

# Energy dep't touts savings from power conservation program

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DoE) said Tuesday that 24 industrial, commercial and government establishments participating in its energy efficiency and conservation (EEC) program saved about 36.94 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity this year.

"With energy efficiency and conservation as a whole-of-nation approach to reduce consumption and ultimately earn savings, I encourage others also to approach this advocacy creatively and with fervor, especially as we further improve our EEC program," Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said in a statement Tuesday.

The DoE said the 24 entities were also able to save 60,912.55 liters of diesel, and 44,059 liters of gasoline.

The DoE said that Circuit Corporate Center One, Robinsons Place Gensan, and North Triangle Depot Commercial Corp. (which trades under the Trinoma brand) saved a combined 16.69 million kWh.

Serendra Retail, CBP Tech Tower, and Glorietta Corporate Center Two realized combined energy savings of 2.40 million kWh.

Ayala Center Cebu District Cooling System Plant, Canon Business Machines, Inc., and Ayala Center Makati District Cooling System Plant had combined energy savings of 5.95 million kWh.

Ayala Malls Central Bloc and Ayala Malls Manila Bay had total combined energy savings of 5.84 million kWh.

Baguio Ayala Land Technohub and Ayala Malls Solenad posted

combined energy savings of 4.35 million kWh.

Republic Act No. 11285 or the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act of 2019, authorizes EEC programs and encourages the use of energy efficient and renewable-energy technologies.

Mr. Lotilla said that about 36% of all energy is consumed by buildings.

"With increasing urbanization, the number of new buildings (is growing by) more than 20% a year and will continue to do so. So, the efficient use of energy, water, and other resources becomes even more (critical)," Mr. Lotilla said.

He said the government's own EEC savings as of Dec. 13 amount to P284.93 million.

Mr. Lotilla added that the DoE has also proposed to President

Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. a plan to promote energy-efficient and inverter-type technologies in all government agencies, local government units and foreign service posts, which will result in projected savings of 347.42 megawatts (MW) equivalent to P7 billion.

Mr. Lotilla estimated that 4,241 designated establishments from the commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors are implementing various projects to reduce their energy consumption.

"These projects had a total investment worth P4.5 billion or the equivalent of 491.75 gigawatt-hours of energy savings. We are working to increase these numbers," he added.

The DoE is counting on the EEC program to cushion the impact of volatile petroleum prices. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



PHILIPPINE STAR/KIROSOKLES

## Government jobs critical to improving employment, labor-affiliated party says

By John Victor D. Ordoñez

PUBLIC-SECTOR jobs will be critical for improving employment ahead of an expected global economic slowdown, according to a political party aligned with the labor movement.

"The government should play a vital role in providing employment opportunities and not rely on the private sector by funding a robust public employment program that will contribute, among others, to the development of the agriculture, health, and transportation (industries)," Partido Manggagawa Chairman Rene B. Magtubo said in a Viber message.

"To date, most if not all of the returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are still capable of working train their sights on employment opportunities abroad rather than state job programs," he added.

Mr. Magtubo said the government should also focus on boosting jobs in manufacturing to improve the overall quality of jobs next year.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has said he intends to promote manufacturing to create more jobs and expand economic output.

The jobless rate fell to 4.5% in October, the lowest since October 2019, before the pandemic hit.

Job quality that month improved as the underemployment rate, or the percentage of employed seeking more work, eased to 14.2% from 15.4% in September.

Partido Manggagawa also said Tuesday that workers continue to

struggle with low wages despite the recovery from the pandemic.

"Despite runaway inflation, the government played deaf to the demands and stuck to the myth that there was no supervening condition that existed to warrant a new round of wage hikes," it said in a statement, referring to the normal practice of waiting for a year between wage hikes, with exceptions being made for supervening conditions.

Inflation rose to a 14-year high of 8% in November, against the 7.7% posted in October.

Labor Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma has said the National Wages Productivity Commission and tripartite wage boards are studying the need for additional wage increases amid soaring prices of basic goods.

The Kapatiran ng mga Unyon at Samahang Manggagawa on Dec. 5 filed a petition seeking a P100-increase in the daily minimum wage in Metro Manila to help workers deal with inflation.

In June, the Metro Manila Wage Board imposed a P33-minimum wage increase. Wage boards can only act on wage petitions a year after a region's last wage order.

Partido Manggagawa noted that the decline in unemployment numbers does not reflect the thousands of low-paid workers losing jobs and many working in jobs that lack benefits.

"In other words, these employed but vulnerable workers in the post-pandemic context are still harmed by decent-work deficits," it said. "More Filipinos are back to work but in bad jobs."

## Customs raises P268M from auctions of seized goods

THE BUREAU of Customs (BoC) said it generated P268.483 million from auctions of seized goods as between July 25 and Nov. 1.

The bureau said it auctioned a total of 137 containers of various goods including luxury vehicles, general merchandise, and other products.

The BoC said it also collected P24.942 million following audits P391.289 million from prior disclosure program (PDP) applications during the first 100 days of office of the new government.

"The efforts of the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) to promote compliance with customs laws and regulations have proven

effective and efficient as reflected in the yearly increase in Prior Disclosure Program (PDP) applications," the BoC said.

As of the end of November, P1.725 billion was collected from post clearance audits.

The BoC said that its risk-based post clearance audit process and customs compliance programs helped minimize revenue leakage.

This year, it also said that it implemented three information and communications technology systems, including the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document (ACDD) System, which enhances Customs risk-targeting and profiling activities.

These also include the National Customs Intelligence System (NCIS), a web portal that stores data and generates reports according to the selected filters; and the Payment Application Secure 6 (PAS6), a payment system that ensures the accurate and immediate exchange of transaction information on the assessment details of payable duties and taxes.

The agency also reported that the Port of Batangas, Manila International Container Port, and Port of Limay had the highest collections, combining for P432.113 billion, accounting for 60.49% of the total revenue collected as of the end of October.

The BoC has said it exceeded its full-year revenue collection target by 9.5% at the end of November.

In the 11-month period, the agency collected P790.301 billion, beating its 2022 revenue target of P721.52 billion.

For 2023, the Customs bureau is expected to generate P765.59 billion in revenue, up 6.11% against its target this year.

This includes P485.67 billion in value-added taxes (VAT) on imports, P196.6 billion in excise taxes, P63.67 billion in import duties and taxes and P19.64 billion in other fees. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**

## Power infrastructure deemed top priority for climate-proofing efforts

POWER infrastructure was put forward as a priority for the government's climate-proofing efforts, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) said, citing the network's vulnerability to calamities.

In a study published Tuesday, PIDS said most of the environment-related triggers for power interruptions are "major storm disasters."

"Concurrently, this begs the need to improve and climate-proof our power and electricity-related infrastructure to protect

them from damage and shorten the duration of downtime after weather-related events," the study found.

PIDS said that in 2021, 94.7 million consumer hours were lost to major storm disasters. The metric is computed by multiplying the number of hours of power interruptions and the number of customers affected.

Between 2015 and 2021, consumer hours lost to major storm disasters averaged 107.34 million, with the high in 2019 at 399.2 million.

The study analyzed data from monthly interruption reports (MIRs) between January 2015 and December 2021 filed by electric cooperatives (ECs) which are monitored by the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

In 2021, consumers experienced an average of 5.7 power interruptions a year, equivalent to 8.8 hours of no electricity overall, the study found.

The average time to restore power was 1.5 hours after a power outage, the study found, with res-

toration taking the longest in the wake of a major storm disaster.

Consumers in Luzon experienced more frequent power interruptions, while consumers in the Visayas endured longer hours with no electricity.

The study found that the main cause of power interruptions was the insufficient supply of power to ECs. In 2021, 169.1 million consumer hours were lost due to "insufficient supply." Over 2015 to 2021 period, lost consumer hours averaged 171.9 million. — **Aaron Michael C. Sy**

### JOB OPENING

**Job Title:** Senior Manager, Partner Service Delivery, APAC  
**Vacancy:** 1  
**Company Name:** Airbnb Philippines Inc.  
**Work Location:** BGC, Manila, Philippines

Airbnb was born in 2007 when two Hosts welcomed three guests to their San Francisco home, and has since grown to over 4 million Hosts who have welcomed more than 1 billion guest arrivals in almost every country across the globe. Every day, Hosts offer unique stays and experiences that make it possible for guests to connect with communities in a more authentic way.

#### The Difference You Will Make:

We are looking for a seasoned, collaborative, and visionary performance leader who can create outcomes driven frameworks for the outsourced customer support partners of Airbnb. The Senior Manager, Partner Service Delivery, APAC uses innovative and scalable performance management processes to drive service delivery performance metrics that our partners produce for our customers. The Service Delivery manager will manage a team of regional operations managers who support the successful execution of Airbnb's outsourcing strategy. Extensive leadership and people management is needed with focus on people management, continuous process improvement and stakeholder management. This role will also be responsible for identifying performance improvements opportunities and driving those efficiencies through the shared services teams within Community Support. Effective in working in cross functional teams and business partners is a must.

#### A Typical Day:

- Responsible for the day to day delivery of customer support across a broad network of a global partners in a multi channel environment
- Accountable to ensure the highest level of support is delivered with particular focus on customer satisfaction and resolution
- Lead a team of Regional Operations Managers responsible for driving an optimal day to day operational performance to meet critical KPIs such as SLAs, NPS, efficiency metrics within their service tiers to ensure optimal customer support at every interaction
- Support the rollout and adoption of strategic initiatives related to customer experience improvement
- Drive standardization of operating playbook/management across partner sites
- Collaborate cross functionally with Partner Optimization, FP&A, and Insights to develop metrics and dashboards to manage Partner performance
- Collaborate cross-regionally to drive results based on regional accountability but with the collaborative approach for the united global view in mind.
- Conduct monthly and quarterly business reviews with partners and senior leadership.
- Adopt and apply the latest best practices related to partner performance management
- Lead partner performance programs with large service delivery impact.
- Develop and incubate relationships with operations managers, directors, and executives within the region's partners

#### Your Expertise:

- Min 10+ years management experience in Service Delivery Partner Operations, min 15-20 years of relevant experience
- Experience working in global and matrixed environment
- Proven track record of leading and driving results at scale
- Experiences in analytical field
- Onshore and offshore experience preferred
- Degree in business or related field

#### Our commitment to inclusion & belonging:

Airbnb is committed to working with the broadest talent pool possible. We believe diverse ideas foster innovation and engagement, and allow us to attract creatively-led people, and to develop the best products, services and solutions. All qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

**Applications may be sent to:**  
senior\_manager\_partner\_service\_delivery\_39f370331us@rose.greenhouse.io

## IP involvement seen as key to success of ecosystem scheme

THE ACTIVE engagement of indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities is deemed critical to the success of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) said, citing the results of a study.

PES schemes compensate individuals or communities for their role in protecting the environment or ecosystem. The value generated by their services is quantified via the impact of keeping water clean, mitigating floods, and sequestering carbon.

"This entails multiple consultations for awareness

building and scoping out possible entry points as well as challenges to the agreement. External support from private entities, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, and international development organizations help facilitate protected areas without consistent government funding towards the path of sustainability," PIDS said.

Global indicators on ecosystem extent and condition decreased 47% from their natural baselines and will continue to decline by at least 4% per decade, PIDS said, citing a United Nations report.

"This presents dire forecasts for the Philippines which topped the World Risk Report in 2022. Missing environment markets hinder the full capture of immediate and slow-onset damage from disasters and climate change and the extent of repercussions to national accounts," the study concluded.

"This weakness facilitates the emergence of valuation approaches for economic contributions, one of which is PES. As evaluation and empirical data contribute to the greater inclusion of the environment in economic development, it becomes integral to look at

how financing tools inform management and conservation mechanisms," it added.

The study said that the country lacks a definitive national policy and framework on PES.

"The PES concept remains intangible to local government units (LGUs) and policymakers. Communication of process and benefits should be well-packaged with concrete and actionable ways forward, but the success of this rests on the assumption of trust among parties," it said.

"At the moment, LGUs have no mechanisms to receive funds from non-government

entities, but public finances are limited and unsustainable ...

User fees remain a grey area in the fiscal landscape which calls for imminent standardization of methodology. While its institutionalization is also encouraged, setting the process in stone might have several setbacks," it added.

PIDS also recommended capitalizing on the increased interest from the government, frame sustainable PES templates, and augment accounting and auditing rules to reflect PES and natural capital accounts. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**

## Holiday sari-sari store purchases topped by items associated with frying food

PRODUCTS associated with frying food were the top items purchased during the holidays from neighborhood retailers, known as sari-sari stores, according to a study released by technology startup Packworks and sociocultural research firm Fourth Wall.

The study, of data collected between Dec. 1 and 14, indicated that packaged sauce was the fastest-growing, up 8% from a year earlier. Breading and coating mixes grew 7%, the study found.

Posting 5% growth was cooking oil. "Our statistical analysis shows that only the products related to fried food are the ones that experienced significant growth between 2021 and 2022," the report found.

John Brylle L. Bae, research director for Fourth Wall, said Filipinos are

a "sawsawan culture," referring to the dipping sauces accompanying many meals.

"Filipinos prefer fried foods because of its association with sawsawan... The sawsawan culture epitomizes the communal nature of eating — (it's) more than just consuming good food, but forging long-lasting connections," he said.

Reporting mixed growth were items associated with preparing fruit salad, a staple of many holiday celebrations, with evaporated milk purchases up 2% year on year, while purchases of condensed milk fell 1%; all-purpose cream purchases declined 11% while canned fruit purchases plunged 16%.

Demand for sugar and seasoning also declined. Sugar purchases fell 9% while those of seasoning declined 33%. The report said the declines in

these categories were due to a growing health consciousness in the public as well as high prices.

"Our analysis further suggests that during holiday season, Filipinos are willing to forgo salads and sweets, but they struggle to let go of fried foods. The aversion to sugars and salads comes from high inflation, growing concerns about diabetes, and increasing health consciousness. Meanwhile, the propensity for fried foods comes from practical considerations (convenient and economical) but also from a much deeper sociocultural consideration," Mr. Bae added.

Packworks develops a B2B app targeted at micro-retailers, which helps them keep track of their inventory and sales. It claims to have connected 110,000 sari-sari stores. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



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