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METRO MANILA

Manila unveils P3-B solar-powered session hall

By Sandy Araneta The Philippine Star Updated January 11, 2012 12:00 AM 10 comments to this post



Councilors and other Manila officials look around the city council's newly renovated session hall, now fitted with solar-powered devices and solar cell panels, after it was inaugurated yesterday. Edd Gumban

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MANILA, Philippines - Manila Vice Mayor Isko Moreno unveiled yesterday the country's first ever solar-powered city council session hall.

The city council also launched its real-time broadcast of its twice-a-week sessions yesterday.

Moreno, in his speech during the launch, said he believes being seen by the public during sessions is a good thing. He urged the city council to be transparent in the discharge of their mandated duties and responsibilities.

He said the city government spent close to P3 billion to use solar energy and install solar tubes, solar air-conditioning units and solar panels on the roof.

Though they retained the old facade of the session hall due to its historical value, Moreno said its entire structure was changed.

The new session hall has a huge dome with cathedral glasses that catch the sun's rays, illuminating the session hall. Solar panels were installed on the roof to generate electricity for the entire session hall.

Moreno said this will mean lower electricity bills. The session hall's power bill alone reaches P80,000 a month, and shifting to solar power would lower the bill by 90 percent.

He said studies show the solar powered devices would last 25 years.

"I am happy. This proves that it wasn't really bad to dream. After all, this started with just a dream, and now, we have the first solar-powered session hall in the whole country," Moreno said.

Yesterday's blessing of the new Manila council session hall was led by Vice President Jejomar Binay and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

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