

Business groups see 'demolition job' vs DoTr

BUSINESS GROUPS called corruption allegations against Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista a "demolition job" designed to obstruct reforms in the industry.

In a letter addressed to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., three organizations led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry declared their full support and confidence in Mr. Bautista.

"We call for the speedy resolution of what we consider as another 'demolition job' to stop the Secretary from pursuing the needed reforms in the transportation sector that (are) very critical in and for our supply and value chain," the business groups said.

"We owe this to the Secretary who could have just enjoyed his

retirement, but has stepped up in this capacity as his selfless contribution to nation building and public service," they added.

Mr. Bautista filed a cyber-libel complaint against the chairman of a transport group and a journalist over reports that linked him to corruption.

On Oct. 16, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) said Mr.

Bautista filed a complaint against Mar S. Valbuena, chairman of the Malayang Alyansa ng Bus Employees at Laborers, and journalist Ira Panganiban.

The business groups said that Mr. Bautista's appointment was one of the most credible appointments to the cabinet.

"He has steered the modernization and other reforms in the

Department to enable it to respond to domestic stakeholder needs and global developments," they said.

They cited the need for a quick resolution because the economy is at a "crucial juncture" as the effects of the pandemic ease while geopolitical tensions ratchet up, changing trade and investment patterns.

"These factors will continue to challenge the health of the country's trade and investment and therefore the speed of the economic recovery," the business groups said.

The statement was also signed by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

World Bank estimates Philippine decarbonization bill at \$62 billion

THE PHILIPPINES will need to invest \$62 billion in its energy industry by 2040 in order to accelerate decarbonization, the World Bank said.

"Rapidly decarbonizing the power sector entails doubling the cumulative capital investments in power systems by 2040 from \$31 billion to \$62 billion in present value terms, compared with the current ambitions of the government," the bank said in a background paper.

"Mobilizing the additional financing for accelerated decarbonization requires increased and strengthened government financial facilitation and policy intervention in removing barriers to and reducing risks for private sector investments," it added.

The World Bank said that the Philippines has "substantial" renewable energy (RE) resources, especially in solar and wind energy, but these are not properly utilized.

The government must address key challenges such as constraints to grid capacity, climate resilience requirements, adequate financing, and managing the risks to the coal transition, according to the bank.

"Decarbonizing the power sector holds the key to a successful clean energy transition in the Philippines. Power generation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Its transition to low- or zero-carbon technologies also

enables the decarbonization of transport through electrification. This would effectively address most of the CO2 emissions from energy production and consumption," it said.

"Accelerated decarbonization would result in substantial changes in the mix of power generation technologies. The power system would become predominantly RE-based by 2040," it added.

An accelerated decarbonization scenario would also require ramped-up capital spending for the integration and scaling-up of renewable energy, the lender said.

"Mobilizing financing for accelerated decarbonization requires enhanced government facilitation or intervention in removing barriers and reducing risks for private investors. There are still multiple legal/regulatory and bureaucratic constraints to overcome, including limitations on foreign ownership of solar and wind projects and the land rights issues slowing project development," it added.

In the next five years, the government must "build a solid foundation" for accelerated decarbonization, the World Bank said.

"The pathway toward accelerated decarbonization has a steep climb in the latter period of the planning horizon. To be successful in reaching the goal, early efforts in building the support and momentum are crucial," it said.

"The government already has some critical enabling policies in place to support an accelerated deployment of RE although gaps still exist in policy implementation. Improvement and amendment of existing policies are also needed to remove constraints to competition, financing and ease of doing business," it added.

The paper cited key short- to medium-term plans including promoting competition in the investment of RE; intensifying energy efficiency efforts; and improving power system planning, among others.

"The Philippines would benefit from an energy transition toward low- and zero-carbon alternatives. A clean energy transition will substantially increase the use of indigenous and renewable energy resources such as hydropower, solar, and wind while reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, enhancing energy security," the World Bank said.

"A cleaner energy future is expected to be more affordable given the global trends of declining cost of deploying and integrating solar and wind power, enhancing the competitiveness of the economy," it added.

The government is aiming to achieve a 35% and 50% renewable energy share in the power generation mix by 2030 and 2040, respectively. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsion**

OPINION

Accelerating sustainability with green IT

Digital technology is crucial to achieving important goals that include fulfilling compliance requirements, meeting the reporting needs of stakeholders, and implementing operational changes within an organization to meet environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and sustainability targets.

The global push to achieve the 2050 net-zero target has resulted in an increased awareness of the role of IT in accelerating sustainability. According to the EY Reimagining Industry Futures Study 2023, which was based on an online survey of 5G perceptions among 1,325 enterprises worldwide, 54% of businesses believe that emerging technologies can play a vital role in this effort.

The Exponential Roadmap 1.5.1, developed by the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, an accredited partner of the United Nations' Race to Zero campaign, outlines a path to reach net zero emissions from businesses by 2030 through natural climate solutions. The information and communications technology (ICT) sector has the potential to reduce global carbon emissions by 15% and 35% directly and indirectly by 2030.

While the use of digital technology is crucial for sustainability, it is equally important to prevent it from becoming a major contributor to global emissions. The adoption of new technologies could lead to increased energy consumption, hindering progress towards emission reduction targets.

THE NEED FOR GREEN IT

Green IT refers to IT products and services that help organizations reduce their environmental impact, such as the issue of IT energy consumption. For example, the International Energy Agency says that data centers and data transmission networks were responsible for nearly 1% of energy-related GHG emissions in 2020. Green software, which incorporates low-carbon principles in software development and utilization, is also an important green IT practice. While the software itself does not emit carbon, it influences energy consumption.

E-waste already poses environmental risks due to hazardous substances that include mercury, lead, and cadmium, which are capable of contaminating air, water, and soil. E-waste disposal adds to the ICT sector's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2019, there were 53.6 million tons of e-waste, which could rise to 74.7 million tons by 2030, according to Statista. In addition, the mining and extraction of these materials further contribute to soil erosion and deforestation, emphasizing the need for effective material reuse and waste processing.

The ICT sector can innovate green IT and maintain a net positive impact by implementing sustainable practices throughout its value chain, covering energy efficiency and sustainable supply chains.

Furthermore, organizations can drive the positive impact of green IT and software by fostering an ecosystem of collaboration among stakeholders in the value chain, involving the following key players in the mix: technology providers, technology buyers, governments and other regulatory authorities.

TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS

Technology companies, ranging from global leaders to startups, are actively increasing their focus on green IT innovation and offerings to meet the growing demand and expectations in the market. As they do so, they have the responsibility to manage and disclose their carbon footprints to comply with regulatory requirements and standards, encompassing scope 1 to scope 3 emissions that result from the production and use of their technologies.

Industry groups consisting of technology providers are in a favorable position to establish standards and best practices within the sector, like prioritizing energy-efficient hardware, e-waste management, and the sustainable procurement of IT equipment. Additionally, they can proactively collabo-

rate with governments to develop policies that promote the adoption of green IT.

In the Philippines, a related law is the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, which encourages the adoption of energy-efficient technologies across various sectors. There is a need for more local green-IT-specific laws or policies. Accordingly, the country would benefit from formal studies identifying green IT-related gaps and opportunities. Technology providers can incorporate green IT principles into their product and service designs to reshape the future of the IT landscape, positively impacting society and the environment.

SUITS THE C-SUITE JOSEPH IAN M. CANLAS

TECHNOLOGY BUYERS

As sustainability becomes a central part of an organization's core strategies, companies are actively seeking suitable technologies, digital platforms, and applications to support their sustainability and ESG goals. While their main focus is on selecting technologies that meet sustainability requirements and tackle sustainability challenges, it is crucial for them to also consider the potential environmental impact of implementing these technologies on a larger scale.

Forward-thinking and innovative companies that prioritize sustainability in their business strategies include green IT implementation in their roadmap for sustainability transformation. They must integrate green IT principles into a robust and sustainable sourcing and procurement framework while carefully choosing technology providers from the request for proposal process onwards. They may even take the extra step of adopting an internal carbon pricing mechanism to ensure that strategic decisions align with their climate ambitions. By generating market demand for green IT, these companies can drive innovation in future green IT landscapes.

GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Government and regulatory authorities also play a crucial role in driving the adoption of green IT to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future, keeping in mind the following priorities:

- Provide detailed action plans with clear accountability.
- Improve the design and implementation of green initiatives.
- Incentivize the market and implement mandatory changes.
- Increase funding to promote innovation.
- Serve as a role model for other sectors of the economy.
- Promote a people-centered approach involving the whole of society.

Governments that have mature regulations and standards for sustainability can take the lead in implementing strategies within their organizations and departments. For instance, the United Nations, through its specialized agency, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), establishes standards, guidance, and criteria for ICT organizations on setting net zero targets and strategies.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GREEN IT

The adoption of green IT and software by both organizations and societies will have a significant bearing on global sustainability ambitions. By nurturing a collaborative system of stakeholders within the value chain, organizations can benefit greatly from green IT and software.

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Shang Properties unveiled

Ushering in a new era of Shang Properties

Shang Properties ushered in a new era of luxury living with its refreshed brand identity on Oct. 17 at Shangri-La The Fort, Manila in Bonifacio Global City. The Philippines' leading developer and maestro of Exemplary Life Spaces unveiled its new logo, branding, and upcoming luxury projects in an afternoon soirée with the theme Filipino in Details.

"Our brand refresh is a reflection of the changing world. Times have changed and consumers have different needs and desires. We recognized that we need to innovate and adapt to our market's tastes. But what remains is our commitment to boldly moving forward, staying true to our promise of excellence, and setting higher standards in luxury living. In this new era of sophistication, we are not just changing with the times. We are leading the change," said Wolfgang Krueger, Shang Properties' Executive Director.

A NEW LOOK OF MODERN LUXURY AND SOPHISTICATION

Shang Properties' new identity was unveiled through a brandfilm. It bannered its philosophy that paying attention to details, whether big or small, makes all the difference. In addition, it established Shang Properties as the leading brand in the premium real estate market with thoughtful architecture and development, exquisite taste, and the utmost regard for privacy and exclusivity.

To highlight its attention to detail, Shang Properties revealed its new logo, which features a clean and more streamlined look. The text has been updated to reflect a subtle tone of modern luxury and sophistication. This refreshed look better reflects Shang Properties' design philosophy: that of uncompromising vision, elegance, and harmony in all details.

The Crane, a Shang Properties icon that has signaled power, strength, and permanence, has been retained to show the company's lasting commitment to creating inspired spaces that are thoughtful and meticulously designed with harmony in mind. Likewise, Shang Properties



Shang Properties' Executive Director, Wolfgang Krueger, shares his welcome remarks highlighting the significance of Shang Properties' brand refresh in what the company promises to its clients and stakeholders for years to come.



An interactive photo op area featuring the refreshed logo was placed at the entrance of the venue for the guests.

pays homage to its previous logo with familiar elements and colors that have strong ties to the brand and its DNA.

"Our refreshed logo and branding marks the beginning of a new era of sophistication. The luxury real estate market continues to change and evolve and we strive to be at the forefront of change. We want to redefine luxury and set new standards. Our journey is just beginning and we are honored to continue creating Exemplary Life Spaces," ends Mr. Krueger.

DESIGNING A WELL-APPOINTED LIFE

Shang Properties also introduced its latest properties.

Its latest project is Laya by Shang Properties, located in Pasig City. Residents can treat Laya's modern and thoughtfully designed spaces as

their canvas, where they have the freedom to design for their own self-expression.

The program also trained the spotlight on its recently launched developments, including Shang Residences at Wack Wack, and the two projects under Shang Robinsons Properties, Inc., a joint venture between Shang Properties and Robinsons Land Corp., Aurelia Residences and Haraya Residences. Additionally, the developer teased guests on two upcoming projects in Cebu and Quezon City.

To learn more about Shang Properties, visit www.shangproperties.com and follow its official social media pages: @ShangProperties on Instagram and Facebook, @ShangPropertiesOfficial on YouTube, and Shang Properties on LinkedIn.