ARTA hoping to enroll 200 LGUs in one-stop shop system this year

THE Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has set a target of signing up 200 more local government units (LGUs) for the electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) system this year.

"As of the moment, 112 LGUs are eBOSS compliant, and the target for 2025 is to have an additional 200 LGUs," ARTA Deputy Director General Gerald G. Divinagracia said via Viber.

If realized, Mr. Divinagracia said that the year will end with over 300 eBOSS-compliant LGUs.

Republic Act (RA) No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act requires LGUs to adopt eBOSS.

Asked about the locations of the 200, ARTA said they are largely in "the eight regions where we have people: Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, the Western Visayas, the Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Eastern Mindanao, and Western Mindanao," he said.

The Philippines has over 1,600 LGUs.

He also noted that in the National Capital Region, three LGUs are still not eBOSS-compliant, including Makati City.

"In Makati, definitely, we are having a hard time. It is hard because they have their own system. The thing about Makati is that there's a digital divide," he told reporters on the sidelines of the SGV Tax Symposium last week.

"If you want to automate, everything will be online," he said, but noted the need for "a good program that allows users to know how to use computers or the system, or maybe make the system more user-friendly." — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

DoE forecasts 2025 new capacity at 6,841 MW

THE Department of Energy (DoE) is expecting around 6,841 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity this year from power projects due to start operations.

Renewables topped the energy projects set for delivery this year, the DoE said in a report. Other committed capacities are 1,320 MW from gas-fired power plants, 500 MW from coal-fired power plants, and 76 MW from oil-based power plants.

Battery energy storage systems with a combined capacity of 330 MW are also expected to become operational, storing excess power from intermittent generating sources and injecting electricity onto the grid when needed.

Of the new capacity, 5,754 MW will rise on Luzon, 855 MW in the Visayas, and 232 MW in Mindanao.

Among Luzon's large-scale new projects are the three 440-MW Batangas Combined Cycle Power Plants of Excellent Energy Resources, Inc., the 350-MW Unit 4 coal-fired power plant of Masinloc Power Partners Co., Inc., and the 150-MW Unit 4 coal-fired power plant of Mariveles Power Generation Corp.

The DoE is also looking at the completion and commercial operations of the 218.75-MW Talim Wind Power Project, the 160-MW Balaoi and Caunayan Wind Power Project, and the 128-MW Tanay Wind Power Project.

In the Visayas, power projects scheduled for commercial operations include the 300-MW Kananga-Ormoc Solar Power Project, the 137.48-MW Calatrava Solar Power Project, the 130.05-MW Bacolod Solar Power Project, and the 112-MW San Isidro Solar Power Project Phase 1.

New plants joining the Mindanao grid include the 120-MW General Santos Solar Power Project, the 56-MW Sangali Diesel Power Project, and the 12-MW Mangima Hydroelectric Power Project.

For 2025, the demand growth forecast is 5.4% to 14,769 MW in Luzon, 16% to 3,111 MW in the Visayas, and 8.2% to 2,789 MW in Mindanao, according to the DoE.

In a briefing last week, Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said he expects "a much better situation" this year compared with several power projects coming online as well as newly energized transmission lines to deliver their output.

"While it is an election year, it is also not an El Niño year; in fact, it is seen as a La Niña year and therefore the constraints that we saw last year will not be as great as this year," Mr. Lotilla said.

In 2024, the Philippines declared 16 red alerts and 62 yellow alerts on the grid, signifying the instances when available power capacity was at risk of not meeting demand. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Passage of stalled tax measures critical to meet revenue collection targets

By Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio *Reporter*

LEGISLATORS need to approve pending tax measures before the 19th Congress ends to help the government meet its 2025 revenue collection goals, Revenue Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr. said.

Measures yet to be passed include an excise tax on single-use plastics, the rationalization of the mining fiscal regime, tax reforms in the Philippine capital markets, and a proposed hike to the motor vehicle road user charge.

The House of Representatives has approved the pending tax measures, some as early as 2022; while its counterpart measures are stalled at the Senate.

"It will be helpful for the BIR if these laws are passed for us to achieve our collection goal; because our collection goal assumes that these laws will be passed this year," he told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of a House hearing last week.

"Our goals will be affected if these laws are not passed because these pending tax measures were included in the budgeting (of the 2025 national budget)," he added.

Expected government revenue was forecast at P4.64 trillion in 2025, against an approved P6.326-trillion national budget, according to the Finance department statement.

Direct tax revenue is expected to account for P4.3 trillion of government revenue, according to the Budget department. The BIR is expected to generate P3.2 trillion, while the Bureau of Customs contribution is pegged at P1.06 trillion.

Meanwhile, non-tax revenue and privatization of government assets are expected to supply P210 billion and P101 billion, respectively.

While the 19th Congress is scheduled to end on July 27, both the Senate and House of Representatives will go on a four-month break from February to June to give way for the 2025 midterm elections.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda, who heads the House ways and means committee, said legislators will likely approve reforms to the mining fiscal regime and capital markets before the 19th Congress ends, citing close coordination between the legislative chambers.

"We definitely have time for the mining fiscal regime and the capital markets taxation reform," he told *BusinessWorld* via Viber.

"We are moving towards a meeting of minds," Mr. Salceda said, referring to efforts to tax the country's capital markets. He hopes the Senate will adopt his proposal for a corporate pension scheme, which could expedite the bill's approval by bypassing the bicameral conference committee.

Meanwhile, he said that provisions promoting mining industry transparency and curbing transfer pricing "are still in the Senate," which hopes will be retained by the Senate.

The mining and capital markets measures could generate P6.3 billion and P8.2 billion a year respectively, according to Mr. Salceda.

Analysts said that passing major tax bills before the end of Congress is crucial for the government to meet its revenue collection targets. Failing to do so could widen the fiscal deficit, forcing the government to resort to borrowing to sustain spending.

"These tax measures are critical for achieving the government's 2025 revenue collection goals as they aim to expand the tax base and address revenue gaps," John Paolo R. Rivera, senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said via Viber.

"Failure to pass these tax measures could widen the fiscal deficit. The government might struggle to meet its revenue collection targets, forcing it to borrow more and potentially raising public debt levels," he added.

The pending tax bills could face an uphill battle as legislators seeking reelection could be reluctant to support new taxes.

"It might be tricky for reelectionists to support a measure that will impose or increase taxes... because businesses and the public are normally averse to paying more taxes," Jean S. Encinas-Franco, a University of the Philippines political science professor, said via Viber.

Politicians should make the case for prospective taxes to mitigate the risk of electoral blowback, according to Anthony Lawrence A. Borja, an associate political science professor at De La Salle University.

"All taxes face the same political challenge of trying to justify why the government should dip into private pockets for public funds," he said via Facebook Messenger.

"If they want these passed, then lawmakers can power through the reluctance in their own ranks while providing convincing justifications for such measures," he added.

ERC proposes voluntary scheme for net metering

THE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) said it is proposing to make the installation of renewable energy certificate (REC) meters voluntary.

This was among the amendments the ERC is proposing to Resolution No. 6, Series of 2019, or the Resolution Adopting the Amendments to the Rules Enabling the Net-Metering Program for Renewable Energy.

"The installation of the REC meter shall be voluntary. The DU (distribution utility) shall be entitled to an RE certificate resulting from the net-metering arrangement," the commission said.

It said that an REC must be based on the gross generation as measured through the REC meter and must be credited as compliance with the DU's obligations under the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).

RECs are issued to participants in the RPS scheme, indicating the energy sourced, produced, and sold or used is from eligible RE systems.

Net metering allows power users that generate their own electricity via RE to sell some of their excess output to the grid, with the proceeds credited against their power bills.

Under RPS, DUs, electric cooperatives, and retail electricity suppliers are required to source a portion of their energy supply from eligible RE sources.

Among other key amendments being considered by the ERC are allowing the banking of net-metering credits for transfer in case property ownership changes.

In such instances, the credits accrued by the original property owner will be transferred to the new owner, provided they are compliant with the requirements, which may include a new net-metering agreement with the DU.

"To improve transparency, the ERC also proposes to mandate DUs to prominently display on their websites an itemized breakdown of their generation charges, along with their hosting capacities. These capacities must be delineated on both a substation and per-feeder basis, using a format prescribed by the Commission," the commission said.

The ERC is inviting comment on the draft amendments by Jan. 17. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

PRESENT:

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

N.B.:

Councilor	HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR. – Vacation Leave
Councilor	HON. CARMINA C. ORTEGA – Sick Leave

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian	ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES

Upon motion of Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Resolution No. 2025-002 on second and final reading.

CITY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-002

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., and Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, Hon. A.A.M. Yabut, Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr., and Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HONORABLE MAYOR MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO ACCEPT, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI, THE DONATION FROM THE PHILIPPINE INFRADEV HOLDINGS, INC., AND TO SIGN THE DEED OF DONATION AND ALL OTHER PERTINENT DOCUMENTS RELATIVE THERETO, SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Sec. 16, Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Sec. 3 (l) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the participation of the private sector in local governance, particularly in the delivery of basic services, shall be encouraged to ensure the viability of local autonomy as an alternative strategy for sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 by the United Nations underscores the importance of partnerships, specifically between governments and the private sector, to harness resources, expertise, and innovation for effective and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, intends to donate one (1) unit of FR200-215kwh Industrial-Commercial Energy Storage System and one (1) unit of Dry Type Power Transformer to support the optimization of energy utilization and contribute to energy sustainability of the Makati City Bureau of Fire Department;

WHEREAS, for and in consideration of the goodwill, assistance, and pure generosity of the Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc., such entity voluntarily and freely gives, transfers, and conveys, by way of donation, unto the City Government of Makati, the aforecited equipment;

WHEREAS, Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc. is the absolute owner of the said equipment and ensures that the same are free from all liens and encumbrances;

WHEREAS, Art. 748 of the New Civil Code of the Philippines provides that:

> **"Art. 748.** The donation of a movable may be made orally or in writing.
>
> An oral donation requires the simultaneous delivery of the thing or of the document representing the right donated.
>
> If the value of the personal property donated exceeds five thousand pesos, the donation and the acceptance shall be made in writing, otherwise, the donation shall be void."

WHEREAS, a deed of donation, among other documents, must be executed by the City Government of Makati and Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc. to effectuate the abovementioned purpose;

WHEREAS, Sec. 8 (a) (6) of R.A. No. 7854, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Makati, provides that the City Mayor, as the chief executive of the city government, shall represent the City in all its business transactions and sign on its behalf all bonds, contracts, and obligations, and such other documents upon authority of the sangguniang panlungsod or pursuant to law or ordinance;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the reasonableness and absence of any legal impediment to the aforecited authority that will be given to the City Mayor, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, pursuant to the provision mentioned above, hereby approves this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, to authorize the Honorable Mayor Mar-len Abigail S. Binay or her duly authorized representative to accept, for and on behalf of the City Government of Makati, the donation from the Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc., and to sign the deed of donation and all other pertinent documents relative thereto, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati hereby authorizes the Honorable Mayor or her duly authorized representative to enter into, execute, sign, and/or deliver, on behalf of the City Government of Makati, any and all instruments and documents in connection with, arising from, pertaining to or necessary for the implementation of the deed of donation subject of this Resolution.

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, that the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati hereby expresses its sincerest gratitude to the Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc. for its steadfast support and generosity, whose contribution will significantly benefit the community.

Let copies of this Resolution be furnished the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, General Services Department (GSD), Urban Development Department (UDD), Makati City Bureau of Fire Department, Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD), Department of the Interior and Local Government – Makati City Field Office (DILG-Makati City), Philippine Infradev Holdings, Inc., and all other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance, and reference.

This Resolution shall be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7854.

APPROVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 8 January 2025.

Attested by:

ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

Certified by:

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