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## BCDA signs 15-year lease with pizza chain, specialty café

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has signed a 15-year commercial lease agreement with Amare La Cucina and Top Taste and Trading, Inc.

BCDA President and Chief Executive Officer Joshua M. Bingcang said the newly signed contract reflects a vote of confidence from investors after the change of management in Camp John Hay (CJH).

“Our vision for CJH is to provide enterprises of all sizes an environment where they can all thrive and empower the local community with more employment opportunities,” he said in a statement on Monday.

The BCDA signed the contracts with the homegrown pizzeria and specialty café and restaurant on Jan. 8 following the successful recovery of the CJH property.

The contract with Amare La Cucina covers the lease for a 1,500-square-meter lot, while the deal with Top Taste and Trading, Inc. is for the lease of an 800-square-meter property.

Aside from the commercial lease contracts, BCDA also signed its first long-term residential lease agreement with Victorino “Ricky” Vargas, a director at Metro Pacific Investment Corp.

The 25-year residential lease contract involves two Forest Cabin units that were previously leased with CJH Development Corp. (DevCo).

The BCDA regained control over the 247-hectare CJH property after a notice to vacate was served to CJH DevCo last week.

It followed the ruling of the Supreme Court on Dec. 12, which upheld an arbitral ruling that ordered CJH DevCo to vacate the property it leased from BCDA.

“While we are setting up a positive climate for enterprises and the people, we also want to assure the local community that we will preserve and protect the forest watershed of CJH, as the remaining lung of the city,” said Mr. Bingcang. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

# Maynilad says P4.84-billion sewage facility 33% complete

WEST-ZONE CONCESSION-AIRE Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said its P4.84-billion water reclamation facility in Las Piñas City has reached 33% construction progress and is slated to start operations by July 2026.

Once operational, the facility will treat up to 88 million liters of wastewater per day, serving approximately 360,000 residents across 20 barangays in Las Piñas City, Maynilad said in a statement on Monday.

Treated wastewater from the facility will be discharged into the Zapote River, which flows into Manila Bay.

“Our construction timeline was unfortunately delayed by pandemic restrictions in 2020, but we resumed work in 2023 with renewed focus,” said Ramoncito S. Fernandez, president and chief executive officer of Maynilad.

“This project reinforces our commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for our customers and easing the pollution burden on Manila Bay,” he added.

Maynilad said the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility is part of its “larger program to accelerate the rollout of sewerage and sanitation services in Metro Manila.”

The project is financed through a partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The company said it has invested over P46.4 billion in enhancing the wastewater infrastructure across its concession area since 2007.

At present, Maynilad operates 22 sewerage treatment plants, two sewage and septage treatment plants, and one septage treatment plant, with a combined treat-



ment capacity of approximately 724,000 cubic meters per day.

“This latest facility is a testament to Maynilad’s continued dedication to environmental sustainability and public health through improved wastewater management,” it said.

The company serves certain portions of Manila, Quezon City, and Makati. It also operates in Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valen-

zuela, Navotas, and Malabon. It also supplies the cities of Cavite, Bacoor, and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario, all in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

## DoE seeks support to close financial gap in RE dev’t

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy (DoE) is seeking support to address the financial gap required for renewable energy (RE) development, an official said on Monday.

Speaking at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the International Renewable Energy Agency Assembly, Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina L. Guevara said that reducing capital costs is critical for RE developers, paving the way for an affordable energy transition.

“At the end of the day, in order for the energy transition to be just, we need to afford the electricity generated from renewable energy,” she said. “But in order for that to happen, we hope our partners would be able to address the financing gap.”

The government and RE developers have faced challenges in permitting, consenting, and obtaining environmental compliance certificates for offshore wind (OSW), among other issues that cause delays in RE development, she said.

“While we are confident that RE developers will be able to get financial closure for their projects, the next hurdle would be the price of RE such as floating solar, OSW, and WTE (waste-to-energy),” Ms. Guevara said.

“We have requested the help of our central bank and multilateral development banks to figure out concession financing, and even longer loan periods for PSH (pumped-

storage hydropower), geothermal, and the smart grid,” she said.

She added that the DoE is considering energy transition trading to connect coal plant retirement with replacement RE power at an affordable price.

“Developing countries are often the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, despite contributing the least to global emissions. It is essential that those who have historically benefited from fossil fuels now support those who are striving to achieve a sustainable future. Energy transition is a shared responsibility, and we must act with urgency, solidarity, and fairness,” Ms. Guevara said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**





## Hindi handa ang NGCP sa pagpasok ng mga bagong power generators!

# ANG TOTOO...

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## 8,000MW





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## 1,250MW

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