

24 December 2022, (Saturday)



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR chief urges private sector to unite for climate action

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga called on the private sector to work closely together in accelerating their adoption of nature-based solutions that will result in co-benefits of climate action and disaster risk reduction.

Yulo-Loyzaga highlighted the importance of the leadership of the private sector, which has emerged as a critical actor in bridging the cost of financing climate action.

"I urge those present not only look to energy efficiency, the shifts to renewable energy and resource efficiency, and establishing your process and product contributions to the circular economy, but to internalize the role of nature in

adapting to climate change and its critical importance to disaster risk reduction," Yulo-Loyzaga said during the "Sustainability Forum PH: United for Climate" held last November 28.

She lauded the creation of Philippine Alliance for Climate Action that aims to make the public sector come together and address the threat of climate change.

"The new alliance could yield the most significant results, as the potential synergy among major corporations in the country will most likely generate new capacity to protect, restore and enhance rich but threatened ecosystems," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

She rallied top business executives present at the event to consider working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in its mission of building evidence-informed area-based resilience.

Yulo-Loyzaga asked for their support on the establishment of a national risk register that can serve as basis for determining gaps, needs and priorities of development plans.

The Environment secretary said her administration at the DENR seeks to create a national natural resource geospatial database, an accounting of the country's natural resources and environmental assets that will support the development of the agency's strategies.

She added the DENR would highly appreciate the private company's synergized expert insights and alignment of investments to address complex and cascading risk across sectors and scales.

At the same time, Yulo-Loyzaga underscored the importance of the private sector's role in mainstreaming climate and disaster resilience into their core business cycles.

She indicated that the conglomerates must not just refer to the businesses they represent and their respective pathways to net zero emissions but should also include the work needed beyond their fence lines to preserve and protect the ecosystems and communities

that support them.

"I believe it is high time for the private sector to come together as an alliance to ensure that the ecological and economic gains as individual companies and organizations are leveraged and magnified for the good of our people, our country, and our planet," she said.

Yulo-Loyzaga asked the private sector to support the goals of the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures and Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, which will enable companies and financial institutions to integrate nature into decision making and improve reporting of climate-related financial information.

BELLA CARIASO



Bantag charged entrance fee for Bilibid visitors - Catapang

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

Even relatives of inmates at the New Bilibid Prison were not spared from the corruption that pervaded at the NBP during the term of suspended Bureau of Corrections chief Gerald Bantag, according to BuCor officer-in-charge Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr.

Catapang said he learned that during Bantag's time, rela-

tives of prisoners who wanted to visit were required to pay P30 to P40 to jail guards before being allowed inside the national penitentiary.

"That's how intense corruption was here. It went down to the lowest employee of BuCor," Catapang yesterday said in mixed English and Filipino over ANC.

The retired military chief immediately put a stop to the il-

legal activity when he assumed leadership of the BuCor last October after President Marcos suspended Bantag over allegations that he was the brains behind the murder of radio broadcaster Percy Lapid and NBP inmate Cristito Villamor Palaña.

Catapang earlier said they are eyeing to file plunder cases against Bantag and other BuCor officials for the construction of

four buildings worth P1 billion. The funds were 95 percent withdrawn but the buildings only 60 percent built.

Bantag is also under investigation for an excavation at the NBP grounds, which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared as a form of illegal quarrying.

Catapang said these were among the problems left behind by his predecessor, which he is

resolving.

"I really want to close this chapter so that next year I can start the reforms I need to do," he said.

Catapang criticized Bantag for running a criminal syndicate

within the BuCor instead of reforming the country's penal system.

"There was a cabal of people who came here and they made themselves a syndicate," Catapang said.



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UNTV CUP

NHA stuns DENR; PNP, Agri triumph

Alvin Vitug exploded for a season-high 38 points and helped power the NHA Home Masters to a 92-80 come-from-behind win over defending champion DENR Warriors in the 9th UNTV Cup Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the Paco Arena in Manila.

In his best game so far, Vitug also produced seven rebounds and seven assists as the Home Masters completed their remarkable comeback from several 10-point deficits in the first half to hike their record to 2-1.

Three other NHA players scored in double figures with Marvin Mercado scattering 13 points and John Dizon and Brian Dabu adding 11 and 10, respectively, to hand the Warriors their first defeat in two games.

In other games, the PNP Responders romped to a 102-59 victory over SSS Kabalikat, while the Agriculture Food Masters pulled off a thrilling 101-99 win over PhilHealth Konsulta in the 12-team tournament for public servant.



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NHA stuns DENR in UNTV Cup

Games Jan. 8, 2023
2 p.m. - PNP vs Ombudsman
3:30 p.m. - the AFP vs GSIS
5 p.m. - Judiciary vs Dept. of
Agriculture

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Julius Casaysayan and Nino

Villena led the Food Masters to their first win in two games by scoring similar 24 points while Rollie Serrano and Richard Villanueva starred for PNP by each posting 22 points apart from combining for 15 boards.

Agriculture's win negated the 35-point performance of former Letran star Jonathan Aldave for PhilHealth.

Meantime, the league, a brainchild of UNTV's Kuya Daniel Razon, takes a two-week holiday break and returns on Jan. 8 with another triple-header.

The chosen charity of the champion team will receive a tax-free P3 million prize.



ILLEGAL FISHING BACK IN TAYABAS BAY AHEAD OF HOLIDAYS

LUCENA CITY—Illegal fishers have returned to Tayabas Bay in Quezon province in time for the Christmas holiday, and some of them admitted that they were forced to engage in unlawful fishing activities out of economic necessity.

“Words spread that the bay, particularly in the portion of Sariaya town, has plenty of fish to catch,” a fisherman from the coastal village of Dalahican here told the Inquirer on Thursday.

Another fisherman said they needed to earn money in time for Christmas.

Sherwin Rosales, a fisheries technician at Sariaya’s agriculture office, pointed to Lucena-based fishers as the culprits behind the renewed illegal fishing activities in the area.

Rosales said authorities have recently seized illegal fishing gears, such as fine-mesh nets and large stationary fish traps, locally known as “baklad,” that were abandoned by some fishermen in their area.

“We will not let go of them. Our *bantay-dagat* (fish wardens) have been conducting continuous operations,” he said in an online interview.

Allan Castillo, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources provincial fishery officer in Quezon, said their anti-illegal fishing operations were hampered when one of their patrol boats was damaged by Severe Tropical Storm “Paeng” (international name: Nalgae) in October.

“Probably, the illegal fishers have learned of the damage. But the patrol boat will soon be back and hunt them again,” Castillo said.

‘Butanding’ sightings

After Paeng, a school of whale sharks, locally known as “butanding,” has been spotted once again in the Sariaya town’s area of Tayabas Bay.

The whale sharks are usually seen in the vicinity of fish sanctuaries fronting the coastal villages of San Roque and Bignay 2.

“With the return of more butanding, it indicates the presence of more fish in our waters,” Rosales said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources noted that the presence of whale sharks was a sign of the bay’s “rich marine biodiversity.”

The Sariaya fish market has also been registering a daily high-volume trade of assorted fish species.

Sanctuary

The Tayabas coastline in Sariaya town also serves as a sanctuary for “pawikan” (marine turtles) that usually come to lay and hatch their eggs from October to December. The presence of pawikan also indicates a balanced marine ecosystem and an abundant supply of fish in the area.

The bay, located northwest of the island province of Marinduque, stretches from San Juan town in Batangas province to the towns of Sariaya, Pagbilao, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Unisan, Pitogo, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Mulanay, and San Francisco and Lucena City in Quezon.

Local fishers said the situation in Lamon Bay was worse due to continuous rampant illegal fishing blamed on the presence of large commercial fishing operations.

The Quezon police have noted rampant illegal fishing in their daily reports, including blast fishing, the continuous operations of commercial fishers inside municipal water whose boats used the destructive “pangulong” (purse seines), “taksay” (ring nets) and “buli-buli” (modified Danish seine).

The fishers assailed the illegal presence of commercial fishing vessels inside the municipal waters that compete against small fishers.

Thirty-four of Quezon’s 42 towns are coastal—17 along Lamon Bay in the Pacific Ocean, 12 off the Tayabas Bay facing the China Sea and five along the Ragay Gulf. —DELFIN

T. MALLARI JR. INQ



Tree planting launched in Lanao

NESTLÉ Philippines launched its tree planting project in Lanao del Sur which aims to plant 2.5 million native bamboo seedlings and 1.2 million indigenous forest trees across 5,000 hectares in the province by 2024.

The project dubbed as Lanao del Sur Reforestation Project is in partnership with One Tree Planted and Eco-Planet Bamboo.

The reforestation effort supports Nestlé's goal to plant 200 million trees by 2030. It also forms part of the company's plan to scale up actions in regenerative agriculture and deploy natural climate solutions to absorb greenhouse gases and contribute to achieving Nestlé's net-zero target by 2050.

"We are restoring the natural landscape from both the bamboo side as well as indigenous trees to help bring the forest back," said Forestry EcoPlanet Vice President Sam Wilde.

Nestlé said it continues to help farmers plant coffee trees in Sultan Kudarat province also in Mindanao and train them in the basics of regenerative agriculture.

Nestlé Philippines Senior Vice President and Corporate Affairs Head Jose Uy 3rd said these activities are part of the Nescafé Plan, a long-term program to assist smallholder coffee farmers in growing yields and incomes, and eventually become agripreneurs attaining a quality of life beyond subsistence.

"Two thirds of the world's emissions come from the very activity that gives us food, agriculture. Clearly, regenerative agriculture and reforestation are courses of action we must take to help achieve net zero emissions," Uy said.

For his part, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje said by accelerating and consolidating reforestation actions, Nestlé will contribute to the Philippines' sustainable development objectives through the protection and management of our environment and national resources.

BELLA CARIASO



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BSP launches own 11-point strategy for sustainability

By LEE G. CHIPONGIAN

The independent Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has launched its 11-point Sustainable Central Banking (SCB) Strategy, four years after issuing its first sustainability principles.

BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla said the 11-point strategy is its own sustainability commitment that embodies and fulfills BSP's role as "enabler, mobilizer and doer" in promoting sustainability in the financial system.

In "painting the central bank green", Medalla said the Philippines, even as it has "very small" greenhouse gas emissions compared to other countries, is one of the most affected by climate change.

For one thing, climate change impacts the extreme weather disturbances in the Philippines, and this will in turn strike food supply which will lead to inflation because of large supply shocks resulting to second order effects, said Medalla.

"Clearly it will also affect how we regulate banks," said the BSP chief during Thursday's event.

"Obviously, capitalization requirement should be commensurate enough to bear the risks. The risky you are the more capital you have to (build) up and clearly, climate change will increase the risks," he added.

Medalla said what the BSP is doing is both symbolic and basic, and he called on all sectors of society, not just the government, to work together to take a "long term review which is a sustainable way, and also in the long run

(it is) the more efficient way."

As such, the BSP's price and financial stability mandate has some scope to adopt the SCB as its strategic thrusts "in view of the potentially significant impacts of climate and environmental risks on the prices of goods and services and on the safety and soundness of financial institutions."

Meantime, BSP Deputy Governor Chuchi G. Fonacier said the BSP wants banks and financial institutions to be mindful of the environment and the pressing issues and threats of climate change to price and financial stability.

"Walking the talk, the BSP is also committed to serve as a role model for

strategy is to increase awareness and capacity building activities, and issuance of enabling regulations. These include membership to regional or international groups of central banks and supervisors such as the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), Sustainable Banking and Finance Network, Inclusive Green Finance Working Group of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, Executives Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks Working Group on Banking Supervision (EMEAP-WGBS), and task force or working groups at the ASEAN level.

The BSP will also conduct vari-

In terms of BSP's sustainability rules and regulations for all banks, it has already issued the first and second phase frameworks, while the third phase is still ongoing.

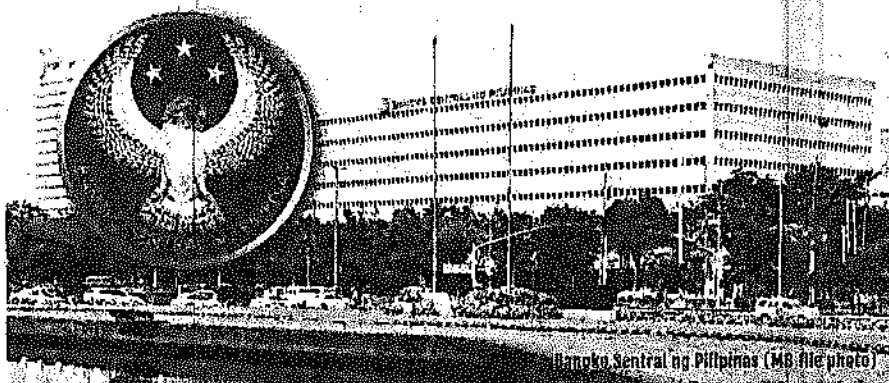
In the next months and years, the BSP will issue more regulations including the conduct of climate risk stress testing by banks, improvements to prudential reports for data collection and surveillance analysis, and the incentivization for the lending or financing of green or sustainable projects or activities.

The SCB roadmap and the 11-point strategy and related initiatives is aimed at mainstreaming green and sustainability principles and practices in BSP operations and across the financial system.

The BSP's 11 SCB strategies are: to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of the economy and financial system, accounting for physical and transition risks and other environmental risks; it will enhance mandatory disclosures of climate-related financial risks by all banks, building on the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

recommendations; and it will issue guidance on mandatory climate stress testing for banks; explore the integration of E&S risk into prudential practices.

The strategies also include for BSP to: incorporate macroeconomic effects of climate change into monetary policy analysis; consider incentive schemes for the promotion of green lending by banks; include sustainability considerations in



Bangkok Central ng Pilipinas (MS file photo)

our regulated entities," she said during the launch.

Basically, with the SCB strategy, Fonacier said the BSP "will foster environmentally responsible and sustainable policies and work practices, as well as integrate environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, principles in its key functions and operations."

According to the newly-launched SCB website, part of the 11-point

ous studies or preliminary insights on sustainable finance such as the "Impact of Extreme Weather Episodes on the Philippine Banking Sector using Branch-level Supervisory Data", "Climate Change and Monetary Policy: Some Preliminary Thoughts" by the BSP, and the "Report on The Roles of ASEAN Central Banks in Managing Climate and Environment-related Risk", a collaborative project of the ASEAN Central Banks.

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BSP launches...

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its portfolio management and risk management and sign the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI); develop a task force for inclusive green finance; to include climate-related financial disclosures in its annual report; adopt sustainable practices for its own facilities and operations; and to roll out a capacity-building program for

all staff in relevant areas.

The Philippines has committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2030 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The BSP, with the Department of Finance, also co-chairs the Green Force which is responsible for the sustainable finance roadmap.



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HAMILO COAST'S CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY PROTECTS LOCAL WILDLIFE

Hamilo Coast goes out of its way to present a holistic approach to real estate development.

Among its chief goals while expanding its portfolio is to nurture the natural resources in the locations it develops.

Since 2007, Costa Del Hamilo Inc. (CDHI), the developer of Hamilo Coast, and World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF) have been working on key areas for sustainability namely, coastal resource management, ridge-to-reef management, solid waste management, mangrove reforestation, the use of renewable energy sources, and environmental awareness.

Hamilo Coast has, in fact, declared three of its coves—Pico de Loro, Etayo and Santelmo—as Marine Protected Areas (MPA). This act serves to further safeguard ecosystems for marine life; protect threatened and endangered species and preserve their habitats; and cultivate marine resources, among others.

For instance, Hamilo Coast has manifested its readiness to take care of Olive Ridley Sea turtles that has made the development its nesting ground.

The females of the species return to the same beach they hatched on to spawn or lay their own eggs, and bury them in sand nests to incubate for 45 to

72 days. To keep these eggs safe and undisturbed, Hamilo Coast installed nest cages and monitored these regularly, following the guidelines of WWF. With nest cages protecting the eggs from predators, their chances for survival significantly rise.

Recently, turtle hatchlings were released to the ocean by the SM Leisure Resort Residences team in Pico de Loro Cove. New nest cages were also installed in Santelmo Cove. A total of 56 Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have been released as of mid-November in Hamilo Coast.

“Protecting the turtles is just one of several measures we take to

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Turtle hatchlings were released to the ocean in Pico de Loro Cove by the SM Leisure Resort Residences team headed by its EVP and business unit head Shirley C. Ong (fourth from left).

FROM B4-4 make Hamilo Coast a safe haven, not just for its residents and guests but also for marine wildlife,” said Franklin M. Bolalin, CDHI AVP for estate management and operations.

Protecting the Olive Ridley Sea turtles is just one of CDHI’s ways of establishing sustainable practices. In partnership with WWF, CDHI has been expanding and enhancing the scope of its sustainability program as part of a long-term

strategic framework in the Hamilo Coast development.

As a result, Hamilo Coast is a recipient of the Longest Sustainability Partner award from WWF. The recognition now further inspires it to embrace sustainable tourism and develop its area without compromising the quality of water and wildlife in the vicinity.

“Our sustainability efforts, in partnership with WWF, have created a positive impact in the Philippine tourism in-

dustry,” Bolalin said. “We hope to continue encouraging seaside developments in the country to prioritize the conservation and protection of our beautiful marine resources.”

For more information, visit its official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hamilocoastph), website (www.hamilocoast.com), and Instagram (@hamilocoastph)



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VISTA LAND TO LAUNCH 16 ASTERRA PROJECTS IN 2023

For many Filipinos, Metro Manila is the gold standard for modern living. As host to some of the country's most established central business districts as well as commercial and industrial hubs, the metro is where the movers and shakers keep the local economy humming.

However, the sardine-like density in the big cities can also take its toll on the harried

Filipino workforce. The traffic and chaotic transport systems foment stress, driving even longtime urbanites to seek a happy medium—like the suburbs—which offers the tranquil environment they want and the conveniences of city living that they need.

This is what Asterra, the affordable residential project of leading property developer Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.,

seeks to address in 2023 when it opens 16 new projects in various municipalities in the country. While Vista Land has yet to disclose the locations, the property developer affirms that the selection process is based on important factors like economic and investment opportunities that coalesce to improve the Filipino homeowners' quality of life.

This likewise assures

B4-6



Selecting locations will be based on important factors like economic and investment opportunities that coalesce to improve the Filipino homeowners' quality of life.