

15 February 2023, Wednesday



DENR

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Marcos names UP geology professor as DENR undersecretary

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Marcos has named a University of the Philippines geology professor as environment undersecretary.

Carlos Primo David of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences was appointed to the post on Dec. 28 last year, a document released by Malacañang showed.

David is the son of the late Civil Service Commission chair Karina David and sociologist and journalist Randy David, a critic of the Marcoses.

The environment undersecretary taught geology, geochemistry, field geology, hydrogeology, environmen-

tal geochemistry, environmental geology and hydrology at UP Diliman.

He was the program convenor and trustee of the Albert del Rosario Institute and convenor of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship.

He completed his doctorate degree in earth and environmental sciences at Stanford University in 2003.

David was also the executive director of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development, officer-in-charge of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute and member of the board of trustees of the Local Water Utilities Administration.



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UP PROF, CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNICAL PANEL CHAIR

GEOLOGIST-ENVIRONMENTALIST DAVID NAMED DENR USEC

By Jerome Aning
@JeromeAningINQ

President Marcos has appointed geologist and environmentalist Carlos Primo David as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Malacañang on Tuesday released his appointment paper dated Dec. 28, 2022, while the DENR's website already lists David as undersecretary for integrated environmental science.

According to his curriculum vitae on the website of the University of the Philippines' (UP) National Institute of Geological Sciences, where he is a professor, David obtained his bachelor's degree in geology at UP Diliman in 1991 and topped the Professional Regulation Commission's licensure exam on geology the next year.

He then earned his master's

degree in geology also at UP in 1995, and his doctorate on earth and environmental sciences from Stanford University in California in 2003.

As UP professor, he taught courses on geology, geochemistry, field geology, hydrogeology, environmental geochemistry, environmental geology and hydrology.

Previous stints

Before his appointment, David was chair of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission, member of the board of directors of the Geoscience Foundation and member of the board of trustees of Stratbase ADR Institute for Strategic and International Studies.

From 2015 to 2017, David served as executive director of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging



Carlos Primo David —PHOTO FROM CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION WEBSITE

Technology Research and Development—one of three sectoral planning councils of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)—while he was concurrently officer in charge of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, also under the DOST.

In the media, he was overall head of GMA News' public service program "IMReady" from 2013 to 2015.

He has addressed various forums here and abroad, tackling such topics as the country's research and development field, the impacts of natural calamities, pollution at Manila Bay, and sustainable mining—on which he made a presentation before the Philippine Mining Congress of 2013.

David, in collaboration with other authors, has also written works on climate change, mining, rainfall forecasting and at least two assessment reports on Supertyphoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) of 2013.

He is one of the four children of Inquirer columnist and UP professor emeritus Randy David and the late former Civil Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino-David. —WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ

SOURCES: INQUIRER ARCHIVES, NIGS.SCIENCE.UPD.EDU.PH, UP-DILIMAN.ACADEMIA.EDU, CLIMATE.GOV.PH



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David named DENR exec

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has named geologist Carlos Primo David as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

David was appointed on 28 December last year, but it was only recently that reporters obtained documents pertaining to his posting at DENR.

While Malacañang has yet to officially announce his appointment, the DENR, on its website, indicated that David will head the Integrated Environmental Science office.

The agency said David "pioneered short-term rainfall forecasting in the country and climate change-related research on water resources."

He is a former professor for the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines Diliman starting in 2003.

MICHELLE GUILLANG



NATIONWIDE ROUNDUP

Water, climate change expert appointed to DENR

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has appointed a geologist with expertise on water and climate change as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In an appointment letter dated Dec. 28 and made public on Feb. 14, the president appointed Carlos Primo C. David as DENR undersecretary for scientific and technical services.

Mr. David earlier served as a convenor and trustee of the Albert del Rosario Institute, which provides strategic solutions to domestic governance, socio-economic, and other policy concerns.

He was also a convenor of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship and is a member of the panel of experts of the Climate Change Commission.

He also previously worked as executive director of the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DoST-PCIEERD). — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**



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Leni supporter named DENR undersecretary

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. has appointed the son of former Civil Service Commission chairwoman Karina David and professor Randy David as undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Presidential Communications Office announced yesterday.

Carlos Primo Constantino David, a professor at the University

of the Philippines and head of the university's Environment Monitoring Laboratory, was appointed last December 28, 2022 but a copy of his appointment paper was only released yesterday.

David's parents are known supporters of former Vice President Leni Robredo, who ran against Marcos in the May 2022 elections.

The PCO said the Marcos administration is pushing for unity regardless of political affiliation.



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NEWS BRIEF

Anak ni Randy David tinalagang DENR usec

Tinupad ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang pangakong isusulong ang pagkakaisa sa kanyang gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng paghirang sa anak ng mga personalidad na kilalang kaalyado ng kanyang nakatunggali sa nakalipas na eleksyon.

Itinalaga ng Pangulo bilang Undersecretary ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Carlos Primo Constantino David, anak nina University of the Philip-

pines Professor Randy David at dating Civil Service Commission Chairperson Carina David.

Ang mag-asawang David ay kilalang supporters ni dating vice president Leni Robredo.

Sa appointment paper na inilabas ng Palasyo, itinalaga si David noon pang Disyembre 28, 2022 at magsisilbi ito nang hindi hihigit sa 6 taon bilang co terminus ng Pangulo. (Aileen Taliping/Prince Golez)



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Anak ni Randy David itinalaga ni Marcos sa DENR

Itinalaga ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. si Carlos Primo Constantino David bilang Undersecretary ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Si David ay anak nina University of the Philippines Professor Randy at dating Civil Service Commission Chairperson Karina David na kilalang

mga taga-suporta ni dating Vice President Leni Robredo. Kapatid din ni Davis ang batikang journalist na si Kara David.

Magsisilbi si David ng anim na taon bilang co-terminus ng Pangulo.

Noong Disyembre 28, 2022 pa nilagdaan ni Marcos ang appointment paper ni David pero ngayon lamang Pebrero 14 inilabas ang papel.

Una nang itinalaga ni Pangulong Marcos ang aktibistang si Alan Tanjusay bilang Undersecretary ng Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Bahagi umano ng isinusulong na unity ng administrasyon ang pagkuha sa mga ilang personalidad na kilalang supporters ni Robredo. **-Malou Escudero-**



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David itinalagang DENR undersecretary

Itinalaga ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. si Carlos Primo Constantino David bilang Undersecretary ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Si David ay anak nina University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David at dating Civil Service Commission Chairperson Karina David na kilalang mga taga-suporta ni dating vice president Leni Robredo. Kapatid din ni David ang batikang journalist na si Kara David.

Magsisilbi si David ng anim na taon bilang co-terminus ng Pangulo.

Noong Disyembre 28, 2022 pa nilagdaan ni Marcos ang appointment paper ni David pero ngayon lamang Pebrero 14 inilabas ang papel.

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Bahagi umano ng isinusulong na unity ng administrasyon ang pagkuha sa mga ilang personalidad na kilalang supporters ni Robredo. (*Malou Escudero*)



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Water management body welcomed

THE creation of the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) as a transitory body pending the creation of a Water Resource Department is seen to help improve the country's water supply management, according to the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

Earlier this month, President Marcos Jr. approved the creation of the WRMO under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to respond to the current environmental challenges and manage water resources through a concerted government effort.

In a statement, the ECCP said the government should also approach the country's water resource planning using an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) framework.

ECCP said the IWRM is an internationally recognized framework, based on the idea that water issues should not be approached in isolation but in a more holistic manner due to the interdependence of the uses of finite water resources to guide countries on their journey to water security.

"We remain committed to working with the government and other stakeholders in resolving the current water-related issues in the country. The ECCP, together with its Environment and Water Committee, strongly advocates for regular multi-stakeholder engagements to be institutionalized to allow exchange of insights, facilitate coordination and come up with effective solutions on water-related issues," the group said.

ECCP urged the government to establish a multi-stakeholder advisory panel under the WRMO with representation from the private sector, academe and civil society "to serve as an additional soundboard for the said office in the crafting and implementation of policies,



LOYZAGA

programs and projects for the water sector in line with IWRM's principle of participatory governance."

The group said this will help in promoting more synergy with public-private partnerships as it leads and encourages the establishment of investments, technology, benchmarking and sharing of best practices resulting in the improvement of the water sector.

Despite the support for the WRMO, ECCP said there is a need for the government to come up with the "long overdue" creation of an overseeing body for water resources.

"We believe that having an executive water department tasked to harmonize and monitor all water-related efforts will provide strategic direction which would not only help in solving water scarcity in the country but would also aid in the establishment and operation of businesses as well as attract new investors. We hope that the current interest from the government will be sustained and bring the much-needed changes in the water sector into fruition," ECCP said.

Last October, DENR Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said they are leading the crafting of a roadmap for water security that is expected to be the basis in the creation of an umbrella body that will manage all water-related issues of the country. - *Jed Macapagal*



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GOOD START FOR WATER SECURITY TRANSITION

THE European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said it welcomes the creation of the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) as a transitory body pending the creation of a Water Resource Department.

"In line with our long-standing advocacy of attaining water security in the Philippines, the Chamber has long called for the creation of an apex body to lead the crafting and implementation of policies and initiatives for the Philippine water sector, as well as streamline institutions to further facilitate ease of doing business in the said sector," ECCP said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the business group, the creation of the WRMO is a "welcomed first step in fully realizing this as it aims to strengthen collaboration among various agencies in implementing water management programs in accordance with the Integrated Water Management Plan," which it said will be crafted by the new agency.

ECCP also stressed the

need to approach water resource planning using Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which it described as an "Internationally recognized" framework that is used to guide countries in their journey to water security.

This is based on the idea that water issues should not be approached in "isolation," but rather in a "more holistic" manner due to the interdependence of the uses of finite water resources, the business chamber explained.

With this, ECCP said it remains committed to working with the government and other stakeholders in resolving the current water-related issues in the country.

"The ECCP, together with its Environment and Water Committee, strongly advocates for regular multistakeholder engagements to be institutionalized in order to allow exchange of insights, facilitate coordination and come up with effective solutions on water-related issues," the business group stated.

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Good start for water security transition CONTINUED FROM A14

In this light, the ECCP "highly encourages" that a Multistakeholder Advisory Panel be established under the WRMO with representation from the private sector, academe and civil society to serve as an additional "soundboard" for the said office in the crafting and implementation of policies, programs and projects for the water sector in line with IWRM's principle of participatory governance.

This "interim structural reform," the business group said, will hopefully provide more "synergy" with public-private partnerships, as it leads and encourages the establishment of investments, technology, benchmarking, and sharing of best practices.

Two weeks ago, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered the formation of the WRMO to consolidate water management

efforts of all concerned government offices.

According to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), the core task of WRMO would be to formulate and ensure the implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). *Andrea E. San Juan*



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IN BRIEF

DENR cites relevance of multisector dialogs

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday vowed to apply lessons learned from non-government organizations and the academe on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

The agency ensured that science-based and evidence-informed solutions for forest management and biodiversity conservation gathered during its Mindanao multi-stakeholder forum in Cagayan de Oro City would be used for the various needs of communities with over 300 stakeholders from local government units, academe, NGOs, people's organizations, representatives from indigenous peoples groups, and the private sector, to gain valuable insights on environmental protection and sustainable development. **Rio N. Araja**



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TAO PO!

Ni BOBOT FRADEJAS
(Email: bootsfra@yahoo.com)

Kasinungalingan ng Altai Mining

NABASA namin ang one-page ad ng Altai Philippines Mining Corporation noong Linggo sa pahayagang Philippine Daily Inquirer. Hindi namin alam kung magkano ang halaga ng biniling pahina ng Altai Mining. Aabot kaya sa kalahating milyon piso? Ito masasabi namin: Pawang kasinungalingan ang sinabi ng Altai Mining sa ad. Mga kabulaanan ang karamihan at salat sa katotohanan. Pinakamaganda ang tapusin ng Altai Mining ang pagmimina sa isla ng Sibuyan sa pinakamadaling panahon at huwag ng babalik maski kailan.

Hindi namin alam kung saan humugot ng apog upang ipakita ang labis na kasinungalingan ng mga opisyal ng Altai na nasa likod ng ad. Awtorisado ng DENR at ibang ahensya ng gobyerno ang Altai Mining upang magsagawa ng "exploration" ng nickel ore samples sa Sibuyan. Ngunit hindi awtorisado ang Altai Mining na magmina ng maraming nickel ores, o iyong trak-trak, upang iluwas sa Tsina.

Hindi exploration ang ginawa ng Altai Mining sa Sibuyan. Hindi ito paggalugad upang malaman ang uri ng nickel ores sa Sibuyan. Kung naiintindihan ng Altai Mining ang kanilang ginawa, hindi pag-sasaliksik ang pagputol ng maraming puno sa isla, ang pagbaligtad ng malaking lupain doon sa paanan ng Mt. Guiting Guiting upang kumin ang mineral ores, ang paglatag ng mga kalsada upang daanan ng mga trak na lulan ang mga mineral ores, at paggawa ng pantalan sa baybay dagat upang gamitin ng mga barko sa pagluluwas ng mga kinulimbat sa isla ng Sibuyan.

Kahit anong paliwanag ang gawin nila, walang nilalang na matino ang pag-iisip ang maniniwala sa kanilang mga kasinungalingan. Hindi totoong exploration ang ginawa ng Altai Mining sa isla. Hindi sila kumuha ng ilang tipak upang pag-aralan ang uri ng mineral ore sa isla. Nagmina sila ng todo at winasak ang kaligiran ng isla upang iluwas sa Tsina ang nickel ores. Maraming trak ng mineral ores ang kanilang ipinuslit upang dalhin sa Tsina at aabot sa halos P900 milyon ang halaga ng kanilang kinulimbat.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit nagpakamatay ang mga kasabwat ng Altai Mining sa kawalanghiyaan sa isla. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit tahimik sina Budoy Madrona, Otik Riano, at Nanette Tansingco sa pagwasak sa kaligiran ng isla. Kasama ang tatlong opisyal sa paggagaha sa Romblon. Bistado silang tatlo na gagawin ang lahat dahil sa korapsyon.

Hindi totoo iyong sinasabi na hindi pag-aari at kontrolado ng mga Gatchalian ang pagmimina ng Altai Mining sa Sibuyan. Hindi kami ipinanganak kahapon lang upang hindi namin malaman ang beneficial owner ng Altai Mining at Atlantic Dynamo na nagsilbing sub-contractor sa operasyon. Alam namin ang raket nila.

Walang katotohanan na hindi illegal mining operator ang Altai Mining. Bakit sinuspindi ng DENR ang kanilang operasyon dahil sa pagputol ng walang pahintulot ang mga puno sa Sibuyan? Bakit tinutulan ng Philippine Ports Authority ang pagtayo ng pantalan ng walang pahintulot sa baybay dagat? Hindi totoo na dati ng sira ang kaligiran at kabuhayan ng Sibuyan noong dumating sila. Ang totoo ay hindi kailangan ang Altai Mining sa Sibuyan.



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'Giant' cloud rats na higit 10 kilo ang bigat, naglungga sa kisame sa isang bahay

CUENCA, BATANGAS



TATLONG Southern Giant Slender-tailed cloud rats, na bawal patayin at hindi basta puwedeng hulihin ang "nasagip" ng ilang residente sa Cuenca,

Batangas makaraang maglungga ang mga ito sa kisame ng isang bahay.

Sa ulat, nahuli ang mga daga sa kisame ng isang bahay sa Barangay San Felipe.

Agad itong ipinagbigay alam ng mga residente sa Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) ng naturang bayan.

Ayon sa MENRO, adult

INCREDIBLE STORY BY: XENON B.

cloud rats ang dalawa sa mga nahuli, na aabot ang timbang sa 20-30 pounds, habang ang isa naman nasa 10-15 pounds.

Naibigay na ng MENRO ang mga nahuling kaikabang uri ng daga sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources Lipa CENRO.

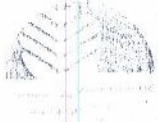
Nakatakda raw dalhin ang mga ito sa isang wildlife sanctuary sa Quezon Province.

"Since 'yung area dito sa atin sa Batangas medyo marami na nga ring tao, marami na nga rin naninihahan along dito sa Cuenca,

saka rito sa paanan ng Maculot. 'Yung tendency talaga nitong cloud rat ay bumaba para siyempre maghanap din ng pagkain for survival," ayon kay Jannzar Aala, environmental management specialist II ng MENRO Cuenca.

Pinaalalahanan naman ng tanggapan na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pag-aalaga, paghuli at pagpatay sa mga cloud rat.

Ang mga lalabag maaaring patawan ng parusa alinsunod sa itinakda ng RA 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.



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SEVERAL couples spend Valentine's Day at Dolomite Beach overlooking Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Manila. PHOTOGRAPH BY YUMMIE DINGDING FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribune_phl_gumi



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5,980 public buildings to undergo quake integrity assessment

By PAOLO ROMERO

About 5,980 public buildings across the country are slated to undergo assessment for their structural integrity against strong earthquakes by the Department of Public Works and High-

ways (DPWH), officials told a Senate hearing yesterday.

During the hearing of the committee on public works chaired by Sen. Bong Revilla, DPWH Undersecretary Maximo Carvajal said the figure

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includes 4,000 public schools, 351 health facilities, 1,180 public buildings and 402 local government edifices.

He said in 2018, some P210 million was allocated for the assessment and retrofitting of 36 buildings. The following year, some P767 million was released for the retrofitting of 23 buildings. In 2020, P1 billion was spent for the strengthening of 51 buildings, while P200 million was disbursed for the retrofitting of 13 buildings.

Part of the funding, Carvajal said, was sourced from the \$309-million Philippines Seismic Risk Reduction and Resilience Project of the World Bank.

Carvajal said the DPWH is currently

putting up a building in Pampanga to serve as a command center in the event of a destructive tremor hitting Metro Manila.

The committee conducted the hearing to check on the DPWH's efforts to enforce the compliance to the National Building Code.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III, Senators Francis Tolentino, Raffy Tulfo, Ronald dela Rosa and Revilla are pushing for amendments to the Building Code.

Revilla said the law is nearly 50 years old and may already be obsolete and unresponsive to the increasing strength of earthquakes.

The move to amend the law was supported by architect and urban planner Felino Palafox, Jr., who also lamented that

corruption is one reason for shoddy or unsafe public structures, where as much as 30 percent of the budget goes to bribes.

Tolentino, who used to chair the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), stressed that additional evacuation areas are needed as the population and infrastructure within the National Capital Region have multiplied in the past years and would possibly mean more casualties and damage if a strong earthquake rocks the nation's capital.

Based on the study conducted by MMDA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2004, many structures in the greater Manila Area would not be able to withstand the possible catastrophic destruction that can be brought by The Big One.