

Farmers say cash assistance not enough amid import competition

THE Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) said in a statement that the government's decision to provide cash assistance to farmers affected by the typhoon will not offset the losses they have sustained due to competition from imports.

The law will support rice farmers tilling land two hectares or below until 2024. Funds will be sourced from rice import tariff collections in excess of P10 billion annually.

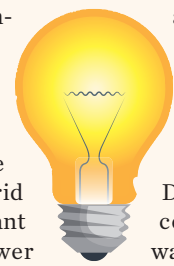
"This subsidy would be negated by higher farm production costs resulting from the recent spike in fertilizer prices, even as palay prices have continued to decline due to the unimpeded arrival of rice imports particularly during peak harvest periods," the FFF said.

to prevent the fall of palay prices and avail of trade remedies, such as safeguard duties. "Safeguard duties can temporarily increase rice tariffs, if imports are found to be excessive and seriously hurting local farmers. The DA has refused to use this remedy and has instead resorted to suspending the issuance of rice import clearances from time to time despite the absence of clear quarantine risks," the FFF said.

DoE endorsed 279 power projects seeking ERC clearance in 2021

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said it endorsed 279 power generation facilities applying to be certified by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) in 2021.

Ten coal-fired power plants were on the list, clearing up the backlog of pending coal-fired projects. No further approvals of new projects are expected after a ban on such approvals by the DoE.



Open-pit mining environment impact seen outweighing economic benefits

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE return of open-pit mining promises a boost to the economy, possibly at the expense of degrading the environment and living conditions for residents near the mines, a University of the Philippines (UP) academic said.

in policy particularly in light of the recent natural disaster experiences that are already considered to be related to climate change. Thus, for advocates of environmental protection, the economic benefits that could be gained now would not outweigh the consequences on the environment for the future generations," she added.

"Mr. Duterte even directed the (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to review all mining permits and ensure compliance of mining companies to all government standards and regulations. It would be recalled that this strong position against mining was implemented by Ms. Regina L. Lopez," she added.

important. Aside from the long-term impact on the environment, let us not forget the consequences of mining activities on people and their communities," she said. "There have been several studies made on the consequences of mining on people's lives as well as on the environment. There are communities that have been divided because of the issue of mining, primarily because there are people who gain and there are those who lose," she added.

size. It is very clear based on past experience and the current challenges posed by climate change that the Philippines has to be vigilant and ready to face the possible consequences of irresponsible action," she added.

resources and sacrificing our national patrimony to big mining interests," Mr. Hicap added. The mining industry welcomed the lifting of the ban, taking the position that the practice can be made environmentally sustainable.

Legislators tout open access bill as recovery driver

LEGISLATORS said they expect a bill which they co-authored to improve competition in the digital services industry, helping propel the economy's recovery, ultimately reducing poverty.

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OPINION Accelerating growth in the post-pandemic world

As the pandemic continues to impact businesses across global economies, it has also fueled a reset in strategy for many organizations who now place focus on thriving instead of merely surviving.

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capital that can be better deployed in investments that deliver higher impact. While business unit management bias is understandable, it can obscure the holistic view of the business that the review process should yield. Top-down assessments by the management and board can sometimes conflict with a bottom-up review process, especially when it comes to assessing synergies and the value of business units as stand-alone entities or potential divestitures.

ering and mitigating transaction risks, having a deep and well-structured analysis of the market and target, and securing correct financing of the acquisition. The extent of a detailed value-creation thesis with proper ownership and implementation actions will also make a difference between success and failure.

SUSTAINABILITY AS A CORE CONSIDERATION Management and the board will also need to be strong stewards of the community as companies acquire and grow, making environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations an important component of the corporate acquisition playbook.



SMITH C. LIM is a strategy and transactions partner of SGV & Co.