

Sonak Retail Group names new president, plans new ventures

SONAK Retail Group has named Maria Aurora "AC" C. Legarda as its new president.

"Ms. Legarda's extensive experience in both commercial and residential real estate will be instrumental in amplifying Sonak's current presence in the Philippines, which currently retails ASICS and Onitsuka Tiger," the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Sonak said Ms. Legarda is also committed to onboarding new ventures, which include a large Japanese retail brand, further solidifying Sonak's position in the sports, lifestyle, and fashion sectors.

"I am honored to join Sonak Retail and contribute to its continued growth and success," said Ms. Legarda.

She has over 32 years of experience in the local real estate industry, with a track

record in property operations, management, and business development, the firm said.

"I look forward to leveraging my expertise to expand our portfolio and strengthen our relationships with partners and customers at a time of rapid growth for the company," she added.

Ms. Legarda previously held a key leadership position at Ayala Malls.

"We are thrilled to welcome AC to the Sonak family. Her extensive experience and proven leadership will be invaluable as we continue to expand our presence," Anil Buxani, chief executive officer of Sonak Corp., said.

Sonak Retail Group is a retailer of sports, lifestyle, and fashion brands in the Philippines. It has more than 40 stores nationwide with brands such as Onitsuka Tiger and ASICS. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

Converge ICT advancing IoT integration, says Uy

CONVERGE ICT Solutions, Inc. is working to enhance its services and infrastructure by leveraging Internet of Things (IoT) technology and expanding its data centers and submarine fiber networks to meet the growing demand for better connectivity in the Philippines, its top official said.

"Here in the Philippines, we anticipate an influx of utilization of capacities, especially with IoT, data, and artificial intelligence. All of this content, all of them need huge capacity. We are looking at the new age of intelligence today; we are looking after connectivity," Converge Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony H. Uy said during a press briefing on Tuesday.

With the expected demand for data and connectivity, Converge said it is developing its business and projects to better suit the capacity demand in the country.

For instance, the company said it plans to open two data centers with a combined capacity of 13 megawatts in 2025.

"We will activate it in the first quarter of 2025, and we will build a computing zone; this is a virtual computing machine. On top of this computing data center, we will build the application layer, which is connectivity," Mr. Uy said.

"We are now also on the way to build digital infrastructure with a multiple edge cloud and data center strategy," he added.

The company said previously that it was also on track to complete the construction of its international subsea fiber networks by next year.

The Bifrost cable system is expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year, and the Asia-Hainan-Hong Kong Express (SEA-H2X) Submarine Cable System is set for completion by the second quarter of 2025, it said earlier.

"[Our] goal is to drive the expansion of IoT solutions in the Philippines by creating a collaborative environment where local and global stakeholders can connect, share insights, and explore innovative technologies," said IoT solutions provider Packetwrx, Inc. Chief Marketing Officer Raisa Orbon.

Like artificial intelligence, IoT continues to gain momentum in the country as telecommunications companies capitalize on its growth to further strengthen by providing reliable connectivity.

To support this growth, the DICT is laying the groundwork for a robust IoT ecosystem. Our initiatives focus on infrastructure development, smart cities, industry support, and countryside development," said DICT Industry Development Bureau Director Emmy Lou V. Delfin.

The development of IoT in the information and communications industry is important as the country's IoT market is expected to reach P165 billion within this year and has a projected annual growth rate of 20% from this year until 2029.



CONVERGE ICT
Chief Executive
Officer Dennis
Anthony H. Uy

CONVERGEICT.COM



SM Store opens in SM J Mall Cebu

SM STORE OPENED its 76th branch in SM J Mall in Mandaue City, Cebu on Oct. 25. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Hans T. Sy, chairman, executive committee, SM Prime Holdings; Acting Mandaue City Mayor Glenn O. Bercede; Aldwin Co, executive vice-president (EVP) for SM Fashion; Cebu Governor Gwen F. Garcia; Eric Lim, assistant vice-president for Store Operations; and Dhinno S. Tiu, EVP, SM Store.

New homebuilding platform targets 1,000 homes in first year of operations

HOMEQUBE Pte. Ltd., a Singapore-based homebuilding platform powered by blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI), plans to construct 1,000 houses in its first year of operations following its launch in November.

"We want 1,000 (housing) orders," Homeqube Founder and Chief Executive Officer Jose Paolo Calma said during a media briefing in Makati City on Tuesday.

With Homeqube's home kits, Mr. Calma said a house can be built for as low as P1 million as long as the buyer has land.

Homeqube invested \$1 million to establish its operations, logistics, and sourcing of materials.

It also established an online home delivery service that covers the permitting phase, the acquisition of materials, installation, and delivery of the units.

The company has tapped a contractor based in Pampanga to execute the housing orders.

"Sustainable development has become a common talk among government and business leaders worldwide, and we are bringing that

concept to the Philippine property sector with our homebuilding committed to regenerative living," Mr. Calma said.

For building materials, Homeqube is utilizing glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP) that allows for easy configurations and adaptations in constructing houses. It produces lower carbon emissions and environmental footprint for building projects.

GFRP can withstand winds as fast as 310 kilometers per hour while also being rust-proof.

"By choosing materials that regenerate, we can create a more resilient and adaptable environment, ensuring that our built environment remains a testament to our evolving needs. In short, we can build regenerative homes anywhere and our homes can follow where we go," Mr. Calma said.

He said Homeqube can also help address the country's 6.5 million

housing backlog since the company can build houses at a faster rate.

The company also plans to expand into Indonesia and Brazil.

"The abundant use of steel and cement for homebuilding, which is too bulky and complex for transportation, leads to elevated land prices as demand shoots up with more people moving to urban areas. Tapping these building materials also exposes home-

owners to a longer lead time of about 18 months, and more expensive projects due to logistics and middlemen fees," Mr. Calma said.

Homeqube aims to make homebuilding faster and more affordable with an all-in-one platform. The company uses new generation internet, new generation commerce powered by AI and blockchain technology, and pre-engineered buildings and lightweight materials to build houses. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



HOMEQUBE

record in property operations, management, and business development, the firm said.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

PRESIDENT:

HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO – Presiding Officer
HON. DENNIS B. ALMARIO
HON. MARIA DOLORES M. ARAYON
HON. MARTIN JOHN PIO Q. ARENAS
HON. JOEL M. ARIONES
HON. SHIRLEY C. ASPILLAGA
HON. BENEDICT B. BANIQUED
HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR.
HON. LUIS S. JAVIER, JR.
HON. EDRALYN M. MARQUEZ
HON. CARMINA C. ORTEGA
HON. ARMANDO P. PADILLA
HON. RENE ANDREI Q. SAGUISAG, JR.
HON. KRISTINA T. SAROSA
HON. JOSE C. VILLENA, IV
HON. ANNA ALCINA M. YABUT
HON. ROLANDO D. ALVAREZ, JR.
HON. JEROME TRISTAN G. PANGILINAN

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian
ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES

Upon motion of Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Ordinance No. 2024-202 on third and final reading.

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2024-202

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniquid, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan, Hon. E.M. Marquez, and Hon. A.A.M. Yabut

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. C.C. Ortega, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, and Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr.

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE SUPPLEMENTAL BARANGAY YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SBYIP) FOR C.Y. 2024 OF BARANGAY VALENZUELA TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Sec. 8 (a) of R.A. No. 10742, otherwise known as the "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015", as amended by R.A. No. 11768, states:

"Section 8. Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan. – The Sangguniang Kabataan shall:

- In consultation and with the concurrence of the Katipunan ng Kabataan, and within three (3) months from their assumption to office, formulate a three (3)-year rolling plan, which shall be known as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan, which shall serve as basis in the preparation of the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program. This plan shall be aligned with the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) and other Local Youth Development Plan in every level, municipal, city and provincial as is relevant;

xxx."

WHEREAS, Sec. 305 (i) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that local budgets shall operationalize approved local development plans;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Valenzuela, by virtue of Sangguniang Kabataan Resolution No. 11 Series of 2024, adopted its Supplemental Barangay Youth Investment Program (SBYIP) for C.Y. 2024, a copy of such Resolution, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as Annex "A";

WHEREAS, in a Joint Endorsement dated 14 October 2024, the Urban Development Department (UDD) and Budget Department transmitted the aforementioned SBYIP to the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati for its appropriate action, a copy of such Joint Endorsement is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as Annex "B";

WHEREAS, after a careful perusal of relevant documents, the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati ruled that the proposed SBYIP for C.Y. 2024 of Barangay Valenzuela is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules, and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:

Section 1. The Supplemental Barangay Youth Investment Program (SBYIP) for C.Y. 2024 of Barangay Valenzuela is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

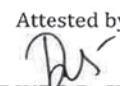
Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions and executive orders which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 4. Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)– Makati City, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of the City of Makati, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Valenzuela, Sangguniang Barangay of Valenzuela, and all other offices, departments, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance, and reference.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7854, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Makati.

ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 23 October 2024.

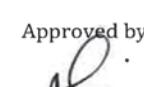
Attested by:


ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

Certified by:


Hon. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

Approved by:


Hon. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
City Mayor

Date of Approval: 23 OCT 2024