

# Value of Philippine metallic mineral reserves rises

THE value of the Philippines' metallic mineral reserves rose 22% in 2022, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In its mineral accounts report, the PSA said the valuation of Class A gold, copper, nickel, and chromite resources was P491.19 billion, up from P402.73 billion a year earlier.

Class A reserves are defined as "commercially recoverable mineral resources which are con-

firmed to be economically viable by a defined development project or operation."

The valuation of Class A gold reserves rose 20.5% to P183.32 billion during the period. However, estimated volume dropped 3.3% to 625.20 thousand kilograms.

Class A copper reserves increased in value by 23.3% to P59.43 billion. Volumes fell 0.04% to 165.98 million metric tons (MT).

The valuation of nickel reserves was P246.25 billion during the period, up 21.9%, while nickel reserves declined 3.2% to 557.86 million MT.

Class A chromite reserves by value rose four times to P2.20 billion. Reserve volume dipped 0.2% to 35.89 million MT.

"The total resource rent of the four mineral resources (accounted for) P55.17 billion or 0.3% of Philippine Gross Domestic Prod-

uct (GDP) in 2022," the PSA said.

According to the PSA, the valuation of mineral assets is compliant with the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Central Framework, which uses a 10% discount rate.

"These accounts allow for the monitoring of the sustainability of the extraction of these valuable yet depletable natural assets," the PSA said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

# PHL trade delegation targets German infra, RE investment

GERMAN infrastructure, renewable energy (RE), and high-tech manufacturing companies are among the potential investors that a trade delegation currently in Europe is seeking to attract to the Philippines, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said.

In a speech at the Philippine-German Investment Forum on July 3, Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual directed his remarks specifically to infrastructure companies in light of the Philippine government's push to address the gaps in its infrastructure.

"We enjoin Germany to partner with the Philippines in projects involving the construction of airports, railways, and bridges, all designed to enhance connectivity

within our country and with the rest of the world," Mr. Pascual said.

The forum was attended by representatives from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action State Secretary Udo Philipp, Philippine Ambassador to Germany Irene Susan B. Natividad, Association of German Chambers of Commerce, and Industry Chief Executive of Foreign Trade Volker Treier, as well as representatives from German companies.

Mr. Pascual added that German businesses might find opportunity in the Philippine renewable energy industry, where foreign investors are now allowed to own 100% of their projects, up from the Constitutional limit of 40% previously.

Mr. Pascual also urged German businesses to consider locating high-tech manufacturing operations to the Philippines, including aerospace, automotive, electronic devices, pharmaceuticals, and innovation-focused sectors.

Mr. Pascual also had a separate meeting with German Electronics and Digital Industry Association (ZVEI) President Gunther Kegel on possible collaboration in electronics manufacturing with the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

The specific businesses being targeted are original design manufacturer, original equipment manufacturer, and electronics manufacturing outsourcing in the Philippines.

"This is in light of the continuing challenges of the lack of skilled labor, the rising cost of production, and the diversification and de-risking aspirations in Germany," the DTI said.

ZVEI represents over 1,000 companies in Germany employing 879,000 workers, with combined turnover of €200 billion in 2021.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that Germany was the top source of foreign investment pledges at P156.96 billion in the first quarter, accounting for 90.9% of the total.

The DTI European Investment Roadshow wrapped up yesterday, July 6. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



SCOTT GRAHAM-UNSPLASH

# PHL trade facilitation score improved – UN

THE PHILIPPINES improved its score in an international index of trade facilitation, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) said.

The UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation graded the Philippines' implementation rate at 87.1% this year, against 86.02% in 2021.

The survey tracks progress made on the implementing trade facilitation measures. It evaluates transparency, formalities, institutional arrangements and cooperation, paperless trade, and cross-border paperless trade.

"In the Asia-Pacific region, implementation increased by about three percentage points since 2021, with the highest rates observed in Australia and New Zealand and East and North-East Asia," UNESCAP said in a statement.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines had the second highest trade facilitation rate, alongside Indonesia and Malaysia (also 87.1%), and behind Singapore (96.77%).

It scored better than Thailand (84.95%), Cambodia (80.65%), Brunei (78.49%), Vietnam (74.19%), Laos (67.74%), Myanmar (61.29%), and Timor-Leste (30.11%).

"Progress has been observed in more efficient trade facilitation with the overall implementation rate of general and digital trade facilitation measures increasing by more than six percentage points between 2021 and 2023," UNESCAP said.

"The global average implementation rate currently stands at 68.7%. The highest implementation rate is seen in developed economies (85.3%),

followed by countries in South-East and East Asia (76.6%)," it added.

The Philippines scored 100% in terms of transparency and formalities, which means the country fully implements the trade measures under this metric.

Transparency includes measures such as the publication of existing import-export regulations on the internet, advance rulings on tariff classification and origin of imported goods, and stakeholder consultations on new draft regulations, among others.

Formalities refer to risk management, post-clearance audits, expedited shipments, and pre-arrival processing, among others.

Meanwhile, the score for institutional arrangement and cooperation stood at 77.78%.

The survey noted that the Philippines only partially implements a national legislative framework and/or institutional arrangement for border-agency cooperation, as well as government agencies delegating border controls to Customs authorities.

In terms of paperless trade, the Philippines' implementation progress received a grade of 85.19%. These include automated Customs systems, e-payment of duties and fees, and electronic submissions of declarations, sea or air cargo manifests.

Its lowest score was in cross-border paperless trade at 66.67%.

The Philippines only partially implements all measures under this metric, which includes laws and regulations for electronic transactions and electronic exchange of certificate of origins. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**



## Power Maintenance Updates

### by MERALCO ADVISORY

The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023

##### QUEZON CITY

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 46VQ**

Portion of 13th Ave. from P. Tuazon Blvd. to near Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. (Santolan Road) including ACL Suites in Murphy, Bgy. Socorro.

Portion of 5th Ave. from near Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. (Santolan Road) to Liberty Ave. including AA Aluminum Supply in Murphy, Bgy. Socorro.

Portion of Liberty Ave. from 5th Ave. to Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) Northbound Lane in Murphy, Bgy. Socorro.

Portion of Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) Northbound Lane from Liberty Ave. to and including Sentinel Residences, Public Safety Savings & Loan Association Inc. (PPSLA) and Metalite Illumination Marketing Showroom in Murphy, Bgy. Socorro.

Portion of Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) Southbound Lane from South Road to and including Max's Restaurant in Bgy. Bagong Lipunan ng Crame.

Portion of South Road from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) Southbound Lane to 1st Ave. including 4th Ave. in Bgy. Bagong Lipunan ng Crame.

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 46VQ**

Portion of Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. (Santolan Road) from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA) Northbound Lane to 20th Ave. including 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 19th Aves.; Innovative Bldg., Lakpue Drug Inc. (LDI) Bldg. and Silver Finance Inc. in Bgys. Socorro, Bayanihan, San Roque.

Portion of 20th Ave. from Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. (Santolan Road) to D. Silang St. including Kalantiaw St. in Bgy. San Roque.

Portion of J. P. Rizal St. from P. Rizal St. to and including The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Kalantiaw and P. Pelaez Sts. in Bgys. Bayanihan, Masagana, San Roque, and Villa Ma. Clara.

Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo High School, Philippine Veterans Bank, AFP Retirement & Separation Benefits System (AFRRBS), AFP General Insurance Corp. (AFGEN), Air Materiel Wing Savings & Loan Association Inc. (AMWSLA) and Armed Forces & Police Mutual Benefit Association Inc. (AFPMBAI) in Camp Aguinaldo Compound, Bgy. Camp Aguinaldo.

**REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH road widening project along Col. Bonny Serrano (Santolan Road), 8th and 10th Aves. in Bgys. San Roque and Socorro in Quezon City.**

Saturn, Neptune, Pluto, Venus, Universe, Jupiter, Lilac, Aster, Begonia, Daffodil, Mullen, Diamond, Emerald Ext., Sampaguita, Lower Azucena, Pioneer, Papaya, Lukban, Kamias, Abokado, Bignay, Kasoy, Cactus, Duhat, San Pedro, Maya, Sampaloc, Tulip and Calla Sts. in Zone 12 and Zone 13.

**REASON: Installation of facilities and replacement of pole along Target Range Blvd. in Zone 12, Bgy. Pembo, Makati City.**

#### TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 11 - 12, 2023

##### BATANGAS PROVINCE (STO. TOMAS)

**BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 07/11/23) AND 4:00AM (WED., 07/12/23) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT REAL 414REA**

Portion of San Roque Road from Narra St. to and including Avant Garde Residences Subd., San Roque Subd., R. H. Platoon Compound, Bahay Pangarap, Mahogany Village and Terraza De Sta. Rosa Subd. in Bgy. San Roque.

Portion of Sampalukan Road from near Sampalukan Bridge to San Roque Road in Bgy. San Roque.

**REASON: Line reconstruction work along Sampalukan Road in Bgy. San Roque, Sto. Tomas, Batangas Province.**

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

##### QUEZON CITY (MATANGDANG BALARA)

**BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 07/11/23) AND 6:00AM (WED., 07/12/23) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 434VU**

Manila Water Company – Line Booster Pump along Luzon Ave.

**REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by SMC MRT-7 project along Commonwealth Ave. in Bgy. Matangdang Balara, Quezon City.**

#### TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023

##### CAVITE (TAGAYTAY CITY)

**BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGAYTAY WEST 324TGW**

Portion of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Primark Town Center to near Cecilia's All Day Breakfast & Restaurant including Magallanes Heights Subd., Richmoreland Subd., Alta Monte Subd., Alta Monte Subd. Phase 2, Pacific Grove Tagaytay Residential Estate Subd., Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) Tagaytay Housing Subd., The Palmcrest Tagaytay Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Ronquillo Compound, Maharlika Subd. and Palmcrest Subd., Magallanes and Smokey Hill Drives; TCI and Sta. Rita Roads, A. Cruz Herrera, T. M. Bay and J. P. Rizal Sts., Bag of Beans Cafe & Restaurant, Balay Dako, Father Saturnino Lopez Home Center, Graystone Realty Development, Lavender Holdings Inc., Max's Restaurant, Oblates of St. Joseph, Qwellness Living, The Lake Hotel Tagaytay, NOC Specialty Foods Inc. and Starbucks in Bgys. Maharlika East, Maharlika West, Kaybagal East, Kaybagal North, Matim 2nd West, Matim II East, Silang Crossing West, Silang Junction North and Silang Junction South.

**REASON: Installation and retirement of facilities along Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway in Bgy. Silang Junction North, Tagaytay City, Cavite.**

#### THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, JULY 13 - 14, 2023

##### MANILA (SAN MIGUEL)

**BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 11:59PM (THU., 07/13/23) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (FRI., 07/14/23) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TEGEN 52B**

Hospicio De San Jose in Isla Convalencia.

**REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Tegen substation.**

#### SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

##### LAGUNA (STA. ROSA CITY)

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. ROSA II 44WL**

Portion of South Science Ave. from Meralco – Sta. Rosa II substation to and including Shin-Etsu Magnetics Phils. Inc. – Plant 5 and Hankyu Hanshin Logistics Phils. Inc. in Laguna Technopark Phase 1, Bgy. Don Jose.

Portion of South Main Ave. from South Science Ave. to and including Honda Cars Phils. Inc. and Astec Power Phils. Corp. in Laguna Technopark Phase 1, Bgy. Don Jose.

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. ROSA II 44WL**

Portion of South Science Ave. from Focus Holdings Corp. to near South Main Ave. including Laguna Auto-Parts Manufacturing Corp. (LAMCOR), Foodflow Inc. and Denso Ten Phils. Corp. in Laguna Technopark Phase 1, Bgy. Don Jose.

Portion of Industry Ave. from South Science Ave. to and including MSPECIALTY Printing Phils. (MSPP) Inc., Minatechnology Phils. Corp., Inabata Phils. Inc., Inland Warehousing & Logistics Division (IWL) Corp. and Furukawa Electric Thermal Management Solutions and Products Laguna Inc. in Laguna Technopark Phase 1, Bgy. Don Jose.

**REASON: Replacement of pole along South Science Ave. in Laguna Technopark Phase 1, Bgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.**

#### SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023

##### MAKATI CITY (PEMBO)

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 412L**

Portion of Sampaloc St. from C-5 Service Road to Shamrock St. in Zone 12.

Portion of Shamrock St. from Mayflower St. to and including Target Range Blvd., Mercury,

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# House bill proposes to amend MSME law with more robust program on shared services

A BILL proposing to make permanent a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) program building common production facilities for small businesses has been filed at the House of Representatives.

House Bill No. 8421 backs the construction of shared service facilities (SSFs) to strengthen the production capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

SSFs are expected to "address the gaps in the production value chain, promote innovation among MSMEs and enhance their capacities to produce and offer sophisticated and diverse products and services," Antique Rep. Antonio B. Legarda, Jr. said in the bill.

The measure amends Republic Act (RA) No. 6977 or the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises, as earlier amended by RA 9501 or the Magna Carta for MSMEs.

The DTI's SSF program was launched in 2013, setting up communal centers housing machinery and equipment for use by MSMEs.

Under the program, the government has funded the creation of 3,249 facilities — assisting over 500,000 MSMEs — and generating 200,000 jobs, the DTI said in its website.

The DTI added that SSFs have since assisted food, coffee, cacao, dairy, coconut, abaca, bamboo, metal, rubber, gifts, décor and warehouse companies, among others.

The measure aims to establish SSF-fabrication laboratories (SSF-fab labs) in strategic location in each province to assist MSMEs in manufacturing their products.

The SSF-fab labs will be attached to state and private colleges and universities as well as government academic training institutions.

"There is a need to strengthen this program by formally institutionalizing the same and incorporating it within the framework of the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises," Mr. Legarda said.

Funding will come from the national budget.

The Senate in May passed on third and final reading a similar measure.

MSMEs account for 99.58% of businesses in the Philippines, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The sector created 5.46 million jobs and generated sales of P2.09 billion in 2021, the PSA added. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**