

## Gov't budget utilization hits 99% at end of June

GOVERNMENT agencies raised their cash utilization rate to 99% at the end of June, up from the 97% rate posted a year earlier, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said.

The DBM said the National Government, local governments and state-owned firms used P2.01 trillion of the P2.033 trillion in notices of cash allocation (NCAs) issued to them in the first half of the year, leaving P24.22 billion unused.

NCAs are a quarterly disbursement authority from the DBM issued to agencies, allowing the latter to withdraw funds from the Treasury to support their spending needs.

"This may have to do with the election year to optimize budget utilization as needed to accomplish (and) complete more government projects and programs," Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said.

"Furthermore, some government spending especially on infrastructure could have been rushed before the election ban on some public works," he added in a Viber message.

Line departments used 98% or P1.39 trillion in NCAs released to them as of June. Those recording a utilization rate of 100% were the Office of the Vice-President, and the Departments of Education, Foreign

Affairs, Health, Interior and Local Government, National Defense, Public Works and Highways, and Transportation.

The Joint Legislative-Executive Councils, the Judiciary, the Civil Service Commission, the Commission on Audit, the Commission on Elections, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Commission on Human Rights also posted a 100% utilization ratio. — **Diego Gabriel C. Robles**

FULL STORY



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# Business chamber eager to hear food security, inflation plans in SONA

PLANS dealing with food security and inflation will be among the most eagerly expected portions of the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to be delivered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on July 25, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said on Tuesday.

PCCI President George T. Barcelon told the BusinessWorld Live program on One News channel: "We know that the President is in charge of the agricultural portfolio. So, we'd like to see what's the roadmap for this in view of our issues with food supply. We know very well that food prices have been going up primarily because of external factors, and also because of supply chain (issues). So that is top of mind on the agriculture side," Mr. Barcelon said.

Mr. Barcelon said the SONA, which will open the next session of Con-

gress, should also include plans for addressing inflation.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that headline inflation surged to 6.1% in June on the back of higher food and transport prices.

"The other thing that is of concern is the inflation that we're facing. Again, this is (due to) international cost-push impact. I think this has to be addressed (because) the salary of the working people may not cover it," Mr. Barcelon said.

Mr. Barcelon expressed the hope that Mr. Marcos will address helping the tourism industry recover and discuss energy security.

"We're seeing that our tourism business has picked up... I hope (travel and leisure) is considered low-hanging fruit... The government should (pay attention) to this. This not only creates jobs, but it's a

foreign currency earner," Mr. Barcelon said.

Mr. Barcelon added that he is hoping for an expansion of the power grid's connectivity "so that areas with an oversupply can redirect (electricity) to areas that need power."

Separately, Tourism Congress of the Philippines President Jose C. Clemente III told the Agenda program on One News channel that the tourism industry is worried about the rising prices of goods.

"I'm fearful of the tourists' threshold (for continuing to travel) since the prices of goods are increasing," Mr. Clemente said.

While travelers remain willing to absorb high fuel costs and airfares, "maybe we are already nearing the threshold past which they'll just say never mind, I'll just do it next time when prices are lower," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



## Miners call on gov't to provide stable environment, spell out ESG best practices

MINERS have asked the government to provide a stable environment and to specify how the industry can best comply with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

"We hope for nothing less than a stable business environment to allow mineral resource development to flourish, the harmonization of national and local laws to avoid conflicts, and the promotion as well as reporting of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) best practices for resource development," Philex Mining Corp. said in a Viber message.

The listed miner said that "through responsible and sustainable means, mining has the potential to contribute to economic growth and national development."

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno has said that the government is hoping to accelerate the revival of the mining industry, the operations of which were disrupted by the Duterte administration, which found large parts of the industry non-compliant with environmental rules. The government before that had declared a moratorium on new mining permits.

Last year, then President Rodrigo R. Duterte lifted the nine-year-old permit moratorium and lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

In 2021, the mining and quarrying industry posted output growth of 5.0%, accelerating from 2.6% in 2020, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

"It has always been our strong belief that responsible mineral development, when allowed to flourish, could substantially contribute to economic recovery, particularly in increasing government revenue, job generation,

and poverty alleviation that are most needed in this time of pandemic and beyond," Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Chairman Michael T. Toledo said in a statement.

On the opposite of the issue, Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), an advocacy group, said the environmental consequences of mining outweigh its economic benefits.

"A revitalization of the mining industry could only lead to food and water insecurity, land-use changes, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, air and water pollution and the displacement of communities," ATM National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera said in a statement.

Mr. Garganera said that environmental concerns should be one of the government's priorities in its economic recovery program.

"Ignoring the harmful environmental consequences of mining in the drive to revitalize the mining industry could only do more damage to the economy," he said.

"It is imperative that alternatives to mining be pursued if the government truly wants to revive the economy. These include: agroforestry, eco-tourism and watershed development, agriculture and fisheries, and community-based enterprises," he added.

ATM called for the full disclosure of all the mine audit reports and the immediate review of these mine audits.

"The new administration must immediately convene an environmental summit that will involve affected communities and environmental groups in order to assess and craft this administration's environmental and climate program," it added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsón**

## Pharma group backs DTI plan to develop PHL as an industry hub

THE Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) said it is confident that the Philippines can be developed as a hub for the industry, expressing support for a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) plan to build up domestic production.

In a statement on Tuesday, the PHAP said that the Philippines can "position itself as regional hub for biopharmaceutical innovation."

Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual has said he is pushing for more domestic manufacturing in health and life sciences, targeting biopharmaceuticals, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and healthcare services.

"With a health crisis at the root of the current global economic distress, the health and life science cluster plays a strategic security role, opening income-generating opportunities in all countries, including the Philippines," Mr. Pascual said.

According to PHAP Executive Director Teodoro B. Padilla, the group's aim is to develop a "vibrant biopharmaceutical industry."

"We are eager to share our expertise to accelerate the attainment of this goal for us to better prepare for and respond to current and future emergencies while at the same time sparking economic activity," Mr. Padilla said.

Diana M. Edralin, PHAP president, said the Philippines has much to offer in biopharmaceutical research and development, which can become a catalyst for future investment.

"The Philippines can be part of the actual research and development process... The country is currently an active participant in the conduct of clinical trials, and we are eager to partner to see more of these research and development activities in the Philippines," Ms. Edralin said.

"When we participate in global clinical trials, we are creating early access to innovation, bringing in major investment, and building the scientific capacity... to pursue pharmaceutical research and development," she added.

According to the PHAP, the DTI is the lead agency in the Industry Strengthening Working Group developing the integrated roadmap for the pharmaceutical industry.

"We will work with the DTI and related agencies for us to build capacity and foster an environment conducive to innovation to make available life-saving biopharmaceuticals for Filipinos and even to people in neighboring countries in the long term," PHAP Chairman Emeritus Beaver R. Tamesis said.

"(The) PHAP is keen to continue working with the DTI to pursue pandemic recovery and foster pharmaceutical security for an uninterrupted supply of life-saving medicines, vaccines and diagnostics amidst global demand or political instability in other regions," the group added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

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**LUNGSOD NG MAKATI**  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

**PRESENT:**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Councilor     | HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR. – Temporary Presiding Officer |
| Councilor     | HON. DENNIS B. ALMARIO                                      |
| Councilor     | HON. MARIA DOLORES M. ARAYON                                |
| Councilor     | HON. MARTIN JOHN PIO Q. ARENAS                              |
| Councilor     | HON. JOEL M. ARIONES  |
| Councilor     | HON. SHIRLEY C. ASPILLAGA                                   |
| Councilor     | HON. BENEDICT B. BANIQUED                                   |
| Councilor     | HON. ARNOLD J. CRUZ   |
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| Councilor     | HON. EDRALYN M. MARQUEZ                                     |
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| Councilor     | HON. KRISTINA T. SAROSA                                     |
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| Councilor     | HON. ANNA ALCINA M. YABUT                                   |
| LnB President | HON. MARIBEL F. VITALES                                     |
| SK President  | HON. RODOLFO C. SAN PEDRO, JR.                              |

**N.B.**  
Vice Mayor HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO – Acting City Mayor

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Secretary to the Sanggunian ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES

Upon motion of Hon. A.A.M. Yabut, duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati unanimously approved City Ordinance No. 2022-A-001 on third and final reading.

**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-A-001**

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., and Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr.

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. A.J. Cruz, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. C.C. Ortega, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, Hon. A.A.M. Yabut, Hon. M.F. Vitales and Hon. R.C. San Pedro, Jr.

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR C.Y. 2022 OF BARANGAY VALENZUELA TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 333 (a) of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall have the power to review barangay ordinances which relate to barangay budgets for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of the aforementioned law are complied with;

**WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Barangay of Valenzuela, by virtue of Barangay Appropriation Ordinance No. 001 Series of 2022, approved its Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022, a copy of such barangay ordinance, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "A"**;

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati extensively reviewed the abovementioned document, including its attachments;

**WHEREAS**, after careful perusal of available documents, it was ruled upon by the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati that the proposed Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Valenzuela is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:**

**Section 1.** The Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Valenzuela is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules and regulations.

**Section 2.** The *Certification* issued by the Budget Department dated 1 July 2022, which attests that the Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Valenzuela substantially complies with the provisions of pertinent laws, rules and regulations, is hereby adopted *in toto*, a copy of such *Certification* is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "B"**;

**Section 3.** The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4.** All ordinances, resolutions and executive orders which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 5.** Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished to the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of Valenzuela and other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance and reference.

**Section 6.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

**ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA**, in its Regular Session held on 13 July 2022.

Certified true and correct by:

*D.R. Cervantes*  
**ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Attested by:

*Virgilio V. Hilario, Jr.*  
**HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR.**  
Temporary Presiding Officer  
Member, Sangguniang Panlungsod

Approved by:  
*Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo*  
**HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO**  
Acting City Mayor