

# Farmer, fisherfolk registry contains 5.4M beneficiaries

THE government stands to pay out fuel and fertilizer subsidies and other benefits to more than 5.4 million farmers and fisherfolk in the national registry, the Department of Agriculture said.

"Once registered, they are given priority in availing of agriculture and fishery assistance in the form of cash or farm inputs like seeds and fertilizer, fuel subsidy vouchers, and crop insurance," Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said in a statement.

The Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) has a target of registering up to 12 million farmers, farm workers, and fisherfolk to facilitate the distribution of aid, with the latest programs meant to address the rising cost of fuel and fertilizer.

Data from the National Coconut Farmers Registry System and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources's fisherfolk registry will also be integrated into the program.

The RSBSA has three main components — farmer and fisherfolk profiling, farm parcel geo-referencing, and an interventions monitoring system.

Basic information collected in profiling includes personal data, farm ownership status, membership associations, or participation in any enterprises.

The geo-referencing component includes physical dimensions and GPS coordinates of the farm to help determine the farmer's entitlement in programs where the benefits are based on landholdings.

The interventions monitoring system tracks the benefits received by farmers and fisherfolk.

The RSBSA was set up to deploy benefits authorized by the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund's Rice Farmers Financial Assistance program. Over 1 million rice farmers received P5,000 each. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

# Manila Water to tap Laguna de Bay, wells, Marikina River in dry season

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. said it is preparing to tap Laguna de Bay, deep wells, and the Marikina River during the dry season in response to low water levels at Angat Dam, the capital region's main source of water.

With the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Water Resources Board, Manila Water said it will ensure "continuous water supply even during peak demand periods."

On Wednesday, the water level at Angat Dam was 194.57 meters. Its normal operating level is 212 meters.

Manila Water said it will maximize sourcing from the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna de Bay. It said deep wells are expected to provide an additional 115 MLD. It will also operate treatment plant drawing water from the Marikina River.

Operational adjustments include backwash recovery and water pressure management across the East Zone, Manila Water's concession area.

If needed, Manila Water said additional water may be sourced from Alat Dam, which feeds the La Mesa Reservoir in Quezon City. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

# USAID launches \$15-million LGU climate resilience project

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday launched a \$15-million climate resilience project for local government units (LGUs).

The project targets climate-vulnerable locations in Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Eastern Samar, Cotabato, and the Zamboanga region.

USAID will help LGUs gather data for climate mitigation plans and decisions, and improve their ability to manage climate-related financing, the Department of Finance said in a statement on Thursday.

"This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground," Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said during the launch.

USAID in October said the five-year program will improve access to climate financing for cities and LGUs in support of the national climate change action plan.

The chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission, Mr. Dominguez, said that climate financing from wealthier economies is still inaccessible.

He noted how wealthier economies failed to fulfill a pledge to roll out \$100 billion in

annual financing for emerging economies by 2020.

The Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though it accounts for 0.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, he said.

"We submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75% in 2030. We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet," he said.

The Philippines, under its first Nationally Determined Contribution for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

Of the 75% target, just 2.71% can be achieved with internal resources, while the remaining 72.29% would need to rely on international assistance.

Last month, Mr. Dominguez announced that the Philippines is preparing for a \$500-million green bond offer "in the immediate future" while the government awaits favorable market conditions. Proceeds from green bonds are used for climate mitigation and environmental projects. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**

# BARMM infrastructure budget at P4.9 billion this year — DPWH

INFRASTRUCTURE projects in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) will enjoy budget funding of P4.9 billion this year, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said.

The DPWH said in a statement that ongoing projects include civil works for the rehabilitation of 5.29 kilometers (km) of trans-central roads in Lanao Del Sur, as well as 4.71 km of road projects under the Emergency Assistance for Reconstruction and Recovery of Marawi (EARRM), which is financed by the Asian Development Bank.

"Other project components of EARRM (include) the construction of 4.32 kms of new trans-central roads with drainage, three main drainage channels with a total length of 6.21 kms, construction of Rorogagus Bridge and replacement of three other bridges, and slope protection and rehabilitation on Marawi Bito Road and Lasureco Road, are all in the detailed engineering design stage," it added.

Meanwhile the planned construction of the 2.4-km Malabang viaduct, which is also in Marawi, is undergoing a feasibility study.

Detailed engineering design is ongoing for the 19.8-km Marawi Ring Road. The project

is financed by a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The department said that last year, it managed to complete the construction of an 18.97-km road network with the support of a ¥2-billion JICA grant to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi City and its surrounding areas.

"Significant developments are also expected with the funding of the construction of Tawi-Tawi Circumferential Road while the remaining portion of Sulu Circumferential Road is ongoing and targeted for completion within this year 2022," it added.

The department also noted that its officials and BARMM representatives met on March 9 to discuss the progress of infrastructure projects being implemented in the region.

The DPWH said the two parties discussed updates in the rehabilitation of Marawi City, the rehabilitation of Quirino Bridge in Cotabato City, the status of permit requests along national highways by telecommunication companies, and other BARMM projects financed under official development assistance. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed that the Honorable Commission:

(i) **ISSUE** an Order treating Annexes "M-2", "M3", "M-6", "BB", and "QQ" as confidential in perpetuity, directing their non-disclosure to persons other than the officers and staff of the Honorable Commission, perpetually protecting the said information from public disclosure by maintaining the same separate and apart from the records of the case, ensuring that these are not divulged to unauthorized persons, and that these confidential documents are returned to PELCO 1 and MPPCL after the termination of this case pursuant to Rule 4 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure;

(ii) Pending trial on the merits, **GRANT** provisional authority or interim relief allowing the implementation of the PSA including all the rates, fees, charges, and tariff adjustment mechanisms set out therein at the rates provided in the PSA and authorizing PELCO 1 to charge and collect such rates, fees, charges, and tariff adjustments therein from its customers reckoned from the start of the supply by MPPCL to PELCO 1 under the PSA subject of this Joint Application; and

(iii) After hearing on the merits, **ISSUE** a Decision approving the Joint Application and the PSA between PELCO 1 and MPPCL, including all the rates, fees, charges, and tariff adjustment mechanisms set out therein at the rates provided in the PSA, and authorizing PELCO 1 to charge and collect such rates, fees, charges, and tariff adjustments therein from its end-users reckoned from the start of the supply by MPPCL to PELCO 1 under the PSA.

Other relief just and reasonable are likewise prayed for.

Cainta, Rizal and Pasig City for Pasig City, 04 March 2022.

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

By:

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MCLC Compliance No. VI-0008302 / 20 April 2018  
Roll No. [REDACTED]

(Signature page for the counsels of MPPCL will follow)

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IBP No. [REDACTED] / Lifetime / PPLM  
MCLC Compliance No. VI-0011960 / 03 September 2018  
Roll No. [REDACTED]

## VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION AGAINST FORUM SHOPPING

I, **ENGR. ALLAN E. DAVID**, of legal age, Filipino, and with office address at PELCO 1 in Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga, after having sworn in accordance with law, depose and state that:

- I am the Officer-in-Charge - General Manager of Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("PELCO 1") and duly authorized by the Board of Directors to file or cause the filing of the Joint Application, entitled "In the Matter of the Application for Approval of Power Supply Agreement between Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("PELCO 1") and Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd. ("MPPCL") with Motion for Confidential Treatment of Information and Prayer for Provisional Authority or Interim Relief", to the Energy Regulatory Commission;
- I have caused the preparation of the foregoing Application;
- I have read the allegations contained therein, and certify that the same are true and correct based on my personal knowledge and on authentic records of PELCO 1;
- The foregoing Application is not filed to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation;
- The factual allegations in the foregoing Application have evidentiary support, or if specifically so identified, will likewise have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery;
- PELCO 1 has not heretofore commenced any action or proceeding involving the same issues before any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency, to the best of my knowledge no such action or proceeding is pending, and if I should learn that the same or similar action or proceeding has been filed or is pending, I undertake to report such fact to this Honorable Commission, within five (5) days therefrom.

ENGR. ALLAN E. DAVID  
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this MAR 08 2022 day of MARCH at the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Affiant exhibited to me his Social Security System Identification No. [REDACTED]

Doc. No. 117;  
Page No. 20;  
Book No. 1;  
Series of 2022.

KATHLEEN KIRBY P. HIPOLITO  
Notary Public until December 31, 2022  
Commission No. 19-21  
Roll No. [REDACTED]  
Life Time Member  
E. Compliance No. VI-00095159-4  
PTR No. [REDACTED]

## VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION AGAINST FORUM SHOPPING

I, **ELENITA D. GO**, Filipino, of legal age, and with office address at the 5th Floor, San Miguel C5 Office Bldg., #100 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C5 Road North Bound), Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, depose and state, that:

- I am the authorized representative Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd. ("MPPCL"), a co-applicant in the above-captioned case;
- I have caused the preparation and filing of the subject Joint Application and that I have read the contents thereof and all the allegations contained therein are true and correct based on my personal knowledge and on authentic and official records/documents;
- Pursuant to the amended Rules of Civil Procedure which took effect on 01 May 2020, the Petition is not filed to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation and that the factual allegations therein have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likewise have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery; and,
- I further certify that I have not filed any action involving the same issues in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or any other courts or tribunals or quasi-judicial bodies/agencies and to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein. If ever there is a case pending before the said courts or tribunals involving the same issues, I undertake to inform the Honorable Board of such fact within five (5) calendar days from knowledge thereof.

That I am executing this undertaking in support of the Joint Application and the veracity of the allegations therein as well as for any other legal purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this MAR 07 2022 at PASIG CITY.

ELENITA D. GO  
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this MAR 07 2022 in PASIG CITY. Affiant personally appeared and exhibited to me her Philippine Passport with No. [REDACTED] issued on June 7, 2019 at the DFA NCR East as her competent proof of identity.

Doc. No. 117;  
Page No. 20;  
Book No. 1;  
Series of 2022.

KATHLEEN KIRBY P. HIPOLITO  
Notary Public for Pasig City  
Until December 31, 2022  
Commission No. 19-21  
Roll No. [REDACTED]  
Life Time Member  
E. Compliance No. VI-0018274/02-06-2019, Pasig City  
PTR No. [REDACTED] / 01-05-22 / Pasig City  
Lifetime IBP No. [REDACTED] / 07-05-17 / RSM Chapter  
MCLC Compliance No. VI-0018274/02-06-2019, Pasig City