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NUMBERS REFLECT MARCOS PRIORITIES-DBM CHIEF

NEP BREAKDOWN: EDUCATION, PUBLIC WORKS GET LARGEST BUDGETS; AGRI HIGHEST INCREASE

By Jerome Aning
@JeromeAningINQ

“A budget that is responsive to every need of every Filipino” was how Budget Secretary Amena Pangandaman described the 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP) that the Marcos administration submitted to Congress to be the basis of the 2023 General Appropriations Act.

Pangandaman said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) evaluated a total of P8.66 trillion worth of agency funding proposals for 2023. The resulting P5.268-trillion draft budget is 4.9 percent higher than this year’s and equivalent to 22.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The education sector tops the list of 10 highest proposed allocations with P852.8 billion, followed by public works sector with P705.6 billion.

Third came health, P217.8 billion; social welfare, P185.3 billion; agriculture, P172 billion; transportation, P145.4 billion; defense, P101.9 billion; interior and local government, P34.8 billion; labor and employment, P34.4 billion; and science and technology,

P19.3 billion.

More for 5 sectors

Five sectors saw an increase in their allocations compared to this year: transportation (147.7 percent), agriculture (42.3 percent), health (12.4 percent), defense (11.0 percent) and education (8.2 percent). The higher figure for transportation and agriculture “reflects the administration’s priority sectors,” the DBM chief said.

The other five sectors have lower allocations: labor and employment, (-23.0 percent); interior and local government (-9.5 percent), public works (-9.1 percent), social welfare (-4.7 percent), and science and technology (-2.1 percent).

The Department of Agriculture’s food security program will receive a larger share in 2023. The budget for the National Rice Program, in particular, almost doubled to P30.55 billion from P15.77 billion.

The increase is largely due to the P19.48-billion budget for expanded fertilizer support. It is supposed to be complemented by the P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, half of

which will be for farm mechanization as envisioned under the Rice Liberalization Act.

Pangandaman said the Marcos administration would also support “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects under the Build Better More program to spur growth in the agriculture, trade and tourism sectors, and eventually to reduce transport and logistics costs.

Infra spending

A total of P1.196 trillion is allocated for these programs, equivalent to 5 percent of GDP. It is within the target of 5 percent to 6 percent of GDP annual appropriation for infrastructure, she said.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) lead the list of top 10 departments receiving the bulk of the proposed infrastructure budget, at P697.70 billion and P129.81 billion respectively.

Significant amounts are intended for social infrastructure, such hospitals and health centers (P23.24 billion), school buildings (P13.91 billion) and housing community facilities (2.50 billion).



TITLE:

NEP Breakdown...

PAGE

2/8

DATE

Support for agriculture and environmental sectors, particularly for irrigation and water supply systems (P5.28 billion), power supply systems (P3.60 billion) and reforestation projects (P1.37 billion) are also lined up.

The Department of Energy will receive P2.2 billion for its programs, of which P476 million will be for its renewable energy development program, energy efficiency and conservation program, and alternative fuels and technology program.

Asked if there would be an allocation for the revival of Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the DBM chief said there was none yet.

Financial aid, education

The government is setting aside P206.5 billion for financial assistance. It will be composed of the cash transfer and other subsidy programs of various agencies: P165.4 billion under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and P22.39 billion for the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients program of the Department of Health (DOH).

The Tupad (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvan-

taged/Displaced Workers) program of the Department of Labor and Employment will get P14.9 billion. Another P2.5 billion will be go the DOTR to cover fuel subsidies for the transport sector.

Out of the P852.8 billion allotted for the education sector, the basic education facilities program (school building construction) was given P9.28 billion, and flexible learning options program (production of learning materials) got P19.95 billion.

Health, climate change

Subsidies and cash assistance for students in senior high school and technical-vocational courses got a budget of P54.9 billion.

For the health-care system, P23 billion was allocated for DOH health facilities enhancement program, P720 million for the National Surveillance Network (related to COVID-19 contract tracing and data gathering), disease prevention and control programs get P5.84 billion, and vaccine procurement is allotted P22 billion.

Programs related to climate change mitigation are given P453.11 billion, equivalent to 8.6 percent of the total 2023 budget

and higher by 56.4 percent than this year's allocation of P289.73 billion.

The climate change expenditure has increased in recent years, Pangandaman said, growing by an average of 21.3 percent from 2015 to 2023—much faster than the average annual growth rate of the total national government expenditure of 10.5 percent.

Among the items on these expenditure list are DPWH flood management program, P168.5 billion; and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) national greening program and protected area of development and management program, which will have P2.49 billion and 94.72 million, respectively.

The DENR will also get P246.12 million for the management of coastal and marine resources.

To accelerate the digitalization of the government bureaucracy, P12.4 billion has been allotted to information technology (IT) projects. The Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs will get P3.56 billion, or equivalent to 28.6 percent of the IT upgrade budget. INQ



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

(Part 1)

The Philippine Government, through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), last Monday submitted to Congress the proposed P5.268-trillion national budget for 2023. This document goes through a technical process that begins with vision setting by the President and ends with specific programs and projects budgeted at different levels of the bureaucracy.

Based on our 25-year involvement in the cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) and its sub-cabinet level Executive Technical Board (ETB), the other more substantive aspect of the budget process is political. The budget captures the hierarchy of government choices that should be pursued, like utilities, infrastructure, and mass housing. It should reflect the implementation of laws like universal healthcare and tertiary education, or even counter-insurgency measures.

Without doubt, the national budget also reflects the influence of vested interests or specific constituencies like rice, sugar, real estate, and other business activities. One can see this in the kind of tax policy that would support public spending plans. Or the location of a new airport or government center, or even perhaps the areas that would be traversed by a new highway or train routes. These choices are critical because public money will be spent on them and away from the others.

Thus, the national budget also establishes a framework of accountability for concerned citizens who wish to determine whether public money is properly disbursed according to the overall vision of government and the specific goals by sector objectives. A linkage is necessary between society's pressing needs and the resources made available through the budget process.

The budget process is therefore a powerful tool for implementing democracy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has always been a strong advocate of budget transparency, that appropriate information on both the budget preparation and execution should be accessible through periodic reports and audit results. Democracy is upheld when the people have access to informa-

Budget politics

SIGNS AND WONDERS
DIWA C. GUINIGUNDO

tion on the extent of government operations, how the government addresses key issues on reducing poverty and income inequality. After all, when disasters strike, everyone sees the revealed preference of their national and local governments, like pursuing beautification projects and barangay centers that are submerged in flood waters instead of executing drainage and water impounding projects which are less obvious, less glamorous, and less profitable.

How did the Philippine Congress receive the executive submission?

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, assuring the DBM of speedy deliberations and passage before the end of the year, declared that Congress will respond to the needs of the people in addressing health crisis, creating more jobs, and ensuring food security.

This is a good concordance with the DBM's representation of the eight-point socioeconomic agenda of the Marcos Jr. government during the DBCC presentation of the macroeconomic assumptions of the budget before Congress on Aug. 26:

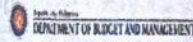
1. Ensuring food security, improved transportation and affordable and clean energy to strengthen the purchasing power of Filipinos;
2. Providing social services, healthcare and education to reduce vulnerability and mitigate scarring from the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
3. Achieving bureaucratic efficiency and sound fiscal management to ensure sound macroeconomic fundamentals.

Does the 2023 budget comply with the Speaker's expectation that "every centavo of the national budget would be spent wisely to implement the programs that would save lives, protect communities, and make our economy strong and more agile"?

FY 2023 Proposed Budget¹, Top Ten Departments (in billion pesos)²

DEPARTMENT	2022 GMA		2023 PROPOSED		INC/DEC	
	AMOUNT	RANK	AMOUNT	RANK	AMOUNT	%
Education (DepEd, SUCs, CHED, TESDA)	788.5	1	852.8	1	64.3	8.2
Public Works (DPWH)	776.0	2	705.6	2	(70.4)	(9.1)
Health (Includes budget for National Health Insurance Program)	193.7	4	217.8	3	24.1	12.4
Social Welfare (DSWD)	194.4	3	185.3	4	(9.2)	(4.7)
Agriculture (DA, DAR, PCA, PCIA, NDA, NTA, POC, PhilRice, PFDA, DAR)	120.9	5	172.0	5	51.2	42.3
Transportation (DOT)	58.7	7	145.4	6	86.7	147.7
Defense (DND)	91.8	6	101.9	7	10.1	11.0
Interior and Local Gov't (DILG)	38.5	9	34.8	8	(3.7)	(9.5)
Labor and Employment (DOLE/OWA)	44.6	8	34.4	9	(10.3)	(23.0)
Science and Technology	19.7	10	19.3	10	(0.4)	(2.1)
TOTAL	2,326.9		2,469.3		142.4	6.1

¹Net of Personnel Services, except for the Education Sector
²Numbers may not add due to rounding off



FY 2023 Proposed Budget* Top 10 Departments, ranked by % increase

1	147.7%	Transportation DOT	6	(2.1%)	Science and Technology
2	42.7%	Agriculture DA, NIA, NFA, PCA, SMA, NDA, NTA, POC, PhilRice, PFDA, DAR	7	(4.7%)	Social Welfare DSWD
3	12.4%	Health Includes budget for National Health Insurance Program	8	(9.1%)	Public Works DPWH
4	11.0%	Defense DND	9	(9.5%)	Interior and Local Government DILG

Will the politics of the budget promote the Government's agenda for prosperity?

Budget Secretary Ameh Pangandaman compressed the eight-point program into five priorities of the "proactive and resilient" 2023 national budget: education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture, and social safety nets.

Education ranks high in terms of the absolute size of its budget at P852.8 billion. But in terms of actual increase, the education budget shall rise by only 8.2%, and that includes personnel services. Time and again, educators and economists have reiterated the challenges in Philippine education: lack of good facilities of

learning like classrooms, desks, and educational equipment; lack of academic personnel; inferior learning resources. With serious disproportion between the number of students and classrooms, books, teachers, and other learning kits, an 8.2% adjustment could cover only inflation and the usual friction costs. No big deal here.

What about the new challenge of digitalization? And the cost of mitigating economic scarring in the academe by way of retraining the teachers and upgrading their skill sets? We can only hope that these new hurdles were considered in the technical phase and, if not, could be taken up in the congressional deliberations. While

Congress cannot increase the proposed budget, some realignment should be possible.

In terms of the annual adjustment of 8.2%, education actually ranks only 5th even if the other sectors are exclusive of personnel services. We do recognize that education was also allocated P1185 billion for infra projects but that is only less than 1% of the infra budget.

Finally, as Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez pointed out, the UP budget reduction from this year's P25.6 billion to P23.1 billion, or P2.5 billion less, should be restored, if not increased. As a general principle, he was correct in saying state universities should be properly funded.

Infrastructure development will receive P1.196 trillion for both the Department of Transportation budget increase of 147.7% and the Department of Public Works and Highways budget drop of 9.1%. Percentage increase-wise, transport sector is 1st while public works is 8th. Very clearly, this is the budget translation of building better and more subways, regional airports, railways, and farm-to-market roads. We notice in the sub-object breakdown for infra, flood control systems are getting P209.15 billion or 17.49% of the total while irrigation systems will be funded by only P29.49 billion, representing a 2.47% share.

But there is very little to show in terms of solving our annual flooding problem. We build roads and bridges as well as impressive town centers but flooding remains a big headache. Instead of doing what other countries have done, and that is to start with a systematic drainage system, we simply clear the roads and pour concrete on them. That wins votes every three years. We end up digging the sides of the street to lay down concrete pipes for drainage purposes.

Yet, our irrigation system, something that is indispensable to agriculture and food security, will only be getting less than P30 billion or 3% of infra budget. Unless we have a more strategic approach to these two issues, we shall continue to experience floods during the rainy season and drought during summer. Some engineers refer to this broadly as water resource management. This involves development, conservation, and management of water through irrigation, drainage, flood control, water logging, surface-water storages, integrated water reservoirs, and basin planning.

On health, a few words. The gross allocation looks respectable, showing an increase from this year's P193.7 billion to P217.8 billion, representing an increase of P24.1 billion, or 12.4%. The breakdown of the budget, however, indicates many of the components are to be slashed. The budget for the prevention and control of communicable diseases will be halved, while pandemic management expenses are subsumed under unprogrammed funds. We don't see why COVID-19 pandemic management had to be classified as unprogrammed. The Philip-

pine General Hospital will have a budget nearly P400 million lower this year, allegedly due to its limited absorptive capacity. Yet the problematic National Health Insurance Program will be given an additional P30 billion.

Agriculture - that includes the Department proper and other attached agencies - is to receive P172 billion or an additional P51 billion or 42.3% more. Food security will be promoted by beefing up the budget for rice, corn, livestock, fisheries, high-value crops, and the agrarian reform beneficiaries' program. These additional allocations are well and good, but we wonder why an additional P5-billion budget was allocated for National Food Authority's buffer stocking program when rice importation has been liberalized with tariffication.

Provision of social safety nets would normally be undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Yet next year, DSWD will be budgeted with P185.3 billion, or by less than P9.2 billion or 4.2% lower. True, cash assistance will continue to be extended through various agencies with the bulk going to DSWD and the least to DA. Cash transfers or 4Ps to the very poor, indigent senior citizens, individuals and families in difficult circumstances, livelihood and feeding program, as well as early childhood care will be continued.

It is the task of Congress to scrutinize each line item and see not only that which has been funded, but, more important, that which did not even merit an allocation like low-cost housing. Commission on Audit findings on each department should be consulted on whether the projects funded were completed. Checklists can always deceive us because, as behavioral economists would argue, absence is much harder to detect than presence. That's when good governance and good budget politics are critical.

(Next week: Funding the 2023 budget)

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TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/2

09-02-22
DATE

Wanton use of public space

BACK to the subject of public space from last week. Yesterday, I saw a graphic violation or disrespect of public space in a two-story building built on the Roxas Boulevard promenade along the sea wall near the Manila Yacht Club. This is a public space for walking along Manila Bay from Roxas Boulevard and has always been so except for the ill-thought-out market stalls that one Manila mayor instigated causing a blockage of Manila Bay for the pedestrian.

While this two-story building is only one structure and occupies much less space than the line-up of vendors' stalls that used to stand there and was fortunately removed by the Manila mayor that followed the vendor-friendly one, it is totally out of place not only for its usurpation of public space but for its function — a sewage



AMBIENT VOICES

MA. ISABEL ONGPIN

treatment plant as it shockingly announces on its façade.

There is no question that sewage treatment plants are essential to urban living and other places like public beaches, resorts, even rural areas, but they are usually placed in inconspicuous areas as their work is not exactly a salubrious neighborhood activity, or a matter for public display.

But that may be for some. Others may just shrug off its proximity. However, the use of public space that is obviously for pedestrian use, the invasion of a sidewalk along Manila Bay, a traditional institution since

the boulevard was built, is off tangent and very intrusive.

I guess the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is mandated to have a sewage plant, but should it be placed on a critical pedestrian space? Bear in mind that three sewage treatment plants are planned. Should we expect them all in a row along Roxas Boulevard?

The question boils down to what is the appropriate treatment of public space. In my opinion, it is to leave it as such. Do not touch it, tinker with it, intrude on it. Much less build on it.

I foresee that the riposte to the above will be that it is being used for a public good. That is not good enough. Here is where it is not the public that is injuring public space but ironically, the government, either national or local, that should be its protector but becomes its molester.

Just because it will be for public good, or is an urban necessity, does not mean that it can be taken over and made into a no longer public space.

That is the problem we see all over. A very mistaken idea that buildings or structures as long as they are for government operations are allowed to use any public space because these structures serve a public need. Public space does not mean or should not imply that it is there for the government to use in any way they want. Public space does not belong to government entities, it belongs to the public and that ownership must be respected. That sewage plant has been built on the equivalent of a park, which is what the Roxas Boulevard promenade is to the public. It is also a matter of how

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Wanton use of public space

narrow and how lazy are the minds that pounce on any public space instead of looking somewhere else, if necessary paying for space that is needed. There should be no free lunch even for the government agencies.

Another irritant that I saw last week was a narrow two-story (approximately 2 meters in width) structure built on a sidewalk and designated as a Senior Citizens Center. Looking at its narrow girth and the obvious stairs to get to the second floor, it is the height of impracticality. Maybe six senior citizens can fit on the lower floor standing up (less if on wheelchairs), and which one of them can tackle the stairs and why would they risk it, are the thoughts that this useless structure brings up.

Apparently in this case, the mania for building continues to consume local governments

from *barangay* (villages) to districts to cities. Building without thinking, building for the sake of building. One cannot help the thought that some lucre must be compelling this mania. Worse is the wanton intrusion into public space that must be left as such.

The underlying mistake is that government agencies are entitled to public space or public resources as a matter of course.

I think we have reached an emergency on the disappearance of public space and we need to re-think, reflect and redo what is going on. I would hope a land use bill that is in the process of being approved in the legislature should address the daily affronts to public space.



New law on extended producer responsibility a major step in tackling plastic waste – Nestlé

The new law on extended producer responsibility (EPR) for plastic waste is a major milestone in tackling plastic waste and its implementation will succeed with sustained collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders, Nestlé Philippines chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki said.

"The effective implementation of the law is urgently needed to tackle the plastic pollution crisis," he said.

Republic Act 11898, The Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, defines EPR as the environmental policy approach and practice that now requires producers to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of a product, from manufacture to consumption or use, and especially to its post-consumer or end-of-life stage.

Large enterprises are covered, with auditing and annual compliance reports to be submitted. Plastic packaging refers to products used to carry, protect or pack goods for

transportation, distribution and sale.

The law mandates establishing or phasing in EPR programs within six months, with yearly incremental target recovery rates up to 80 percent by 2028.

"At Nestlé, our purpose is unlocking the power of food to enhance quality of life, today and for generations to come. In serving people, we need natural resources and a healthy planet, and so we strive to do our share to protect the environment and ultimately help regenerate the Earth in our operations," said Marzouki.

As a voluntary form of EPR, Nestlé PH has been fully plastic neutral for two years as of this August. It has recovered over 52 million kilos of plastic waste as of last July, equivalent to the volume of plastic packaging it put out in the market.

The company's firsts in the country include making a full transition from plastic to paper straws. Work-

ing with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the National Solid Waste Management Commission, it has developed solid waste management modules reaching millions of students in over 20,000 public schools nationwide.

With the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, it is helping to train LGUs on solid waste management.

Through the Bear Brand Tibayanihan project, since 2016 Nestlé PH has provided over 12,000 benches and chairs made of upcycled Bear Brand packs for 131 public schools through the DepEd. This year, another 5,000 Tibay chairs will be turned over to schools in 12 cities nationwide.

The firm has reduced its use of plastic year-on-year since the early 1990s and continues to accelerate this process. By 2025 its packaging including plastics will be 100 percent recyclable or reusable, and it will cut virgin plastics consumption by 1/3. Since 2016, all its factories have attained zero waste to landfill status.

"Plastic pollution has complex challenges that need a collective, whole of society approach. With the commitment and participation of our employees, we will strengthen our collaboration with public and private sector partners to continue breaking new ground towards a waste-free future.

"As the EPR law is implemented, we will intensify our efforts in searching for packaging alternatives while working to reduce plastic use, putting in place collection and recycling mechanisms, and mobilizing consumer involvement and participation.

"Beyond investing in sustainability practices which is integral to our business, at Nestlé we are on a journey to regeneration. An important aspect of this is helping to protect, renew and restore the environment. We are joining hands with other stakeholders to create a cleaner, healthier and more resilient planet for future generations," Marzouki said.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Batas sa mas pinalawak na responsibilidad kontra plastic waste

ANG bagong batas sa extended producer responsibility (EPR) sa plastic waste ay maituturing na major milestone ng pagtugon sa plastic waste ay magtatagumpay sa pamamagitan ng collaboration at partnership ng ilang stakeholders.

Kabilang dito ang mga government agency, LGU, manufacturer, importer, NGO, civil society group, consumer at komunidad ayon kay Chairman at CEO Kais Marzouki ng Nestle PH ang isa sa pinakamalaking food at beverage manufacturers.

"The effective implementation of the law is urgently needed to tackle the



plastic pollution crisis," dagdag nito.

Ang Republic Act No. 11898 o Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 ay tumutukoy sa EPR bilang environmental policy approach ay nangangailangan ngayon ng producers upang maging environmentally responsible sa buong life

cycle ng produkto. Mula sa pag-manufacture patungo sa consumption o paggamit gayundin sa post-consumer o end-of-life stage.

May mandato ang batas na ang pagtatag ng EPR program ay gagawin sa loob ng anim na buwan at may taunang incremental target recovery rates

na hanggang 80 percent sa 2028.

"At Nestle, our purpose is unlocking the power of food to enhance quality of life, today and for generations to come. In serving people, we need natural resources and a healthy planet, and so we strive to do our share to protect the environment and ultimately help regenerate the Earth in our operations," ayon kay Mr. Marzouki.

Bilang bahagi ng voluntary form ng EPR, ang Nestle PH ay fully plastic neutral na ng dalawang taon hanggang nitong Agosto.

Nakarekober na ito ng halos 52 milyong kilo ng plastic waste nakaraang Hulyo o katumbas ng dami ng plastic packaging na nailabas sa merkado.

Ang unang ginawa ng kompanya ay kinabibilangan ng full transition mula plastic to paper straws.





Wanted immediately: New dump for GenSan

THE city government of General Santos needs a new dump for the 110 tons of solid waste generated by 26 *barangay* (villages) now that a 63-hectare sanitary landfill that receives the garbage has reached full capacity.

Ferdinand Pareja, chief of the Solid Waste Management Office, on Wednesday said the sanitary landfill built in 2016 has a lifespan of only five years.

Pareja recalled that during the incumbency of then-city mayor Ronnel Rivera, a public-private partnership deal for the construction of a new solid-waste facility at Barangay Sinawal in GenSan fell through because of "conflict of interests between competing bidders."

He urged GenSan Mayor Lorelie Geronimo-Pacquiao to give priority to allocating around P70 million for the new dump.

The old sanitary landfill was built through a P219-million loan from the World Bank's Support for Strategic

Local Development and Investment Project that was coursed through the Land Bank of the Philippines under a design-build-operate contract between the R-II Builders Inc. and the Philippine Ecology Systems Consortium Inc.

A private consortium, East Asia Sheng Tai, East Asia Solutions Technology Corp., Sheng Tai Energy Technology Company and Dr. Lin Shing-Chou submitted their respective proposals to the city government to manage the sanitary landfill and operate it for 25 years at P100 million.

None of the proposals, however, materialized.

The city government constructed the sanitary landfill in compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," which was signed into law by former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001 ordering the closure of open dumps in favor of sanitary landfills.

JERRY ADLAW



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PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

09-02-22

DATE

US TO BRING WIND POWER PROJECT TO PH, SAYS ENVOY

By Vincent Cabreza
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—The United States is bringing an offshore wind project to the Philippines to help address the extreme weather crisis that is developing globally due to climate change, US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson said here on Thursday.

The climate crisis, Carlson said, is driving extreme weather events and the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to weather-related disasters.

Carlson, speaking at the celebration of Baguio's 113th Foundation Day, cited the impact on Cordillera farms of Severe Tropical Storm "Florita" (international name: Ma-on) last week, saying this was a kind of vulnerability "that you know all too well right here in Baguio."

She said the US signed a new agreement recently that would lay the groundwork for one of the first offshore wind power projects in the Philippines. This agreement is the latest in a long line of US-Philippine clean energy collaborations, she added.

"Clean energy is vital for economic growth, innovation, and [is] of course responding to the global climate crisis," said Carlson.

She did not provide details about the agreement, but a World Bank-financed road map for Philippine offshore wind energy was launched in April that would harness 178 gigawatts of the country's "technical offshore wind potential."

Last month, US President Joe Biden signed his country's Inflation Reduction Act, which has been touted as a climate change law because it provides incentives for developing green energy programs.

Carlson was this year's Baguio Day guest speaker, as the city highlighted its American roots.

Baguio was designed by Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, founder of the City Beautiful movement, and was built from the ground up by the American colonial government in the early 1900s.

But Burnham's ideal city has evolved into a multidiverse metropolis that is distinctly Filipino, the ambassador said.

"Building on our shared legacy of a Philippine and American experience ... American companies are thriving here in Baguio. Texas Instruments and Moog Controls have established high-tech manufacturing [buildings] that operate state-of-the-art facilities in the city and employ thousands of workers," she said.

Carlson praised Baguio for working on plans to protect its Benguet pine trees, watersheds and forests.

"Forest conservation and watershed preservation are scientifically proven ways to preserve carbon sinks to mitigate climate change," she said.

In his speech, Mayor Benjamin Magalong said the city government was "rebuilding Baguio in a far better way" to curb its projected descent into urban decay because overpopulation and overdevelopment had reduced the carrying capacity of the city's natural resources.

Carlson also credited Magalong's initiative to convert Baguio into an artificial intelligence-governed "smart city," which she described as "a key development marker in meeting some of ... the current and emerging security threats and cross-cutting challenges [confronting the US and the Philippines]."

"We have long shared interests and values, and we are connected by ties of family and friendships that go back generations ... We welcome President Marcos Jr.'s willingness to expand this historic relationship to make it even more relevant to the shared objectives of both our peoples," Carlson said.

Outstanding citizens

This year, Army chief, Lt. Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., joined Baguio's outstanding citizens for 2022, the third member of his family to earn this distinction.

His late father, Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Romeo Brawner Sr., and his mother, the late University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio professor Lenora Fe Brawner who passed away last month, were also declared outstanding citizens.

Also among the outstanding citizens honored this year were former UP Baguio Chancellor Raymundo Rovillos, filmmaker Ferdinand Balanag, veteran photographer Rodolfo "Ompong" Tan, gender and juvenile justice champion Judge Mia Joy Cawed, mental health advocate and nurse Ricky Ducas, architect Dulthe Carlo Munar, and businessperson Marybeth Yu So. INQ

Summer capital

Designated as the summer capital, Baguio helped birth the country's public government system.

The Second Philippine Commission (also known as the Taft Commission), for example, held its sessions here in 1904 to formulate public policies for what was then America's colony. The Teachers' Camp helped train an army of public school teachers.

"The United States has a long history in Baguio which is reflected in the streets, parks and landmarks that bear American names," Carlson said.



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PAGE

UPPER
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PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-02-22

TITLE:

US to bring wind power ...

PAGE

2/2

DATE

48

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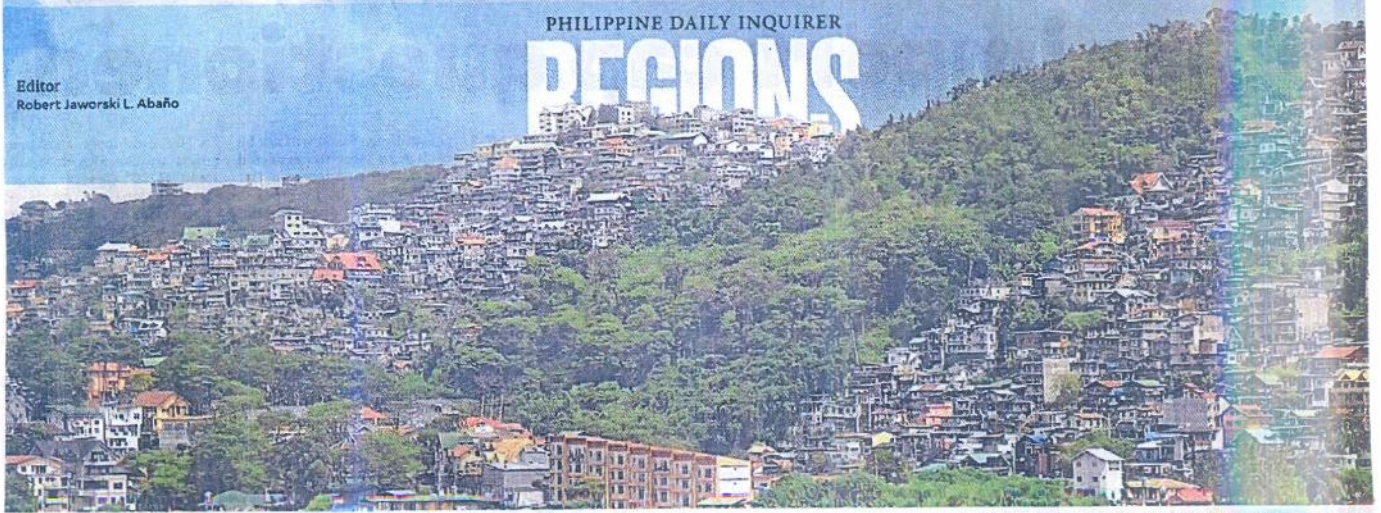
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
REGIONS



SHRINKING SPACES As Baguio City marks its 113th founding anniversary on Sept. 1, officials of the country's summer capital continue to address problems linked to overdevelopment and overpopulated settlements which have crept into pine forests and watersheds. —EV ESPIRITU



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

PH may suffer from P7T worth of water-related damages

THE Philippines may suffer from \$124 billion (P7.01 trillion) worth of losses due to droughts, floods and storms between 2022 and 2050, according to a study made by a global technical services firm.

In a study called Aquanomics released by GHD, the group warned that the amount is equivalent to an average annual gross domestic product loss of 0.7 percent, with the agricultural and retail sectors to be hit the hardest.

It added that storms are expected to have the greatest direct impact on the Philippine economy at \$47 billion, followed by floods at \$42 billion and droughts at \$3 billion, for the period.

GHD said with three million Filipinos currently relying on unsafe water sources and another seven million lacking access to improved sanitation, water supply and sanitation services, the government must pour efforts on water

recycling, desalination and smarter irrigation.

“By focusing on economic impacts, as we have done with this study, we aim to help identify and unlock the social and environmental benefits of tackling water risk head-on. As well as highlighting risk, this study explores some of the ways in which our focus countries can adapt to change and build resilience in their water systems. With water risk on the

rise, we need to adopt a proactive, holistic and inclusive approach in understanding and addressing fast-developing challenges,” Rod Naylor, global water lead of GHD, said in a statement.

Amid the warning, the study said investment needs to be targeted to building infrastructure in the right areas and working with nature to channel water away in order to manage flood risks which may be a challenge on retrofitting solutions

in densely populated urban areas.

GHD added that levels of water pollution in the Philippines is “very high” due to a lack of wastewater treatment, affecting the health of communities and ecosystems. Likewise, the study pointed out that major infrastructure and population centers are located on coastal plains and are exposed to flooding and storm events.

The group also mentioned that since around 20 typhoons enter

the country every year, the Philippines is ranked the fourth most affected country in the world when it comes to water-related disasters and as global warming intensifies, extreme weather events are expected to increase, resulting in greater water risk to the country.

GHD said only a minority of the population has multiple options to avoid such risks as adaptation options are limited due to lack of resources. —Jed Macapagal



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Alarming state of oceans needs immediate action

THE government has called on stakeholders to take immediate, science-based actions toward a "sustainable, healthy, and clean oceans," citing the dire state of oceans due to marine pollution and climate change.

At the Manila-hosted 2022 East Asia Summit Workshop on Maritime Cooperation, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro outlined the need to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation to find "transformative" solutions to protect and preserve the marine environment.

"Although we face regional issues and global challenges such as this ongoing pandemic and the effects of climate change, the problems that our marine environment is facing is something that warrants urgent attention, especially because our EAS region is a global marine biodiversity hotspot," Lazaro said in a speech.

Citing reports, she said there would be more plastics than fish by 2050, while oceans would be overheated and acidified if people fail to act now.

She warned that not even non-coastal states would be spared if this "environmental tragedy" continues.

"Despite being landlocked, these countries would suffer from the long-term economic effects of the disruption of the global supply and value chains and the diminished flow of trade brought about by this

projected environmental destruction," the lady DFA deputy chief said.

"From the Indo-Pacific region to the East Asia seas, all of us gathered around in this forum would bear the same consequences of our wanton neglect of our maritime resources and ecosystems," she added.

The three-day EAS Workshop on Maritime Cooperation: Technical and Scientific Cooperation Towards Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Oceans will run from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, 2022.

Discussions would also include a situationer on oceans in East Asia and the Indo-Pacific, habitat restoration, climate change adaptation, science-based policy making on marine sustainability, and solid waste and marine litter management, among others.

The workshop is an offshoot of the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative 2018-2022.

Delegates and experts from international organizations and 16 of the 18 EAS participating countries attended the forum.

"As we move forward to a new action plan for 2023-2027, we hope that this activity can serve as a strategic platform to further bolster our maritime cooperation in the region," Foreign Affairs Assistant Sec. for ASEAN Affairs Daniel Espiritu said.

As an archipelagic state, Espiritu said marine pollution, particularly the ever-growing microplastic waste is a "big" issue for the Philippines.

"Marine microplastics compose now almost 80 percent of the marine pollution around the world. It has a huge implication because the fishes ingest them, disrupting their lives and reproduction, which of course, has a deep impact on the sustainability of our marine economy, especially the way we get sustenance from the sea," he said.

One of the delegates, Korean Embassy Consul General Lee Kyoo Ho said Seoul would continue to partner with the Philippines in addressing this issue and is in fact in the middle of building a marine litter-collecting ship for the country.

Lee said a \$7.7 million marine litter management initiative would be implemented by the Korea International Cooperation Agency in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Korea is already in the middle of constructing the ship," he told reporters on the sidelines of the workshop.

"[T]hen we will hand it over to the Philippine government, the Coast Guard, and then we will provide capacity building training. The second phase of the project would be about how to process collected marine litter," he said.



STRATEGIC
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 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-02-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

'NO' TO DOLPHIN HUNTING.

Members of the marine wildlife conservationist group Earth Island Institute Asia-Pacific troop to the Japanese Embassy in Pasay City to join protest activities against the annual dolphin hunting in Japan.

Danny Pata





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Greenhouse gas, sea levels at record highs in 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Earth's concentration of greenhouse gases and sea levels hit new highs in 2021, a US government report said Wednesday, showing that climate change keeps surging ahead despite renewed efforts to curb emissions.

"The data presented in this report are clear — we continue to see more compelling scientific evidence that climate change has global impacts and shows no sign of slowing," said Rick Spinrad, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"With many communities hit with 1,000-year floods,

► **HighsA8**

■ HIGHS FROM A1

Greenhouse gas, sea levels at record highs in 2021

exceptional drought and historic heat this year, it shows that the climate crisis is not a future threat, but something we must address today," he said in a statement.

The rise in greenhouse gas levels comes despite an easing of fossil fuel emissions the previous year as much of the global economy slowed sharply due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The US agency said that the concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere stood at 414.7 parts per million in 2021, 2.3 parts higher than in 2020.

The level is "the highest in at least the last million years based on paleoclimatic records," the annual State of the Climate report found.

The planet's sea levels rose for the 10th straight year, reaching a new record of 3.8 inches (97

millimeters) above the average in 1993 when satellite measurements began.

Last year was among the six warmest on record since the mid-19th century, with the last seven years all the seven hottest on record, it said.

The less headline-grabbing average temperatures were in part due to La Niña, an occasional phenomenon in the Pacific that cools waters, which took place early in the year and contributed to February being the coldest since 2014.

But water temperatures were also at records, with exceptionally high recordings documented in particular in lakes in Tibet, an environmentally crucial region as a water source for many of Asia's major rivers.

Rising disasters and fears of tropical storms, which are ex-

pected to increase as the planet warms, were sharply up in 2021, the report said. They included Typhoon "Rai," which killed nearly 400 people in the Philippines in December, and "Ida," which swept the Caribbean before becoming the second-strongest hurricane to hit Louisiana after "Katrina."

Among other extraordinary events cited in the report, the celebrated cherry trees in Kyoto, Japan, bloomed at their earliest since 1409.

Wildfires, also expected to rise due to climate change, were comparatively low following recent years, although devastating blazes were witnessed both in the American West and Siberia.

The 2021 report comes days after a study said Greenland's ice sheet is already set to melt at dangerous levels, even without any future

warming, with major effects on low-lying areas around the globe that are home to hundreds of millions of people.

The planet remains far off track from an ambition set by the Paris climate accord in 2015 to aspire to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

In August, the United States under President Joe Biden pushed through the most expansive government package ever to address emissions from the world's largest economy.

The effort will invest heavily in clean energy and comes as California moves to require all cars to be zero-emission by 2035, a decision with far-reaching consequences for the automobile industry.

AFP



Greenhouse gas, sea levels at record highs in 2021

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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PAGE _____

G20 climate talks fail to agree on communique

NUSA DUA, Indonesia - Officials from the Group of 20 major economies meeting on Wednesday for climate talks in Bali have been unable to agree a joint communique, amid objections over language used on climate targets and the war in Ukraine, two sources told Reuters.

Indonesia's Environment Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar had started the meeting by urging countries to cut emissions and prevent the planet from being pushed to a point "where no future will be sustainable".

But some countries, including China, had objected to previously agreed language in the Glasgow climate pact and past G20 agreements on efforts to limit global average temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius, said an official with knowledge of the meeting, declining to be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately reply to a request for

comment.

Another diplomatic source told Reuters there had been disagreements about language around climate and also references to the war in Ukraine.

Siti had earlier said she hoped a joint communique would be signed by the end of the day, but made no mention of it in her press conference later on Wednesday.

A spokesperson for Indonesia's environment ministry was not immediately available for comment on the matter.

The G20 climate meeting, hosted by this year's chair Indonesia, comes as extreme weather events - fires, floods and heat waves - pummel several parts of the world, including unprecedented flooding in Pakistan in recent weeks that has killed at least 1,000 people.

Scientists say most such extreme weather events are attributable to human-caused climate change and will only increase in severity and frequency as the globe edges closer

to the warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Environment officials from Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, South Korea, and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, were among those attending the talks in Bali, with more bilateral meetings expected on Thursday.

Indonesia as current G20 chair invited representatives from the African Union to join the talks for the first time, said Siti, adding that voices from all countries, regardless of their wealth and size, must be heard.

Also in attendance was Alok Sharma, president of last year's 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), who said the war in Ukraine had increased the urgency of a need to shift to renewable sources of energy. The COP27 climate summit will be held in Egypt this November.

"The current energy crisis has demonstrated the vulnerability of countries relying on fossil fuels con-

trolled by hostile actors," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Climate security has become synonymous with energy security and the chronic threat of climate change is not going away," he said.

Meanwhile, Finance ministers from the Group of Seven club of wealthy nations will discuss the US Biden administration's proposed price cap on Russian oil when they meet, the White House said.

"This is the most effective way, we believe, to hit hard at Putin's revenue and doing so will result in not only a drop in Putin's oil revenue, but also global energy prices as well," said White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre at a briefing for reporters on Wednesday.

Despite Russia's oil exports hitting their lowest levels since last August, its export revenue in June increased by \$700 million month on month due to higher prices, 40 percent above last year's average, the International Energy Agency said last month. -Reuters



Batanes, Babuyan Island signal no. 1 kay 'Henry'

Itinaas na sa storm warning signal no. 1 ang Batanes at Babuyan Island dahil sa inaasahang paglakas ng bagyong Henry na nanatiling nasa dulong bahagi ng northern Luzon.

Sa pinakahuling weather bulletin ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), may posibilidad pa rin na itaas ito sa signal no. 2 depende sa magiging galaw ng bagyong Henry na huling namataan sa Itbayat, Batanes at kumikilos sa bilis na 25 kilometer per hour taglay ang lakas ng hangin na 185kph at

bugso na 230kph.

"The super typhoon slightly weakened but we are not ruling out the possibility of raising signal no. 2," sabi ng Pagasa.

Nagbabala ang Pagasa sa mga residente na maging handa dahil mararamdaman ang epekto ng bagyo ngayong Biyernes. Maaaring magdala ng pinsala ang dala nitong malakas na hangin dahil ang typhoon-force winds ni 'Henry' ay mayroong lawak na 450 kilometro mula sa gitna.

Maaari rin nitong palakasin pa ang hanging habagat na magda-

dala naman ng ulan sa kanlurang bahagi ng Luzon.

Sinabi ng Pagasa na magkakaroon ng quasi-stationary phase o hindi gagalaw ang bagyong Henry hanggang sa araw ng Biyernes at kasabay nito ay inaasahan ng ahensya na hihina ito.

Subalit bago ito humina ay makakaranas ng ulan ang maling bahagi ng Luzon habang hindi naman direktang apektado ang Metro Manila. Ayon sa Pagasa, ang pag-uulan sa Kamaynilaan ay epekto ng hanging habagat. **(Tina Mendoza)**



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PAGE

DATE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Cada City, Negros Occidental

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

It is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Cada City will accept oral or written offers not later than ten (10:00) o'clock A.M. on December 6, 2022 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

1. F.L.A. No. 064518-52
Location: Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental
Description: A portion of shoreline area as shown and described on Lot Plan F.L.A. 064518-00052

Boundaries:
N.- Quiamasas Strait
SE.- Quiamasas Strait
W.- Quiamasas Strait
S.- Lot 206, Cad. 108, Manapla Cadastre

Area:
Appraised Value of the Land: P 108,486,40.00
Appraised Value of Existing Improvements: None

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 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 check, cashier's check or another may be so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has 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.

MAMAD T. BARBAROSA JR.
CIC, CENRO OFFICE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Cada City, Negros Occidental

13 June 2022

SUBJECT:
F.L.A. No. 064518-52
MANAPLA PORT MANAGEMENT, STEVEDORING AND ARRASTRE CORPORATION -Applicant
Rep. by Alfredo Luis M. Sarrosa
Manapla, Negros Occidental

The Municipal Treasurer
Manapla, Negros Occidental

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith one (1) copy in Spanish and English of notice pertaining to lease of public lands covered by the above-sited application, located at Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

It is requested that this notice be posted upon receipt of the same at the Bulletin Board of Municipal Hall of Manapla and that said notice be remain so posted for a period of six (6) consecutive weeks thereafter.

Upon the expiration of the said period, please return this letter by endorsement giving the inclusive dates when the notice was posted.

Very truly yours,
MAMAD T. BARBAROSA JR.
CIC, CENRO OFFICE

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1st Endorsement:

Respectfully returned to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Cada City, with information that the copy of the notice above-mentioned were posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Hall of Manapla upon receipt of the same through a Certification to that effect.

Municipal Treasurer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Cada City, Negros Occidental

ARRENDAMIENTO DE TERRENOS PÚBLICOS

Se da por la presente que el DENR-CENRO de la Ciudad de Cada aceptará ofertas orales o escritas a más tardar a las diez (10:00) de la mañana.M. el 6 de diciembre de 2022 para el arrendamiento de la extensión de tierra aquí descrita a continuación:

1. F.L.A. No. 064518-52
Ubicación: Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental
Descripción: Una porción del área de la costa como se muestra y se describe en el plano del lote F.L.A. 064518-00052

Límites: N.- Estrecho de Quiamasas
SE.- Estrecho de Quiamasas
W.- Estrecho de Quiamasas
S.- Lote 206, Cad. 108, Cadastre de Manapla

Superficie: 47, 168 metros cuadrados
Valor de tasación del terreno: P 108, 486, 40.00
Valor de tasación de las mejoras existentes: Ninguna

El derecho a arrendar el terreno se otorgará a la persona que ofrezca el alquiler anual más alto, que no podrá ser inferior al tres por ciento (3%) del valor del terreno más el uno por ciento (1%) del valor de las mejoras propuestas y/o existentes, a fin de que una persona pueda tener derecho a participar en la licitación, deberá ser solicitante calificado de suelo público y deberá antes del inicio del mismo, realizar un depósito equivalente a al menos tres (3) meses de alquiler. Solo se acepta depósito en efectivo, giro postal, orden de tesorería, cheque certificado, cheque de caja o cheque de garantía. Una persona que es representante de otro puede hacerlo bajo su poder notarial debidamente ejecutado. Durante la licitación, el postor tiene que hacer un depósito adicional cada vez que se eleva su oferta para completar los tres (3) meses de alquiler; de lo contrario, no se aceptará la oferta planteada. Se reserva el derecho de rechazar cualquiera o todas las ofertas.

MAMAD T. BARBAROSA JR.
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MANAPLA PORT MANAGEMENT, STEVEDORING AND ARRASTRE CORPORATION -Applicant
Rep. by Alfredo Luis M. Sarrosa
Manapla, Negros Occidental

The Bidder
Dolly Star
Araneta Avenue,
Shaw City 6100
Negros Occidental

Sir:

I wish to enclose two (2) copies in English of NOTICE pertaining to the lease of lands covered by the following public land applications located at Barangay Punta Salang, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

Application No.	Name of Applicant
F.L.A. No. 064518-52	Manapla Port Management, Stevedoring and Arrastre Corporation

It is requested that this notice be published in your newspaper once a week for a period of six (6) consecutive weeks upon receipt of the same.

Further, after publishing the notice for the period herein above-stated, send us in triplicate copies of a certificate of the Director of Printing showing the publication of the above-cited public land application. It is also requested that a copy of your paper showing the publication of the attached notice be furnished this Office immediately after each issue.

As much as the publication cannot be started on the date indicated, please notify this Office immediately.

Very truly yours,
MAMAD T. BARBAROSA JR.
CIC, CENRO OFFICE