries most affected by extreme weather events globally.

Based on the World Bank's re-

port, he said climate change would continue and accelerate, with temperatures in the country seen to continue to increase by about one to two degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century, rainfall patterns to change and intensify, and extreme events expected to become stronger and more frequent.

"Without action, climate change will impose substantial economic and human costs, affecting the poorest households the most," he said.

While climate change poses a threat, Coulibaly said adaptation actions could reduce the economic losses by around two-thirds.

He said faster declines in poverty and economic insecurity would also be seen with the implementation of climate adaptation measures.

Climate mitigation actions, meanwhile, would provide benefits, including lower electricity costs, reduced air pollution and increased agricultural productivity.

"Our simulations show the overall economic impact of the mitigation measures up to 2040 is likely to be small, but potentially positive, with around 0.5 percent increase in GDP and can generate about 80,000 jobs by 2040," he said.

As the country is already taking

action on climate change, World Bank senior environmental economist Stefano Pagiola said what needs to be done is to improve implementation and scale up activities.

To avoid making the problem worse, he said the country should not continue to build in areas known to be at risk of flooding, storm surges or sea level rise.

He said there is also a need to improve the coordination of climate actions at all levels of government, enhance the capabilities of local government units (LGUs) to design and implement climate actions, and focus on effective implementation of existing plans and regulations.

"As investments will need to be made, undertaken by the private sector or by individual firm households, making sure that the incentive is right is crucial," he said.

He stressed the importance of making sure there are no regulatory obstacles, and private sector actors have access to financing, technical assistance and a trained

workforce.

In addition, he said the country must avoid one-size-fits-all approaches, and implement climate actions that address both extreme

Turn to E3

Climate From B1

and slow onset events, as well as take poverty and vulnerability into consideration to help the poor and vulnerable manage the risks posed by climate change.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said it is necessary to integrate climate action in the Philippines' development plans, with the country subject to adverse weather conditions.

"We suffer through excessive rainfall that endangers us to flash floods and landslides and causes damage to our sources of food, shelter, and

livelihoods. With greater uncertainties being introduced to us by climate change, we can also expect more droughts and, consequently, more future water and food crises to affect the country," he said.

He said the upcoming Philippine Development Plan for 2023 to 2028, which will serve as the country's overall development blueprint for the medium term, will include priority actions such as carbon pricing and incentivizing LGUs to focus on more climate-friendly projects such as electric vehicles, sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection, and energy efficiency, to achieve a greener economy.



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Impact of climate change on GDP cited

BY ANGELA CELIS

IF left unaddressed, the economic damage of climate change to the Philippines could reach up to 7.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 and 13.6 percent of GDP by 2040, according to the World Bank.

Without action, climate change will impose substantial economic and human costs to the Philippines, affecting the poorest households the most, said Ndiame Diop, World Bank country director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, during the launch of the Philippines Country Climate and Development Report yesterday.

"Climate change is sometimes called a silent crisis, but in the Philippines, it's not silent - it is an imposing problem and a real threat. If one wants to see the real impacts of climate change on people, on infrastructure and on activities, one can see it here in the Philippines. Unfortunately, climate change will continue and will accelerate. Temperatures in the Philippines will continue to rise by about one to two degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century, depending on the climate scenario. Rainfall patterns will change and intensify, and extreme weather will become more frequent and stronger," Diop said.

"The economic damage could reach up to 7.6 percent of GDP by 2030 and 13.6 percent of GDP by 2040. That is, GDP would be lower by that much if climate change is left unaddressed. All sectors will be affected, capital intensive sectors are likely to suffer most from extreme weather and agriculture will bear the brunt," he added.

Diop said increased environmental shocks will stymie future gains in prosperity for poorer households which are more exposed to the effects of climate change, and they will have less ability to cope with shocks and are more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets or pulling children out of school.

"It is clear that adaptation must be a priority for the Philippines,



An aerial view shows flooding after Super Typhoon Noru (Karding), in San Miguel, Bulacan on Sept. 26, 2022. (Reuters photo)



10-26-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Economy to grow 6.5%

THE economy is expected to expand by 6.5 percent for the full-year despite the projected higher-than-target inflation of 5.5 percent, according to the Market Call.

According to the report released yesterday, with Christmas season around the corner and consumers and firms "itching" to go out after the two-year "incarceration," the employment data is expected to hit new records starting September.

The report said national government spending, especially on infrastructure, agriculture and key projects, should accelerate in the coming months since it still has a lot of "unused" deficits for the last four months of 2022.

Firms' optimism also showed in the acceleration of capital goods imports in August, it said.

"We expect manufacturing output to rise further in Q4 even as the national government ratchets up spending on infrastructure and agriculture. The unexpectedly strong tax collections has led to lower projected debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) to 63 to 64 percent in 2022," the Market Call said.

"Elevated inflation remains

as the only sore point, but as pointed out earlier, its negative effect on consumer spending should be muted by higher peso incomes of overseas Filipino workers (OFW), business process outsourcing workers and exporters. We, thus, see GDP growth in 2022 of 6.5 percent, at the upper end of our projections, while we may expect an inflation rate of 6.9 percent in October," it added.

The report said inflation is easing slightly slower than desired due to elevated crude oil prices.

"However, the latter has shown weakness after the initial announcement of the record two million barrels of OPEC output cut. OPEC apparently did the preemptive move to avoid a meltdown in prices (to \$50-\$70/barrel due to the spreading global recession)," the report said.

"The USD-PHP rate will remain under pressure, but OFW remittances in Q4 and likely more aggressive action by the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) in both policy rates and other measures should prevent it from even coming close to P60/\$1," it added. - *Angela Celis*

IMPACT

and the good news is that much can be done, and the country is already doing a lot to reduce the threats. There is no shortage of programs and plans in the Philippines," Diop said.

"What has been really the challenge is their fragmentation, their lack of coordination and

their effective implementation. The report shows this very clearly, that full implementation and effective implementation of the climate actions program that exists already in the Philippines could reduce economic losses from climate change by two-thirds, and climate actions like

investment in flood management in flood-prone areas, avoiding new constructions in floodplains in vulnerable coastal areas could reduce future losses. And further scaling up the existing program would help achieve these gains," he added.

In the same event, Socioeco-

omic Chief Arsenio Balisacan said, "If we do not get our acts right soon, more communities will be routinely displaced, more economic activities disrupted, and more agricultural systems devastated due to these extreme, climate change-induced weather conditions."

"Previously, the long-standing view had been the misperception that policymakers must choose between two seemingly opposing objectives: environmental preservation and economic growth. It would appear as if a choice always had to be made between the two. With the rapid advances in science

and technology in recent years, however, it has not only been possible but imperative to choose both," he added.

Balisacan said the fast and sustained growth of economies, especially emerging markets, must increasingly be supported by clean technologies.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Printed Since 1898

The Manila Times

B1
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-26-22

PAGE

DATE

Climate impact to cut GDP by 7.6% in 2030

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

ECONOMIC damage from climate change could reduce the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Philippines by as much as 7.6 percent by 2030, the World Bank said in a report.

"We have estimated that the average loss of GDP by 2030 is at least 3.2 percent rising to at least 5.7 percent by 2040. However, the impact could be much worse reaching 7.6 percent of GDP by 2030 and 13.6 percent by 2040," Souleymane Coulibaly, program leader of Equitable Growth, Finance and Institution of World Bank, said during the launch of the bank's Philippines Country Climate Development Report (CCDR).

The CCDR, which builds on data and rigorous research, comprehensively analyzes how climate change will affect the country's ability to meet its development goals and helps iden-

tify opportunities for climate action by both the public and private sectors.

Coulibaly emphasized how climate shocks negatively affect economic growth by eroding natural and physical capital, reducing labor productivity, weaken financial stability, altering domestic and external competitiveness, and straining public finances.

"Modelling shows that if no measures is taken to address climate change by 2040, the poverty rate will increase by nearly a percentage point, economic insecurity by frequent 3 points and inequality by 0.3 points," he said.

"The good news is that adaptation actions can reduce the impact of climate. Measures to adapt to climate change could reduce economic losses by around two-third. The cost of climate adaptation is substantial, but easily outweighed by the economic benefits of reduced climate change," he further stated.

The CCDR report was executed by undertaking a number of "deep dives" into key sectors (water, agriculture, energy, transport and urban areas) selected based on where the impact of climate change is expected to be most significant and where people will be hardest hit, said Stefano Pagiola, senior environment economist of World Bank.

The report comes to two main conclusions. "First, is that climate change poses major risks for development in the Philippines. Therefore, policy and action would impose substantial economic and human costs, especially

for the poor. Second, the Philippines has many options to address climate change, which could significantly reduce its impact. These options are feasible, and that cost is modest. The private sector must play a leading role in the climate action, so it's important that the right incentives are in place," Pagiola explained.

The CCDR revealed that temperatures in the Philippines have already worsened by two-thirds of a degree Celsius and typhoons have become more severe. Climate change in the country will continue to accelerate, with temperatures rising by as much as 3 degrees Celsius. The report also noted that the average rainfall will not change much, but will become more intense and more erratic. Extreme weather events will also become more severe.

These trends, the World Bank report noted, will hamper economic

► GDP B2

■ GDP FROM B1

Climate

activities, damage infrastructure, and result deep social disruptions. In particular, climate change will affect the poor and women disproportionately, with many of the poor

living in areas that are particularly threatened by climate change, it added.

"All this means that adaptation is a priority for the Philippines. And adaptation means not reducing the risk of damage from extreme events but it also means addressing slow onset events like higher temperatures and sea level rise," he said.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENTIAL PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1909
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

31
PAGE

UPPER
STORY
 LOWER

PAGE
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

30-26-22

DATE

PAGE

Climate risks pose 'significant threat' to PH economic growth

By CHINO S. LEYCO

Climate change poses a significant threat to the country's development that would potentially result in higher economic and human costs particularly for the poor, the World Bank said.

Souleymane Coulibaly, World Bank lead economist said climate shocks would negatively affect the country's economic growth by eroding natural and physical capital, as well as reducing labor productivity.

Coulibaly also said that the effects of climate change would weaken the country's financial stability, alter domestic and external competitiveness and strain government finances.

Ultimately, climate shocks would drag down the government's poverty reduction effort, whose metrics mainly depend on economic growth and income distribution, Coulibaly noted.

Based on the World Bank estimates, the average output losses of the Philippines due to climate change will be at 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 and could further rise to 5.7 percent by 2040.

Under the much worse scenario, the World Bank estimated that the costs of climate shocks could amount to 7.6 percent by 2030 and 13.6 percent by 2040.

The World Bank estimates were derived using the country's historical typhoon information.

"As illustrated by this figure, you

can see the poor would suffer the most. The poorer the households, the more negatively the consumption is estimated to be affected by climate change," Coulibaly said.

According to the World Bank economist, if no measures is taken to address climate change, the poverty rate will increase by nearly one percentage point by 2040, economic insecurity by 3.3 percentage points and inequality by 0.3 percentage point.

The financial sector will also be affected for a one percentage rise in the typhoon damage ratio, and the non performing loan ratio rising by an average of 0.66 percent in the same period, Coulibaly said.

"This is this significantly increases

in your credit risks," he said.

However, the good news is that adaptation actions can reduce the impact of climate change.

"Measures to adapt to climate change could reduce economic losses by around two-thirds," Coulibaly said. "The cost of climate adaptation is substantial, but easily outweighed by the economic benefits of reduced climate change."

World Bank estimated that the cost of making vulnerable new infrastructure in the Philippines climate resilience is estimated to be about 0.6 percent of GDP annually.

While the agriculture sector measures to boost climate resilience would cost the government about 0.06 percent of GDP per year.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVE
SERVICE

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

B4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BAHNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

20-26-22

PAGE

DATE

Manila Water spending ₱181 B to improve service

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

East Zone concessionaire Manila Water Company is set to spend P181 billion in the next five years, from 2023 to 2027, in pursuit of its service improvement plan to continuously meet its service obligations.

In a statement, the utility said a significant level of the expenditures will be to implement capital expenditure programs amounting to P105 billion for both its water and wastewater projects.

The service improvement plan highlights four sustainability pillars necessary to ensure the viability of the environment which sustains the water cycle, and on which the company establishes its operations even for the long-term.

These pillars are Water Security, to ensure adequacy of water resources for current and future customers; Service Accessibility,

to expand service coverage to more communities in the East Zone; Service Continuity, to ensure that customers continue to receive high-quality service even in the event of natural calamities; and Environmental Sustainability, to safeguard the sustainability of the environment that supports the East Zone.

Manila Water President and CEO Jocot De Dios affirmed that Manila Water continues to support and work with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the development and implementation of short- to long-term projects to ensure sustainability of future water supply.

These include the Calawis Antipolo Source System and the East Bay Water Supply Project which will source water from the eastern flank of Laguna Lake.

Other projects being eyed as medium- to long-term water sources aside from har-

nessing Laguna Lake include the New Wawa Dam Project in Rizal Province, the Kaliwa Dam Project and the Kaliwa River Project which will harness water from Kaliwa River downstream of Quezon Province.

Furthermore, the construction of the new 15-kilometers aqueduct and 6.4-kilometer tunnel is already completed in coordination with MWSS which will provide another 1,600 MLD to flow towards La Mesa Dam, optimizing the flow of excess water from Ipo to La Mesa Dam.

Manila Water said it continues to meet the standard and demand for 24/7 water supply, which the company commits to maintain through its service improvement plan, as well as contingency and augmentation plans, to benefit its growing customer base.

Even during the height of the pandemic, Manila Water made sure to supply its customers with clean and safe water, 24/7.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Trusted Since 1845

The Manila Times



20-26-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

LETTER

Send comments to opinion@manilatimes.net or write to the Opinion Editor,
The Manila Times, 2/F Sitio Grande,
409 A. Soriano Avenue, Intramuros, Manila 1002

RENEWABLE ENERGY TO THE MANILA TIMES

AS an avid reader of *The Manila Times*, I join the millions in commemorating its years of service to the nation by bringing up unbridled news in its daily mission. Its advocacy on economic growth issues rather than the personal and political issues many other newspapers still delve into, practically makes it a catalyst in rebuilding our nation that was savaged for more than two years by the Covid-19 pandemic and aggravated quite lately by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

I cite the following: the October 1 issue's editorial, "Renewable energy," where the executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Eatih Birol was quoted: "There is a renewable energy economy that is rapidly growing around the world" and that cost, efficiency and the ease of constructing the sources makes the most economic sense; the October 4 issue headline, "Green energy open to foreigners - DoJ," quoting Justice Secretary Crispin Remulla that the constitutional foreign ownership restrictions on the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources only covers things that are susceptible to appropriation, thus excluding the sun, the wind and ocean; the October 5 issue editorial, "DoE's rational approach to nuclear energy" raises reader's awareness of another kind of renewable energy — nuclear energy. This should remind us of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) that was built by the late president Ferdinand Marcos Sr. that could have paved the way for the Philippines to have energy self-sufficiency a long time ago had not presumptive president Corazon Aquino just wasted it for her own personal reason; and finally, the October 6 issue editorial, "DoJ ruling on green energy a potential boon for PH," concludes that the Philippines represents a tantalizing market for energy investments, first, because it clearly has a great deal of unmet demand for energy, and second, because it is ideally situated to harness solar, wind and ocean resources.

It is for the above reasons that we now have 998 government-awarded renewable energy contracts with an aggregate installed capacity of 5,460.59 MW and potential capacity of 61,613.8 MW (Ref: *TMT* September 28, "PH revises on-grid RE system"). Referring further to *TMT* September 28 — "PetroGreen Dagohoy project" where its 61,200 solar panels when installed in their 22-hectare Bohol site, would produce 27 MWDC, which should give us approximately 1.23 MW per hectare occupied. Translating the approved potential capacity of 61,613 MW into hectares of land to be occupied comes up to approximately 49,000 hectares. Given that some of the 998 projects are not solar and not occupying much space, a reduction of a few thousand hectares does not make that figure acceptable to the agricultural sector for "food production." It would be "counterproductive" to say the least for President Bongbong Marcos to envision bringing down the price

of rice somewhere "near the P20 per kilogram." And to be fair, I am sure not one of the 998 contracts was awarded during BBM's 100 days in office.

Having brought out the problem, I ask the help of *The Manila Times* to bring forward some suggested solutions for the government and the energy contractors to ponder on (especially when a project is about to take off): First, develop the open eyesore and unhealthy places in Metro Manila communities — canals, esteros and other small bodies of water — into a clean, safe and habitable area where even millions of solar panels could be installed, by developing the means to relocate the informal settlers, taking back the portions that were "developed" by a few real estate and powerful opportunists, dredging to accommodate more water thereby eliminating/reducing flooding in the area, cooperating with the water concessionaires to build giant sewage treatment plants to avoid polluting the structures built along these bodies of water. The total area may yet be enough for the next projects of those wanting to locate their projects in Metro Manila for ease of operation and maintenance. Urge present operators of hydroelectric dams to put up either or both solar and wind farms in their areas (inland and over water) to compensate their production during the prolonged dry season or drought; apportion even only 20 percent of all lakes surface areas for solar, wind or even water wave farms. The 90,000-hectare (90-sq-km) Laguna lake should produce no less than 15,000 MW and help improve fish production by planting mangrove trees under the installed solar panel. As windmills are more expensive and hard to locate, some more incentives are needed to make it more attractive to investors.

As the government is hobbled by many other issues, the primary of which is food production, building structures that have multiplier effects should make building hydroelectric dams the next best thing to undertake. While it has a long gestation period to build one, including planning, environmental issues, financing and building the complex structures, the other plus "factors" aside from its primary purpose of producing a bigger amount of reliable renewable energy are to provide irrigation to thousands of hectares of farmlands; provide water for drinking and household use; provide a source for freshwater fish varieties; control flow of excessive water, preventing flooding that causes destruction to farmlands, government and private structures; provide thousands of jobs during the long period of construction; and provide hundreds of permanent jobs in its operation and maintenance.

The best place to build a series of dams is along the 500-km Cagayan River in Cagayan Valley. It is where the 400 MW Magat Dam was built in the 1970s by the late president Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. Fully developing the potential of the convergence of water that comes from the Sierra Madre mountains on the eastern side and the Cordillera mountains on the western side should produce no less than 3,000 MW. And, one with another 400 MW like that of the Magat Dam could still be finished before BBM steps down from office.

Alejandro Daquigan
Royal Palm Villa
Las Piñas City
Tel 09069420331



DO-26-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

JOINT DEVELOPMENT PUSHED

CHINA SEEKS RESUMPTION OF OIL, GAS EXPLORATION TALKS

By **Tina G. Santos**
@santostinaINQ

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian on Tuesday said that Beijing remains open to working with Manila on oil and gas exploration to help address the energy demand of both parties.

"We are ready to work with this administration. We hope that we will find some way out to handle the remaining differences so that we could begin that kind of oil and gas common developments [at] an early date so that it can benefit our people and our two countries as early as possible," Huang said during the weekly Pandesal forum.

Under then President Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines and China began formal negotiations by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2018 on joint oil and gas exploration and development in the West Philippine Sea.

However, the government terminated the talks before Duterte left office, citing possible constitutional issues.

"We have been negotiating on the common development of oil and gas according to the MOU signed between our two governments in 2018. We have made positive and significant progress. But we have yet to conclude it for the benefit of our two peoples," Huang said.

"[W]e appreciate that President Marcos and [Foreign Affairs] Secretary [Enrique] Manalo both made it public that they are open to the resumption of negotiation after the new administration took office on oil and gas common development," he added.

Huang earlier said that China and the Philippines must "work harder" on developing clean energy as a means of addressing the climate crisis.

"Last year, the export of electric vehicles of China accounts for more than half of the world's. We are one of the leading players in terms of clean energy and so we are ready to work with this country to share our technology, share our expertise to move forward hand-in-hand," he said in a previous statement.

When asked how the Chinese government can help improve the situation of Filipino fisherfolk, Huang said that he was happy to see fisherfolk from both countries "getting along" and fishing "peacefully" in disputed areas.

"While we are managing differences, we are also working to promote maritime cooperation between our two countries. We believe that this kind of maritime cooperation between our two countries will benefit fishermen in the future. We look forward to that," he said. INQ



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



THE PHILIPPINE STAR FILE PHOTO

MALAMPAYA GAS FIELD

China open to joint oil talks with Marcos gov't

CHINA will continue joint oil and gas exploration talks with the Philippines under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., its envoy said on Tuesday.

"We are ready to work with this administration," Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian told a news briefing. "We hope that we will find some way out to handle the remaining differences, so that we could begin that kind of common oil and gas development."

The Chinese envoy said the Filipino and Chinese way of settling differences is similar, citing Mr. Marcos' remarks in his first address to Congress in July.

"We will be a good neighbor — always looking for ways to collaborate and cooperate with the end goal of mutually beneficial outcomes," the president said at that time. "If we agree, we will cooperate and we will work together. And if we differ, let us talk some more until we develop a consensus."

"If we cannot solve the differences, then we should try to create a good environment for us to handle the differences," Mr. Huang said. "We should also seek to settle and manage our differences through direct, friendly consultations and dialogue."

He said the Philippines under ex-President Rodrigo R. Duterte and China had made "significant

progress" in joint oil and gas exploration talks even if they failed to reach a deal.

"We have been negotiating the common development of oil and gas according to the memorandum of understanding signed between our two governments in 2018," he said. "We have made significant progress, but we have yet to conclude it for the benefit of our people. Our cooperation in oil and gas will help meet the energy needs of our two countries."

Mr. Huang made his remarks when asked if China was agreeable to a 60-40% sharing agreement in favor of the Philippines.

In September, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique A. Manalo said China was pushing a 50-50% or 51-49% division, and wanted conditions in accordance with Chinese domestic laws that were unacceptable to the Philippines.

The South China Sea, a key global shipping route, is subject to overlapping territorial claims involving China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Each year, trillions of dollars of trade flow through the sea, which is also rich in fish and gas. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link < bit.ly/jointoil02622 >



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



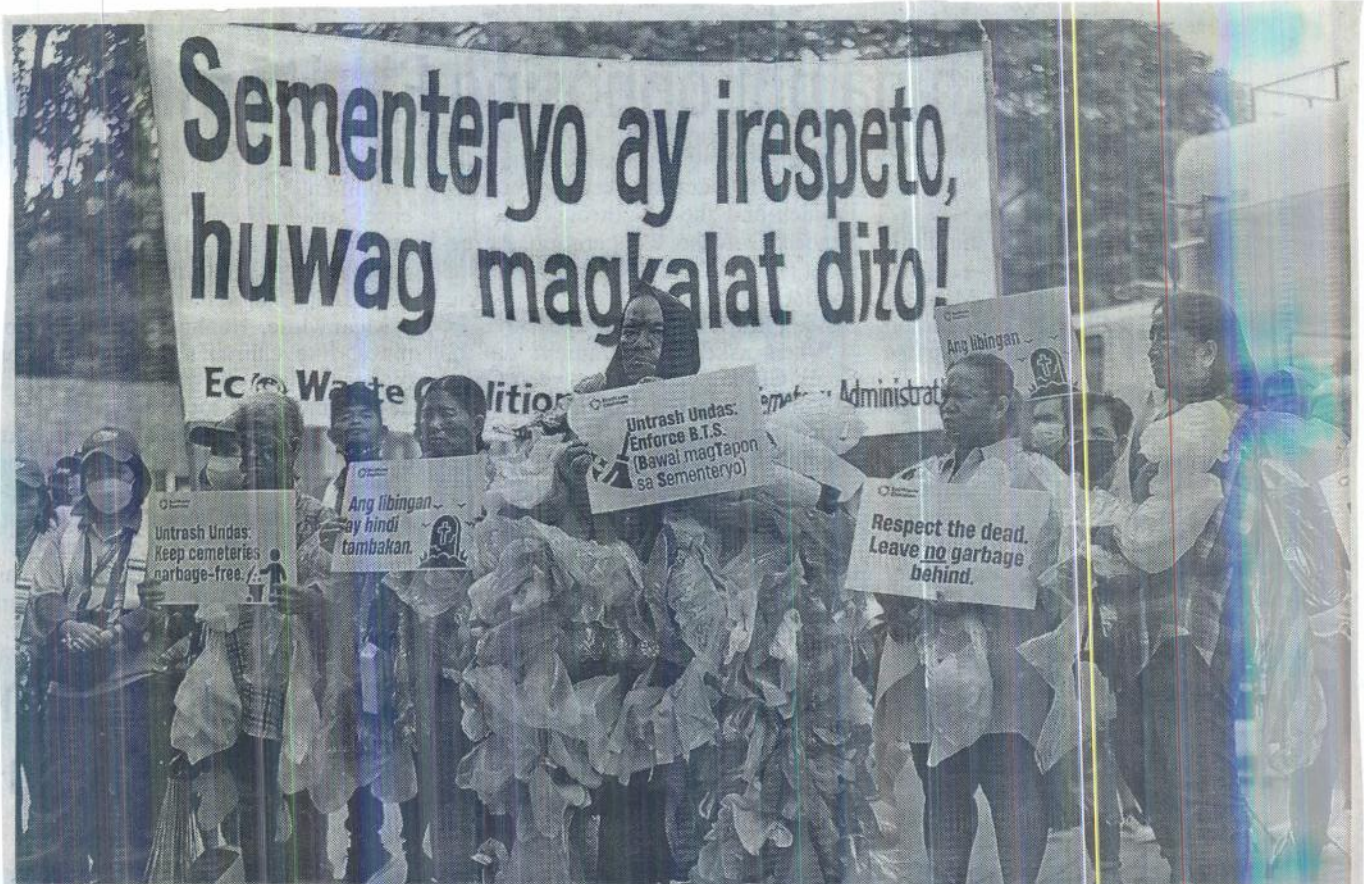
CARTOON

20-26-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



'UNTRASH UNDAS.' Members of Ecowaste, an environmental advocates group, flash placards calling on the people to "Untrash Undas," meaning to respect the departed by avoiding littering at the cemeteries and memorial parks while observing All Saints' Day. **Danny Pata**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

70-26-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Nagpaalala ang mga "Zombasura" na miyembro ng EcoWaste Coalition sa mga bumibisita sa Manila North Cemetery na magkaroon ng malasakit at disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura lalo na sa paggunita ngayong Undas. (Ernie Peñaredondo)





TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Ligtas, luntian at masaganang bukas para sa QCitizens

NAGING makabuluhan at matagumpay ang aking pagdalo sa C40 World Mayors Summit sa Buenos Aires, Argentina nitong nakaraang linggo. Sa pagtitipon, nangako ang mga lider ng iba't ibang siyudad sa mundo kabilang na ang Quezon City na bubuo ng mga makakalikasang oportunidad at kabuhayan para sa 50 milyong indibiduwal hanggang sa taong 2030.

Sa tulong ng "good, green jobs" na ito, makakamit natin ang mga pangunahin nating hangarin: ang maprotektahan ang kalikasan, makapagbigay ng pagkakakitaan, at masiguro ang kalusugan ng mga mamamayan.

Nagkaroon din tayo ng pagkakataon na ibahagi ang ating programa. Naging finalist sa C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropist Awards ang Grow QC food security initiative program na naitatag natin noong kasagsagan ng pandemya. Sa pamamagitan ng Grow QC, nakabuo tayo ng 675 urban farms na nakakapagbigay ng kabuhayan sa 15,000 QCitizens mula sa vulnerable sectors. Ito na rin ang pinagkuku-



nan natin ng masustansyang sangkap para sa pagkain ng mga pamilyang bahagi ng ating feeding programs.

Hindi lang sa mga programa para sa kapaligiran kinilala ang QC. Noong Huwebes, pinarangalan sa 2022 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index Awards ng Department of Trade and Industry ang lungsod bilang 1st place Overall Most Competitive City (Highly Urbanized City category). Humakot din tayo ng pagkilala bilang 1st Place as Most Competitive in Innovation; 2nd Place as Most Competitive in Economic Dynamism; 2nd Place as Most Competitive in Government Efficiency; 2nd Place as Most Competitive in Infrastructure; at 2nd Place as Most Competitive in Resiliency.

Noong Miyerkules naman, nakatanggap tayo ng special

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

QC ASENSO... Mula pahina 4

citation mula sa Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry bilang isa sa Most Business-Friendly LGUs sa bansa.

Hindi tayo makatatanggap ng mga pagkilalang ito

kung hindi dahil sa pakikipagtulungan ninyo, QCitizens. Ang mga suhestiyon ninyo ay nagagamit namin sa pagpapabuti ng mga programa para sa inyo. Makaasakayo na patuloy na magiging bukas ang pamahalaang lungsod sa inyong mga suhestiyon para makapagbigay ng serbisyong dapat ninyong matanggap.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

20-26-22
DATE _____

Bulkang Kanlaon muling nag- alboroto, 16 pagyanig naitala

NAG-ALBOROTO ang bulkang Kanlaon makaraang maitala ang labing-anim (16) na volcanic earthquake sa paligid nito sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

Nabatid sa ulat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) nakataas ang alert level 1 paligid ng bulkang Kanlaon.

Ayon pa sa ahensya na bukod sa pagyanig namataan din ang bahagyang pamamaga ng bulkan.

Sinabi pa ng Phivolcs ipinagbabawal ang pagpasok sa apat na kilometrong (4 km) radius Permanent Danger Zone o PDZ.

Kaugnay nito sinabi pa ng Phivolcs na ipinagbabawal din ang pagpapalipad ng anumang uri ng eroplano malapit sa tuktok ng bulkan dahil sa bauta ng pagsabog.

Ang bulkang Kanlaon ay itinuturing na aktibong bulkan na matatagpuan sa lalawigan ng Negros Occidental at Negros Oriental. (Boy Celario)