

# DoE to investigate forced outages that raised red alert over Luzon

## Hybrid work schemes raise work quality, study finds

A MAJORITY of employees in the Philippines perceive the quality of their work to have improved under hybrid arrangements, according to a study conducted by technology company Cisco Systems, Inc.

In a statement on Monday, Cisco said 79% of Filipino respondents reported an improvement in work quality, while 89% reported that the flexible work arrangements improved their sense of well-being.

Some 92% reported they were pleased to have access to a hybrid work set-up, while 29% said their companies are prepared to transition to hybrid work.

"Employees and employers in the Philippines are experiencing tangible benefits from hybrid work, stemming across improved employee well-being to better productivity and work performance," Zaza Nicart, managing director of Cisco Philippines, said.

Hybrid work implies a level of investment in critical technology, with about 73% of respondents considering connectivity issues to be "career limiting."

"Having a strong networking infrastructure and cybersecurity posture can solve such connectivity issues, and overall deliver seamless and secure work experience for employees," Ms. Nicart said.

Some 71% of respondents said they expect fully remote workers to face challenges in communicating or engaging with colleagues, compared to those who work on-site. Seventy-one percent of employees also reported that micromanaging increased with hybrid work.

— **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said it will investigate the forced outages at seven power plants which caused the Luzon grid to declare a red alert on Monday.

"We assure the public that the DoE is verifying the cause of the forced outages this morning as there appear to be no fuel supply constraints. A team from the DoE will conduct actual physical spot checks and validate the condition of the transmission lines and the affected power plants," Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said in a statement issued via Viber.

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) declared red and yellow alerts over the Luzon grid on Monday after seven power plants experienced forced outages as three plants operated below capacity, taking a combined 3,627 MW off the grid.

The grid operator said that the capacity available on Monday was 10,727 megawatts (MW), while peak demand was estimated at 10,585 MW.

The NGCP placed the Luzon grid on red alert between 1 and 4 p.m. on Monday. The yellow alert was declared twice for between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and again between 5 and 8 p.m.

NGCP issues yellow alerts when reserves fall below a designated safety margin. Red

alerts are issued when the supply-demand balance worsens further, signaling the prospect of rotational brownouts.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said it has notified its interruptible load program (ILP) participants following the NGCP announcement.

"We are ready in the event the implementation of manual load dropping (MLD) or rotating power interruptions will be needed as part of our responsibility to manage the system," Meralco said.

The ILP counts among its participants large power users that have their own capacity to generate power. These entities stop drawing power from the grid for a time, while relying on their own power plants for their needs, reducing the load on the grid.

The NGCP said that it is on standby to implement MLD in the service areas of the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Isabela I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Iselco I); Iselco II servicing parts of Ilagan; Batangas II Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Sorsogon I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Soreco I); Soreco II; and Meralco.

The NGCP said the resort to MLD may be canceled if demand turns out to be lower than projected. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Philippines calls for 'needs-based' priority system for climate finance

THE Environment Secretary called access to climate finance an urgent matter and pressed the government to work towards international agreements that will unlock funding to help address the climate "emergency" faced by developing countries.

"Without global transformation and adequate financial resources dedicated to solving the climate change problem, which has reached emergency status, any agreement will be meaningless," Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Y. Loyzaga said in a statement issued by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CCC has engaged technical experts in a dialogue that hopes to address the needs of developing countries for lowering greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The previous administration has staked out a position that the developed world, which has produced the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions as it industrialized, must provide aid to developing countries facing most of the consequences of climate change.

"Urgent delivery of needs-based climate finance on loss and damage is crucial to transformative climate actions by at-risk developing nations. Gone are the days of empty commitments, now is the time to implement, to deliver action with results," CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

Mr. Borje said the dialogue is an "opportunity to advance inclusive climate finance, driven by a process that ensures balanced geographical participation, particularly of developing states in the Asia-Pacific region."

He said the dialogue also allows participants "to be influenced by the best available science, to rectify past mistakes on not considering uncertainties, costing for externalities, and affording ample space to innovate, so that rehabilitation is not the norm."

Mr. Borje said President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has declared climate change a priority and expressed his support for climate-mitigation efforts.

"Under Mr. Marcos' administration, there is a proposal to increase national budget allocation for climate change-related programs, projects and activities," Mr. Borje said.

"The Philippines will continue to do its part, while pursuing stronger collaboration with partners and stakeholders toward climate justice," he added.

Mr. Borje called for pragmatic solutions, noting that the Philippines is expected to be one of the countries bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

The Philippines is considered the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

"This is what we mean by build right at first sight: to build justly and efficiently at first sight, with a long-term horizon in mind. Our discussions will go beyond dollars and cents," Mr. Borje said.

"There will be recommendations for actions that will affect the lives and livelihood of nations. Today is an opportunity to get things right. To secure climate equity and justice for all," he added.

The Ad Hoc Work Programme on New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance created under the Paris Agreement is tasked to conduct four technical exchange dialogues annually until 2024. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsion**

JOB HIRING	
<b>Company Name:</b> Schneider Electric (Philippines), Inc.	
<b>Address:</b> Unit 801 8th Floor World Plaza Building, E-Square IT Park Crescent Park, 5th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	
<b>Contact details of the Company:</b> Ann Virgil Aranel annvirgil.aranel@se.com	
<b>Job Position:</b> Talent Acquisition Business Partner	
<b>Job Description:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages the execution and delivery of the recruitment process in the Commercial Office.</li> <li>Establish effective working relationships with business leaders and stakeholders to properly manage and build recruitment talent pipeline and meet hiring targets.</li> <li>Proactively handles sourcing of candidates through various platforms including social media, professional networking and channel management.</li> </ul>	
<b>Basic Qualifications for the Position:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 6 years solid experience in handling end-to-end Talent Acquisition or Recruitment Function in a multinational setting</li> <li>Strong relationship management and pivoting skills with prior experience in related capacity working collaboratively in a cross functional team</li> <li>Solid Experience in working in a matrix environment across organizations and function</li> <li>Excellent communication skills (ability to communicate clearly, effectively and consistently in different contexts and cultures).</li> </ul>	
<b>Salary Range (monthly):</b> Php 200,000	

## Waterfront Cebu City Hotel — Cebu Wedding Expo 2022

Cebu City, Philippines – At last, Cebu welcomes back the most-anticipated bridal fair after a 2-year pandemic hiatus. This 2022, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino enchants exhibitors and participants to make their vows.

Be prepared to be captivated by the biggest wedding event: Cebu Wedding Expo 2022. As one of the grandest events of the year, we want to be able to promote more than just accessibility - having everyone get the chance to engage with their possible wedding organizers, suppliers, and partners to envision one of the biggest

and most memorable days of their lives. We've got tons of perks awaiting you — apart from having everything you'll ever need to plan your big day all in one place, guests can come and book on the spot and get a hold of exclusive deals!

This year, we've chosen the theme: "Starry Starry Night." Through this, we want to be able to convey a story to our beloved guests — that the sky's the limit when it comes to envisioning their big day. We want to instill a feeling of importance and remind our guests that their big day will be all about them amidst all the glitter and glamor this event holds.

Showcasing nothing less than world class talents and couture pieces all in one stage, this year's event also features "Gugma, this year's event also features "Gugma - Weddings at Waterfront" a bridal fashion show. Featuring the works of 25 local artists in collaboration with Cary Santiago. Through this, models will be walking the runway



wearing none other than these designers' stunning pieces — also something our guests can look forward to as they envision themselves walking the runway of their lives. We have also partnered with Dia Gold - home to the latest trend and exquisite unique designs of diamond jewelry products.

Walk the aisles of love at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's Pacific Grand Ballroom Exhibition Hall from September 23 to 25, 2022.

Click this link for more information: <https://bit.ly/CWE-FBEvent>  
To register, kindly refer to the following links:  
Exhibitors - <https://forms.gle/NFYuj5kzbcq3L5gT7>  
Participants - <https://forms.gle/hBM6Bw3A4LW1G3ur9>

## LGU borrowing applications decline in first eight months

NEW DEBT sought by local government units (LGUs) declined by 72.53% year on year to P21.04 billion in the eight months to August, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) reported.

The proxy indicator for LGU indebtedness is the issuance by the BLGF of 116 certificates of net debt service ceiling and borrowing capacity to LGUs, which included seven amendments, against 294 issued a year earlier.

These certificates were issued to 83 municipalities, 23 cities, four provinces, and six barangays.

Cities applied to borrow P8.16 billion, followed by municipalities (P8.02 billion), provinces (P4.83 billion), and barangays (P24.65 million).

The certifications are a leading indicator for the borrowing intentions of local governments, whose capacity for taking on debt must be certified by the BLGF, an arm of the Department of Finance.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort attributed the decline to the Supreme Court's Mandanas ruling and the tight fiscal space.

"More funding allocated to LGUs would fundamentally reduce their borrowing requirements. Furthermore, this may also have to do with the need to reduce the government's expenditures through more disciplined spending after the huge debt of P5 trillion incurred since the pandemic," he said in a Viber message.

The Supreme Court ruled that LGUs are entitled to 40% of all national taxes, including those not collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, effectively increasing the tax take that subnational entities are entitled to.

The ruling raised the LGU allocation to P959 billion this year, up 37.89%.

In the eight months to August, LGUs' total borrowing capacity was P49.44 billion, down 75.13% from a year earlier.

Cities had a borrowing capacity of P26.15 billion, followed by municipalities (P17.2 billion), provinces (P6.05 billion), and barangays (P37.24 million). — **Diego Gabriel C. Robles**

### OPINION

## Removal of the 5-year validity period for receipts and invoices

THE Philippine tax system is mostly driven by supporting documents. The deductibility of allowable expenses and claiming of input value-added tax (VAT) rely heavily on valid official receipts and sales invoices. Hence, it is paramount for every business to ensure that the documents they issue are free from error.

For a receipt/invoice to be valid, the taxpayer should first secure an Authority to Print (ATP) or Permit to Use (PTU) a computerized accounting system (CAS), cash register machines (CRM), point-of-sale (POS) machines, and other sales receipting software from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). Based on previous revenue issuances, official receipts and invoices have a five-year validity from date of ATP or PTU.

Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 18-2012 provides that a taxpayer with expiring ATP for its receipts/invoices must apply for a new ATP not later than 60 days prior to the expiry date. The use of receipts and invoices beyond the five-year validity renders the receipts/invoices invalid; hence, the issuing party is imposed a penalty and the expense of the party claiming such deduction is disallowed. However, not all taxpayers know this and are issuing receipts/invoices even beyond their validity, making it one of the most common issues faced by taxpayers.

Fortunately, the BIR revisited its policies and removed the five-year validity period for receipts and invoices, which is also in line with Republic Act (RA) No. 11032 otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018. This new revenue issuance relieves taxpayers of the burden of continuously incurring costs of reproducing their receipts/invoices every five years. This move also promotes sustainability as it reduces paper consumption caused by destruction of expired invoices and receipts and repeated reprinting.

### PERPETUAL VALIDITY OF RECEIPTS AND INVOICES

The removal of the five-year validity of receipts and invoices took effect on July 16, which is 15 days from the date of publication of RR No. 6-2022 on July 1.

As a result, all taxpayers with unused manual principal and supplementary receipts/invoices with ATP may continue to use such until fully exhausted. The phrases "THIS INVOICE/RECEIPT SHALL BE VALID FOR FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE ATP" and "VALID UNTIL (MM/DD/YYYY)," printed at the bottom of the receipt/invoices shall be disregarded. Subsequent production of manual receipts/invoices will no longer require a validity date printed on the bottom portion.

Taxpayers with PTU or Acknowledgment Certificate (AC), as applicable to CRMs, POS machines, and CAS, may continue to use the previously approved receipts/invoices. Like manual receipts/invoices, the five-year validity may also be disregarded. In addition, the system/software generating receipts/invoices from

CAS, component of CAS and CRMs and POS machines must be reconfigured to omit the phrases on validity period.

Unlike manual receipts/invoices, computer-generated receipts/invoices are not "exhausted" because these are not printed or bound by booklets. Hence, all PTUs become perpetually valid unless revoked by the BIR based on the following grounds:

- Tampering of sales data/integrity of the data and/or software specification/features to alter/avoid the recording of sale transaction;
- Any major repair, upgrade, integration, and modification/alteration without prior notification and approval by the BIR office concerned, including the items enumerated in Section V, Item No. 8 of Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 9-2021, to wit:
  - Change in the functionalities of the system, particularly enhancements that will have a direct effect on the financial aspect of the system that includes modified computations and other financial-related issues that were considered;
  - Addition or removal of modules or submodules within the system that will have a direct impact on the financial aspect of the system;
  - Change in the system/software version or release number that will have enhancements on the financial aspect of the system; and
  - All other enhancements that will be deemed major system enhancements based on the recommendation of the technical evaluators of the BIR; and
- Any violation(s) on the policies and procedures for registration under RMO No. 10-2005 and RMO No. 9-2021, and other related revenue issuances.

### RECEIPTS/INVOICES PRINTED PRIOR TO RR NO. 6-2022

Since perpetual validity of the receipts/invoices took effect on July 16, all receipts/invoices expiring on or before July 15 are no longer valid. However, worry not because it was clarified that upon the issuance of RR No. 6-2022, taxpayers with ATP expiring on or before July 15 who failed to apply for subsequent ATP not later than the sixty-day mandatory period prior to expiration are not liable to pay the penalty for late application of ATP.

The receipts/invoices which are unused and expiring on or before July 15 must be surrendered together with an inventory to the BIR Revenue District Office (RDO) where the Head Office or Branch is registered on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the validity period of the ATP for the destruction of such receipts/invoices.

### MODIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM/SOFTWARE GENERATING THE RECEIPTS/INVOICES

Due to the perpetual validity of receipts/invoices which is now in effect, the system/software generating the receipts/invoices for taxpayers employing CRMs, POS machines, and CAS shall be modified to remove the phrase indicating the five-year validity. This modification is considered a minor enhancement because such was mandated upon the effectivity of RR No. 6-2022. Only major modifications require prior written notification before such modifications are made.

Doing business is no easy feat — you must consider, among others, the profitability of your products/services, your target consumers, the way you will market your business, and most especially how you will take care of your clientele. Thanks to the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 and the efforts of government agencies in helping improve business processes, ministerial tasks like renewing your receipts/invoices every five years are now removed. Taxpayers and entrepreneurs can devote more of their energy and resources on their core businesses. Here's to a big win towards total ease of doing business and promoting environmental sustainability.

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