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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

A2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

DATE

NETIZENS HAIL SIERRA MADRE FOR 'TAMING' TYPHOON

NATURAL BARRIER

NETIZENS HAIL SIERRA MADRE FOR 'TAMING' TYPHOON

By Frances Mangosing and Jeannette I. Andrade
@Team_Inquirer

Sierra Madre, the country's longest mountain range located in the eastern corridor of Luzon island, became a trending topic on Twitter during the onslaught of Supertyphoon "Karding" (international name: Noru) as netizens called attention to how it protected Metro Manila and several provinces from calamities.

Netizens reminded their followers of its important role as an effective barrier against storms coming from the Pacific Ocean before heading for Luzon. The topic had 78,500 tweets as of Monday morning.

The mountains reduced the strength of Karding and shielded millions of residents in the typhoon's path from a far worse catastrophe.

"It was one of the factors that weakened the typhoon because a storm weakens after a land interaction. Sierra Madre is a rugged terrain so Karding naturally lost



ANCESTRAL ABODE Members of the Dumagat indigenous peoples group, like this tribesman sailing on a raft in Kaliwa-Kaliwa River in Infanta, Quezon, consider the Sierra Madre as their ancestral home. —RICHARD A. REYES

FROM A1

some strength," weather specialist Vanessa Torres told the Inquirer.

Some netizens urged the public to sign online petitions to stop the P12.2-billion China-funded Kaliwa Dam project, seen as a threat to Sierra Madre's biodiversity and strongly opposed by indigenous peoples and environmental advocates.

Old content about Sierra Madre such as artworks and educational videos also resurfaced online to point out its importance.

Dev't authority bill

The renewed public interest in the mountain range coincided with "Save Sierra Madre Day," which is observed every Sept. 26 pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 413 in 2012 signed by then President Benigno Aquino III.

Sierra Madre's rich resources have been under heavy threat over the years due to illegal logging operations, mining and development projects, affecting the corridor's ecosystem and its capability to effectively shield mainland Luzon from approaching typhoons.

Environmental activist group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (KPNE) took the opportunity to object to the Kaliwa Dam project and the attacks on Masungi Georeserve, a 400-hectare protected land situated in the southern Sierra Madre range in Rizal province.

"The government must work on measures to address climate change in the long-term such as building appropriate infrastructure and rehabilitation and conservation of natural barriers such as the Sierra Madre," KPNE national coordinator Jon Bonifacio told the Inquirer.

"The Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against ex-

treme weather events," Rizal Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles said on Monday, as he renewed his push for the immediate passage of House Bill No. 1972, which would create a Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA).

"Many are saying 'we got lucky' and [were] spared the

worst of the disaster brought by Karding. But we cannot just rely on luck when it comes to our welfare. We must act and must act now," he said in a statement on Monday.

"The SMDA will be a massive help in unifying our efforts," adding that the SMDA would "help us preserve this



TITLE:

Citizens hail...

PAGE

12

09-27-22

DATE

shield (Sierra Madre) in the face of a worsening climate crisis," Nograles pointed out.

Natural shield

In his explanatory note on HB 1972, Nograles said the Sierra Madre spans some 500 kilometers from Cagayan province to Quezon and is made up of 1.4 million hectares across 10 provinces, comprising 40 percent of the country's remaining forest cover. The mountain range's highest peak is 6,069 feet.

According to Nograles, "in 2018, the Sierra Madre had stifled what could have been the world's strongest storm. The massive wall of the Sierra Madre ranges protected and averted the impacts of devastation to the country of Typhoon 'Ompong' (Mangkhut) in September 2018."

He pointed out that Ompong's winds slowed down from 220 km per hour (kph) to 160 kph after battering the Sierra Madre.

The Rizal lawmaker noted that the Sierra Madre also re-

duced the strength of Super-typhoon "Lawin" (Haima) and Typhoon "Karen" (Sarika) from Category 5 to Category 3 cyclone.

Nograles said that apart from being a natural barrier, the Sierra Madre was an important center of biodiversity being home to 201 species of mammals, 556 species of birds, over 85 species of amphibians, and 252 species of reptiles as well as various flora.

The mountain range is also home and sacred ground to 11 indigenous peoples groups.

But Nograles said that human activities, including illegal logging, timber poaching, illegal mining, and conversion of forest for agriculture, threatened the mountain range.

"By and large, the lack of implementation of environmental protection laws vis-a-vis the lack of regulation for human activities in the area, contribute to the continued forest degradation and dissipation of natural resources," he said. INQ



Nograles eyes Sierra Madre dev't agency

By Maricel V. Cruz

RIZAL Rep. Fidel Nograles has batted for the immediate passage of a bill creating an agency tasked with the conservation and management of the 540-kilometer Sierra Madre mountain range.

"Amid the threat of (typhoon) Karding, Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) will help us preserve this shield in the face of a worsening climate crisis," Nograles said.

Nograles authored House Bill 1972, which proposes to establish the SMDA to protect the mountain range, which includes majority of the country's sixty-eight Protected Areas.

The SMDA would also lead the government's anti-illegal logging and reforestation campaigns, prevent construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development, and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.

The proposed agency is also mandated to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources, and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region's social and economic development.

The SMDA is also tasked to plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood, and tidal control work, wastewater and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing, and related work; and assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range.

Sierra Madre plays a key role in Metro Manila's major water supply demands, along with the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, and Bulacan.



Rizal lawmaker calls for passage of bill mandating creation of Sierra Madre conservation body

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ
@joveemarie

ALAWMAKER has renewed his call to Congress to immediately pass a bill proposing the creation of a government body tasked with the conservation and management of the 540-kilometer Sierra Madre mountain range.

Rizal Fourth District Rep. Fidel Nograles said his bill would create a government body tasked with the conservation and management of the mountain range. He issued his call amid the commemoration of Sierra Madre Day on Monday and a day after the onslaught of typhoon "Karding" last Sunday in Central Luzon.

"Amid the threat of Karding, Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The [proposed] Sierra Madre Development Authority [SMDA] will help us preserve this shield in the face of a worsening climate," Nograles said.

The lawmaker stressed the need to protect the Sierra Madre region, which includes the majority of the country's 68 Protected Areas (PA), consisting of national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, and protected landscapes and seascapes.

Nograles is the author of House Bill No. 1972, which seeks to establish the SMDA to protect the mountain range, which includes the majority of the country's 68 PAs.

The SMDA would also lead the government's anti-illegal logging and reforestation campaigns, prevent construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.



The bill also mandates the proposed body to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize these to promote the region's social and economic development.

It will also plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood, and tidal control work, wastewater and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing, and related work; and assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range.

Sierra Madre plays a key role in Metro Manila's major water supply demands, along with the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, and Bulacan.

Save Sierra Madre Day is observed annually on September 26 by virtue of Proclamation No. 413 as a reminder of the dangers of the continuous degradation of the mountain range, which is known as the "backbone" of Luzon.



LAWMAKER PUSHES BILL ON SIERRA MADRE

RIZAL Fourth District Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles renewed his call for the immediate passage of a bill creating the Sierra Madre Development Authority.

"Amid the threat of 'Karding,' Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) will help us preserve this shield in the face of a worsening climate crisis," Nograles said.

"We have to be more aggressive, strategic, and comprehensive in our efforts to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. The SMDA will

be a massive help in unifying our efforts," he said.

"Karding" hit the Philippines on Sunday, September 25.

Proclamation 413 of 2012 declared September 26 of every year as "Save Sierra Madre Day."

The Sierra Madre is the country's longest mountain range. It runs hundreds of kilometers from Cagayan to Quezon province.

"It is considered and known as the 'backbone of Luzon' as the mountain range whose forest cover is a natural shield and barrier protecting the island of Luzon by attenuating the entry of typhoons from the Pacific Ocean even be-

fore reaching the mainland and protecting the island from storm surges as well," the bill's explanatory note read.

The bill mandates the SMDA to "make a comprehensive survey of the physical and natural resources and potentialities of the Sierra Madre region" and "draft a comprehensive and detailed plan designed to conserve and utilize optimally the resources within the Sierra Madre region to promote the region's rapid social and economic development."

Under the bill, the SMDA will be empowered to collect annual

fees for the use of resources. The fees to be collected shall be subject to the approval of the country's president and "shall be used for the management and development of" the Sierra Madre region, "its forest covers and its watershed areas," the bill says.

A similar bill that is also pending at the House of Representatives was filed by Isabela Sixth District Rep. Faustino "Inno" Dy 5th. It is House Bill 1214, a measure that was filed also in July and which seeks to create the Sierra Madre Conservation and Development Authority.

REINA C. TOLENTINO



Bill creating Sierra Madre Dev't Authority filed at House

BY WENDELL VIGILIA

REP. Fidel Nograles has renewed his call to immediately pass a bill creating a government body tasked with the conservation and management of the 540-kilometer Sierra Madre mountain range, which includes majority of the country's 68 protected areas.

Nograles filed House Bill 1972 seeking to create the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) as the country commemorated Save Sierra Madre Day yesterday, and in the wake of super typhoon "Karding" which hit Luzon on Sunday.

"Amid the threat of Karding, Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The Sierra Madre Development

Authority (SMDA) will help us preserve this shield in the face of a worsening climate crisis," Rizal Rep. Fidel Nograles said.

The SMDA would also lead the government's anti-illegal logging and reforestation campaigns, prevent construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development, and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.

The government body is also mandated to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region's social and economic development.



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COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Daily Tribune

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B14
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE

Sierra Madre mountains protection sought

BY EDJEN OLIQUINO
@tribunephil_eao

A lawmaker on Monday is pushing for the rapid passage of legislation establishing a government entity responsible for conserving and maintaining the 540-kilometer Sierra Madre mountain range.

Rizal Fourth District Representative Fidel Nograles reiterated his plea in the wake of super typhoon

“Karding” – the strongest storm to hit the country this year.

“Amid the threat of ‘Karding,’ Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The Sierra Madre Development Authority will help us preserve this shield in the face of a worsening climate crisis,” Nograles said.



09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Gov't body to protect Sierra Madre sought

AS the country commemorates "Save Sierra Madre Day" on September 26, and in the wake of Super Typhoon Karding, which hit Luzon on Sunday, a lawmaker has renewed his call to immediately pass a bill creating a government body tasked with the

conservation and management of the 540-kilometer mountain range.

"Amid the threat of Karding, Sierra Madre has once again shown just how crucial it is in protecting us against extreme weather events. The Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) will help us pre-

serve this shield in the face of a worsening climate crisis," Rizal 4th District Representative Fidel Nograles said.

Nograles is the author of House Bill (HB) No. 1972, which seeks to establish the SMDA to protect the mountain range, which includes the majority of the country's sixty-eight Protected Areas.

The SMDA would also lead the government's anti-illegal logging and reforestation campaigns, prevent the construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development, and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.

The government body is also mandated to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region's social and

economic development.

Sierra Madre plays a key role in Metro Manila's major water supply demands, along with the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, and Bulacan.

Save Sierra Madre Day is observed annually on September 26 by virtue of Proclamation No. 413 as a reminder of the dangers of the continuous degradation of the mountain range, which is known as the "backbone" of Luzon. It commemorates the day typhoon Ondoy caused massive flooding in 2009.

"Maraming nagsasabi na 'we got lucky' at naiwasan natin ang mas matinding sakuna na dala ng Karding. Pero hindi natin dapat inaasa ang kapakanan natin sa swerte. We must act, and we must act now," Nograles said.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco



Iligtas ang kabundukang Sierra Madre

Matindi ang tensyon ng mga kaibigan at kakilala ko at halos mga Pilipinong tatamaan ng bayong Karding ang kanilang mga lugar noong nakaraang Linggo.

Aba'y signal storm number 5 ba naman ang lakas! 180 per kilometer ang lakas ng hangin.

Marami na akong naranasang bagyo at tinitingnan ko agad ang lakas ng hangin dahil isa'yon sa panganib na dulot ng isang bagyo.

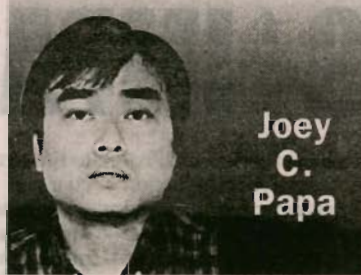
Umaalulong ang malakas na hangin. Sa harap mismo ng bahay namin dito lang sa Kamaynilaan' ilang ulit o nang naranasan ang mababagsik na bagyong may malakas na hangin. Ang ihip ng hangin ay nagiging alulong na malakas pa sa alulong ng aso.

Nitong nakaraang gabi ng Linggo, inaasahan kong mararanasan na naman namin ang ganoong alulong ng hangin. Napuyat ako sa pagmamasid dahil minsan na kaming tinangayan ng isang bahaging bubong ng hindi namin namamalayan. Bagyong Yolanda ito na hindi naman tumama sa kamaynilaan ang lupit nito, ngunit natungka-ban pa rin kami ng yero ng bubong.

Nakikiramdang ako habang may napapanood pang mga balita sa telebisyon.

Mahina lang ang ulan. Masasabing malakas lang ng kaunti sa ambon. Di tulad ng mga nakaraang ulang-habagat na nagdudulot din ng matataas na pagbaha at landslide sa ilang lugar. Ngunit may kalakasan ang hangin. Humina ang bagyong Karding nang

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

malapit nang maghatinggabi.

Hinarang ng kabundukang Sierra Madre ang malakas na hangin at ulan mula sa dagat-pasipiko. Ika nga'y binasag ng bundok Sierra Madre ang lupit ng bagyong Karding.

xNapakahalaga ng Sierra Madre sa ating buhay ngunit hindi ito binibigyang halaga ng ilan sa mga kababayan nating Pilipino.

Hanggang sa ngayon ay patuloy na pinuputol ang mga puno sa kagubatan nito at binabasag ang kabundukan upang makuha ang mga yamang-mineral nito na tanging mga dayuhan lamang ang mga nakikinabang.

Matagal ko nang sinasabi ito sa aming mga ibinibigay na oryentasyon sa mga komunidad. Mahalin ang ating kabundukan at buhay natin ito. Hindi ito dapat nilalapastangan.

Maraminang delubyong dulot ang global warming at climate change. Isa na rito ang malalakas na bagyo at malalawak at matataas na tubig -

bahang dulot ng matatagal na pag-ulan.

Ang ginawang pagbasag ng Sierra Madre sa bagyong Karding ay hindi lamang nangyari nitong nakaraang Linggo. Sa tuwing may bagyong galing sa Dagat Pasipiko, hinaharang ito ng kabundukang Sierra Madre.

Ang mga puno naman ng kagubatang Sierra Madre ang sumisipsip ng tubig-ulan at iniimbak sa mga ugat ng puno na nakatutulong sa maraming komunidad bilang tubig inumin at lahat ng pangangailangan ng tao sa tubig. Watershed ang tawag dito.

Ngunit kung patuloy na wasakin ng ilang mga tao ang kagubatang Sierra Madre, ano ang magiging panangga, kalasag natin sa malalakas na bagyo?

Mapanganib ito lalo na at marami nang puno ang pinutol sa maraming bahagi ng Sierra Madre.

Kaya napapanahon ang usapin sa Masungi Georeserve sa Baras Rizal na kung saan ay may mga nakapagtayo na nga ng istruktura na ginagamit sa quarrying.

May ilan pa ring nagtatangka na agawin ang Masungi sa mga tagapangalaga nito at sinasabing kanila at may titulo sila ng kabundukang ito.

Ang Masungi ay artery ng Sierra Madre. Ang lahat ng bahagi ng Inang Kalikasan tulad ng Inang Kabundukang Sierra Madre ay magkakaugnay. Sirain mo ang isa at maaapektuhan na ang kabuuan.

Iligtas natin ang Sierra Madre!



09-27-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



The urgency of obtaining climate justice now

Roni Sanjaya
SKP
MANILA BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

As Typhoon Karding battered the country with strong winds and heavy rains, other parts of the world also took a beating — Storm Fiona ravaged Canada's east coast with terrifying winds, a Category 3 hurricane devastated Florida, while 64 percent of Europe experienced drought, something that appeared to be the worst in at least 500 years. These were disparate occurrences, but all have one thing in common — they were “influenced” in one way or another by climate change.

Because of man's economic activity, fueled largely by the burning of fossil fuel and cutting down large swaths of forests, the world is warmer than it has ever been. A warming world increases the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. Case in point is Typhoon Karding, as it suddenly gained strength upon entering the country with its “explosive intensification.” Weather scientists have suggested that in order for explosive intensification to occur, several conditions take place, and among them — water temperatures must be warm.

Typhoon Karding is not an isolated event, and sadly, will not be the last of its kind to enter the country. Climate change jumpstarts a chain of events including a rise in the sea level, rising temperatures, and heavy rainfall. Our country's location also makes us more vulnerable and our defenseless coastlines make them prone to flooding. Storm surges affect informal sector members who rely on agriculture and fishing. Extreme rainfall, meanwhile, causes not only floods but also landslides, destroying houses, roads, and infrastructure.

It is therefore not only timely, but also appropriate, that the Philippines demands climate justice at the rostrum of the United Nations (UN). During last week's UN General Assembly, President Ferdinand R.

Marcos Jr. called for climate justice and unlocking of climate finance for vulnerable and at-risk nations. He said, “Climate change is the greatest threat affecting our nations and peoples. There is no other problem so global in nature that it requires a united effort, one led by the UN. The effects of climate change are uneven and reflect an historical injustice: Those who are least responsible suffer the most.”

The President noted that the country is a “net carbon sink,” which means we absorb more carbon dioxide than we emit. “Yet, the country is the fourth most vulnerable to climate change.”

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) lauded the President's call and hoped that it “sets the groundwork for principled global climate action.” “We have a strong and resonant voice for climate justice to make sure that the global community urgently responds to the needs of the times,” according to the CCC. “The Philippines is working with other nations to ensure allocation for adaptation is doubled, and that climate change-related losses and damages are funded by developed nations based on commitments under the Paris Agreement.”

In the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP 27) that will be held in Egypt in November, the Philippines will “continue to push for the delivery of climate finance that is needs-based, anchored on the principles of climate justice and equity.”

As stressed by the President, calling for climate justice is not just about financial compensation or sharing of technology, as “injustice must be corrected, and those who need to do more must act now.” As Typhoon Karding exits the country, we should not be complacent. Let's start to raise our voices and call for climate justice. This is one that all of us, 110 million Filipinos, can stand behind as we only have one planet to call home.



EDITORIAL

The urgency of obtaining climate justice now

As Typhoon Karding battered the country with strong winds and heavy rains, other parts of the world also took a beating — Storm Fiona ravaged Canada's east coast with terrifying winds, a Category 3 hurricane devastated Florida, while 64 percent of Europe experienced a drought warning, something that appeared to be the worst in at least 500 years. These are disparate occurrences, but all have one thing in common — they were “influenced” in one way or another by climate change.

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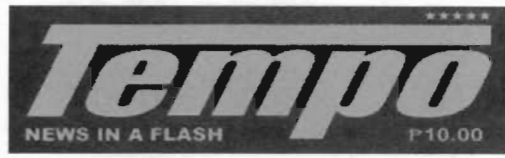
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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE





The long overdue 'if and when dialogue' on climate change and water security

The week of September 19, 2022 has been a week of critical dialogues on a number of key areas of the sustainable development goals. In New York, it was the first time that President Marcos addressed the United Nations General Assembly in its 77th Session. In his speech, he highlighted climate change as the greatest global threat that warrants a global and united effort.

For instance, the Philippines is the 4th vulnerable country to climate change, net carbon sink. Philippines is among those nations that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits. President Marcos reiterates this uneven and historical injustice, where the least responsible suffer most. This is what he refers to as the "if and when" dialogue that has long since passed, a dialogue that needs to happen now.

On the home front, in the same week, five leading organizations came together to lead another critical, long overdue "if and when dialogue". The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Accra Law, Management Association of the Philippines, and The Manila Times, led by Water.org came together for the first time to tackle and discuss the "if and when" of water security. Like climate change, water security ought to be a dialogue that needs to happen now.

Approximately three hundred participants from public and private sector joined the Sustainable Path to Water Security for the Philippines forum on September 20, 2022. Opening the dialogue was Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno (via pre-recorded video). He highlighted the Philippines' Water and Sanitation Roadmap that outlined the key reform areas needed, like regulatory and enabling environment and access to finance, to achieve sustainable access to safe water and sanitation. He emphasized the need to mobilize trillions to address the cost of achieving SDG6.

There is a need to harmonize and orchestrate investments from private sector, international development partners and local investors, according to Secretary Diokno. In closing, he assured that in the Department of Finance's capacity as Chair of the Administrator's Economic Advisers Team, DOF stands ready to support all efforts towards shared goal of achieving universal access to clean water and fighting climate change at the soonest possible time.



BUSINESS OPTION

GRISELDA GAY G. SANTOS

The urgency to solve the impact of climate change and its adverse effects on water security was echoed by Mr. Carlos Vasquez, Chief of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Unit, UNICEF. According to Mr. Vasquez, the biggest externality affecting water security is climate change. Twenty million people a year are displaced globally by climate related events. Eighty percent of this, live in Asia and more and more, affecting the Philippines in the same proportion. Mr. Vasquez expounded on UNICEF's Water Security for All Program. This program, among others, recognizes the importance of a climate resilient approach to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Mayor Aristotle Aguirre of Mulanay Quezon, a first-class municipality with approximately 56,000 in population, 42,000 hectares land area (1/3 of Metro Manila), also joined the forum. Mayor Aguirre is a newly elected mayor faced with the issue of contaminated water, ground water drying up and water from wells penetrated by salt water. Physical infrastructure is also not up to par with uncalibrated water meters. Although potential alternative sources are available like the Mulanay River, access to finance is a major concern with majority of its residents living below the poverty line.

It is hopeful to note though that at the local level, there are existing enabling policies and market-driven solutions to address sustainable access to safe water and sanitation in the Philippines, particularly the situation of Mulanay, which I believe

is representative of a number of municipalities across the Philippines. On the enabling policy side, the office of Governor Hermilando Mandanas joined the forum to educate many about the Mandanas ruling. Mandanas ruling provides LGU with administrative autonomy to identify priority programs. More specifically, it provides for a bigger Internal Revenue Allotment based on overall national taxes that can potentially mean more financial resources to address water and sanitation issues.

Through the participation of Water.org in the forum, market-driven solutions were presented. Water.org is an international NGO co-founded by Gary White, an engineer and Hollywood Actor Matt Damon. Among others, Water.org is focused on mobilizing financing to the water and sanitation sector through technical assistance to financial institutions to adapt a loan product dedicated to WASH and to water utilities, especially the small ones, to help increase their efficiencies and as a result enhance their bankability to access finance. In the days immediately following the forum, Water.org and private sector players in water and sanitation sat down to continue the dialogue, identifying specific points of collaboration.

"If and when" dialogues are hard to appreciate. In most cases, it is only until the inevitable happens then the reality of "if and when" dialogues become very relevant. It is truly my hope to see forums that are beyond the showcase of knowledge but rather forums that pave the way for a sustained "if and when" dialogue that lead to concrete collaborations between public and private sector especially on water security and climate change.

Gay Santos is the Regional Director for Southeast Asia at Water.org, a global NGO co-founded by Matt Damon and Gary White. She retired from the World Bank Group in 2019 and holds an MBA degree from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. The opinion expressed herein does not necessarily reflect the views of these institutions and Manila Bulletin.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

'Help stop climate change in your own small way'

THE public can help mitigate the impact of climate change in their own simple way, an expert from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"To our compatriots, we could help in our own little way to mitigate the effects of climate change. Among the ways is to conserve energy and practice energy efficiency," PAGASA Climate Change Data chief Rosalina de Guzman said.

They can do simple things such as conserving water and using mass transport, De Guzman added.

"As simple as not throwing the garbage around, and recycling, (they)

are necessary," she said.

Based on the bureau's projections, the country's temperature would increase by 4°C at the end of the 21st century. Tropical cyclones' intensity is also forecast to increase.

"Based on our projection, the intensity of tropical cyclones would increase in the future. The sea level would also rise," the PAGASA official continued.

She said the public needs to actively participate in climate-change programs in their communities.

De Guzman also urged local government units to invest in renewable energies.

She said PAGASA is enhancing its early warning system.

"We are adding radars to enhance the warning system and improve the weather forecast. We are building a total of one regional flood forecasting centers in different areas of the country," she said.

De Guzman said PAGASA has received \$10 million from the Green Climate Fund, which would be used for impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard impact-based forecasting in four project sites: Legazpi; New Bataan; Palo, Leyte; and Tuguegarao.

These areas are vulnerable to climate change impacts, she said.



09-27-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

'Climate Change'



Paul's Alarm

By Paul Gutierrez

SINUSULAT natin ito, wala na namang pasok sa maraming lugar, partikular sa Luzon, dahil dito kay 'Super Typhoon Karding' na muling "sumentro" sa maraming lugar sa Luzon kung saan pinakarami rin ang ating populasyon.

Sa pag-aaral at karanasan, 20 hanggang 25 bagyo ang 'average' na tumatama sa ating bansa kada taon, dahil na rin sa ating 'geographical location.' Translation? Napakalaking perwisyo sa kabuhatan at ekonomiya sa sitwasyon na hindi pa rin tayo nakakabangon sa masamang epekto ng 'COVID-19 pandemic.' Samantala, nasa 'Ring Of Fire' din ang Pilipinas kaya "tagilid" din tayo sa mga pagputok ng bulkan at mga lindol.

Gusto naman nating maniwala na ang perwisyonang dala ng mga kalamidad ay matagal nang alam at nasa isipan ng ating mga lider.

Kaya nga ngayong "hinihimay" ang pambansang badyet, eh, dapat namang palaging "nakadiin" sa mga probisyon nito na ano mang istruktura at mga proyekto ay dapat 'disaster resilient' at ang mga nagpapatupad ng mga proyekto, partikular ang DPWH, "tubuan" naman ng konsensiya, hehehe!

Translation? Bawasan na o tuluyan ng tigilan ang korapsyon sa implementasyon ng mga gawaing pambayan—tulay, kalsada, pabahay, etc. etc.

Dangan nga kasi, kahit pa magdagdag ng bilyon-bilyon sa pondo para sa mga proyekto para lang "tiyakin" na sila ay 'disaster resilient,' kung nanakawin o kukupitin din lang ng mga ganid sa pamahalaan, wala rin, tama ba, mga kabayan?

Aber, hindi na biro ang lakas ng mga bagyo na tumatama dito sa atin ngayon dahil na nga sa lumuhang problema ng mundo sa 'climate change.'

At bilang isang mahirap (pa rin) na bansa, hindi rin

naman puwedeng palagi na lang maubos ang pondo para sa mga ayuda at suporta sa mga tinatamaan ng kalamidad. Kung palaging ganito, eh, malabong umangat ang estado ng Pilipinas sa antas ng 'middle level economy' sa loob ng susunod na dekada na isa sa mga "pangarap" ni PBBM. "Bomalabs" yan, Mr. President!

Hmm. Sa harap ng mga bagong datos at sinasabi ng mga eksperto at mga siyentipiko, mas mainam nga kaya kung magpatawag ng 'Climate Change Summit' si PBBM—hindi para "magpapogi" ang mga pulitiko kundi, upang seryosong mabalangkas ang mga kagyat at mga pangmatagalang programa at aksyon na dapat nating gawin sa mga susunod na araw at panahon?

Halimbawa, sinasabing "lumulubog" ang Pilipinas dahil sa pagtaas ng tubig sa Dagat Pasipiko. Eh, ano ang gagawin natin dito?

"Taasan" na lang ng taasan ang ating mga kalsada, katulad ng ginagawa ngayon sa Makati at Maynila—tingnan na lang ang ginawa dyan sa kalye ng España.

Solusyon ba talaga ang estilong ganyan sa problema sa pagbaha sa lugar na 'yan? Sa totoo lang, sa mga "solusyon" na ganyan, may "kumita," pa, hehehe, ayy, huhuhu!

May isa pang 'climate change' na dapat namang maging maingat si PBBM. At ito ay ang 'political climate' sa Asya na pilit "pinaiinit" ni Uncle Sam sa patuloy nitong "pambubuyo" sa mga bansa sa Asya katulad ng 'Pinas, na maging kaaway ng China.

Aba, Mr. President, kung hindi kayo magiging matalino, mulat at maingat, eh, malulubog ang 'Pinas hindi sa baha, bagkus, sa mas matinding kalamidad ng gera na palaging gusto nitong Estados Unidos.

Isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit nakakuha ng pinakamalaking mandato si PBBM noong halalan—higit 31.6 milyong boto kumpara sa higit 15 milyong boto ni Leni Robredo—ay sa paniwala na sa ilalim ng kanyang administrasyon, "ligtas" sa gera ang Pinas sa pagitan ni Uncle Sam at China.

Abangan!



Agri, mining PH

growth drivers

SOCIOECONOMIC Planning Sec. Arsenio Balisacan cited agriculture as a vital growth driver for the country, while mining industry should be further explored to increase its contribution to the economy.

"We have to reinvigorate agriculture, thus that the high price of food affect everyone and influence the movement of the economy," he said in a statement during the Philippine economic briefing in New York.

Balisacan, also National Economic and Development Authority director-general, said agriculture is an "obvious" growth driver for the economy as President Marcos has pronounced that this is a priority sector of his administration.

He said responsible mining is a major source of economic growth and the government should promote this industry.



Socio-economic Planning Sec. Arsenio Balisacan

"As we understand from our Environment Secretary, only 6 percent of extractable resources have been mined. There's so much room for expanding that and transform that wealth into other forms of wealth," he added.

The country has been pitching investments in green metals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper to American investors as part of the Department of Trade and Industry's "Make It Happen in the Philippines" investment campaign.

Balisacan said the country has to revive its manufacturing sector as this is a good source of quality jobs and has a tremendous impact on poverty reduction.

The chief government economist cited tourism and information technology and business process management, along with health and pharmaceutical industry, as low-hanging fruit for the economy.

Other major growth drivers for the country include construction due to the huge housing backlogs, public-private partnerships, and connectivity.



COA tells MGB: Collect P9.45M unpaid fees from mining firms

BY PETER TABINGO

GOVERNMENT auditors are leaning on the Mines and Geosciences Board (MGB) to collect P9.45 million in unpaid fees from mining companies and agency personnel who were held liable.

The audit team noted that of the total P19.4 million notice of charge (NC) issued against the MGB five years ago, 18 have already been issued Notices of Finality of Decisions (NFD) and COA Order of Execution (COE) as of 2018 but none of them has been enforced.

A notice of charge is issued when auditors make a determination that the amount of fees that should have

been set or collected are lower than what was proper or according to existing rules and regulations.

The NC becomes final if the petition for review is overruled or if no appeal is filed within the reglementary period.

“Out of the balance, 18 notices totaling P9,447,662.04 or 49 percent have been issued Notice of Finality of Decision ... there being no appeal filed,” the COA noted.

In the list provided in the audit report released on July 8, 2022, among the mining firms identified were Adnama Mining Resources Inc., Alnor Nac's Construction and Development Corporation, Wellex Mining Resources Inc., Oriental

Synergy Miming Corp., Shuley Mine, Inc., SR Metals Inc., Wellex Mining/Vista Buena Mining Corp., Oriental Vision Mining Corp, Cagdianao Mining Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp., Taganito Mining Corp., Libjo Mining Corporation, and Platinum Group Metals Corporation.

“The NCs remain unsettled as of December 31, 2021 despite the 36 to 45 months that have passed since the COEs were issued to the persons liable. The last NSSDC (Notice of Settlement of Suspension, Disallowance, and Charge) issued was in CY 2019 and no settlement was made by the mining companies since then,” the COA pointed out.

It said the primary function of

enforcing final NCs lies with the MGB Director as provided under Section 7 of the COA Circular No. 2009-006.

“This condition was due to the laxity of the management to enforce settlement of charges to the persons liable. Although one of the persons liable identified in the NC is the mining company, ... the head of the agency as primarily responsible on the settlement of charges,” the COA stressed.

The MGB management said it has sent demand letters to mining companies to settle the NCs while notices have likewise been forwarded to retired MGB employees with unsettled disallowances.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

#MINERESPONSIBILITY: ENSURE SOUND, SUSTAINABLE MINING PRACTICES

AU contraire: mining should conserve our natural resources, not preserve it.

Hearing that, I was glued to my seat to listen ... did I hear it right? Mining should not preserve our natural resources?!

Yes, indeed, mining should conserve, rather than preserve, our natural resources. That is, sound and sustainable mining practices should ensure that our natural resources are extracted with the barest minimum of disturbance to the environment. This is, indeed, a revelation that should be shared because it definitely puts mining practices in a more realistic context. After all, mining is the very core of modern civilization. Without mining, life as we know it today, with our many creature comforts (smartphones, laptops, gaming consoles, even skincare potions, and medicines), will not be possible.

I have attended many public rela-

tions conferences over the years, but my first mining conference was the just-concluded MinECon 2022 organized by the Philippine Society of Mining Engineers in Legazpi, Albay. (Technically, my first mining conference was one edition of the Annual Mine Safety and Environment Conference or ANMSEC, as a speaker at their community relations conference—but I left right after my speaking engagement).

Being a newbie in the mining industry, I was observing and absorbing the nuances of this traditionally male-dominated sector as mining engineers from various corners of the country converged for the MinECon 2022, and here are more of my takeaways:

Large- and small-scale mining can co-exist with the former, helping the latter with proper training on safety and environment management.

For sustainable mining to thrive, a stronger collaboration between mining companies, host communities, and government (especially law enforcement) is imperative.

Doing things right is the best defense of mining companies against anti-miners.

They say information is power. Thus, we ought to read up more on what mining is all about to truly appreciate its value in our lives. And mining companies that stay true to the credo of responsible mining are society's partners in building a future that is sustainable—one that will be enjoyed by our children, our children's children, and the children of our children's children, as well.

Let's all support #MineResponsibility.

MA. TERESA L. PACIS,
assistant vice president,
corporate affairs and communication
Apex Mining Co., Inc.



09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Sako-sakong basura nahakot sa Dolomite Beach

SAKO-SAKONG basura sa Manila Bay Dolomite Beach at Baseco Beach matapos ang pananalasa ng Bagyong Karding nitong Lunes.

Ito ay matapos magsagawa ng paglilinis ang mga tauhan ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Dolomite Beach upang bumalik sa dati ang itsura nito.

Habang sa Baseco Beach ay walang tigil ang mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Service para tuluyan ng matanggal ang mga basura.

Nabatid na dahil sa nasa-bing bagyo at ilang araw na pag-uulan, inanod ang iba't ibang klase ng basura tulad plastic, mga sirang kahoy o gamit at iba pa sa mga nabanggit na beach.

Sa kabila ng mga nagkalat na basura sa Dolomite Beach, pinapayagan pa rin ang mga bumibisita rito habang bawal naman ang publiko sa Baseco Beach.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



NOT A PRETTY SIGHT Trash carried by strong waves in Manila Bay as Supertyphoon "Karding" crossed Luzon on Sunday and Monday end up on the shores of dolomite beach in Manila. —**RICHARD A. REYES**



09-27-22

PBBM certifies '23 budget; House sees OK by Sept. 28

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ @joveemarie

TO facilitate the immediate passage of the national budget for next year, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has certified as urgent the proposed 2023 P5.268-trillion General Appropriations Act.

In a letter to Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez dated September 16, President Marcos said the certification is for the "immediate enactment" of House Bill 4488.

The Office of the Speaker only received the letter on Monday, September 26 or 4 days before the one-month break of Congress.

The urgent certification of the measure will pave the way for its swift passage as the bill need not undergo the three-day rule between the second and third reading, with approval on both levels done within the same day.

For his part, Speaker Martin G.

Romualdez said the certification from Malacañang will enable the House to approve the 2023 national budget on second and third reading on the same day "which we set on Wednesday."

Earlier, House Majority Leader and Rules Committee Chair Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe said the House is committed to finish the sponsorship and floor debates by Wednesday (September 28) and approve the budget on or before September 30.

"Pursuant to the provision of Article VI, Section 26 [2] of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify

to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill 4488 or an act appropriating funds for the operation of the government of the Republic of the Philippines from January 1 to December 31, 2023," said the President.

"In order to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of current fiscal year, strengthen efforts to respond more effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic, and support initiatives towards national economic recovery," Marcos added.

The budget deliberations of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the President, Presidential Management Staff, National Commission on Indigenous People, Congress of the Philippines, Legis-

lative-Executive Development Advisory Council are set on Tuesday and on Wednesday.

The members of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) are also expected to attend the plenary debates of the national budget on Wednesday.

The proposed P5.268-trillion national budget, the highest ever if approved by Congress, is P244 billion more than this year's P5.023.6 trillion spending program. It represents 22.1 of GDP.

For 2023, the Department of Budget and Management said revenues are expected to grow by 10 percent year-on-year to P3.632.9 trillion, or 15.3 percent of GDP, while disbursements will increase by 2.6 percent to P5.085.8 trillion. Deficit, on the other hand, is expected to decline to P1.453.0 trillion, or 6.1 percent of GDP, from this year's program of P1.650.5 trillion or 7.6 percent of GDP.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Pahalagahan ang Inang Kalikasan



SOVET ABDULCO

Marami ang nakahinga ng maluwag matakpos humina ang Bagyong Karding na unang klinasipika ng mga weather expert na super typhoon.

Siguradong marami ang nabulabog noong Linggo dahil sa mga text alert hinggil sa paparating na malakas na bagyo. Sa kabila nito, hindi nagpanik ang publiko sa pagbili ng mga pagkain sa supermarket, marahil ay wala nang badyet dahil sa katapusan pa ang suweldo.

May iba naman ang nagpatuloy sa kanilang inurnan, videoke at iba pang uri ng kasiyahan lalo pa't day-off ng karamihan ng mang-gagawa kapag Linggo.

Ang mga Pinoy nga naman, kahit buma-

bagyo na, umaariba pa rin sa pakikipag-inuman at videoke na waring hindi alintana ang peligrong maaaring ihatid ng super bagyo.

Masuwerte pa rin sila at hindi napanatili ng bagyong Karding ang kanyang lakas noong tumama na ito sa kalupaan. Kung nagkataon, baka winalis ng malakas na hanging dala ng super typhoon ang kanilang barong-barong.

Kapag nawalan ng bahay, saka pa lamang lalapit sa gobyerno o sa mga politiko sa kanilang lugar para humingi ng tulong. Ang masaklap, kung may namatay din na miyembro ng pamilya, ipapasagot din kay kapitan, yorme o congressman ang pagpapalibing.

Hindi nila naiisip na kapag sinabing super typhoon, parang scenario ito ng bagyong Yolanda na tumama sa Eastern Samar at Leyte noong Nobyembre 2013. Higit sa 6,300 ang namatay dito at hindi pa kasama ang higit isang libong missing o hindi natagpuan na posibleng nabaon sa putik o inanod sa karagatan.

Unang binayo noon ng bagyong Yolanda

ang Guiuan sa Eastern Samar kung saan 100 percent ng kabahayan ang winasak dito saka dumiretso sa Leyte, kung saan marami sa mga namatay ay sa Tacloban City at kalapit bayan nito.

Iba ang topograpiya ng Guiuan at Tacloban City kumpara sa lalawigan ng Aurora sa Luzon. Ang Aurora ay napapaligiran ng bulubunduking Sierra Madre mountain na sinasabi ng mga weather expert na nakatulong para mabawasan ang lakas ng bagyong Karding.

Ganunpaman, hindi natin dapat iasa sa suwerte na hindi tayo tatamaan ng malakas na bagyo. Kailangan pa rin ang paghahanda para maiwasan ang malaking dagok sa ating buhay.

Hindi ito katulad ng coronavirus disease na humina na ang kamandag kaya marami sa mga Pinoy ay pasaway na sa minimum health standard. Marahil, ito ang mentality ng ilang kababayan natin.

Ipagpasalamat natin sa Panginoon Diyos na hindi tayo tinamaan ng malakas na bagyo. Pahalagahan din natin ang Inang Kalikasan.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Ipo Dam sinisi! 10 siyudad sa NCR walang tubig

NAWALAN ng tubig sa 10 lungsod sa Metro Manila at ilang lugar sa Cavite at Valenzuela kahapon sa service area ng Maynilad Water Services Inc. na isinisi ng kompanya sa kalidad ng tubig sa Ipo Dam na epekto ng bagyong Karding.

Matatagpuan ang Ipo Dam sa Norzagaray, Bulacan at ang tubig nito ay dinadala sa Novaliches Portal at sa La Mesa Dam.

Unang nag-abiso ang Maynilad ng 5am na mawawalan ng tubig ang mga taga-Bacoor at Imus City mula alas-7:00 ng umaga hanggang alas-8:00 ng gabi, at nagsabi itong magpapaikot ng water tankers para maghatid ng tubig sa mga customer nito.

Pagkatapos ng ilang minuto, naglabas ito ng bagong abiso kung saan sinabi nitong mawawalan ng tubig sa ilang lugar sa Calo-

ocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Manila, Parañaque, Pasay at Quezon City mula 8am hanggang 8pm kagabi.

Nadagdagan pa ang nawalan ng tubig kasama na ang Muntinlupa, Navotas at Valenzuela City at sinabi ng Maynilad na tatalagal hanggang alas-5:00 ng madaling-araw ngayong Martes.

"Di ninyo man lang kami pinag-igib nawala agad," ang nahirit na lang ni Jane Camat sa official Facebook page ng Maynilad.

"Wowww last minute announcement," sabi naman ni Aggy Mutuc.


"Portions pa lang ba tawag diyan," sabi naman ni Raymond Razo dahil malaking lugar na ang nawawalan ng tubig. (Eileen Mencias/Dolly Cabreza)



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

 Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

BP WATERWORKS, INC.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3428

x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Deca Homes Danao Subdivision, Barangay Sabang, Danao City, province of Cebu, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	P 208.50	46.90	51.90	53.10	56.80	60.40

Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3	
½"	P 1,207.50	100.70	120.80	120.80	120.80	

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **17 October 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cebu and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.


Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 2nd day of September 2022.

By Authority of the Board:


Dr. SEVILLE D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Sabang
Danao City, Cebu

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Danao City, Cebu

The Homeowners Assn. President
Deca Homes Danao Subdivision
Barangay Sabang, Danao City, Cebu



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



10
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL


CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

BP WATERWORKS, INC.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3429

x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Deca Homes Tisa Subdivision, Barangay Tisa, Cebu City, province of Cebu, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
½"	P 157.00	35.20	39.10	40.00	42.80	45.50

Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min.)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³	
½"	P 909.00	75.80	91.00	91.00	91.00	

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **17 October 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days** prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cebu and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.


Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

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By Authority of the Board:


Dr. SEVILLE B. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

<p>The Secretary Sangguniang Panlungsod Cebu City, Cebu</p> <p>The Barangay Chairman Barangay Tisa Cebu City, Cebu</p>	<p>The Homeowners Assn. President Deca Homes Tisa Subdivision Barangay Tisa, Cebu City, Cebu</p> <p>The General Manager Metro Cebu Water District Magallanes cor Lapu-Lapu Sts., Cebu City 6000</p>
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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



10
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL


CARTOON

09-27-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

BP WATERWORKS, INC.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3430

x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Villa Angelina Subdivision, Barangay Sabang, Danao City, province of Cebu, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min.)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
½"	P 186.00	41.90	46.40	47.40	50.70	53.90

Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (min.)	16-30 m ³	31-500 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³	
½"	P 1,078.50	89.90	107.80	107.80	107.80	

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **17 October 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing**, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cebu and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 2nd day of September 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLANO DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary Sangguniang Panlungsod Danao City, Cebu	The Homeowners Assn. President Villa Angelina Subdivision Barangay Sabang, Danao City, Cebu
The Barangay Chairman Barangay Sabang Danao City, Cebu	The General Manager Metro Cebu Water District Magallanes cor Lapu-Lapu Sts., Cebu City 6000