

Maynilad's service areas to still experience water interruptions

CUSTOMERS in areas served by Maynilad Water Services, Inc. will continue to experience water service interruptions as supply remains inadequate, a company official said.

"Right now, we're only getting around 2,150 million liters per day (MLD) at the Novaliches portal. We should be getting 2,400 MLD because at that volume, we won't have service interruptions," Jennifer C. Rufo, head of Maynilad's corporate communications, said in a Viber message on Saturday.

Ms. Rufo said the issue right now is not so much the demand but the availability of adequate supply.

She added that the current production of Maynilad's treatment plants in the south is at 230 MLD, or higher than the previous weeks' when raw water at Laguna Lake had higher turbidity levels.

"But it's still lower than the ideal 280-300 MLD because we're still intensifying the cleaning of our facilities' filters following the prolonged high turbidity episode at Laguna Lake," she said, adding that the target is to revert to normal output by mid-April.

On Friday, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) raised the water allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to 50 cubic meters per second (CMS) from the current 48 CMS from April 1 to 15, 2023.

"NWRB did not grant the request of Maynilad through the MWSS that the allocation be increased to 52 CMS," Maynilad said in a separate statement issued on Friday.

Leonor C. Cleofas, MWSS administrator, told *BusinessWorld* by phone on Sunday that the allocation granted by the NWRB will allow the La Mesa and Ipo dams to recover and support the water supply needs of Metro Manila.

Ms. Cleofas said that MWSS had directed Maynilad to maximize the

production of its Putatan water treatment plants.

"At 50 CMS, we expect that the volume of raw water flowing to the Novaliches portal in Quezon City will still be at reduced levels. Given this, the current daily water service interruptions will remain in place, but the interruption schedules to be implemented starting April 1, 2023 have been adjusted to account for the full suspension of the cross-portal sharing arrangement between Maynilad and Manila Water," Maynilad said.

Ms. Cleofas said that Maynilad had been directed to schedule water service interruptions only at night.

However, Ms. Rufo said that Maynilad cannot limit interruptions to nighttime with its current allocation.

Meanwhile, Ms. Cleofas reiterated that despite the current water service interruptions, water supply remains sufficient.

She added that MWSS and Maynilad are expected to meet on Monday to discuss and monitor the current water supply and demand situation.

Asked whether MWSS will impose fines on Maynilad, Ms. Cleofas said: "It's the regulatory office, they are looking at it."

Maynilad, a concessionaire of the MWSS, serves the cities of Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also operates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Malabon.

It serves the cities of Cavite, Bacoor, and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

MGen unit plans to export RE from Indonesia to Singapore

MGEN RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC. (MGreen) is planning to build a renewable energy (RE) plant in Indonesia to export and supply renewables to Singapore.

"We are right now looking into hopefully exporting renewables from Indonesia to Singapore because we have a Singapore plant," Jaime T. Azurin, president and chief executive officer of Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGen), told reporters last week.

MGreen is the renewable energy subsidiary of MGen, the power generation arm of listed electric distribution utility Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

MGen owns 58% of PacificLight Power Pte. Ltd., which owns and operates a combined cycle turbine power plant in Jurong Island, Singapore.

Mr. Azurin explained that MGen has been eyeing Singapore because of its recognized electricity demand, which is not matched by the island's limited land area. Meanwhile, the outer islands of Indonesia are only about "20 to 30 kilometers away" from Singapore.

"When you lay down the cable going to Singapore there will be issues, where is the jurisdiction from the Singa-

pore government? We have been trying to develop that for the past years and hopefully, within the year something will come out of it," he said.

Mr. Azurin said MGen is hoping to get an export permit from the Indonesian government for the project.

"It is very meticulous because you are passing through a cross border," he said.

Mr. Azurin did not disclose the capacity of the power plant but he said it would be a "sizeable capacity" composed of solar power and battery because the undersea cable is expensive.

"Submarine cables are expensive, it has to be more than 300 megawatts (MW)," he said.

He noted that while the plant is not yet built, it will be owned by Pacific Light in partnership with an Indonesian company as an Indonesian license is also needed.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Seaborg's modular nuclear reactors 'a very good match' for the Philippines — Danish ambassador

DANISH NUCLEAR technology company Seaborg is keen on bringing its know-how in small modular reactors to the Philippines as the country explores adding nuclear power into its energy mix.

"The three things that we are looking at is wind — and that's both onshore and offshore; solar; and small modular reactors (SMR)," Franz-Michael Mellbin, Royal Danish Embassy's ambassador to the Philippines, told reporters last week.

He made the statement on the sidelines of a service contract signing between the Philippines, through the Department

of Energy, and Copenhagen Infrastructure New Markets Fund. The Danish entity is planning to develop the Philippines' first 100% foreign-owned offshore wind project.

Aside from offshore and onshore wind farms, Denmark's companies are also interested in exploring other projects in the Philippines, Mr. Mellbin said.

"I think the big difference between the Danish SMR technology and those you see in other countries like the US is that our solution is sea-based," he said. "This solves a lot of issues with the licensing, the permitting, but also with waste management."

Mr. Mellbin added that the time to develop Denmark's small nuclear reactors is faster than land-based technologies, making it shorter to bring their output to the electricity market.

"For these reasons, I think there is a very good match between the needs of the Philippines and the potential of this Danish technology," he added.

Mr. Mellbin said the Danish embassy had already reached out to the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, a state agency mandated to undertake research and development activities on nuclear energy, for a possible "cooperation."

He said Denmark's SMR technology would be affordable and applicable to the Philippines, in part, because it is seaborne.

"It's done together with Korea, which has a very well-established nuclear sector. And because the licensing and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) approvals can be done by the Koreans for the floating solution, it allows for easy deployment in third countries also," he said.

IAEA is the world's center for cooperation in the nuclear field. The intergovernmental organization promotes the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technology. — **Victor V. Saulon**

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FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
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2. BPI SECURITIES CORPORATION
3. AB CAPITAL SECURITIES, INC.
4. COL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.
5. MAYBANK SECURITIES

CUSTODY AWARDS

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THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED

SETTLEMENT AWARDS

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2. METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY
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4. BDO UNIBANK, INC.
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FIXED-INCOME AWARDS

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2. BPI CAPITAL CORPORATION
3. CHINA BANK CAPITAL CORPORATION
4. BDO CAPITAL & INVESTMENT CORPORATION
5. FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Top 5 Corporate Issue Managers/Arrangers (Bank Category)

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2. THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED
3. ASIA UNITED BANK
4. ING BANK N.V., MANILA BRANCH
5. EAST WEST BANKING CORPORATION

Top 5 Corporate Securities Market Maker

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2. METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY
3. SECURITY BANK CORPORATION
4. CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
5. PHILIPPINE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL, INC.
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TRADITION FINANCIAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.

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4. CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
5. LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

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