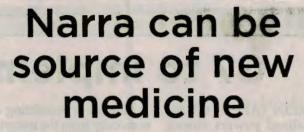
05 September 2022, Monday

NEWS CLIPPINGS

DENR

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





PHILIPPINE

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Philippines has the potential of developing narra, the country's national tree, as a top source of antioxidant producing food item, based on a study by De La Salle Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy.

However, small pharmaceutical companies will need government support to conduct clinical trials to develop the narra extract as medicine and to protect consumers from fake products in the market.

Researchers disclosed that discarded bark and branch wood of the critically endangered narra have antioxidant properties that can help improve the lives of millions of Filipinos.

"Narra can also be considered as a medicinal plant. It possess certain properties that could help our body fight cer-tain types of diseases," College of Pharmacy dean Dr. Louie Legaspi said during the Narra Extract Research Study media briefing over the weekend.

ties, including the results of the Food and Drug Adminisour study, opens opportunities to discover more potential health benefits of narra extracts. We also hope that this improves our perspective on how we see narra, as an important medicinal plant," he said.

The study determined the different production processes that will be most efficient to the narra sample without sacrificing the efficacy of the product in improving consumer health and wellness

It showed that the Oxygen **Radical Absorbance Capacity** (ORAC) scores of all methods tested displayed similarly high levels of antioxidant potency.

ORAC is a method developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health and Aging to measure the antioxidant capacity of different foods.

There is a list by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the narra extract, based on the ORAC score, ranks among the 10 percent foods that have antioxidant properties. That means to say that the narra extract is number one in the Philippines when it comes to antioxidant

properties if we look at the ORAC score," Narra research professor contributing editor Sigfredo Mata said.

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Timothy Bengala, professor and primary investigator of the Narra Research, also referred to the health benefits of pterostilbene, according to the study by Xu et at in 2021. Pterostilbene a potent antioxidant — is found in plants like the narra tree.

Based on the study, pterostilbene is proven to be effective as immune-enhancing, antiasthma, anti-cancer, antifungal, anti-ulcer, and anti-allergy.

As early as 2002, narra has been found to have medicinal value and was used as the main ingredient of a dietary supplement to improve the quality of life of those with diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, bladder stones and infectious diseases.

Currently, narra food supplements are available at select drug stores and on e-commerce websites.

To establish narra extract as medicine, clinical trials must "The wide range of activi- be done to secure license from tration (FDA)

Dr. Alice Catabay, professor and head of research and development at De La Salle Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy, said clinical trials cost from P3 million to P6 million.

"Medicinal plants can undergo the same process. The problem is how do we help small manufacturers to go to clinical trials," she said

And if they do push through with clinical trials and secure FDA license, the government must help protect small manufacturers from competition to recoup their investment as an innovator, Catabay said.

'That's what we can encourage the government to give us, a window of time to manufacture and sell, just like in the US," she said.

Pharmacists are also lobbying for strict, regulation on medicine and supplements sold online.

Actually we are lobbying (for government) to be strict with medicines and supplements sold on the Internet When it comes to drugs, you have to be strict," Catabay said.





Narra may help in fight vs cancer, health problems, study confirms

RusinessMirror

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA Diponimayuga

The bark and branch wood of the Narra tree, a criticallyendangered species, have antioxidant properties that can help improve the lives of millions of Filipinos, experts revealed.

Narra, the country's National tree, is a species of tree sought for its hard, reddish wood popularly used in making furniture. The government allows the establishment of tree plantations for this type of species to save it from extinction in the Philippines.

Citing the result of a recent study during a news conference in Quezon Ĉity on Saturday, the experts said narra extract, hence, ranks number one in the Philippines when it comes to antioxidant properties.

The Narra Extract Research Study conducted by the De La Salle Dasmarinas-College of Pharmacy aims to determine the different production processes that will be most efficient for the narra sample without sacrificing the efficacy of the product in improving consumer health and wellness.

Using the Oxygen Radical Absor-

bance Capacity (ORAC), a method developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health and Aging to measure the antioxidant capacity of different foods, the research team decided to measure and compare the ORAC Scores of each process combinations

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As a result, the ORAC scores of all methods tested displayed similarly high levels of antioxidant potency.

Sigfredo Mata, Professor Contributing Editor of the narra research, cited a list by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the narra extract, based on the ORAC score, ranks among the 10 percent foods with antioxidant properties.

"That means to say that the narra extract is number one in the Philippines when it comes to antioxidant properties if we look at the ORAC score," Mata added.

For his part, Timothy Bengala, Professor and Primary Investigator of theresearchalsoreferred to the health benefits of pterostilbene according to the study by Xuet allin 2021. Based on the study, pterostilbene, a potent antioxidant, is proven to be effective as an immune-enhancing anti-asthma, anti-cancer, anti-fungal, antiucer, and anti-allergy.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

NARRA UNDER STUDY Stricter laws on sale of supplements pushed

Business Insight

BY JED MACAPAGAL

STRICTER Laws in the sale of medicines and dietary supplements as well as the establishment of a proper process for beneficial claims are needed to improve the country's pharmaceutical industry, according to researchers from the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Insti-

tute (DLSMHSI). Dr. Alicia Catabay, chair of the research and development of DLSMHSI's College of Pharmacy, said in a briefing over the weekend they are lobbying for a law to properly regulate the sale of medicine and supplements, especially those that are purchased from e-commerce sites.

Catabay cited the need to pro tect consumers against the prolif-eration of products which claim to have medicinal benefits even they did not go through proper research and clinical trials. ^o Substances that are already

classified as drugs may be pre-scribed by doctors while the use of dietary supplements are only based on personal preference of consumers, she added.

Catabay made the appeal during 'the organization's presentation of

the results on the study of anti-oxidant properties of Narra tree. n "We are doing a series of research, so we are not just working on Narra fight now, but we are working on a lot of plant samples. If you look at the market, there are many plants out there claiming to be effective for such illnesses. However, these plants are called dietary supplements or nutraceuticals and they are dif-terent from drugs because samples like these usually do not undergo a rigorous process of registration," she explained.

"We don't know if a dietary sup-

plement may have zero to 100 per-cent constituent. It is possible that one can claim that it has such properties but (which) are actually absent or could be above normal levels so we don't currently have control....It is better to have research because it will establish the amount that could be taken to achieve a certain activ-ity," Catabay added.

Malaya

At present, she said, around P3 million to P6 million is needed to fund a clinical trial to test a substance's effectivity for a a substance's effectivity for a certain disease, with researchers currently helped by the govern-ment through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development as well as the Na-tional Research Council of the Philippines and the Department of Science and Technology. Such trials can also be funded

by local pharmaceutical com-panies, but Catabay said the government may do more to protect and encourage pioneers

of such studies. "For example, if Narra is commissioned for a clinical trial, manufacturers are obliged to announce it and some other firms will follow suit, they are not protected. That is something that can be encouraged by the government... In the US, they give a certain window of time for manufacturers to sell the formulation exclusively before it becomes public for you to gain back your investments,' Catabay said.

She also said at present, it takes at least 10 years to complete clinical trials on substances to be classified as drugs while mere months in order to be tagged as dietary supplements. Meanwhile, DLSMHSI's re-

search on Narra concluded that



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and branch wood of Narra are be wed to have antioxidant properties which are the body's natural defe se agains armful compounds linked to multiple illnesses

its bark and branch wood have antioxidant properties using the oxygen radical absorbance capac-ity (ORAC), a method used to measure antioxidant capacity of different foods.

Antioxidants are the body's natural defense against harmful compounds linked to multiple illnesses including weakened immunity, diabetes, heart disease

"There is a list by the United States Department of Agri-culture and the Narra extract, based on the ORAC score, ranks among the 10 percent foods that have antioxidant proper-

ties. That means to say that the Narra extract is number one in the Philippines when it comes to antioxidant properties if we look at the ORAC score," said Sigfredo Mata, DLSMHSI professor and contributing editor of the research.

Mata also assured that such research ventures are being made to be sustainable. Under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, manufacturers are required to provide an action plan to make the harvest of resources in a manner that will not be destructive and are beneficial to host communities as well.

Dr. Louie Legaspi, dean of DI.SMHSI's College of Pharmacy, said the results of the study open opportunities to discover more potential health benefits of Narra extracts as they plan to conduct tests to compare its activity with other antioxidants using other tests aside from ORAC scores.

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"Aside from Narra, the College is also looking at the medicinal properties and benefits of ornamental plants. We are now working on mayana which is an ornamental (plant), seaweeds like lato, bunga-bunga, mangosteen, sibuyas tagalog and guyabano, among others," Legaspi said.



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Narra extracts best antioxidant vs. various illnesses

MANILA – Extracts from Narra tree have been found to be a leading source of antioxidants to prevent diabetes, hypertension, asthma, cancer, a weakened immunity, ulcer, allergy, and other illnesses.

cer, allergy, and other illnesses. This was announced by a research team from De La Salle College of Pharmacy during a press conference at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City on Saturday.

The research study group used the Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC), a measure developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health and Aging "to measure the antioxidant capacity of different food, the research team decided to measure and compare the ORAC Scores of each process combination."

"The ORAC Score is also the unit of measure of antioxidants which is the body's natural defense versus harmful compounds that are linked to multiple illnesses, including weakened immunity, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer," the research team said. The study also revealed that "the

The study also revealed that "the ORAC scores of all methods tested displayed similarly high levels of antioxidant potency."

tioxidant potency." Prof. Sigfredo Mata, contributing editor of the Narra Research Team, said "there is a list by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Narra extract, based on the ORAC score, ranks among the 10 percent of foods that have antioxidant properties."

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That means "the Narra extract is number one in the Philippines when it comes to antioxidant properties if we look at ORAC score," he said.

Narra, which is abundant in the Philippines, is the country's national tree.

Other members of the research team who attended the press conference were Louie Fernando Legaspi, Timothy Jay Bengala, and Dr. Alicia Catabay. PNA

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Business Insight

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'Air quality monitoring in PH needs improvement'

THE government must improve the country's monitoring systems for air quality to address inadequacies in data on air pollution and its dangers to people, according to Greenpeace Philippines.

In a report released last week, Greenpeace said only 45 percent of people in the Philippines live within 25 kilometers of an air quality monitoring station, most of which are located in Metro Manila.

The study noted the disparity in access to air quality data is putting vulnerable populations at greater risk from air pollution apart from the fact that access to such data, which are not updated regularly, is also difficult.

Greenpeace's report also said almost all Filipinos are breathing air that doesn't meet World Health Organization guidelines, with as much as 25 percent of the total population exposed to annual average particulate matter 2.5 concentrations that are at least five times over the guidelines.

The group said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources should expand its air quality monitoring capacity not just by increasing the number of stations but also by enabling the monitoring of other dangerous pollutants.

"Currently, our country has very few air quality monitoring stations, and those that are located near fossil fuel-fired power plants don't monitor pollutants like methane and sulfur, which comes from fossil gas and pose risks to people's health. Having the full capacity to monitor air quality means being able to mount a strong case against the fossil fuel industry particularly coal and fossil gas and ultimately prevent them from dealing more damage to our environment and communities," said Khevin Yu, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner, in a statement.

Aaron Pedrosa, secretary-general of Sanlakas and co-chairman of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice Energy Working Group, saidthe government failed to protect and promote people's right to clean air despite the decades-old enactment of the Clean Air Act.

"Our air standards are outmoded and have fallen far behind latest science. And despite the failure to regulate, the government continues on an approving spree to more projects that would further deteriorate the dismal quality of our country's air," Pedrosa said.

Based on data from the Air Quality Management Section of the Environmental Management Bureau, there are 15 air quality monitoring stations deployed in Metro Manila.

Of the 15, eight were updated and online as of yesterday, those in Caloocan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Paranaque, Pasig and Taguig. -Jed Macapagal



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Air quality worst in Benguet, Rizal, Metro Manila, Greenpeace says

Susiness

BENGUET, Rizal, and Metro Manila are at the bottom of the air quality standings, with over 97% of their population exposed to some of the highest particulate matter (PM) concentrations in the entire country, Greenpeace said in a report.

All Filipinos are exposed to air that fails to meet World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, Greenpeace said. The WHO considers air of acceptable quality to contain no more than 5 micrograms of PM per cubic meter of air ($5 \mu g/m^3$), it said in a report issued on Sept. 2.

However, Benguet, Rizal, and Metro Manila average 25 μ g/m³, the non-government organization said.

PM refers to fine inhalable particles. Particles of about 2.5 micrometers are referred to as PM2.5, the industry standard for airborne pollutants.

To address the air quality problem, Greenpeace supports a phaseout of fossil-based energy projects and a reliable energy source that does not depend on imports.

Greenpeace Campaigner Khevin Yu told *BusinessWorld* by phone over the weekend that the argument against imported fuel is also economic because "Right now, in terms of fossil gas prices here and globally, it is expensive."

"Improving air quality is not only a matter of ensuring health and justice, but also of addressing the climate crisis and eliminating the common denominator — our country's dependence on dirty energy," Mr. Yu said in a statement released earlier. A separate report issued by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and the Global Solar Council (GSC) highlighted the dangers of fossil fuel dependence, as reflected in the current energy crisis.

GWEC and GSC said governments need to encourage public and private investment in clean energy.

Michael O. Sinocruz, director of the Energy Policy Planning Bureau at the Department of Energy (DoE), said in an e-mail on Sept. 1 that net-zero goals imply a 100% share of renewable energy (RE) in the power generation mix, or an effort to "blend renewable energy with other emerging clean energy technologies."

Currently, the DoE is targeting an RE share of 30% in the energy mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



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Business Insight

DENR allowing P59M worth of

confiscated logs, equipment to rot: COA

BY PETER TABINGO

ILLEGALLY cut logs, logging and transportation equipment, and other forest products valued for at least P59.23 million confiscated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been left idle and rotting, instead of being converted into additional income for the government.

This was revealed in the 2021 audit report on the DENR released last July 28 after a copy was officially submitted to the office of Secretary Ma. Antonio YuloLoyzaga on July 20, 2022.

Auditors tagged the DENR Regional Office 2 (Cagayan Valley) and eight Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) for improper handling of millions of confiscated hot logs and equipment.

These were identified in the report as PENROS Siquijor (P24.764 million), Misamis Occidental (P13.396 million), Negros Oriental (P9.039 million), Cagayan (P5.755 million), Negros Occidental (P2.857 million), Nueva Ecija (P1.786 million), Bataan (P1.008 million), Tarlac (P512,000), and DENR Region 2 (P112,000).

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Auditors blamed the absence of a clear-cut policy on the part of the DENR regarding the management of confiscated/abandoned/seized goods inventory (CASGI), lack of adequate storage facility, and failure to conduct an inventory of recovered illegally cut timber, tools, and other forest products.

"The agency was not provided with enough and safe storage facilities to keep and preserve the confiscated assets. This condition exposed them to deterioration caused by heat, rain, termites, and

other environmental elements as well as possible loss through theft," they pointed out.

Under DENR Memorandum Order No. 36, DENR regional directors, PENROs, and Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs) are mandated to sell or dispose all confiscated products through public auction unless they are needed by the agency for its own projects or are still needed for presentation in court as evidence.

Seized logs and equipment that are still subject of court cases may still be sold with leave from the judge to avoid loss of economic value in the event the case takes a long time to resolve.

On the other hand, DENR Administrative Order No. 97-32 made it mandatory for CENROs and PENROs to prepare a full inventory of all confiscated assets for submission to the regional officer, who in turn is required to forward them to the DENR Secretary.

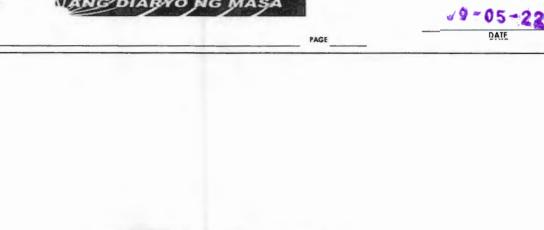
"Despite the effort of the DENR in enforcing the law on anti-illegal logging, the management of Confiscated/Seized Goods was overlooked because the pieces of evidence on anti-illegal logging operations were not safeguarded," the Commission on Audit said.

Based on the audit recommendations, the DENR said it will ask the national government for budget to construct proper storage facilities to preserve the economic value of seized forest products and equipment.

Likewise, it assured the COA that clear-cut policies would be crafted to ensure speedy disposition of the confiscated items to create additional revenue.



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100 wildlife species nasabat sa Sarangani

SARANGANI - Higit sa 100 wildlife species ang nasamsam ng mga awtoridad matapos tangkaing ipuslit ng apat na lalaki sa karagatang sakop ng bayan ng Glan.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 ang apat na suspek. Batay sa report, nagsasagawa ng sea patrol ang Philippine Coast Guard nang mamataan ang mga suspek na nagmula sa Balut leland na kahina-hinala ang mga kangang kahon. Sinita ng mga awtondad ang mga kahon at nang buksan ay tumumbad ang iba't ibang reptik species.

Hiningan ang miga suspek ng mga dokumento subalit wala silang naipakita.

Kinumpirma naman ng Glan municipal veterinarian na ang mga nakuhang wilcllife species ay walang dalang sakit at kasalukuyan nasa isang ecopark para sumailalim sa recovery bago dalhin sa Regional Wildlife Rescue Center sa Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat.

MARY ANNE SAPICO



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Lawmakers declare Wawa Dam as tourist site

D provide economic opportunities to the residents of Montalban, the House Committee on Tourism has declared Wawa Dam as a tourist destination.

Rizal 4th District Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles said in a statement the committee approved the House Bill (HB) 2962.

"Wawa Dam has long been a tourist attraction and we need government support to fully develop it for the benefit of the people. It would be crucial in providing economic opportunities to the residents of the town," Nograles said.

HB 2962, or the "Development of Wawa Dam Act," mandates the formulation of a comprehensive development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of applicable facilities and infrastructure that would enhance, develop and promote tourism in the area as well as improve accessibility and security of tourists.

The Tourism, Public Works and Highways, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government departments and the local government units concerned are tasked with creating the development plan within a year of the bill's approval.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) is also tasked with immediately implementing the said plan and integrating it with the agency's overall development programs.

Wawa Dam is a man-made dam at the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Montalban.

The dam, which was created in 1909, is recognized by the National Museum as an Important Cultural Property due to its design and structure, as well as its historical significance during World War 2. The site is frequented by hikers, bikers and adventurers as it lies between Mt. Pamitinan and Mt. Binacayan and has a gorge and numerous caves for bouldering and spelunking.

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Local tourists also visit for swimming, picnics, sightseeing, boating and photography.

Nograles said that Wawa Dam's declaration as a tourist destination would highlight the need to protect and sustainably develop natural tourist attractions.

"The continued patronage of tourists of sites like Wawa Dam indicates that our people value the environment and its bounty," he added.

The lawmaker said he is looking forward to the bill's enactment.

Nograles also said that pendingits enactment, his office will continue to partner with other groups to protect Wawa Dam. Joree Marie N. Dela Cruz





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ITTLE: Living and doing business with climate change

Living and doing business with climate change



WALA LANG

n abstract concept is what most of us think of climate change, interesting only to scientists and divorced from the daily concerns of people making a living, companies looking at bottom lines, government officials planning for the next election. A webinar recently organized by the Institute of Corporate Directors for GT Capital Holdings made it clear that climate change affects companies, countries, all of us, and our children.

It has been constantly getting hotter. With rising temperatures, the icecaps of Greenland and Antarctica have been melting, as have the glaciers of the Himalayas, the Alps, and everywhere else. Melt water reach the seas causing ocean levels to rise. Rising temperatures also warm the seas, making typhoons and cyclones stronger and more frequent and taking different paths. They also cause coral reefs, nursery of larger fish, to die. On land, higher temperatures mean less rain, wildfires, drought, and expanding deserts.

In the Philippines, typhoons have been getting stronger and are passing southern Philippines more often. Parts of Metro Manila are doubly affected. Ground water is pumped up either secretly or with official blessings to supplement what Angat Dam and Laguna de Bay supply, causing land to sink. With rising sea levels and land subsidence, Malabon and Navotas suffer constant flooding and some busy streets become impassable with every heavy rain. These are not aberrations that will cease, but are effects of global warming that can only get worse.



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CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL Navigating a street in Malabon

Typhoons cause immediate loss of life, crops, private property, infrastructure. Repair and rehabilitation as well as measures taken to reduce the impact of future typhoons eat into resources otherwise available for more productive uses. In constantly flooded areas, flood control measures are taken, streets are raised, homeowners rebuild their homes or move

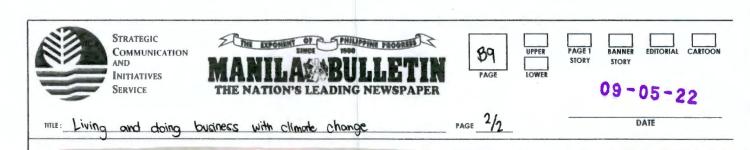
elsewhere, all at a cost. With more and stronger typhoons in coming years, both damage and repair cost will necessarily rise too. The worst case scenario could be the abandonment of the area and the transfer of entire communities to higher locations.

Not only populated areas but also agricultural lands will be affected as global warming continues, affecting food supply. Because Thailand, Vietnam and our suppliers of rice, sugar, etc. are also affected by climate change, we could have full-blown food crises.

The principal causes of global warming are: (a) carbon emissions caused mainly by burning fossil fuel, namely oil and coal, and (b) loss of forests, mangroves, and other organisms that absorb the damaging emissions, known as "sinks." Slowing global warming depends on

how speedily emissions are reduced and absorbed.

The risks of global warming and its potentially grave impact on the Philippines had been recognized. Congress passed R.A. No. 9728 (Climate Change Act of 2009) creating a Climate Change Commission headed by the President and an advisory council of 23 members, including department secretaries and representatives from local government units, private business, academe,



Climate change, interesting only to scientists, appears divorced from the daily concerns of people making a living, companies looking at bottom lines, government officials planning for the next election.

and other key sectors. The Commission was mandated to formulate a National Climate Change Action Plan and given the powers to see to its implementation. A recent press release reports on a commission meeting with transport groups to get their cooperation.

Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Paris Agreement (or Paris Climate Accords) was adopted in 2016 under which governments agree to take measures that will keep global temperature below 2.0 degrees Celsius or preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius beyond its preindustrial level and to cut carbon emissions by 50 per-

cent by 2030. The Philippines signed the agreement in 2016 and ratified it the following year. The Philippine commitment is to reduce emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

by 70 percent by 2030. The expert speakers at the ICD-GT Capital Holdings Webinar touched upon business and climate change. Climate change is upon us for sure. Its severity and timing depend upon the success of measures taken all over

the world to reduce carbon emissions, increase carbon sinks, mitigate the impact of climate change on the population, and to finance the measures needed to achieve the above.

Obvious measures for reducing emissions, include reduction of oil usage for transportation, power generation, and household needs; shift to alternative energy sources (solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal). Increasing carbon sinks call for reforestation, preservation and expansion of mangrove areas. Measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on people include changes in zoning, building and land reclamation laws, and regulations, flood control, relocation. It's a no-brainer that money should not be spent by government, companies, or individuals on projects likely to be affected by rising sea levels, land subsidence, water and power shortages, typhoons, and projects that use oil, coal, and other emission-causing processes.

Long-term planning is needed one can only hope that national and local leadership think beyond the six and three years of their terms of office. Expenses for reforestation are immediate while the results are in the far future. Deforestation benefits are, immediate. Deep wells yield immediate water; dams take longer.

The ICD-GT Capital webinar concluded with the message that, business opportunities exist in the direst of conditions. Companies make daily decisions on products, target customers and suppliers, production processes, location and relocation, raw material sources. Bank decisions on loan applications result in eventual income or loss writeoffs. Companies that recognize and act upon opportunities possible and avoid the risks inherent in climate change will succeed; those who proceed as if nothing will be different may regret their complacency.

Notes: (a) Expert speakers presented by the Institute of Corporate Directors were Carlo Jose Gatmaitan of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, John Pulhin of U.P. Los Banos, Kelvin Lee of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Olivier Trecco of S&P Global Sustainable, and Colin Hubo of the University of Asia and the Pacific; and (b) Arthur Ty chairs GT Capital Holdings and its sister companies, including Metrobank and AXA Life and Charter Ping An Insurance Companies.

Comments are cordially invited, addressed to walangwala888@gmail.com.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

We are at a watershed moment in climate adaptation

The DEPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS

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HE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

In the past few years, our newsfeeds have been filled with climaterelated events such as heat waves that have sparked epic wildfires, droughts in many areas of the globe, and major storms and flooding in other countries, ours included.

The climate disruptions in various parts of the food-producing world will force once robust exporting countries to reduce shipments to the world. Likewise, our country's agricultural output is also often affected by major typhoons that cause extensive crop damage that reduces harvests.

Here in Mindanao, durian fruit growers say that the harvest season may have already shifted, as more durians are expected in a month's time. That's definitely another harvest period as in the previous years those fruits were abundant beginning mid July.

I expect that other crop producers will have the same concern.

The reality of a climate gone awry can no longer be denied or ignored. It is bearing an impact not only on additional costs for home repairs, but it raises food prices as well. This complicates and weakens the efforts to push post-pandemic economic recovery for the greater majority, as it is one of the major factors, apart from the Ukraine conflict, driving inflation up. This affects especially the people in the developing world where food costs are the major expense item in household expenditure.

The sobering reality before us is that at no time in history have these various climate and geopolitical pressures and disruptions occurred in succession, with tough overlapping effects. While recovering from one disruption, we will have to face another that is more complex and challenging. Imagine the strain that will be put on public and private resources.

With this, adapting to climate change

will not simply be about reinforcing houses and

buildings to deal with the stronger winds and rains of typhoons. It will also have to make space for pandemic-related risks, such as having isolation procedures and open air sections for customers.

It will also mean that we are prepared to assure our families of adequate food supplies both before and after climate-related events.

Thus, with these complicated and overlapping challenges, it is likely that any country seeking self sufficiency may have to spend more to reach the same volume of harvests to meet local demand. At the same time, it has to make sure that production and retail costs are lowered to allow its poorer citizens to buy the commodity, thereby helping manage inflation. Achieving a sensitive balancing act will be needed.

These challenges will force us to reexamine our food systems, and make necessary adjustments in order to be resilient. This is one of the major tenets of resilience. How to achieve that will take open minds, new thinking, partnerships and a greater acceptance of the role of technology to expand production, improve shelf and storage lives and lower the costs of food transport to markets.

Inter-island travel

I would like to reach out to the Department of Transportation (DOTR) to take a look at procedures for inter-island travel, particularly those that involve vehicles that are brought along by the travelers. Perhaps having the process done online from booking seats and vehicle slots, to release of inter-island permits will encourage more travel. This will lessen the effort needed by Filipinos, especially from Mindanao travelling to the Visayas and Luzon, to travel between major islands on ferries.



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IF PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. does not put a stop to it, and wealthy land speculators from China and elsewhere are allowed to partner with reclamation claimants to a thousand and a half hectares of Manila Bay, ordinary folks like you and me will no longer be able to view the fabled sunset, even if we sit for weeks on end in the wasted dolomite beach off Roxas Boulevard.

I have no complaints over the landfill over marshland that would expand Ramon Ang's Bulakan aerocity where a new international airport will hopefully rise within my lifetime.

Nor would I object if Gov. Jonvic Remulla reclaims part of the bay surrounding his proposed Sangley international airport.

Both projects will make the NAIA complex obsolete as an airport because in the case of Sangley, they share the same air corridor.

NAIA with its more or less 640 hectares can thus be converted into a well-planned real estate development with about a fifth of it transformed into a huge sprawling park similar to Manhattan's Central Park or San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

The two new international airports will thus obviate the salivating "need" for Metro Manila's local governments to expand via reclamation in Manila Bay, while raising hefty revenues for the government at a time of financial difficulties which I imagine will stretch over the entire term, even beyond, of President Marcos' six-year term.

I do not anchor my objection to the many bay reclamations on environmental issues, simply because I have no expertise on such matters.

But I am being consistent, because in previous articles on this space I have already written about why I object to these reclamation projects, and, at one point, even praised Pres. Duterte for speaking out against them.

The issue has reared its ugly head once again because there was a recent protest rally against the many reclamation projects, and there have been conflicting judicial actions on cases involving overlapping metes and bounds of two of these "approved" projects.

Apparently, former mayor of Manila and former Pres. Estrada awarded a 318-hectare reclamation project fronting the bayside to a corporation controlled by William Gatchalian, which overlaps with another project claimed

threat, given his terrible experience," Watson said. After that, authorities just tried to patrol his territory and look for signs that he was still alive.

In the last known footage of him alive shot in 2011 but not released until seven years

Cry over Manila Bay's loss

by a corporation once controlled by construction magnate F.F. Cruz, now by his heirs.

Cruz's Asian Seas Resources and Construction Development Corporation (Asserco) has a NEDA-approved reclamation while Gatchalian's project supposedly has none.

In short, the City of Manila under Estrada failed to do what Pres. FVR called "complete staff work" (CSW), when they awarded the huge area supposedly sans public bidding, to Gatchalian's Waterfront Manila Premier company.

As the matter is still with the Makati RTC with two judges giving conflicting decisions, and will likely go further up the judicial ladder, again, I will not comment on the legal merits.

> My biggest objection to reclamation is it will make the inner cities of Metro Manila and nearby Cavite and Laguna even more densely populated

Moreover, as of this writing, Pres. Marcos has yet to appoint replacements for the officers of the Philippine Reclamation Authority, assuming he has no intention of retaining the Duterte appointees.

Apart from these two, there are other "approved" reclamation projects from Las Pinas and Paranaque in the south to Navotas in the north, going through Pasay and Manila.

In several helicopter trips during the campaign, I saw one such project already being land-filled with amazing speed by a big-time Mindanao-based contractor fronting Pasay and Manila's boundaries.

For one who grew up in Manila, and has resided in the nation's capital almost all my life, I rue the loss of the fabled sunset over our beloved bay. Many more will cry when eventually all that is gone, covered by glitzy high-rise condominiums (or so the project proponents dream) owned and occupied by the rich and entitled, from here or abroad.

By then the dolomite beach of former DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu and his "Mandamus Agencies" will have turned gray or dark green with fetid waters, and when these agencies

later — he is seen semi-naked cutting down a tree with an axe.

Besides bows and arrows that showed he hunted, there were gardens where he grew fruit and vegetables, such as papaya and manioc.

return the bay walk to us, gone will be our beloved sunset view of the horizon.

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The "approval" of these projects show how tribal our LGU officials are. They care only for their territorial jurisdiction, and to hell with the rest of the nation.

First, they salivate over the potential real property taxes and the business and occupancy permits. Second, their territories are over-crowded.

Second, their territories are over-crowded. Blame that on a population that thinks making babies is great even if they cannot feed them. And poor people from the provinces trying their luck in the "big apple" that Metro Manila to them is.

As for the proponents of this reclamation craze, they know that it is cheaper to reclaim one square meter of land in the bay than it is to buy the same natural land area in the inner metropolis.

Imagine a million pesos per square meter in BGC or upscale Makati, as against reclaiming the same from the bay, getting Chinese businessmen to invest up-front, and selling the finished product at atrocious prices, probably higher even than inland BGC or Makati.

My biggest objection to reclamation is it will make the inner cities of Metro Manila and nearby Cavite and Laguna even more densely populated.

When the construction workers brought in from the provinces are done with their work, guess whether they will go back to where they came from.

They won't. Instead, finding temporary work and hoping to find continuing work in the metropolis, they will re-populate our already groaning slum communities.

And those myopic LGUs who sponsor the massive reclamation of the bay will be left with even more social and economic problems than the quick financial fix of reclamation will deliver.

Sure, there is little land left for human habitation in NCR. But the solution lies not in reclaiming the bay for the rich.

The solution is to build better, well-planned infrastructure for the rest of the country that will create livelihood opportunities in the countryside.

Only the Office of the President can put a stop to these reclamation projects now.

Never mind the cases that the "developers" will bring to the courts, even if they reach the Supreme Court that has in the recent past mandated the clean-up of Manila Bay.

Mr. President, save Manila Bay, so future generations will not have to cry over its loss.

"We saw one of his gardens and it was full of produce - very beautifully kept," said Watson who visited the site in 2005. AFP

Full version on www.manilastandard.net

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Our environmental performance

Business Insight

A FTER almost six decades of life, part of me feels that I am back in school, needing to master, to the best of my ability, a new area of knowledge that I never imagined I would have to be studying ever in my lifetime, which has been focused mainly on politics and law, in that order.

But a new corporate assignment has thrust me into the world of sustainability, and for at least two reasons I find myself working double-time to understand what this new focus of attention is (whether from the global, national, or corporate level), where the Philippines is, where our company is, and where we want our world, our country, and our company to be in a set number of years.

A few days ago, I stumbled upon a very informative publication called the Environmental Performance Index 2022. It is the result of work by experts from the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, as well as the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia university. The index provides "a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world," as the publication itself states, ranking 180 countries based on 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories in three policy objectives. The policy objectives are Climate, Environmental Health, and Ecosystem Vitality, and the issue categories are 1) Climate Change Mitigation: 2) Air Quality; 3) Water Management; 4). Water & Sanitation; 5) Heavy Metals: 6) Biodiversity and Habitat: 7) Ecosystem Services; 8) Fisheries; 9) Agriculture; 100 Acid Rain and 11) Water resources. "Overall EPI rankings indicate

"Overall EPI rankings indicate which countries are best addressing the environmental challenges that every nation faces," the introduction to the 2022 Index explains. "The EPI offers a powerful policy tool in support of efforts to meet the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to move society toward a sustainable future."

Before I share how the Philip-



Malaya

to contribute to better numbers for the Philippines, and we look forward to collaborating with everyone else in their own respective organizations — in the private as well as the public sector — doing this same work!'

We will do what we can at NAC

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pines scored, I think it's worth sharing a few other snippets from the report:

"High scoring countries exhibit longstanding and continuing investments in policies that protect environmental health, preserve biodiversity and habitat, conserve natural resources, and decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth. Denmark tops the 2022 rankings...

"...based on the latest scientific insights and environmental data, India ranks at the bottom of all countries in the 2022 EPI with low scores across a range of critical issues. Deteriorating air quality and rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions pose especially urgent challenges. Many bottomtrier countries face war and other sources of unrest as well as a lack of financial resources to invest in environmental infrastructure.

"EPI projections indicate that just four countries — China, India, the United States and Russia — will account for over 50% of residual global greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 if current trends hold. A total of 24 countries will be responsible for nearly 80% of 2050 emissions unless decision-makers strengthen climate policies and emissions trajectories change."

So where does the Philippines stand in the index of 180 countries? Overall, the 2022 EPI ranks the

Philippines at 158 with a score of

28.9 (Denmark scores 77.9 and India 18.9), and we rank ahead of fellow Asean nations Indonesia (No. 164, 28.2), Vietnam (No. 178, 20.1) and Myanmar (No. 179, 19.4). The six other Asean countries ahead of us are Cambodia (No. 154, 30.1), Laos (No. 149, 40.7), Malaysia (No. 130, 35.0), Thailand (No. 108, 38.1), Brunei Darussalam (No. 71, 45.7) and Singapore, the highest ranked Asean country at No. 44 with a score of 50.9 (in a tie with Namibia).

For each issue category, here is how the Philippines ranks: in Climate Change Mitigation wer ranked No. 175 with a score of 16.9, eighth in Asean and better only than Laos and Vietnam.

For Air Quality, we are ranked No. 132 with a score of 25.9, seventh in Asean and better only than Läös, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

For Sanitation and Drinking Water, we ranked 110th with a score of 39, sixth in Asean ahead of Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia and Laos.

For Heavy Metals, we are ranked 91st with a score of 47.4, fifth in Asean ahead of Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia.

We are ranked 116th in Waste Management with a score of 23.4, 7th in Asean ahead of Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

For Biodiversity and Habitat, we ranked 100th worldwide with a score of 54.2, fourth in Asean ahead of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and Myanmar.

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We ranked 89th globally in Ecosystems services with a score of 26.7 and are No. 1 in Asean.

Our best ranking globally is in Fisheries where we are 21st worldwide with a score of 34.8, but second only in Asean to Singapore.

For Acid Rain we are ranked 161st with a score of 34.8, sixth in Asean ahead of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

For Agriculture, we ranked 113th globally with a score of 29.6 and eighth in Asean ahead of Singapore and Brunei.

Finally, for Water Resources we are ranked 126th globally (tied with North Macedonia with a score of 0.8) and fifth in Asean ahead of Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Myanmar.

Clearly, as a country, we have much to do and need to pay more attention to all of these indicators than we have been doing in the last few years. I am challenged, but energized, working with Edwin Nerva, Paolo Earvin Alonzo, Brenda Lhyn Aquino and Nicole Sungalon-islanan - colleagues who are part of Nickel Asia's Office of the Chief Sustainability Officer who have taken sustainability and ESG to heart. As a team we are doing our best to achieve a number of objectives all at the same time: establish the baselines for Nickel Asia and all its subsidiaries, explaining ESG and Sustainability to the whole organization and, most important, giving our corporate leaders as accurate as possible a series of scenarios of targets which we as a responsible corporate citizen can shoot for. Gratefully, the NAC senior leadership has proven itself focused on this responsibility.

We will do what we can at NAC to contribute to better numbers for the Philippines, and we look forward to collaborating with everyone else in their own respective organizations — in the private as well as the public sector — doing this same work!



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Bamboo, seaweed producers seek ₱2.2-B gov't budget

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

Local bamboo and seaweed producers are asking the government for ₱2.2 billion budget allocation to achieve the full economic potential of these products, especially in the exports market.

In a press conference by the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. (PCAFI), the Philippine Bamboo Foundation said they would ask the government to allocate \mathbb{P}_2 billion out of the $\mathbb{P}_2.7$ billion previously allotted to the industry.

The Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines also urged the government to return to their ₱200-million annual budget allocation way back in 2012 from the current ₱40 million.

Both groups said providing more

budget will go a long way in helping the two local industries.

In the case of the seaweed industry, Jimbo Pedrosa III, chairman of Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines, said the Philippines is the world's second largest producer of carrageenan, made of seaweed used in different applications from food to cosmetics and medicines.

Pedrosa said the Philippines is second only to China as seaweeds producer but global buyers prefer the Philippine produce because of the quality, especially for carrageenan.

In 2018, the industry exported \$191 million with budgetary support of ₱138 million. Exports went up to \$221. 316 million in 2019 with higher government funding of ₱198 million. Exports went down' to \$175.6 million 2020 as the funding was drastically cut to ₱59.2 million. Last year, exports reached \$209.6 million with a budget allocation of ₱43 million.

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The current global seaweed industry is worth \$6 billion and consumption is forecasted to increase by 30 to 50 percent. The Asia Pacific is the biggest market, absorbing approximately 60 percent of supplies of seaweed and hydrocolloids. Growth centers include South and Southeast Asia, Middle East, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe.

During a recent industry consultation, industry players were apprised of shortage in raw dried seaweed (RDS) triggering a 200 percent in prices to ₱170 to ₱200 per kilo. "That is a good problem," he said.

The global market, however, has been impacted by climate change and the pandemic due to supply chain issues. **B-3**

Bamboo, seaweed... **B-1**◀

The industry expects exports growth potential of \$500 million with timely government intervention.

Based on their presentation, the industry needs to counter a disinformation campaign in the US about the safety of carrageenan and to delist the product as acceptable ingredient for US organic products. Such possible delisting could imperil the 52 percent Philippines market share or equivalent to \$40 million in the US carrageenan market.

There is also a need to promote seaweed farming in coastal areas and budget allocation of from the local government unit internal revenue allocation.

The industry also calls for the establishment of institutional support, seaweed laboratories, and technical training to maximize yields and uses.

On the bamboo industry, Edgardo C. Manda, president of the Philippine Bamboo Foundation, said the requested P2 billion budget should be divided among 13 regions for planting materials and to develop commercial bamboo plantations.

Data from the Kilusang 5K (Kawayan: Kalikasan. Kabuhayan. Kaunlaran. Kinabukasan.) also showed that the Philippines is the fifth largest bamboo and rattan product exporter in the world having grown 62 bamboo specie, including 21 endemic.

Declared by the Department of Agriculture as a high value crop in 2020, the industry generated P233 million worth of investments in that same year.

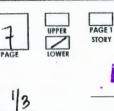
The industry cited bamboos myriad uses, profitability, renewable, fast growing, lots technologies available, and environmentfriendly.

As of Dec. 2019, there were total of 2,519 bamboo enterprises in the country as raw material suppliers for bamboo huts and cottages, bamboo mats, handicraft and furniture.





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From carbon ambition to delivery in Philippines

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It will take a combination of vision and pragmatism for companies to reach their decarbonization goals.

By Patricia Buenaventura Nichol, Yukiko Tsukamoto, Jenny Davis-Peccoud and Torsten Lichtenau

THE YEAR 2021 was about ambition setting. The number of companies establishing science-based targets for decarbonization had strongly increased since 2015, but it rose dramatically from 2020 to 2021, in the run-up to COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (see Figure 1).

Now, 2022 and beyond will be about delivering on and monetizing those ambitions. The world will eventually get to net zero — but the critical issue is getting there in time to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius. The urgency is real: Reaching net zero by 2050 requires halving emissions between 2020 and 2030.

It's not surprising that many CEOs feel overwhelmed as they face the climate challenge. There's no shortage of headlines highlighting the trillions of dollars it will take to green the economy. And the opportunities are endless, with possibilities to exponentially grow customer demand for green products.

Yet the day-to-day work of turning ambition into reality is undeniably challenging. Consider that 31% of companies missed scope 1 and 2 targets they set for 2020 with the Science Based Targets initiative — despite the fact that these emissions are the most controllable and there are many options available to address them (see Figure 2).

Of course, all of this is not happening in a green vacuum. Executives are trying to pursue their decarbonization targets during a period of turbulence that has created historic levels of uncertainty and numerous difficulties. They are grappling with ways to make an orderly carbon transition amid an unsettling geopolitical atmosphere, chronic supply chain disruptions, and rampant inflation.

To translate ambition into delivery, leaders will need to adopt a mindset that we call visionary pragmatism. Organizations that meet their decarbonization goals bring dreamers and doers on the executive team together to get five things right.

1. Put a premium on strategic adaptability

Companies don't need more climate scenarios but, rather, clarity on the relevant ones. They also need to watch the signposts that will indicate what's coming next, especially regulations and advances in technology.

The best companies will embrace an adaptable approach to strategy. For example, instead of viewing it as a five-year exercise with some additional yearly refreshes, winners proactively drive the delivery agenda (what has been committed and needs to be delivered) and the development agenda (what needs to be advanced). Continuing assessment of signposts guides ongoing and quarterly discussions within the executive team and the board as part of the living strategy.

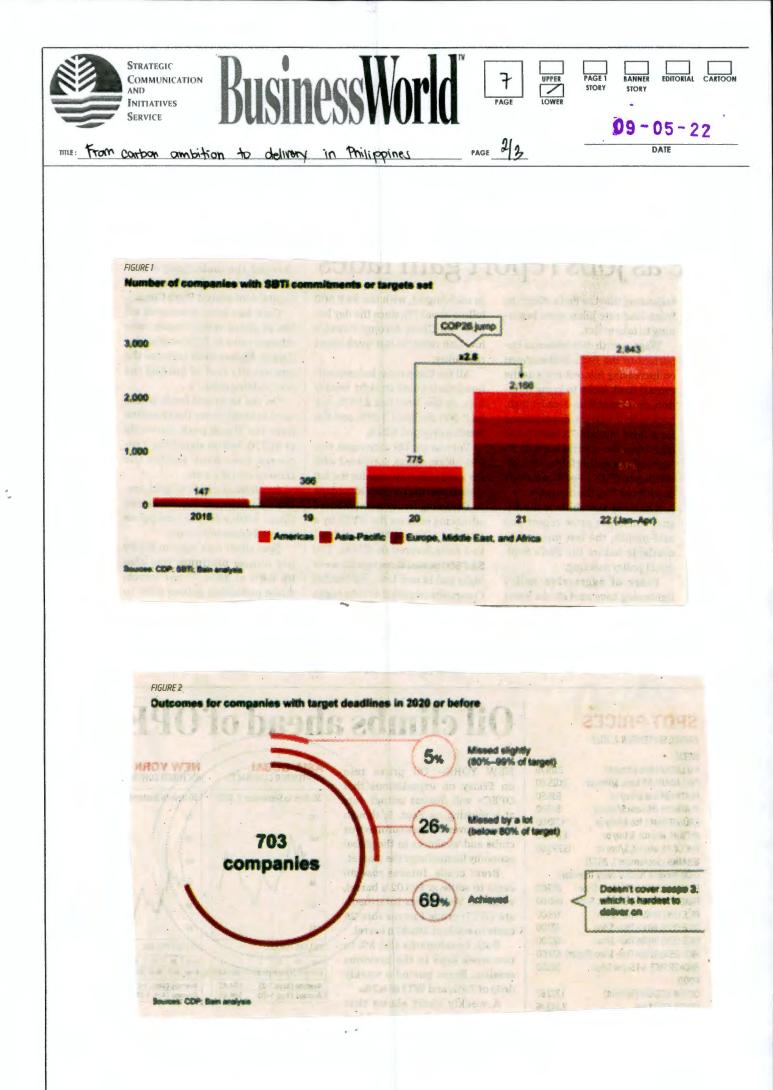
2. Proactively address investor dissonance

Investors as well as lenders are increasingly assertive and discerning about decarbonization expectations. At the same time, they may not be willing to compromise on near-term returns. There is often dissonance between a company's green ambitions and its growth and return aspirations, and often a perception that there will be tradeoffs. Many capital markets day events have become longer, but not clearer.

Executives need to strengthen the investor dialogue. That means focusing on strategic clarity, with both concrete near-term plans to achieve decarbonization commitments and pathways to net zero. They should emphasize specific proof points showing that decarbonization is happening and that it contributes to making the business more valuable. Companies need to demonstrate progress in everything from scope 1 and 2 decarbonization to customer collaboration on green products and meaningful portfolio shifts.

3. Decarbonize customer-back

In many sectors, the bulk of emissions happen when customers use the products that companies sell (downstream scope 3 emissions). In addition,





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from corbon ambition to delivery in philippines

what the customer wants deeply impacts embedded emissions generated during production and in the supply chain. Companies that are most successful in their climate transitions start decarbonization with the customer in mind and work backward across offerings, operations, and the supply chain.

In both B2B and B2C situations, visionary pragmatists will know how to promote their green credentials and innovate with customers toward a lower-carbon, circular world. They will ask: What are the customer's own ambitions, and how can the company support them? Decarbonization will have very clear implications for how products are designed and used, as well as for emissions in production and across the value chain. Many executives view scope 3 with trepidation, but it can provide the most powerful opportunities.

4. Collaborate where it matters and for results

Carbon transition is a problem far too big to be solved by any company on its own, and the need to engage the wider ecosystem of customers, suppliers, peers, governments, and civil society is increasing. Executives must decide where to collaborate vs. compete, picking the few partnerships that can make a difference. They should forge those partnerships across the value chain, or with peers or NGOs, to reach a critical mass for change. It's important not to lose precious time on initiatives where there's much talk but little action. Instead, aim to ruthlessly deliver results with a clear intent for the partnership, and with early proof points gained through experimentation.

5. Créate net-zero heroes în middle management

Top management usually is fully convinced of the need for aggressive decarbonization, given interactions with investors, the board, and key customers. New recruits often have chosen an employer based on its green credentials. Yet companies may lack committed middle management to get the job done. Too often, middle managers get bogged down when required to deliver key performance indicators for ESG on top of those for revenues, costs, and safety, for example. Sometimes, they're asked to do it without explanation or help in making trade-offs.

How can they become net-zero heroes? The only way to create effective green middle management is to be extremely clear about which decisions to make differently and how to resolve trade-offs. The organization needs to be trained, guided, and aligned to embed their goals as realistic deliverables. As an example, procurement is critical to address scope 3 emissions. Managers who have been trained for years to focus on optimizing cost for given specifications need clear guidance on how to reflect carbon in procurement decisions, next to specs and price (e.g., through internal carbon pricing), plus the tools to pragmatically assess where in the supply chain to push.

The whole organization needs to be upskilled, though not to the same level or the same purpose. That starts by investing to understand who is most impacted and needs the most training, and then rolling out support accordingly.

The urgency of decarbonization and the need to limit global warming to 1.5° are largely undisputed. Most companies raced to establish their targets in time for last year's COP26. Now, as they come face to face with the hard part delivering on those ambitions and the opportunities available by greening the business, — those that combine vision and pragmatism will get there first. w

PATRICIA BUENAVENTURA NICHOL and YUKIKO TSUKAMOTO are partners at Bain & Company based in Manila. JENNY DAVIS-PECCOUD is partner and co-founder of Bain & Company's global Sustainability & Responsibility practice, based in London and Ieads Bain & Company's Carbon Transition Impact Area globally.

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Vires Energy's LNG project seen operational by 2026

VIRES Energy Corp., a subsidiary of A Brown Co., said that its 450-megawatt floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant in Batangas is expected to begin operations by mid-2026.

Rusiness

"Vires Energy is currently seeking baseload power off-take agreements and is in a position to be in commercial operations by mid-2026," Allan Ace R. Magdaluyo, senior finance manager and compliance officer of A Brown, said via an e-mail on Aug. 31. Mr. Magdaluyo said that the onshore facilities and floating power barge for the LNG terminals had been completed.

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"The property will be developed to include the power barge mooring area, a jetty, switchyard, onshore facilities, and other balance of plant infrastructure," he added.

In an earlier e-mail, A Brown Chairman Walter W. Brown said that the company saw LNG as the most viable source of new baseload power as renewable energy capacity is scaled up

from solar, wind, batteries, and other new technologies.

According to the Department of Energy's (DoE) accomplishment report, Vires Energy's floating storage and regasification unit has a total capacity of three million tons per annum (MTPA) and a total construction cost of P6.15 billion.

The DoE said that it has approved six proposed LNG terminal projects, citing the depletion of the Malampaya gas field as the reason for the approval. The Energy department noted that the six proposed LNG terminal has a combined capacity of 21.7 MTPA and a total estimated investment of P51.2 billion.

In the second quarter, A Brown's attributable net income increased more than four times to P232.95 million from P53.89 million in the same period last year. Year to date, the company's net profit increased by 68.8% to P381.21 million from P225.87 million. — Ashley Erika O. Jose



Del Rosario: Be wary in SCS energy talks with China

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A sharing energy resources in the West Philippine Sea and blatantly disregarding Philippine sovereign rights over it is considered "treason."

This is the reaction of former Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Del Rosario to the statement made by Chinese Minister Liu Jianchao last week.

Liu, minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China and former Chinese ambassador to Manila, recently visited the country and expressed hopes for the revival of talks with the Philippines on oil and gas exploration in the West Philippine Sea.

"It seems that there are some legal barriers or legal factors that are standing in the way of a final consensus," Liu said. "I hope that both sides will move about this issue in a way that is feasible and practical so that the cooperation could be continued and realized."

Del Rosario, chairman of private think tank Stratbase ADR Institute, welcomed diplomatic efforts between Manila and Beijing to look at ways to rid the only thorn in their bilateral relationship.

However, he stressed that the "only good faith" China can offer at this point is to stop harassing or preventing Filipinos from exploring and developing the natural resources.

He said under the 2016 award by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the West Philippine Sea including Reed Bank "exclusively belongs to Filipinos, and no one else." China, on one hand, has "zero claim" on the West Philippine Sea, he insisted.

Thus, the former ambassador to the United States said Filipinos "have every right to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, including Reed Bank, without interruption or harassment from other countries." SEE "DEL ROSARIO," A2

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Del Rosario ... CONTINUED FROM A12

Under international law, he added, "Filipinos DO NOT need China's consent or permission to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea."

Given that the Philippines won the 2016 Award by an arbitration body sanctioned by the United Nations, Del Rosario wondered aloud: "What is there to talk about ... when it is clear that the West Philippine Sea exclusively belongs to Filipinos?"

What China should do, he insisted, is to acknowledge that the gas and oil resources in the West Philippine Sea "belong to Filipinos" and that Chinese companies should submit to Philippine laws in case they want to have joint exploration and development with Filipino companies in the West Philippine Sea.

"Any talk by Philippine officials that will diminish our laws and the rights of Filipinos under the 2016 UNCLOS Award-would be treason in the highest order," Del Rosario said.

At a time when oil and natural gas prices are increasing due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the Marcos administration should "enforce" the rights of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea "so that our country will be able to benefit from new energy sources, according to him.

The Philippines should proceed to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, despite threats and harassment from China," he added.

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He cited Malaysia and Indonesia, which, like the Philippines, are also claiming parts of the South China Sea and getting warnings from China.

Despite these harassments, both Malaysia and Indonesia went ahead with sending their drilling ships in 2021 in their claimed area of the South China Sea. "Thus, Malaysia and Indonesia, whose waters are also claimed by China, were able to assert their sovereign rights over their waters, without the benefit of an UNCLOS Award and a mutual defense treaty with the US, like the Philippines," Del Rosario stressed.

He said President Marcos should keep his promise that he will not surrender "an inch" of the Philippine territory by following the example of Indonesia and Malaysia.

We hope to see this political will as President Marcos Jr. will need to find new energy sources to support our country in the coming years and he has to face China to do this," he said. Malou Talosig Bartolome



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



'PhI should proceed with WPS exploration without China'

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines should proceed to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, similar to the action of its neighbors who were able to assert their sovereign rights over their waters and completed drilling even without the benefit of an Arbitral Award and defense treaty, former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

Del Rosario made the statement after Minister Liu Jianchao of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and former ambassador to Manila, declared during his visit on Aug. 28 that China and the Philippines are ready to continue negotiations on oil and gas development in the West Philippine Sea, which includes Reed Bank.

According to Del Rosario, the 2016 Award under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UN-CLOS) categorically held that, "under international law, the West Philippine Sea, including Reed Bank, exclusively belongs to Filipinos, and no one else."

He stressed that under international law "Filipinos do not need China's consent or permission to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea."

"The question, therefore, is: what is there to talk about, in terms of exploring and developing the natural resources in the West Philippine Sea, when it is clear that the West Philip-

pine Sea exclusively belongs to Filipinos?" Del Rosario said in a statement.

Under international law, China has zero claim on the West Philippine Sea, but Beijing continues to claim it by law and by force of arms.

"Filipinos have every right to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, including Reed Bank, without interruption or harassment from other countries," he added.

Del Rosario, who led the country in bringing the case against China before an arbitration court, warned that negotiating with China for oil and gas exploration in the West Philippine Sea will diminish Philippine laws and rights, and that it is a crime of treason.

"Any talk by Philippine officials that will diminish our laws and the rights of Filipinos under the 2016 UNCLOS Award – would be treason in the highest order," Del Rosario said. "Negotiating with China will diminish Philippines laws and the rights of Filipinos under the 2016 UNCLOS Award – would be treason in the highest order."

With the increasing energy prices, he said political will is needed to enforce the Philippines' rights over the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, so that the country will be able to benefit from new energy sources.

"The Philippines should proceed to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, despite threats and harassment from China," Del Rosario said.

He cited the examples of Indonesia and Malaysia for sending their drilling ships last year in their respective waters.

"Despite warnings and harassment from China, our neighbors proceeded with, and completed their drilling," Del Rosario said.

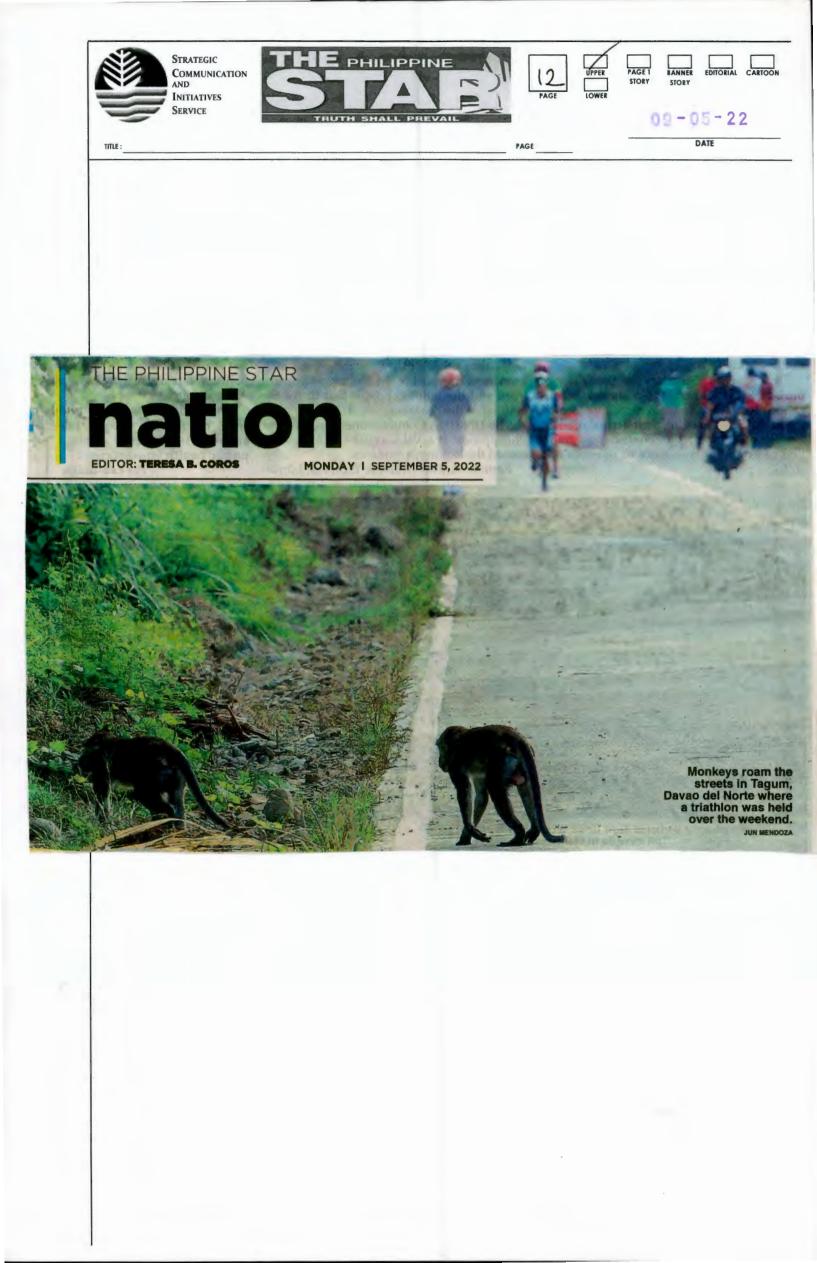
"Malaysia and Indonesia, whose waters are also claimed by China, were able to assert their sovereign rights over their waters, without the benefit of an UNCLOS Award and a mutual defense treaty with the US, like the Philippines," he said.

Del Rosario urged President Marcos to find the political will and explore new energy sources to support the country.

"We hope to see this political will in the person of our new president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who promised our countrymen that he will protect our country's sovereign rights as embodied in the 2016 UNCLOS Award," he said.

He noted that Filipinos have every right to explore and develop the oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea, including Reed Bank, without interruption or harassment from other countries.

The legitimate pathway for Chinese participation in this endeavor, Del Rosario said, is for China to acknowledge that the natural resources of the West Philippine Sea belong to Filipinos, and allow Chinese companies to submit to Philippine laws in the exploration and development of natural resources in the West Philippine Sea.





STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



(International hame. "Hinnamnor") exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) yesterday morning, the Philippine, Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Henry was last spotted at 4 a.m.590 kilometers (km) northnortheast of Itbayat, Batanes with maximum sustained winds of 150 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 185 kph. The tropical cyclone is the East China Sea at 15 kph. All tropical cyclone wind signals (TCWS) raised due to Henry have been lifted. Despite the lifting of the

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Despite the lifting of the storm signals, the State weather bureau warned that Henry will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon or "habagat."

Monsoon rains will continue to persist in the northern and western section of Northern Luzon as well as the western section of Central Luzon in the next 24 hours. (Charie Mae F. Abarca)









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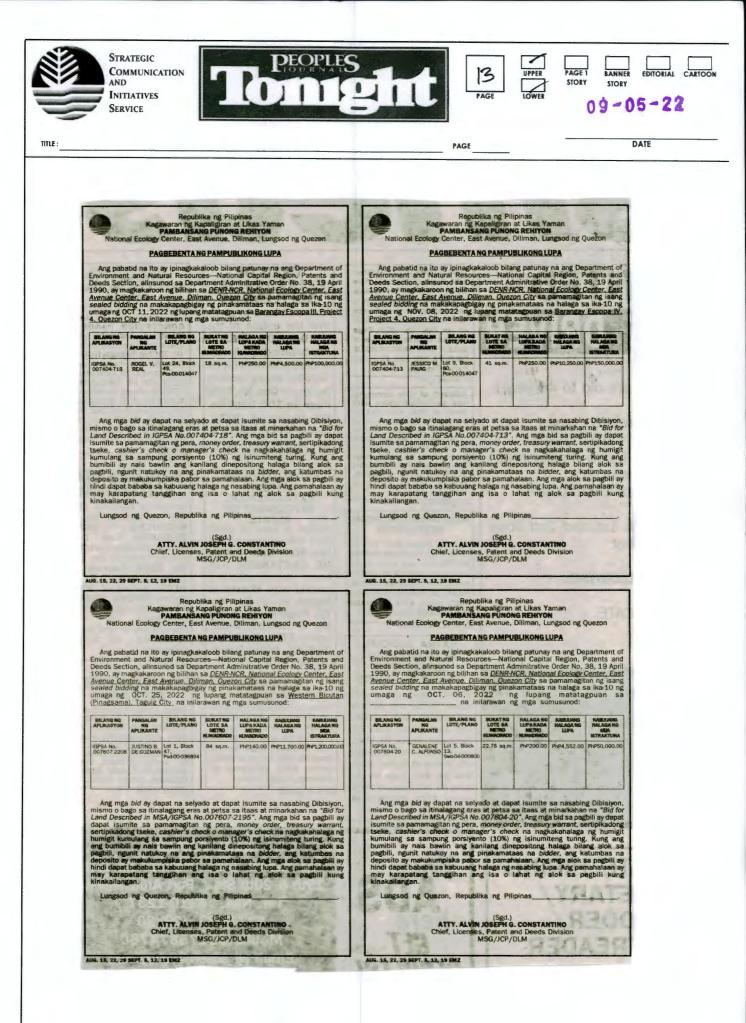
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the Public Hearing so Date	nequied on:		Time		Venue
13 September (Tuesday			Registration starts 8:30 AM)	0	High School Covere Court, Brgy. Akle, h Ildefonso, Bulacan
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The following is the p	project inform	nation:			
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Parameters	Extraction I	Rate: 10.6 M	MTPY (Cement Plan	nt); 7.1 N	MMTPY (Quarry)
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	COMMUNITY ENVIR	ONMENT AND NATUR	AL RESOURCES		
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	Notice is hereby given that			ources Office at	
	ngas will accept oral or writte Industrial Port purposes of the	en bids not later than	10:00 AM on Oct	ober 24, 2022 for	
Location	TANK MADE TO A	isian, Calaca, Batangas	in the set		
Description	: Miscellan	eous Lease Application N	lo. 041007-7		
Area	: 9,185 sqn	n.			
Applied for b	by : Antlantic	Grains, Inc.		a al value of a	
	Contraction Exercision	ed by Atty. John E. L. De			
shall not be l	right to lease the land will be less than three per centum (39	%) of the value of land plu	as one per centum (1%) of the value of	
bidding, he r	d and / or existing improven must be a qualified public lan	nd applicant, and must, be	efore the commencem	ent of the same,	
warrant, cert	osit of equivalent to three (a tified checks, cashier's check	k or manager's check ca	an be accepted. A pe	erson bidding in	
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NCR. Lice Avenue. D 10:00 A.N	to Administra nses, Paten iliman, Quezo on NOV	ven that t Capital Re ative Order ts and De on City, thr D8, 2022.	he De gion, I No. 38 reds C the tra	Patents an B dated 19 Division, Na sealed bidd	of Environmen d Deeds Sec April 1990, wi ational Ecolog	tt and Natural tion, LPDD, in Il sell at <u>DENR-</u> <u>y Center, East</u> thest bidder at <u>ray, Escopa IV</u> , to wit-
APPLICATION		LOT NO./ BLK NO. / PLAN NO:	AREA	APPRAISED	and the second	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007404- 713	JESSICO M. PAUIG	Lot 9/ Blk.60 Pcs-00- 014047	41 sq.m.	PhP250.00	PhP10,250.00	PhP150,000.00
or before Described cash, mone check for a highest bi- forfeited to the land. 1	the hour anni in MSA/SA/I ey order, treat a sum equiva dder is dete the governa he right is r ity, Philippine	d date sta GPSA No. sury warran lent to 109 ermined, th ment. No t eserved to	oted at 00740 at, certi % of the bid sha reject (Sg	bove and p 4-713" Bid fied check, he bid. Ther responding all be less any or all	plainly marked s must be acc cashier's chec o a bid is with deposit then than the appr bids.	ed Division, on "Bid for Land companied with k or manager's drawn after the efore shall be raised value of



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	Depa	rtment of	Enviro	c of the Ph onment ar	ilippines d Natural Re L REGION	ources	
	National	Ecology C	enter	East Aven	ue, Diliman,	uezon City	
Notice is Resources	hereby giv	en that t	the De	partment	of Environmen	and Natural on, LPDD, in	
NCR. Licer	nses. Paten	ts and De	NO. 3	8 dated 19	April 1990, w	sell at DENR-	
10:00 A.M.		6. 2022. ti	he trac	t of land si	tuated in Back		
APPLICATION	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO./ BLK NO. / PLAN NO:	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT	
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IGPSA No. 007604-20	GENALENE C. ALFONSO	Lot 5, Block 13,	22.76 sq.m.	PhP200.00	PhP4,552.00	PhP50,000.00	
-jiman		Swo-04- 000800		5	systeal a	eric Ceop	
						Division, on "Bid for Land	
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Resources	National C	en that 't	he De	atente an	of Environmen	nt and Natura tion, LPDD, ir ill sell at <u>DENR</u>
Avenue, D. 10:00 A.N	iliman, Quezo	<u>n City,</u> the 25, 2022.	rough s	ealed bidd	ing to the big	y Center, Eas shest bidder at
	NAME OF	LOT NO./ BLK NO. / PLAN NO:	IN	APPRAISED VALUED PER SQ.M.	VALUE OF	TOTAL VALU OF IMPROVEMEN
IGPSA No. 007607- 2208	JUSTINO B. DE GUZMAN	Lot 1, Block 47, Psd-00- 036894	84 sq.m.	PhP140.00	PhP11,760.00	PhP1,200,000.0
Described with cash, manager's after the shall be for value of the	in MSA/SA/ money order check for a shighest bidder orfeited to the	IGPSA No r, treasury um equiva er is dete e governm right is res	warra ent to	ove and p 07-2208" nt, certifie 10% of the , the corre- bid shall to reject a	Bids must be d check, cast bid. Then a t	ed Division, or "Bid for Lance accompanies hier's check o hid is withdrawn posit therefore the appraised



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APPLICATION	ICATION NAME OF LOT NO (LIPPA LIPPANE)								
10054 No. 007404- 718	ROBEL V. REAL	Lot 24/ Blk.49 Pcs-00- 014047	18 sq.m.	PhP250.00	PhP 4,500.00	PhP100,000.00			
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27	ATT	TY. ALVIN	(Sgo	.)	STANTING				

ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division