

Khan Academy eyeing to increase usage of learning platform in PHL

MADRID, Spain — Online learning service Khan Academy is in talks with a philanthropist in the United States to advance efforts in the Philippines, its founder said.

"I've just met a philanthropist in New York. She's a Filipino by birth, and she's very interested in accelerating Filipino efforts," Khan Academy Founder Sal Khan told reporters at the recent South Summit 2022, a global business summit in Madrid co-organized by the IE University.

"She was saying that the Philippines is taught systemically in English, especially at the high school level, and that it's very close to the American system fundamentally," he added.

Khan Academy, which was started in 2005, provides free online learning materials for all ages, including practice exercises and instructional videos. It covers, among others, mathematics, science, computing, history, art history, and economics.

According to Mr. Khan, resources are being localized and translated into more than 36 languages.

Supported by individual contributions, the organization advocates for "free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere."

Khan Academy is not yet widely used in the Philippines, according to Mr. Khan.

North America accounts for 50% of the academy's 20-30 million monthly users. It has a significant number of users in Brazil and India, Mr. Khan said.

To accelerate its efforts in the Philippines, Khan Academy will likely need \$2 million a year, he noted.

"The \$2 million is our baseline. With \$2 million a year, we could then get a team in the Philippines starting to localize content. We could start hiring some people to start working with the government, start getting into schools, and start doing teacher training."

He also welcomed the entry of Starlink Internet Services Philippines, Inc., a subsidiary of Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp., into the local scene, which is expected to address the connectivity gaps in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.

"I think everyone now, especially with the pandemic, they get that this is important — that just to be connected to the world is important," he said.

"If you can just provide these kids with devices and reasonable internet access, you are essentially giving them a lifeline, you are giving them at least a safety-net education that might be better in certain cases than what they have access to."

Mr. Khan also said that the pandemic has caused a substantial increase in the typical number of users on the platform.

"In normal times, we had about 25 to 30 million learning minutes per day. That went up to 85 million learning minutes per day within the first week of the pandemic. So, a lot of people were living on these types of resources."

"I think it's been good that we've had Zoom and Khan Academy and all of these resources, but I think because it happened so fast, it was, I mean it was much worse if we didn't have all these online resources, but we did not have the time to think it through and so a lot of people had probably not optimal experiences being on a video conference all day or whatever they are using to learn," he added.

He pointed out that there is a need to prepare for the next emergency.

"Let's make sure that there is a safety net, and you know it's not just during a pandemic that we need a safety net. We need a safety net when we have refugees. Let's look at what's happening in Ukraine right now and see how those kids are learning." — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

PLDT seeks clarification on proposed open access law

By **Arjay L. Balinbin**
Senior Reporter

PLDT, Inc. on Tuesday said lawmakers should clarify the difference between data transmission players and telecommunications companies (telcos) under the proposed Open Access in Data Transmission Act.

The bill will "open the data transmission industry to data transmission participants who will be allowed to own and operate a network without obtaining a franchise, or a certificate of public convenience, or a provisional authority unlike the telcos," said Marilyn A. Victorio-Aquino, PLDT's corporate secretary and chief legal counsel, during the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

"When a data transmission industry player owns and operates a network, it will be allowed to compete for the scarce frequencies which are available to players like us," she pointed out.

"When that happens, you ask yourselves, so what happens between the business of a data transmission player and the telcos when they can operate and own a network and they can compete [for] our frequency? There's not much difference."

House Bill No. 8910, also known as the Open Access in Data Transmission Act, hopes to promote fair and open competition by lowering barriers to entry for the telecommunications industry. It is expected to reduce the cost of internet services.

"So, why will they be treated differently? Why will they be allowed to operate and conduct business without obtaining a franchise and a certificate of public convenience and necessity? Both requirements are imposed on telcos, which somehow restrict our operations in such a way that these regulators subject us to. So, these are the questions that need to be asked in case this bill is reintroduced in the new Congress," Ms. Victorio-Aquino also said.

The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on July 28 last year and received by the Senate the following day.

The bill is among the measures that local business groups and foreign chambers have asked the 18th Congress to pass in its remaining session days.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) supports the bill, as it "mandates interconnection among

data transmission participants to avoid dominance by a single player or by a group of data providers."

"The bill also mandates that there should be at least two providers at any given layer," it said in a statement.

Under the bill, the DICT, together with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), is "mandated to promulgate policies, rules and regulation to ensure and promote infrastructure sharing and co-location," the department noted.

At the same time, the NTC is mandated to "maximize the utilization of radio spectrum resources by ensuring that spectrum is made available for the use of all registered data transmission industry participants."

"The agency is also tasked to require all data transmission industry participants and public telecommunication entities providing data transmission services to comply with the prescribed performance standards," it added.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.



Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS FOR THE YEARS 2023 TO 2025 WITH PRAYERS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY AND TO SECURE LOAN FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (NEA) AND/OR FINANCING INSTITUTIONS

ERC CASE NO. 2022-034 RC

BUKIDNON SECOND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BUSECO),
Applicant.

Promulgated:
May 30, 2022

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on 05 May 2022, Bukidnon Second Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BUSECO) filed an *Application* dated 26 April 2022, seeking the Commission's approval of its proposed Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) projects for the years 2023 to 2025 with prayers for the issuance of provisional authority and to secure loan from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and/or other financing institutions.

The pertinent provisions of the said *Application* are hereunder quoted as follows:

- That, the Applicant is an electric cooperative existing pursuant to law (P.D. 269) with postal address at Tankulan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, and may be served by the processes of this Honorable Commission through its General Manager, Christopher A. Dulfo and President Rev. Fr. Danilo T. Paciente, whose joint authority is hereto attached as Annex "A" and made an integral part of this Application.
- That, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) has granted the Applicant its franchise area which includes nine (9) municipalities in the province of Bukidnon, namely: Baungon, Malitbog, Libona, Manolo Fortich, Sumilao, Impasug-ong, Lantapan, Cabanglasan and Talakag; Malaybalay City and Barangay Lilingayon in the City of Valencia;
- That, the Applicant has pending unapproved application for the approval of its Capital Expenditure Projects for the years 2017 to 2019 and for the years 2020 to 2022 before the Commission;
- That, pursuant to ERC Resolution No. 26, series of 2009, the Applicant seeks the review and approval of the Honorable Commission for the following proposed capital projects for the years 2023 to 2025, with the total approximate costs amounting to Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Million Six Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifteen and 61/100 Pesos (P975,672,115.61)

No.	Proposed Project	2023	2024	2025	Total
1	Construction of 60kV Switch Yard and switching facility for load transfer at Bliss, Lingon and Lunocan Substation	-	7,001,367.35	20,366,700.00	27,368,067.35
2	Installation of Power Circuit Breaker at the 69kV line: Aglayan-Caisang, Lunocan-Damilag, Bliss-Lunocan, Bliss-San Vicente	-	-	31,456,526.20	31,456,526.20
3	Replacement of Dilapidated Poles	30,852,251.75	34,169,163.00	35,318,624.40	100,340,039.15
4	Relocation of Obstructing Distribution Lines	3,610,146.45	2,819,270.94	344,036.44	6,773,453.83
5	Upgrading of Distribution Line Protective Equipment	4,200,000.00	2,800,000.00	-	7,000,000.00
6	Lunocan Substation Capacity Augmentation Project	98,962,844.16	-	-	98,962,844.16
7	Construction of additional 13.2kV line feeder dedicated for existing and incoming industrial customers	-	18,517,522.15	-	18,517,522.15
8	Replacement of Defective Capacitor Banks	420,810.00	420,810.00	-	841,620.00
9	Extension of Distribution Lines	21,766,230.52	22,768,499.47	25,778,882.48	70,313,612.47
10	Procurement of Distribution Transformers	-	5,952,310.00	12,665,645.00	18,617,955.00
11	Procurement of Standard Connection Facilities	61,915,709.30	65,071,262.60	68,652,146.80	195,639,118.70
12	Replacement of Instrument transformers at Aglayan Substation	-	-	3,170,280.00	3,170,280.00
13	Procurement of Substation Metering Facilities	2,220,000.00	-	-	2,220,000.00
14	Rehabilitation of Consumer Metering Facility	2,852,928.00	1,109,178.00	1,111,203.00	5,073,309.00
15	Replacement of Defective kWh Meters	20,336,195.57	20,336,195.57	20,336,195.57	61,008,586.71
16	Procurement of Contingency Materials	15,131,098.00	-	3,416,930.00	18,548,028.00
17	Diagnostic Testing of Substations	1,622,000.00	1,777,000.00	1,622,000.00	5,021,000.00
18	Procurement of Safety Gears and Equipment	11,238,227.11	8,626,783.20	5,966,033.20	25,831,043.51
19	Procurement of Communication Structures and Equipment	3,500,740.88	5,103,110.35	1,755,848.02	10,359,699.25
20	Procurement of Transportation Equipment	34,240,200.00	21,280,200.00	13,560,700.00	69,081,100.00
21	Procurement of Tools	35,559,827.78	17,272,570.00	3,842,341.37	56,674,739.15
22	Land and Building Improvements	20,772,875.00	-	-	20,772,875.00
23	Structural Renovations and Improvements	10,252,276.12	3,933,615.57	1,495,372.41	15,681,264.10
24	Procurement of Office Furnitures and Equipment	50,039,211.88	26,295,347.12	30,064,850.88	106,399,409.88
Total		429,493,572.52	265,254,227.32	280,924,315.77	975,672,115.61

Indicative effect on the existing RFSC rate of BUSECO if no loans availed

	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Forecasted energy sales, kWh	240,618,828.43	282,193,212.76	294,921,256.71	308,211,618.38	1,125,944,916.27
Cash balance beginning, P/P, excess/(shortfall)	3,059,427.64	(17,547,014.68)	(444,868,498.68)	(869,784,521.82)	3,059,427.64
CASH INFLOWS					
current year collection	59,743,730.15	70,066,317.88	73,226,715.30	76,036,479.15	279,073,242.78
Total Cash Inflows, P/P	59,743,730.15	70,066,317.88	73,226,715.30	76,036,479.15	279,073,242.78
Available cash for disbursement	62,803,157.79	62,803,157.79	52,693,202.50	(37,641,793.38)	28,222,664.42
CASH OUTFLOWS					
CAPEX requirement	-	499,493,072.52	265,254,227.32	280,924,315.77	975,672,115.61
amortization of approved CAPEX, P/P	80,380,172.47	64,973,026.86	50,899,104.45	47,860,167.33	244,112,471.12
ERC Permit Fee, P/P	-	3,241,201.79	1,899,406.70	2,105,932.37	7,347,540.87
Total Cash Outflows, P/P	80,380,172.47	477,987,301.18	318,549,738.47	330,891,415.47	1,327,779,127.60
Cash balance ending, P/P, excess/(shortfall)	(17,547,014.68)	(444,868,498.68)	(689,384,621.82)	(914,149,458.03)	(944,199,438.03)
Excess/(shortfall) on RFSC, P/P/kWh	(0.0739)	(1.576)	(2.338)	(3.063)	(0.839)

Indicative effect on the existing RFSC rate of BUSECO if loans is availed @ 6.5% interest rate for 10 years

	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Forecasted energy sales, kWh	240,618,828.43	282,193,212.76	294,921,256.71	308,211,618.38	1,125,944,916.27
Cash balance beginning, P/P, excess/(shortfall)	3,059,427.64	(17,547,014.68)	(73,801,827.47)	(148,387,444.70)	3,059,427.64
CASH INFLOWS					
current year collection	59,743,730.15	70,066,317.88	73,226,715.30	76,036,479.15	279,073,242.78
loan proceeds from financial institutions, P/P	-	479,493,072.52	265,254,227.32	280,924,315.77	975,672,115.61
Total Cash Inflows, P/P	59,743,730.15	499,559,390.40	338,480,942.62	357,450,794.92	1,255,235,367.99
Available cash for disbursement	62,803,157.79	62,803,157.79	474,679,115.15	285,809,115.15	1,426,094,365.88
CASH OUTFLOWS					
CAPEX requirement	-	499,493,072.52	265,254,227.32	280,924,315.77	975,672,115.61
loan amortization (new CAPEX), P/P	-	57,436,090.31	92,937,621.44	130,455,543.13	280,779,265.87
amortization of approved CAPEX, P/P	80,380,172.47	64,973,026.86	50,899,104.45	47,860,167.33	244,112,471.12
ERC Permit Fee, P/P	-	3,241,201.79	1,899,406.70	2,105,932.37	7,347,540.87
Total Cash Outflows, P/P	80,380,172.47	854,841,202.49	411,029,389.91	461,346,679.60	1,597,548,314.47
Cash balance ending, P/P, excess/(shortfall)	(17,547,014.68)	(73,801,827.47)	(148,387,444.70)	(249,253,499.44)	(589,039,496.44)
Excess/(shortfall) on RFSC, P/P/kWh	(0.0739)	(0.268)	(0.499)	(0.809)	(0.224)

Indicative effect on the existing RFSC rate of BUSECO if loans is availed @ 6.5% interest rate for 10 years

	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
Forecasted energy sales, kWh	240,618,828.43	282,193,212.76	294,921,256.71	308,211,618.38	1,125,944,916.27
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Available cash for disbursement	62,803,157.79	62,803,157.79	474,679,115.15	285,809,115.15	1,426,094,365.88
CASH OUTFLOWS					
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Excess/(shortfall) on RFSC, P/P/kWh	(0.0739)	(0.268)	(0.499)	(0.809)	(0.224)

- That, finding the proposed capital expenditure projects reasonable, appropriate, necessary and beneficial to the consumers, it being envisioned to further their interests; there being no adverse effects on its implementation, but rather results to service decline if not achieved and implemented on the periods it is projected to occur, the Board of Directors of the Applicant passed Resolution No. 22-03-10 approving the proposed CAPEX, copy of which is attached hereto as Annex "C";
- That, compliance with Section 2, Rule 6 of the ERC Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Applicant furnished copies of this Application together with all its annexes and accompanying documents to the Legislative Body of the Municipality of Manolo Fortich, Libona, Baungon, Malitbog, Talakag, Sumilao, Impasug-ong, Lantapan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, and to the Legislative Body of the City of Malaybalay and Valencia as well as to the Legislative Body of the Province of Bukidnon where Applicant operates. Likewise, the Application was published in *Mindanao Gold Star Daily*, a newspaper of general circulation within the franchise area of the Applicant.

As proof of such compliance, certifications are issued by the Secretaries of the Legislative Bodies of the Local Government Units concerned, attached herewith as Annexes "D", "E", "F", "G", respectively. Likewise, attached herewith as Annexes "H", "I" are the Affidavit of Publication executed by the General Manager of *Mindanao Gold Star* daily and the copy of newspaper containing the published Application.

PRAYER

- WHEREFORE, foregoing premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Commission, after due notice and hearing:
- To approve the aforementioned capital projects of the Applicant.
 - To approve the application for authority to secure a loan with the National Electrification Administration (NEA) and/or other Private Financing Institution that will provide the least interest rate to the benefit of the member-consumers;
 - To grant provisional authority for the implementation of the capital projects intended for 2023 to 2025, while the application may not yet be heard or is pending evaluation by the Honorable Commission, in order that Applicant's power distribution, the quality of power and reliability of distributed power supply will not be adversely affected.

- To authorize the recovery of the expenditures/cost incurred in the implementation of the aforementioned Capital Projects from the member-consumers;
- Other reliefs just and equitable are likewise prayed for.

The Commission hereby sets the instant *Application* for determination of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements, expository presentation, Pre-trial Conference, and presentation of evidence on the following dates and online platform for the conduct thereof, pursuant to Resolution 09, Series of 2020, dated 24 September 2020 and Resolution No. 01, Series of 2021 dated 17 December 2020 (ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure):²

Date	Platform	Activity
01 July 2022 (Friday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Microsoft Teams	Determination of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements and expository presentation
08 July 2022 (Friday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Microsoft Teams	Pre-trial Conference and presentation of evidence

Accordingly, BUSECO is hereby directed to host the virtual hearing at **BUSECO's principal office located at Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon**, as the designated venue for the conduct thereof, and ensure that the same is open to the public and the community quarantine guidelines are observed at all times. Moreover, BUSECO shall guarantee that, during the conduct of the expository presentation, the participation of the public shall not be impaired.

Any interested stakeholder may submit its comments and/or clarifications at least one (1) calendar day prior to the scheduled virtual hearing, via electronic mail (e-mail) at [doCKET@erc](mailto:doCKET@erc.ph)