

DAR to build coffee processing center in Benguet

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) said it will build a coffee processing center to support Benguet farmers.

In a statement on Wednesday, the DAR said that the new facility will improve the marketability of the coffee produced by agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Atok, Benguet.

The DAR signed a memorandum of agreement with the Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Science and Technology (DoST), as well as the Caliking Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, in connection with the facility's construction.

"The Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) project aims to enhance the products of the ARBs by using appropriate facilities and equipment applicable to the agribusiness enterprise of the cooperative," Lailani A. Cortez, Provincial Agrarian Reform program officer said.

The VLFED project hopes to establish "viable and profitable enterprises" for farmers, as well as unlock access to mainstream markets.

Ms. Cortez added that the DAR will lead in the project implementation and assist in the construction of the facility.

The DAR will also assist the farmers in registering the facility's license to operate with the Food and Drug Administration.

"The DTI will help in the marketing, product promotion, and provision of production equipment," she said.

It added that the DoST will provide technical assistance in product laboratory analyses and packaging and labeling services, while the local government will handle approvals for the electrification of the coffee center.

The processing center is set for completion by September. — **Adrian H. Halili**

WB to support Philippine digitalization, RE push

THE World Bank (WB) will provide support to Philippine priority programs like digitalization, renewable energy (RE), and agriculture, according to the Department of Finance (DoF).

In a statement, the DoF said it obtained support from the bank to help digitalize government processes and enhance tax administration and collection.

"The bank expressed strong support for assisting the DoF on this front, emphasizing that it has currently created a new team in the institution dedicated to providing digital solutions to a variety of development

programs, especially to those connected to fiscal areas," it said.

"The World Bank Group is looking to expand these digital service solutions to other areas such as education and health," it added.

The DoF is also seeking technical assistance to support the digitalization efforts of government agencies.

Meanwhile, the World Bank also said it will provide support for broadening the Philippines' access to power, especially in remote areas, and push for the development of more renewable energy.

The DoF said that the World Bank will also provide assistance in "im-

proving productivity and profitability to address food security while reducing emissions through technological practices."

"Moreover, the bank will help the country increase its investments in human capital by supporting early childhood and nutritional programs as well as the upskilling and reskilling of the workers to boost its labor force," it added.

As of December 2023, the bank was the Philippines' third-largest source of official development assistance with \$8.2 billion. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

ADB, Global Fund sign deal to expand infectious-disease care in Asia-Pacific

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to expand access to healthcare in the Asia-Pacific mainly for sufferers of infectious diseases.

The partnership aims to boost healthcare access, as well as control the spread of major infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

"The cooperation arrangement will develop financing to boost on-budget domestic resources and (bring in) additional financing for increased concessionality, additional technical assistance, and robust monitoring of health program delivery," the ADB said in a statement on Wednesday.

This would be done in the form of joint investments through loan buy-downs or the co-financing of existing or new health-related projects, it said.

"We must further develop and deploy innovative financing mechanisms to help the most vulnerable countries access the resources they need to tackle health inequities and accelerate the fight to end the epidemics for good," Global Fund Executive Director Peter Sands said.

Global Fund aims to raise and invest more than \$5 billion yearly to contain the spread of deadly infectious diseases in more than 100 of the most affected countries. It also focuses on strengthening health sys-

tems and pandemic preparedness among its beneficiaries.

"To support a planned, phased transition away from Global Fund grants toward sustainable domestic health financing, the ADB can strengthen policy and financial capacity to achieve UHC (universal health coverage), which will ensure primary health service provision and build increased country capacity for efficient use of scarce domestic resources for health," ADB Human Social Development Sectors Group Senior Director Ayako Inagaki said.

There were a total of 612,534 recorded cases of tuberculosis and 6,248 cases of malaria in the Philippines last year, the Department of Health said last month. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Peso, from S1/1

"There's a postponement of when the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) will ease, in the eyes of the market," he said. "That has meant weakening of other currencies against the US dollar."

"It's not a case of a weak peso, it's a case of a strong dollar. Unless the movements are very sharp, we tend to allow the adjustment to happen," he added.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell has said they might have to keep "restrictive" policy rates for longer amid sticky inflation.

NO RATE HIKE

Markets were initially anticipating the US central bank to begin cutting rates by June, but this could get delayed to as late as September.

"Easing won't happen until maybe late in the third quarter when it comes to the FOMC," Mr. Remolona said. "The US inflation rate has remained very stubborn."

The Fed hiked its fund rate by 525 basis points (bps) from March 2022 to July 2023 to 5.25-5.5%.

Mr. Remolona said there won't be any rate increases this year unless inflation quickens faster than anticipated.

Inflation sped up for a second straight month to 3.7% in March from 3.4% a month earlier. The BSP expects inflation to average 3.8% this year.

"What is scary is the de-anchoring," Mr. Remolona said. "When we see that the markets and households begin to believe that inflation will surge, then we have to consider a rate hike."

"But otherwise, we're tight now. At 6.5%, it's already tight. It's already doing its work," he added.

The central bank stood pat for a fourth straight meeting in March, keeping its benchmark rate steady at a near 17-year high of 6.5%. The Monetary Board raised borrowing costs by 450 bps from May 2022 to October 2023.

Meanwhile, Fitch Solutions unit BMI said the peso might continue to depreciate in the next six months to two years amid weak economic fundamentals.

"In the longer term, the currency will stay on its depreciatory trend, weakening to P57.20 per dollar by end-2025," it said in a report.

Elevated inflation will temper the currency's appreciation, it said. "Emerging markets such as the Philippines generally see quicker price increases compared with advanced economies."

"Higher inflation in the Philippines may lead to a steady decline in the peso's value to preserve the country's competitiveness internationally," it added.

BMI said it expects the peso to come under much volatility in the short term due to the constant repricing of interest rate expectations in the US.

"However, we think that this will eventually fade once the US Federal Reserve embarks on its first cut in July," it said. "This means that the Philippine peso will remain somewhat stable at P56.50 per dollar [by yearend]."

Philippine economic managers expect the peso to trade from P55 to P57 this year and from P55 to P58 from 2025 to 2028.

OceanX, from S1/1

The global ocean exploration nonprofit in March said it would embark on a series of research expeditions to better understand Southeast Asia's marine biodiversity. This includes missions in Indonesia and Malaysia, where it will work with government agencies and scientists to study the ocean for better science, policy and economic decisions.

Two of the four vehicles aboard the 87.1-meter *OceanXplorer* are manned submersibles that can go as deep as 1,000 meters.

The ship, which has Hollywood production capabilities, also has two 6,000-meter remote-operated vehicles. It uses state-of-the-art optical technology to stream ocean exploration in real time.

Ms. Rodrigue said OceanX partners with government agencies and local scientists for the "stewardship of marine resources." "We do an in-country request for scientific proposals."

Philippine ocean-based industries grew by 21.1% in 2022, accounting for 3.9% of the country's economic output, according to the state statistics agency. But local economists have said the country should do more to maximize the benefits from the ocean.

The Philippine government has included a blue economy bill in its list of priority legislation this year. The measure seeks to create a comprehensive framework and boost multisectoral coordination in managing the country's marine and coastal resources.

The Southeast Asian nation has been seeking to explore oil and gas within its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, one of the world's most important waterways that China claims almost in its entirety, as its sole indigenous source of natural gas is expected to run dry by 2027.

Reed Bank, which is near a Philippine feature that China had been patrolling in recent months, could hold up to 55.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and up to 5.4 billion barrels of oil, according to the United States Energy Information Administration.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has said his government seeks to pursue exploration activities in nonconflict areas of the South China Sea.

The Philippine government has cited the destruction of coral reefs near features it claims in the waterway.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies in February said China had destroyed at least 21,000 acres of coral reefs within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Another think tank, the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, also attributed coral reef destruction in the waterway to Chinese activities such as dredging, island-building and clam harvesting.

Remittances, from S1/1

Pantheon said rampant borrowing is "fundamentally unsustainable and likely to result in a more painful payback for the economy down the line." A "climbdow" in consumer credit is likely to take place this year, it added.

Based on Pantheon's computations, the share of Philippine households with savings recovered "only modestly" to 31.9% in the first quarter from 30.1% a quarter earlier.

"Meanwhile, the proportion of those who could set aside any savings has seen lower lows and lower highs in the past two surveys," it added.

Philippine unemployment dropped to a two-month low of 3.5% in February, which is expect-

ed to offset still-rampant borrowing and lower remittances. But Pantheon said the downtrend in job openings is a risk.

Pantheon said Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the first quarter was likely one of the fastest in the region at 5.8%, behind Taiwan (6.1%) and ahead of Indonesia (5%) and Singapore (2.7%).

The Philippines would outpace its peers in the second quarter with 6.2% GDP growth, over Indonesia (4.4%), Taiwan (3.6%) and Singapore (2.6%), it added.

The Philippine Statistics Authority will release first-quarter GDP data on May 9.

Inflation could quicken to 3.8% in June before cooling to 2.7% in September, but could speed up to 3.1% in December, Pantheon said.

Red alert, from S1/1

As of 11 a.m., Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said it had advised the participants of its Interruptible Load Program to be on standby in case of a red alert.

These are large power consumers that have their own generating facilities. These entities stop drawing power from the grid during times of unreliable supply, tapping their own power plants for their needs and reducing the overall load on the grid.

"We are calling on consumers to join our energy conservation because this will help us to preserve the integrity of our electric power industry system where the demand will not be that high," Energy Assistant Secretary Mario C. Marasigan told state media. "We will not have rotational brownouts or widespread outage."

JOB OPENING

SITE SUPERVISOR

Degree in civil engineering or a related field. Competence to prepare reports relating to the project. Able to convert objectives into quantifiable, tangible goals for timely accomplishment.

SMC SHIPPING AND LIGHTERAGE CORPORATION

Blk 9, Lot 4-6, Manila Harbour Centre, Fernando cor Francisco Siero Sts., 010 Barangay 128, Tondo III, City of Manila
mperilla@smcsl.sanmiguel.com.ph

JOB OPENING

SR. PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

Bachelor's degree. Minimum of 5 years' experience in partnership development. Strong understanding in the credit industry, Landscape, credit reporting, and credit bureau operations.

CIBI INFORMATION, INC.
2/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower, 104 Paseo De Roxas, San Lorenzo, Makati City
jlachica@cibi.com.ph

JOB OPENING

10 CHINESE TOUR GUIDE & TRANSLATOR 20 TAIWANESE TOUR GUIDE & TRANSLATOR 10 KOREAN TOUR GUIDE & TRANSLATOR

- At least 2 years of sales / service experience preferably from the travel-related industry
- 5 years' experience in field as Professional Tour Guide of Chinese, Korean and Taiwanese
- Ability to speak and write Chinese, Korea, Taiwanese and English language fluently
- Able to meet performance objectives, exhibit self-discipline, and manage multiple responsibilities
- Must be attentive and has a sense of urgency
- Detail oriented and has the ability to manage multiple responsibilities

B AND C ISLAND LEISURE TOURS CORPORATION
Address: Brgy. Manoc-Manoc, Malaya, Aklan
Email: paramountvisaofficer@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

10 Chinese Digital Marketing Officer 10 Chinese Marketing Specialist 10 Bilingual Marketing Officer Chinese Marketing Manager

- At least 2-3 years of experience in a job-related field.
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment, attention to detail, and problem-solving skill.
- Great communication skills and must be fluent in Chinese and English language.

FLEXIS LABS INC.

Address: 23/F Tower 6789, 6789 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air, Makati City
Email: paramountvisaofficer@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

10 Indonesian Financial System Manager 20 Indonesian Financial System Consultant 50 Indonesian Retention Specialist 20 Indonesian Trainer 30 Indonesian Quality Control Officer 50 Indonesian IT Support Officer 50 Indonesian Account Officer 50 Bilingual Data Analyst 50 Business Development Specialist 5 Project Manager 5 Risk Management Manager 20 Bilingual Customer Service Representative

- Must be 4 years college graduate in any related field
- Works well under pressure, self-motivated
- Good communication skills to interact with the client
- Solid organizational skills including attention to detail, and manage task effectively
- At least 5 years of experience as a consultant
- Fluent in both Indonesian, Mandarin and English language

Intelligent Optical Solution Inc.

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JOB VACANCY

10 Indonesian Financial System Manager 20 Indonesian Financial System Consultant 50 Indonesian Retention Specialist 20 Indonesian Trainer 30 Indonesian Quality Control Officer 50 Indonesian IT Support Officer 50 Indonesian Account Officer 50 Bilingual Data Analyst 50 Business Development Specialist 5 Project Manager 5 Risk Management Manager 20 Bilingual Customer Service Representative

- Must be 4 years college graduate in any related field
- Works well under pressure, self-motivated
- Good communication skills to interact with the client
- Solid organizational skills including attention to detail, and manage task effectively
- At least 5 years of experience as a consultant
- Fluent in both Indonesian, Mandarin and English language

Intelligent Optical Solution Inc.

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JOB VACANCY

5 SEMSEO SPECIALIST 5 SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST 5 EMAIL MARKETING SPECIALIST

- Speak and write in Korean and English language fluently
- At least 3 years' experience in related field
- Knowledgeable of technical and on-page SEO and paid search management is required
- Knowledgeable of other Google marketing Channels like Facebook, Instagram, Naver and Kakao
- Knowledgeable in creating social media contents and design social media strategies to achieve marketing targets
- Excellent in proofreading and copywriting skills

KOREAN & CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAVEL ASSISTANT OFFICER

- Speak and write in Korean, Mandarin and English language fluently
- Must be attentive and has a sense of urgency
- At least 3 years' experience in the same industry
- Detail oriented and has the ability to manage multiple responsibilities

GOLD RIVER HOTEL AND SPA MANAGEMENT INC.,

Address: Unit 2302, 2303 & 2305 High Street South Corporate Plaza Tower 2 28th Street corner High Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
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SUBJECT: APPLICATION FROM NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Sales Manager
Job Description:
• Responsible for the company's industrial and commercial PV business
• Develop and optimize capacity building, to enhance customer and local partner satisfaction
• Insight into Digital Power PV business situation in the Philippines and general customer needs
• Responsible for the adaptation and landing of commercial and professional service solutions, standing in the customer's perspective to solve the customer's practical problems and ensure service quality
• Organize and participate in industry exhibitions to increase brand

Qualifications:
• Have expertise in power electronics such as Digital power PV
• Preferably with bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, or a related field
• With at least 1-2 years work experience as Digital power Sales Manager
• Preferably with Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and other related courses
• Highly proficient in Chinese and English language
• Proficiency in computer software such as Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), AutoCAD, etc.

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SUBJECT: APPLICATION FROM NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Senior Industry Solution Manager
Job Description:
• Coordinate with headquarters through communication in Chinese, leading business operation process planning and management in alignment with company strategy
• Formulate sales strategies targeting industry customers, engaging with mid- and high-level clients, and employing consultative selling methods to identify and expand business opportunities
• Collaborate with relevant departments to establish a mutually beneficial and sustainable partner ecosystem for industry customers
• Cultivate and sustain customer relationships to enhance sales performance and promote business growth while ensuring the

Qualifications:
• Preferably with bachelor's degree in business administration, management, engineering, or a related field
• Extensive experience in project management, demonstrating proficiency in risk and quality control methodologies
• Proven track record in establishing and nurturing customer relationships to drive sales improvement and business development
• Fluent in Chinese, with strong communication skills for effective interaction with headquarters and stakeholders
• Strategic thinker with the ability to develop and execute sales

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SUBJECT: APPLICATION FROM NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Solution Manager
Job Description:
• Lead the standard design and planning of PLDT's Huawei 5G network in Manila, including site planning and network experience optimization solutions
• Manage the implementation of the PLDT & Huawei 5G City Project, overseeing project milestones and deliverables
• Drive reconstruction and capacity improvement of PLDT's Huawei 4G network devices, including frequency band handoff and 5G network exit solutions
• Deliver presentations on Huawei's latest wireless network products and solutions, highlighting their features and benefits to internal stakeholders and clients
• Design business monetization services for PLDT's 5G

Qualifications:
• Preferably with Bachelor's degree in telecommunications engineering, electrical engineering, or a related field
• Proven experience in network planning, optimization, and engineering in various application scenarios, including utility, telecommunications industry
• Strong understanding of 5G network architecture and technologies, including experience with Huawei equipment
• Knowledge of wireless network branding and marketing principles is a plus
• Excellent communication and presentation skills, with

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Email: ph_recruitment@huawei.com
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FROM NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Product Manager
Job Description:
• Lead the standard design and planning of PLDT's Huawei 5G network in Manila, including site planning and network experience optimization solutions
• Manage the implementation of the PLDT & Huawei 5G City Project, overseeing project milestones and deliverables
• Drive reconstruction and capacity improvement of PLDT's Huawei 4G network devices, including frequency band handoff and 5G network exit solutions
• Deliver presentations on Huawei's latest wireless network products and solutions, highlighting their features and benefits to internal stakeholders and clients
• Design business monetization services for PLDT's 5G

Qualifications:
• Preferably with Bachelor's degree in telecommunications engineering, electrical engineering, or a related field
• Proven experience in network planning, optimization, and engineering in various application scenarios, including utility, telecommunications industry
• Strong understanding of 5G network architecture and technologies, including experience with Huawei equipment
• Knowledge of wireless network branding and marketing principles is a plus
• Excellent communication and presentation skills, with

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