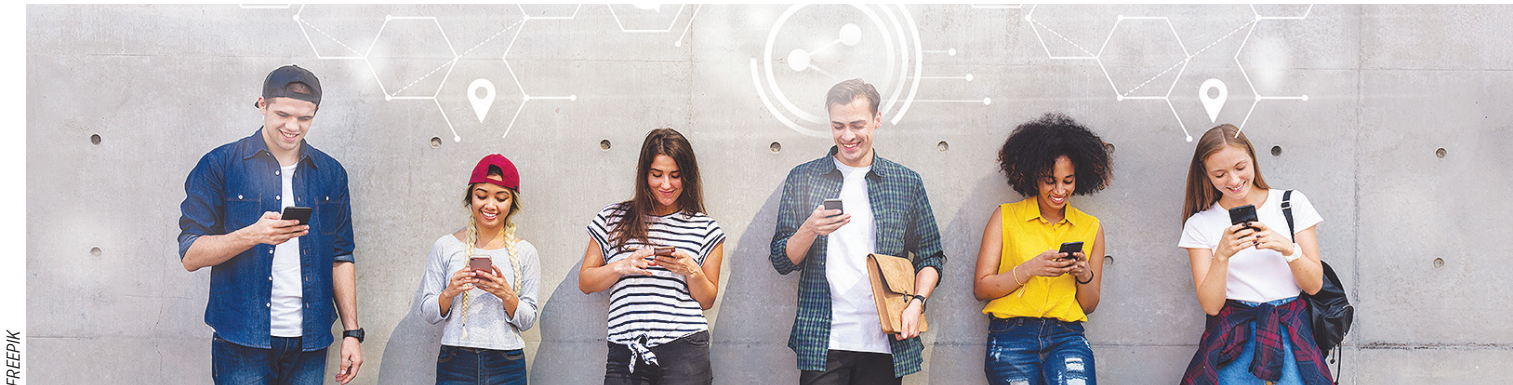




Business chambers welcome Konektadong Pinoy enactment

BUSINESS CHAMBERS said on Tuesday that the Konektadong Pinoy Act will improve the economy's competitiveness and hasten the Philippines' digital transition.

The Joint Foreign Chambers, the EU-ASEAN Business Council, the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines, and the US-ASEAN Business Council welcomed the new measure in a joint statement.

"We see this as a landmark achievement that will significantly improve internet ac-

cess, boost the Philippines' economic competitiveness, and strengthen its digital ecosystem as ASEAN develops its regional Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)," the groups said.

However, they said the "law's success will be dependent on the development of implementing rules and regulations (IRR) that protect the free and seamless flow of data across borders."

In particular, they said that the IRR needs to ensure that businesses are able to innovate and

scale to fully harness the potential of the digital economy.

"We remain committed to supporting the Philippines' digital transformation and look forward to the full and immediate implementation of this law," they added.

The Konektadong Pinoy bill, which lapsed into law on Sunday, relaxes the entry requirements for investing in the data transmission industry, thereby increasing internet access and the development of digital infrastructure.

Opponents of the law cited the risks it poses to national security,

with incumbents threatening to mount legal challenges.

One of the sticking points is a provision in the law allowing new data transmission entrants to operate without obtaining a legislative franchise or a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology said it is currently working on the draft IRR which will be presented in a public consultation. The final IRR is due to be released within 60 days. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Brief La Niña could bring more typhoons by September

A POTENTIAL La Niña could start influencing weather patterns as early as September, mainly in the form of more typhoons, the government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), said.

In a statement, PAGASA said the prevailing weather pattern in the tropical Pacific, known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral, is most likely to persist until October.

However, climate models indicate an increasing probability of a brief La Niña episode emerging between September and December.

La Niña, the cool phase of ENSO, is characterized by unusually cool sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

PAGASA said a La Niña Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for the development of La Niña within the next six months, and the probability rises to above 55%.

It said La Niña typically result in an above-average number of tropical cyclones towards the end of the year and above-normal rainfall in most of the Philippines, possibly bringing floods and landslides to vulnerable areas, it added.

PAGASA said it will continue to "closely monitor the ongoing El Niño, its effect on the local climate, and the possibility of La Niña." — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

Rice-importing powers pushed for FTI, Planters

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) proposed to legislators that Food Terminal, Inc. (FTI) and Planters Products, Inc. be granted the power to import rice on behalf of the government.

The proposal follows efforts to amend the Rice Tariffication Law, which had stripped the National Food Authority (NFA) of its import powers and opened up the import trade to private traders.

In a statement, the DA cited the need to exert regulatory power over rice imports to prevent oversupply, which it said has "depressed" farmgate prices earned by domestic farmers.

"We must regain control," Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said. "Rice is a commodity imbued with too much public interest to leave entirely to the private sector."

At present, the NFA is required to build up its rice reserves by procuring domestic rice, but it can only purchase about 5% of the paly (unmilled rice) harvest "due to limited warehousing and drying capacity," the DA noted.

It added that the NFA's impact on the market is limited to releasing rice during calamities.

The DA said if needed, government corporations under its umbrella like FTI and the Planters Products "could import on behalf of the government."

"The proposed changes aim to strike a balance between ensuring affordable rice

for consumers and protecting the livelihoods of Filipino rice farmers," it said.

The DA, however, clarified that the rice import function will remain largely with the private sector.

Mr. Laurel has told the Senate that private importers should be required to share the responsibility of maintaining the country's rice reserves.

"If we aim to have a 20-day rice buffer stock, we're thinking of a 50-50 split between the NFA and the private sector," he said.

Under the proposed setup, rice imports will follow the sugar import model, under which the Sugar Regulatory Administration issues import allocations only to qualified importers.

Rice importers will also be required to maintain their reserves by procuring paly from domestic farmers at fair prices.

A private sector role in maintaining the buffer stock, sourced from local rice farmers, will also reduce the cost to the government of maintaining its rice reserve, Mr. Laurel said. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**



Vehicles procured via e-portal valued at nearly P290 million

VARIOUS agencies have taken possession of nearly P290 million worth of motor vehicles (MVs) procured via the e-Marketplace platform, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said on Tuesday.

The DBM's Procurement Service (PS) reported that 153 vehicles have been delivered to 50 government agencies as of Aug. 26. The vehicles were acquired for a combined P289,936 million.

The DBM also reported that 30 more agencies are awaiting the delivery of 56 vehicles, valued at P115.72 million.

"When compared to the Authority to Purchase Motor Vehicle — a documentary requirement for procuring entities to procure MVs which indicates the budget ceiling for purchase — the savings shoot up to P27.43 million," the DBM said via Viber.

The e-Marketplace is an official electronic commerce platform where agencies can di-

rectly procure supplies and equipment from vetted suppliers.

The PS said only motor vehicles are currently available on the e-Marketplace but expects to add airline tickets, cloud computing services, and software and licenses soon.

The e-Marketplace currently lists 83 vehicle models available for procurement, including multi-purpose vehicles, passenger vans, utility vans, sport utility vehicles, sedans, buses, mini buses, and pick-up trucks.

The e-Marketplace had been projected to process at least P320 million in transactions this year.

The e-Marketplace is a feature of the New Government Procurement Act, which was signed into law by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in July 2024. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

Aramco acquisition of 25% stake in Unioil cleared by competition regulator

THE Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) said it cleared the proposed acquisition by Aramco Asia Singapore Pte. Ltd. of a 25% stake in Unioil Petroleum Philippines, Inc. and Unioil Energy Pte. Ltd.

In a statement, the regulator said it does not see the transaction resulting in a substantial reduction of competition in the relevant markets.

The PCC noted that "the parties have limited shares, there is substantial competition from other established players, and the entry of new players is likely, timely, and sufficient due to low barriers to entry."

Aramco Asia is an affiliate of Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Saudi Aramco) and renders sales, marketing, procurement, and logistics services out of Singapore.

Unioil Petroleum is a fuel retailer while Unioil Energy is a trading company that ships in gasoline and diesel to the Philippines.

In February, Aramco Asia and Unioil Petroleum announced a definitive agreement for a stake sale, marking Saudi Aramco's return to the Philippine market.

Saudi Aramco used to own 40% of Petron Corp. but divested in 1994.

Under the Philippine Competition Act, the PCC is tasked with reviewing mergers and acquisitions (M&As), including foreign transactions, that meet notification thresholds, to ensure that the deals do not harm competition. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Company Name: SAP Philippines, Inc.
Address: 27/F NAC Tower, 32nd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Nature of Business: Information & Communication

Contact details of the Company: Joel G. Tesorero | joel.tesorero@sap.com

Job Position: Head – Service Delivery Hub, APAC (Global Commercial Finance)

Job Description:

- Oversee the delivery of commercial finance support aligned with the Global Commercial Finance (GCF) and Global Finance & Administration (GFA) strategies.
- Foster a collaborative team culture that prioritizes business partnership with stakeholders to drive the SAP Cloud strategy and Go-To-Market success.
- Recruit, onboard, develop, and manage team members, ensuring individual and team performance aligns with organizational objectives.
- Collaborate effectively across departments to deliver high-quality commercial finance support that complies with SAP policies and standards.
- Ensure adherence to SOX compliance and internal control processes within Global Commercial Finance.
- Identify opportunities for innovation, streamlining processes through automation and continuous improvement in deal approval and contracting.
- Build and maintain strong, trusted partnerships with sales teams and counterparts in the regional Global Commercial Finance team.
- Resolve escalations, de-escalations and address root-cause problems.
- Drive programs and projects to execute the GCF transformation strategy as required.

Basic Qualifications for the Position:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in finance, business, or a related field.
- Fluent in English with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience managing and developing teams in a regional or global context.
- Proven ability to foster collaboration in multicultural, cross-functional environments.
- Strong problem-solving, analytical, and decision-making abilities.
- Customer-focused mindset, with a commitment to delivering impactful solutions.
- Familiarity with process automation and technology-driven innovation is a plus.
- Demonstrated ability to attract, motivate, and develop talent.
- Coaching and mentoring experience.
- Business acumen and strategic thinking.
- Multicultural awareness and experience working within APAC markets
- Experience working within a Finance related field (min. 15 years)
- Experience of people management, strong competency in leading under multi-culture within APAC region is required (min. 3 years preferred)

Monthly Salary Range: PHP 400,000 – PHP 500,000
Workplace Address: Pasig City

Name of Foreign National: Narendra Saraf
City of Residence: Pasig City
Duration of Employment: 3 years

SAP Philippines, Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The Company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an **Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Wasmiya Building, Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.**

Career Opportunity in **KBR OVERSEAS, INC.**
Position Title: **Supply Lead Technician**
No. of job Vacancy: 1
Duration: (1 year)

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Maintain a competent and complete materiel management program that follows the contract Statement of Work and adheres to Marine Corps policy and procedures.
- Coordinate and execute the acquisition, distribution, accountability, storage, and disposition of equipment and supplies.
- Perform actions in support of supply readiness, warehouse organization, and asset accountability and provide advice on all matters relating to asset management. Review invoices and requisitions to plan work activities.
- Train junior technicians in all supply functions.
- Create/review requisitions for equipment, materials, and supplies per budgetary guidelines.
- Comply with personnel and administrative policies, procedures, and government regulations.
- Comply with established safety regulations, and method and procedures for handling and storing various equipment parts/components.
- Maintain compliance with job specifications, drawings, work orders, instructions, layouts, and time schedules.
- Maintain MCPP-PHIL ISO policies and procedures and ensure on-going compliance with such.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specializes Training):

- Associate degree and/or coursework towards a BS degree in business or another related field.
- In lieu of a degree, a combination of college credits, professional certification, formalized training, or education, and directly related work experience may be considered.
- Five years of progressive experience with specialized knowledge of maintenance and logistic support activities involving supply operations, including one year in a supervisory capacity involving various aspects of cost/schedule controls, performance monitoring, report writing, program planning and customer interface.
- USMC MOS 3043
- Understanding of Marine Corps policies, regulations, and orders.
- Industry Certification.
- Automation and Scripting.
- Expert knowledge of military storage procedures.
- Working knowledge of general maintenance procedures for military tactical equipment and supplies.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to comply with all established methods, quality standards, and time schedules applicable to this position.

WORKPLACE LOCATION: Subic, Zambales

Applications may be sent to:
Joseph Gibson
Joseph.Gibson@us.kbr.com

COMPANY / EMPLOYER		NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION	
Company Name	KBR OVERSEAS, INC.	Name	Telly Montace Armstrong Jr.
Complete Company Address	Building 93, Lincoln Street, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone	Address	Subic, Zambales
Nature of Business	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	Nationality	American
		Intended period of employment	1 year

KBR OVERSEAS, INC. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an **Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment- Region III located at Matalino Cor. Mahusay St. DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga**

If there are any objections or inquiries, please contact the concerned DOLE Regional Office.

Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at Department of Labor and Employment – Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga after this publication

Please inform Department of Labor and Employment – Region III, if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign national.

Career Opportunity in **KBR OVERSEAS, INC.**
Position Title: **Network Administrator**
No. of job Vacancy: 1
Duration: (1 year)

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Plan, coordinate, and implement information management services utilizing computer systems hardware, peripheral equipment, mobile devices, and software.
- Install, configure, secure, maintain, upgrade, and recover data systems and peripheral hardware.
- Administer user security and access policies as required.
- Implement and coordinate multiple access points utilizing virtual private networks and wired and mobile connections through the MCEN and local network providers.
- Implement a customer Help Desk management system.
- Implement a risk management program.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specializes Training):

- Knowledge in DoD and NIST policies, standards, and guidelines for maintaining network infrastructure.
- Knowledge in networking tools used for monitoring network usage, capacity, performance, and security.
- Knowledge in switch, router, and firewall configuration.
- Knowledge in VLAN, VOIP, VPN configuration.
- Knowledge in system backup and restoration.
- Knowledge in analyzing, identifying, fixing, and recording network and server problems.
- Knowledge in Help Desk implementation/management.
- BS degree in information technology or another related field.
- In lieu of a degree, a combination of college credits, professional certification, formalized training or education, and directly related work experience may be considered.
- Ten years of progressive experience with specialized knowledge of information systems management and computer, router, and server management, including five years in a help desk capacity involving various aspects of network planning and connectivity, performance monitoring, network troubleshooting, and customer interface.
- Understanding of Marine Corps policies, regulations, and orders.
- Industry Certification
- Automation and Scripting
- Working knowledge of military storage procedures.
- Working knowledge of general maintenance procedures for commercial off-the-shelf and tactical data and cellular equipment.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to comply with all established methods, quality standards, and time schedules applicable to this position.

WORKPLACE LOCATION: Subic, Zambales

Applications may be sent to:
Joseph Gibson
Joseph.Gibson@us.kbr.com

COMPANY / EMPLOYER		NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION	
Company Name	KBR OVERSEAS, INC.	Name	Christopher Hizon Garcia
Complete Company Address	Building 93, Lincoln Street, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone	Address	Subic, Zambales
Nature of Business	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	Nationality	American
		Intended period of employment	1 year

KBR OVERSEAS, INC. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an **Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment- Region III located at Matalino Cor. Mahusay St. DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga**

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