

Renewables dominate list of ‘significant’ energy projects

RENEWABLE ENERGY projects topped the list of projects classified by the Department of Energy (DoE) as energy projects of national significance (EPNS), granting them expedited permit processing privileges.

Between May and December, the DoE issued EPNS certificates to 91 renewable energy projects

with a total capacity of 19 gigawatts (GW) and four conventional power plants generating 1.5 GW, it said in a statement on Monday.

The DoE has also granted EPNS status to 29 transmission projects, 24 microgrid system projects, and one exploration project.

Overall, the government is expecting total investment from the

certified projects to total P2.4 trillion. Most of these projects are set to be completed in the next two to five years.

Among the large-scale certified projects is the Terra Solar Project developed by Terra Solar Philippines, Inc., an arm of power distributor Manila Electric Co. The project involves a pioneering

3,500-megawatt (MW) solar farm and a 4,500-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system.

Another project on the list is the 1,400-MW Pakil Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Power Project of Ahunan Power, Inc., a wholly owned unit of Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

FULL STORY



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DBM: Procurement reform plays role in cutting debt

DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman said that pending revenue measures and procurement reform promise to bring the National Government's (NG) debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio to levels deemed suitable for developing countries.

“Procurement reforms will also help because we’ll make our spending more efficient. And we’ll make sure that it helps the budget,” she told reporters last week.

The Bureau of the Treasury estimated that the debt-to-GDP ratio rose to 60.7% at the end of 2024 from 60.1% a year earlier.

A ratio of 60% is considered by development banks to be manageable for economies like the Philippines.

Ms. Pangandaman also added the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act will help improve the investment climate.

CREATE MORE expanded tax incentives and streamlined value-added tax processes to make the Philippines more attractive to foreign investors.

The Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council's (LEDAC) priority bills include an excise tax on single-use plastics, the rationalization of the mining fiscal regime, amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

“The revenue measures (of Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto) are

already with the Senate. The right-of-way bill, also I think, is in the advanced stages,” she said, referring to reforms intended to make right-of-way acquisition more efficient and expedite the completion of government projects.

Asked if the pending revenue measures will be passed this year, Ms. Pangandaman said: “Yes, I think the Senate committed to Secretary Recto.”

Other non-LEDAC priority bills pending in the Senate are the excise taxes on pre-mixed alcoholic beverages, sweetened beverages, and junk food.

The Senate is adjourned until June 2 to make way for the midterm elections in May. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

EV industry lobbies for more policy support

DOMESTIC manufacturing of electric vehicles (EV) and the electrification of the public transport fleet will require stronger policy support to sustain growth, after EV registrations hit 22,637 units last year, the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) said.

“The strong growth in EV sales is a positive sign, but we need to ensure that this momentum is backed by long-term policies and investments,” EVAP President Edmund A. Araga said in a statement on Monday.

“Now is the time to solidify our commitment to electrification and create an ecosystem where EV adoption is practical, convenient, and beneficial for all,” he added.

According to registration documents obtained by *BusinessWorld*, the Land Transportation Office tallied 22,637 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) registered last year, consisting of 5,840 BEVs and 16,797 HEVs.

Of the total, 2,504 were cars, 6,220 were utility vehicles, 13,610 sport utility vehicles, 14 trucks, 19 were, 57 motorcycles and tricycles, and 213 non-conventional motorcycles.

To support this growth, Rommel T. Juan, chairman of EVAP, said that the group is seeking support for manufacturers and the development of supply chains, while promoting the electrification of public and commercial transport. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

FULL STORY



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OPINION

Ghosting is a taxpayer’s regret

February is often associated with love because of Valentine’s Day. However, to those who are dating, it is now common to hear the term “ghosting,” which means the act of suddenly cutting off ties without explanation due to fear of confrontation. But for taxpayers, ghosting the BIR is something to regret, especially when it comes to tax audits.

The BIR is no stranger to being ghosted by taxpayers, which it classifies as Cannot Be Located (CBL). On Jan. 14, the BIR issued Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 004-2025, outlining the policies and guidelines in reporting CBL taxpayers and the procedures for handling their cases.

Taxpayers may be considered CBL when they are not found at their registered address, their whereabouts cannot be established, or their indicated address is non-existent. The RMO also provides that those taxpayers with virtual offices (a shared office utilized by various taxpayers), but with no authorized representative available to receive any correspondence addressed to them, may likewise be considered CBL.

In case there are irregularities in the registration process resulting in the taxpayer being tagged as CBL, the concerned Revenue Officers (ROs)/officials involved will be subject to appropriate sanctions.

Equally important to note is that, before the concerned RO handling the case may tag such taxpayers as CBL, they are required to exhaust all possible means available to locate the taxpayer.

One of the ways ROs confirm whether a taxpayer is CBL is by collaborating with government agencies, suppliers, and purchasers possibly connected with the taxpayer. ROs are allowed to send notices to the taxpayer’s e-mail address or to its authorized tax agent of record. In the case of corporate taxpayers, ROs may send notices to their accountable officers, or even to the Certified Public Accountant indicated in the taxpayer’s financial statements.

In case these efforts to locate the taxpayer produce no results, the case officers may also resort to obtaining certifications from other government agencies to confirm the non-existence/non-compliance/inactive status of the taxpayer. A consolidated list of CBL taxpayers is uploaded to the BIR website. The BIR is required to issue an “Advisory” on the newly published lists of CBLs, together with the instructions on what the taxpayers should do if they see their names on the list.

od affords taxpayers protection against lengthy and unreasonable investigation. However, RMO 004-2025 highlights that when a taxpayer is CBL, such a period of limitation is suspended and may only resume upon the service of any previously unserved correspondence/notice.

Notwithstanding the suspension of the period of limitation for both assessment and collection, it is required that the Notice of Discrepancy/Discussion of Discrepancy (NoD/DoD) be issued to document the taxpayer’s deficiency in any internal revenue tax.

In cases where the notices requesting the presentation of accounting records and documents have not been served due to the taxpayer being classified as CBL, the NoD/DoD is to be prepared based on available documents. The issuance of a subpoena is not necessary to justify the assessment based on available documents. Further, the taxpayer’s right to a DoD as indicated in the NoD is forfeited, and the PAN will be issued accordingly.

To those taxpayers who have pending applications (i.e., tax clearance, registration of books of account, etc.), the BIR office concerned is required to conduct a verification of whether the applicant is CBL. In this case, the number of days to process these applications, as mandated under existing revenue issuance in accordance with the Ease of Doing Business law, do not apply.


ROs handling audit or refund cases must verify from the published list of CBL taxpayers if there are expenses/input taxes being claimed by the auditee-taxpayer arising from transactions with CBL taxpayers. Purchases made from a published CBL taxpayer may not be allowed as deductions for Income tax purposes, and if the transaction has a VAT component, the same cannot be claimed as input tax, unless the buyer can prove the authenticity of purchases made, among others.

Clearly, proper communication is important not only when it comes to romantic relationships, but also in dealing with the BIR. It is the taxpayer’s responsibility to keep records updated especially when there are changes in registration, specifically regarding their registered address and other relevant information. Corporate taxpayers using a virtual office as their registered business address, must ensure there is an authorized representative available to receive correspondence from the BIR. Although the CBL classification may not be forever, there are still repercussions that the taxpayer may come to regret, especially when faced with a BIR audit.

MA. JESSICA A. GUEVARRA is a senior manager of the Tax Advisory & Compliance Practice Area of P&A Grant Thornton.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI

SANGGUNIAN 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. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR.
Councilor	HON. LUIS S. JAVIER, JR.
Councilor	HON. EDRALYN M. MARQUEZ
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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. ARMANDO P. PADILLA – Sick Leave
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ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian	ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
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Upon motion of Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr., duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Ordinance No. 2025-027 on third and final reading.

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2025-027

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. R.D. Alvarez, Jr., Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan, Hon. J.M. Ariones, and Hon. C.C. Ortega

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, and Hon. A.A.M. Yabut

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NO. 2 FOR C.Y. 2024 OF BARANGAY TEJEROS TO BE OPERATIVE IN ITS ENTIRETY, SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Sec. 25, Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments;

WHEREAS, Sec. 333 (a) of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall have the power to review barangay ordinances which relate to the barangay budgets for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of the aforementioned law are complied with;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Barangay of Tejeros, by virtue of Barangay Appropriation Ordinance No. 003 Series of 2024, approved its Supplemental Budget No. 2 for C.Y. 2024, a copy of such barangay ordinance, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex “A”**;

WHEREAS, the Budget Department, in a *Certification* dated 28 January 2025, recommended that the Supplemental Budget No. 2 for C.Y. 2024 of Barangay Tejeros be declared to be operative in its entirety, a copy of such document is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex “B”**;

WHEREAS, after a careful perusal of pertinent documents, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati ruled to adopt *in toto* the abovementioned recommendation of the Budget Department; hence, this Ordinance.

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

Section 1. The Supplemental Budget No. 2 for C.Y. 2024 of Barangay Tejeros is hereby declared to be operative in its entirety, subject to 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.

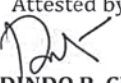
Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, and executive orders inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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 (UDD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)–Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of Tejeros, and all other departments, offices, 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 SANGGUNIAN PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 5 February 2025.

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. MARLEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
City Mayor

Date of Approval: **05 FEB 2025**