

Maynilad to raise storage capacity to 960 million liters by next year

WEST ZONE concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is building three new reservoirs, which are expected to expand its water storage capacity to 960 million liters by 2026.

In a statement on Monday, the utility said the facilities — two in Quezon City and one in Valenzuela — will enhance supply and help maintain water pressure during peak demand periods.

“By building more strategically located reservoirs, we are strengthening our distribution system and ensuring better service for customers, especially in areas that experience low pressure during peak demand,” Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez said.

The new builds form part of Maynilad’s P31.9-billion capital expenditure plan for operations support programs from 2025 to 2029.

As of June 30, Maynilad operated eight water treatment

plants, 39 operational reservoirs, 41 pumping stations, and a 7,886-kilometer distribution network.

The concessionaire also maintains 21 serviceable deep wells that may be activated as backup during supply interruptions.

The water company made its stock market debut last week, raising P34.34 billion from the offering — the second-largest initial public offering in the bourse’s history.

Maynilad is an integrated primary provider of sustainable water and wastewater services for the West Zone, which spans 11 cities in Metro Manila, three of which have partial coverage, as well as portions of Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which holds 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**

Typhoons’ impact on farming in fourth quarter may be minor

By Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel

THE typhoons that struck in October and early November are expected to result in only minor disruptions to agriculture, analysts said.

“All sectors of Philippine agriculture will surely be affected by the series of typhoons and will have an impact on agriculture output. However, except for high-value crops, the typhoons are not expected to significantly affect overall output, and production for the year is likely to be better than in previous years,” Danilo V. Fausto, president of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc., told *BusinessWorld* via Viber.

Raul Q. Montemayor, national manager of the Federation of Free Farmers, said that while agriculture is still in “recovery mode” after a decline in 2024, recent storms are unlikely to derail growth.

“Typhoons are a normal occurrence in the fourth quarter. They will affect output, but not by much compared to levels in 2023, which was the last normal year,” he told *BusinessWorld* via Viber.

Mr. Montemayor said palay (unmilled rice) was largely at the harvest stage when the typhoons hit, so most losses were avoided. He added that while vegetables and other high-



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value crops could be affected, recovery times for such crops are generally short.

Poultry, which expanded 10.6% year on year in the third quarter, is also expected to sustain growth in the final quarter though, demand-side factors may temper expansion.

“There will be growth,” Elias Jose M. Inciong, chairman of the United Broiler Raisers Association, told *BusinessWorld* via Viber. “The main threat will be the demand side. If it’s weak compared to last year, the industry will adjust and reduce production. (Or) it may not expand substantially despite the normal boost provided by the holiday season,” he said.

Analysts are also not overly concerned about the fisheries sector, which recorded a year-on-year decline of 2.7% in the third quarter.

Grid expansion, electrification seen sustaining wire and cable demand

By Justine Irish D. Tabile

Reporter

THE wire and cable industry, which has had to weather a slowdown in construction, volatile raw material prices, and competition from imports, could be propped up by growing demand from the power sector due to grid expansion and electrification, American Wire and Cable Co., Inc. (AmWire) said.

AmWire President Samuel Craig Awad said the industry continues to face challenging condi-

tions, making growth in the mid-single digits difficult to achieve.

“There are challenges such as the slowdown in construction characterized by the glut in unsold condos and high vacancies in office space. There is high volatility in raw materials such as copper, aluminum and insulation materials,” he told *BusinessWorld*.

“Also, the market has been besieged by imported low-cost but substandard construction materials. The expected medium-term 6% to 7% growth rate that industry research points to may be more difficult to achieve,” he added.

He said the main opportunity lies in “technology-driven products, including cables that support renewable energy projects and (making manufacturing) more sustainable.”

“This can also moderate the influx of imports of finished goods, which are usually non-compliant with Philippine standards,” he added.

In particular, he said the power industry has been a source of growth, partly offsetting soft demand from construction.

“This growth is driven by the expansion of the power grid and electrification, including the in-

tegration of renewables. So there is a significant demand for cables for transmission lines, substations, and inter-island connections,” he said.

He said electric vehicle infrastructure remains underdeveloped and is not having much impact at this point.

To remain competitive, he said that the company has been investing in new machinery and technology.

“We have invested in new, more efficient machines that are more advanced than what the other wire and cable companies have,” he said.

“We have also invested in intelligent systems to enable us to operate with greater precision and insight, resulting in even higher quality and sustainable growth across our manufacturing footprint. This is part of our progress towards adopting standards in Industry 4.0,” he added.

To help offset high costs and address water use, he said the company also invested in solar powered water systems and a wastewater treatment plant.

Asked about the company’s plans to expand, he said that the

company’s capacity “is more than adequate to meet present and future demand.”

“The high-speed automated lines and streamlined plant operations allow us to produce diversified products and have equipped us to meet any expected demand increase,” he said.

“Ultimately, our goal is not just to produce more cable, but to produce smarter — scaling sustainably while delivering higher value and performance to our customers,” he added.

Established in 1954, AmWire pioneered wire and cable manufacturing in the Philippines.

Honda Motor slashes annual operating profit outlook on EV cost hit, slow Asia sales

TOKYO — Honda Motor slashed its full-year profit forecast by 21% on Friday, hurt by one-time electric vehicle (EV) costs, worsening sales in China and other Asian markets and a shortage of parts equipped with Nexperia chips.

Japan’s second-largest automaker cut its operating profit forecast for the year through March 2026 to ¥550 billion (\$3.65 billion) from ¥700 billion.

For the first half of the current financial year, Honda’s automobile business posted an operating loss, due in large part to ¥224 billion worth of one-time expenses related to electric vehicles. The company now expects its global EV sales ratio to be 20% in 2030, down from a previous target of 30%.

It now expects to sell 925,000 vehicles in Asia — including China — for the current financial year, down more than 10% from a previous target of 1.09 million cars.

Competition in Southeast Asia has intensified due to the entry of Chinese automakers, which prompted firms in the region to offer consumers higher incentives or lower prices, Executive Vice-President Noriya Kaihara said on Friday.

“We recognize that a fundamental review is necessary for Asia,” Mr. Kaihara said. “However, from this fiscal year through the next, there’ll be no particularly new models.”

IMPACT FROM CHIP SHORTAGE AND TARIFFS

Honda’s reduction of its annual profit outlook

included a ¥150-billion hit related to a shortage of chips from Dutch firm Nexperia.

Mr. Kaihara said the company was seeking to resume normal production in the week of Nov. 21, after it suspended output at a Mexican plant last week and adjusted operations in the US and Canada.

The disruption stemmed from the company’s reliance on a single supplier for some parts, Mr. Kaihara said.

Honda also expected to take a ¥385-billion hit from US tariffs, which was ¥65 billion less than previously estimated. Mr. Kaihara said tariffs are likely to remain in place, but noted that Honda benefits from a high local production ratio in North America where demand for hybrid vehicles is strong.

The automaker posted a 25% drop in its July-to-September operating profit to ¥194 billion, down from a ¥257.9-billion profit a year earlier.

Its motorcycle business suffered weaker volumes in Vietnam, but robust demand in Brazil and Thailand helped offset that drop, allowing the company to maintain strong profitability.

Last month, Reuters reported that the Japanese embassy in Hanoi sent a letter to the Vietnamese government saying a planned ban on petrol-powered motorbikes in the capital city could hurt employment in industries linked to the country’s massive motorcycle market. — **Reuters**

ASX appoints new compliance chief amid pressure to deliver on turnaround plan

AUSTRALIAN STOCK exchange operator ASX Ltd has appointed Lucinda McCann as its new chief compliance officer with immediate effect, the company said on Monday, amid mounting pressure to deliver on its multi-year turnaround plan.

The appointment comes as ASX faces heightened

regulatory scrutiny following a string of compliance and operational setbacks, including the central bank’s recent criticism of its governance and a probe by the corporate regulator in June.

Last month, ASX Chair David Clarke said the exchange’s transformation program “cannot fail,” highlight-

ing the urgency to strengthen its technology systems and risk management.

The company is halfway through a five-year effort to modernize operations and restore resilience after several high-profile disruptions, including a trading settlement delay in 2024. — **Reuters**



51ST PBC&E AWARDS

PCCI-ILOILO CHAMBER ELEVATED TO HALL OF FAME AS PCCI HONORS 2025 MOST OUTSTANDING CHAMBERS NATIONWIDE



The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) proudly announced the winners of the 2025 Most Outstanding Chamber Awards (MOCA), recognizing exemplary local chambers that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to inclusive business growth across the country.

Leading this year’s roster of honorees is the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry–Iloilo (PCCI–Iloilo) led by its very young and dynamic President, Engr. Fulbert Woo, which earned the prestigious Hall of Fame Award after being named the Most Outstanding Chamber in the Philippines for three consecutive years. Through its sustained programs supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), strong advocacy for ease of doing business, and active collaboration with government and industry stakeholders, the Iloilo Chamber has set a national benchmark for impactful and purpose-driven chamber leadership.

JOINING ILOILO AMONG THE 2025 NATIONAL WINNERS ARE:

- Metro Naga CCI (City Level, Large Chamber Category) led by Pres. Mario Villanueva
- Laguna CCI (Provincial Level, Small Chamber Category) led by Pres. Rose Lyn Coloma
- PCCI-Lipa (City Level, Small Chamber Category) led by Pres. Ferdinando Manguera

The awards were presented by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, together with PCCI President Consul Enunina Mangio, PCCI Chairman George T. Barcelon, 51st PBC&E Chairman Dennis Anthony Uy, PCCI Vice President for Regional Affairs Alegria Sibal-Limjoco, and 51st PBC&E MOCA Chairman Dr. Alberto P. Fenix Jr., during the Concluding Ceremony of the 51st Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E) held on October 21, 2025, at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City.

ALSO RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING CHAMBER IN THE AREA:

- PCCI-Tarlac (North Luzon, Province Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Aileen Chan
- PCCI- Bataan (North Luzon, Province Level-Small Chamber) led by Pres. Bryan Joseph Banzon
- Camarines Sur CCI (South Luzon, Province Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Antonia Badong
- Pagadian-ZDS CCI (Mindanao, Province Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Hazel Lu
- Greater Midsayap CCI (Mindanao, Province Level-Small Chamber) led by Pres. Gerry Cotez
- Metro Angeles CCI (North Luzon, City Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Elizabeth Timbol
- PCCI- Parañaque (NCR, City Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Rene Vincent Torralba
- PCCI- Valenzuela (NCR, City Level-Small Chamber) led by Pres. Helen Lising
- Metro Bacolod CCI (Visayas, City Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Juliana Carbon
- General Santos City CCI (Mindanao, City Level-Large Chamber) led by Pres. Miguel Rene Dominguez
- Tandag City CCI (Mindanao, City Level-Small Chamber) led by Pres. Marc Ty

THE MOST OUTSTANDING YOUNG CHAMBER AWARD WAS CONFERRED TO PCCI-STA CRUZ, LED BY PRES. FILIPINAS MARQUEZ.

The winners were selected by a distinguished panel of judges chaired by DTI Assistant Secretary Leonila Baluyut of the Regional Operations Group, with Mr. Ernie Cecilia, Chairman of the Human Capital Committee, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Ms. Blanca Mercado, President, The Manila Times; and Dr. Elizabeth Recio, Business Charter Head of the University of Santo Tomas.

The Most Outstanding Chamber Awards is an annual project of PCCI that recognizes local chambers whose leadership and dynamism contribute to business growth and community development through advocacy, member services, and programs that promote trade and investment. This year’s MOCA was chaired by PCCI Adviser and Philippine Chamber Development Institute (PhilCDI) Chairman Dr. Alberto P. Fenix Jr.