

# PNOC plans Batangas facility serving offshore wind industry

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. (PNOC) said it plans to build a logistics center servicing the offshore wind power industry in Batangas, part of its slate of five major projects for 2024.

"We have five high-impact initiatives for 2024, the first two pertaining to our two properties, in Batangas and Bataan," PNOC President and Chief Executive Officer Oliver B. Butalid told the House appropriations committee on Wednesday.

For 2024, PNOC has an operating budget of P2.21 billion, of which 64.82% will be allotted for capital outlays, including a solar photovoltaic (PV) system for government entities, and the development of the Batangas offshore wind power logistics port.

About P552 million will be set aside for maintenance and other operating expenses for off-grid power generation facilities, electric vehicle charging stations, and a Bataan terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The PNOC's 2024 proposed corporate operating budget will be entirely funded by internally generated funds, Mr. Butalid said.

Mr. Butalid said the PNOC hopes to transform its 19.2 hectare-property in Mabini, Batangas into a dedicated port for offshore



SHAUN DAKIN-UNSPASH

wind power projects in nearby service contract areas.

"The redevelopment of this strategically located port will take about two years, just in time for the first offshore wind turbines to be launched in 2026," he said.

He added that PNOC will also develop the remaining available land at its Bataan Industrial Park as a liquefied natural gas terminal.

"Having LNG in Bataan will not only improve access of this fuel source to more users but will

provide energy security," Mr. Butalid said.

The PNOC said it also intends to gain first-mover advantage in the vehicle charging station industry by seeking locations along major highways.

PNOC will seek to increase its footprint in underserved segments of the energy industry, Mr. Butalid said, adding that the company will pursue opportunities where it can be more efficient than the private sector.

"Our mission is to complete... in areas that the private sector can be more effective, PNOC will not operate there," he said.

Separately, the Energy department said late Wednesday that it is seeking a budget of P2.59 billion for 2024, up 16.7% from its 2023 allocation.

Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said the department needs the additional funding for programs to develop renewable energy.

Some P1.25 billion of the DoE's proposed budget will go to maintenance and other operating expenses, while P700.85 million will pay for personnel services. Capital outlays will total P645.46 million, representing 25% of its proposed budget.

The proposed 2024 national budget is P5.768 trillion, up 9.5% from this year's P5.268-trillion spending plan.

The government has set a target for renewable energy to account for 35% of all power generated by 2030, rising to 50% by 2040.

In 2023, the DoE's spending priorities were total electrification, renewable energy development, energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative fuels and technologies. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Budget dep't sets terms for release of unspent personnel services funds

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said it will require government agencies to file special requests to access unspent personnel services funds, with the requests to include explanations for why the funds were not utilized.

In a circular signed by Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman on Aug. 15, the DBM said instances covered by the policy include "deficiencies" in disbursing salaries, bonuses, allowances, and associated premiums of government employees.

The deficiencies include unspent compensation or benefits, including instances of leaves of absence without pay, vacancies, as well as delays in onboarding newly hired workers. It also includes errors in computation of employee benefits.

If allotments are not available, the head of an agency or the president of a State University or College (SUC) is to submit a special budget request to the DBM to set in motion a special allotment release order authorizing the payment for the deficiencies.

"All units under decentralized departments shall submit their requests to their respective Central Offices (COs) for

evaluation or consolidation," the DBM said.

"All departments and agencies, including the CO of decentralized departments, shall submit their request to the DBM central office," it said.

The DBM added that SUCs are to submit their requests to DBM regional offices.

It also said it will only process requests for release of funds supported by financial accountability reports, and other documents that justify the deficiencies in personnel services appropriations.

The new requirements come in the middle of a DBM crackdown on underspending, as well as a drastically reduced budget for benefits.

According to the DBM, the programmed appropriations of the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF) have been reduced to P26.6 billion from the P89 billion proposed in the 2023 national budget.

"Hence, the release of funds for the Performance-Based Bonus including PS deficiencies provided under the MPBF (pursuant to Special Purpose No. 1) has been hampered," it added. — **Keisha B. Ta-asan**

## EDSA busway superior to old right-lane passenger pickup system — MAP

THE Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) said the EDSA busway system has demonstrated its potential for moving more commuters, and declared its opposition to a bid by bus operators to revert to the previous practice of picking up passengers waiting along the rightmost lanes.

In a statement on Thursday, the business group said the government should instead focus on completing and upgrading the EDSA busway in partnership with the private sector. The statement was signed by MAP President Benedicta Du-Baladad and MAP Infrastructure Committee Chairman Eduardo H. Yap.

"The MAP likewise strongly opposes the proposal of the bus operators for the simple reason that for the past three years, it has been demonstrated that the EDSA Busway and Bus Carousel Line system is a far superior public bus transport system as it was able to carry a one-day peak load of 454,649 passengers on Dec. 27, 2022 using no more than 550 bus units running on just one innermost busway lane, with more spare

system capacity to meet higher demand," MAP said.

"We earnestly urge the Department of Transportation (DoTr) to stay the course and expedite the completion of this project, preferably, in partnership with a private concessionaire, while adhering to global standards and best practices," it added.

The Mega Manila Consortium of city bus operators proposed to again be allowed use of the two rightmost lanes along EDSA, including the lane currently serving bicycle riders. They cited losses incurred in busway operations and lower bus utilization.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has come out in support of continuing with the EDSA busway system, which limits buses to driving on the leftmost lane and requires passengers from the EDSA center island at designated stops. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

### FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link [bit.ly/3s6qLcL](https://bit.ly/3s6qLcL)

## Expanded collaboration within ASEAN needed to unlock climate funding

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is missing out on regional collaboration opportunities for climate finance, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a study.

"There is massively underused potential for subregional collaboration in climate finance under ASEAN leadership," the bank said. The ADB said that such projects could help ASEAN countries reach their nationally determined contribution climate goals.

Increasing the visibility of flagship projects will also increase the capacity of member states to develop bankable projects and access international funding.

"ASEAN has been working to harmonize guidelines for financing project loans, such as the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance and the ASEAN Green Bond Standards, to provide the

subregion with a common language for communicating their climate vision to a wide range of investors so they can play more critical roles in filling the financial gaps in the future," the ADB said.

Meanwhile, climate budget tagging or climate change expenditure tagging, which countries use to account for financial flows, will enable governments to determine and prioritize adaptation initiatives with the most impact as investment information becomes public.

Budget tagging will also increase the capacity of the public-private partnership funding system. — **Aaron Michael C. Sy**

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## 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, AUGUST 20, 2023	TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023
<p><b>BATANGAS PROVINCE (STO. TOMAS CITY)</b> BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT REAL 415REA</p> <p>Portion of Millennium Drive from near Maharlika Highway to and including Ponte Verde De Sto. Tomas Subd. Phases 1 &amp; 2, Sitio Capus, La Aldea Del Monte Subd., Pueblo De Oro Communities Subd. and Parkplace Subd.; Armstrong Weston Asia Inc., Barleta Precision Manufacturing Inc., D. L. Cervantes Construction Corp. (DLCCC), Fujimold Philippines Inc., Hewtech Philippines Corp., Inatec Corp., Jomee Real Estate Company Inc., Jotun (Philippines) Inc., JZ Rigid Box Philippines Inc., Kowa-Emori Philippines Inc., Linocraft Printers Philippines Inc., LPTC Realty &amp; Development Corp., Mesco Property Providers Inc., Mikuni Electronics Corp., Morning Mountain Inc., MyBrush Technology (Phil.) Inc., NX Logistics Philippines Inc., O. M. Daizen Enterprises Corp., Omni Plus System Philippines Inc., Philippine Sanitary Fittings, RFM – Science Park of the Philippines Inc., S &amp; T Realty Corp., Sakura Labels &amp; Packaging Inc., Silverfoil Tubes International Inc., Simpex Machineries Inc., Sunrich Manufacturing Corp., Sytecs Manufacturing Philippines Inc., TnP Industrial Inc., Tsuchiya Kogyo Philippines Inc. (TKPI), Young Shin Starlink Philippines Inc., Zhongyao Realty Corp., Eaton Industries (Philippines), Ecozone Power Management Inc. (EPMI), Hysonic Philippines Inc., Linocraft Printers Philippines Inc., Metals Engineering Resources Corp. and Prime Gloves Manufacturing Inc. in Light Industry &amp; Science Park (LISP) 3 in Bgys. San Rafael and Sta. Anastacia.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Reconstruction of facilities and line reconditioning work along Millennium Drive in Light Industry &amp; Science Park (LISP) 3, Bgys. San Rafael, Sto. Tomas City, Batangas Province.</p>	<p><b>LAGUNA (CALAMBA CITY)</b> BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 1:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CANLUBANG 55XE</p> <p>Portion of Barandal and Punta Roads from Equinox Express Car Wash Center to Kay-Anlog Road including La Brisa Townhomes Subd., Tulong Unlad Pabahay Sa Punta Subd., Sentosa Subd. Phases 1 &amp; 2, GK-Philips Village, Andrea Paz Pabahay Subd. Phases 1 – 5 and Amaia Scapes Laguna Subd. in Bgys. Barandal and Punta.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Installation of poles; line reconditioning and reconstruction work in Bgy. Barandal, Calamba City, Laguna.</p>
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023	WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, AUGUST 23-24, 2023
<p><b>LAGUNA (SAN PABLO CITY)</b> BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN PABLO II 43WJ</p> <p>Portion of Kings Row Road from Pan-Philippine Highway (Maharlika Highway) to and including Tropicana Food Products; and Kings Row Subd. in Bgy. San Francisco.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Line reconditioning work along Kings Row Road in Bgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City, Laguna.</p>	<p><b>QUEZON CITY (CULIAT AND NEW ERA)</b> BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 08/23/23) AND 5:00AM (THU., 08/24/23) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 42VU</p> <p>Along San Ponciano and Dela Paz Sts. from near Tandang Sora Ave. to and including Margarita and Sta. Felicia Sts. in San Antonio Village, Bgy. Culiat.</p> <p>New Era University Professional Schools Bldg., Quarry Condominium &amp; Waterpump, New Era Ladies Dormitory and Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) Warehouse in New Era Compound, Bgy. New Era.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Line reconditioning work along San Ponciano St. in San Antonio Village, Bgy. Culiat, Quezon City.</p>
<p><b>BULACAN (BALAGTAS AND GUIGUINTO)</b> BETWEEN 12:30AM AND 5:30AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 423YU</p> <p>Portion of MacArthur Highway from Balagtas Bridge to near STI College including Balagtas Town Center, Robinson's Supermarket, KFC, La Consolacion School and Silihas Bank Inc., Mariano Village, Millarlor Subd., Resta Verde Subd. and T. Chan Subd. in Bgys. Borol 1st, Longos and Wawa in Balagtas.</p> <p>Portion of Bantayan St. from Santiago St. in Bgy. Panginay, Balagtas to and including Philippine A-111 Printing Corp. in Bgy. Panginay, Guiguinto.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Line reconditioning work along MacArthur Highway in Bgys. Wawa and Borol 1st in Balagtas, Bulacan.</p>	<p><b>MARIKINA CITY (CONCEPCION 2) AND RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO CITY)</b> BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 08/23/23) AND 4:30AM (THU., 08/24/23) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MASINAG 45WN</p> <p>Along Panorama Drive and Panorama St. from Lilac St. in Bgy. Concepcion 2, Marikina City to and including Our Lady of Lourdes Subd., Our Lady of Peace Subd., Panorama Hills Subd., Tamengo Subd., Villa Corazon Subd., Purok 2, Purok 3, Purok 4 and Purok 6; Cupang National High School and Cupang Elementary School in Bgy. Cupang, Antipolo City; Rancho Estate Subd. Phases 1 – 3 and SSS Village in Concepcion 2, Marikina City.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Line reconditioning work in Bgy. Cupang, Antipolo City, Rizal Province.</p>
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023	<p><b>QUEZON CITY (BATASAN HILLS)</b> BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 435VU</p> <p>Portion of Sugartowne Road from Filinvest 2 Road to and including Pook Pag-Asa; and portion of Sugartowne Subd.</p> <p><b>REASON:</b> Replacement of poles along Sugartowne Road in Sugartowne Subd., Bgy. Batasan Hills, Quezon City.</p>

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