

06 May 2023 Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## *DENR, shipping lines partner for better disaster prevention*

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will partner with local shipping lines to prevent another oil spill.

Environment Secretary Antonia Lozaga said in a statement on Friday that she had met with shipowners last week to address the gaps to prevent oil spills in the country.

Lozaga said that the DENR, together with the shipowners, will form a technical working group that will draft policies with an emphasis on prevention.

"The first thing we need to do is change the way people think about disasters because right now people think about response," Lozaga said.

The DENR chief also mentioned that they will look into updating legislation.

"I have discussed with them the importance of identifying the gaps organizationally, functionally, legally, and policy- and practice-wise so that we can prevent another oil spill from happening again," she said.

The classification of ships and the number of permits issued for specific purposes were some of the inconsistencies that were identified in the discussion.

Lozaga said that the information would be useful in the continuing discussion with shipowners and concerned government agencies.

The DENR has highlighted the importance of a "whole-of-government" approach in oil spill response.

"When you say whole-of-government, it involves collaboration among the different departments and agencies of government with a view to providing the public a combined response to the disaster," DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

The MT Princess Empress tanker was carrying 800,000 liters of industrial oil when it sank off the coast of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro on Feb. 28, 2023, and caused an oil spill that affected the environment and livelihood of residents in the area.

The Philippine Coast Guard reported that as of May 4, the shoreline cleanup in Pola, the most affected by the oil spill, has reached 85.41 percent, and 74.82 percent in Naujan.

**JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL**





# DENR set to issue guidelines for

## OSW projects – Lotilla

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

COPENHAGEN – Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla told prospective global investors eyeing the Philippine offshore wind industry that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will soon be issuing the "regulatory framework" for the approval of environmental clearance for offshore wind (OSW) projects.

At the recently concluded Wind-Europe 2023 conference, he apprised investors that the DENR guidance for the pre-development stage for the targeted installations, "will identify the specific environmental clearances/permits and tenorial instrument needed in the development of OSW projects."

The energy chief added that the DENR framework "will provide GIS

(geographic information system) data of protected areas, key biodiversity areas, no build up zones and other relevant GIS information that may or may not have conflict with offshore wind development."

GIS is a system which is typically done digitally and it is used for capturing, storing, analyzing and presenting geospatial data – and these can aid prospective project developers in the planning and management of protected areas; as well as in identifying and prioritizing areas that shall be set for conservation.

Lotilla assured investors that the DOE is closely working with the DENR and other agencies to facilitate OSW projects.

The energy secretary indicated that the DENR "has been working on a regulatory framework for the envi-

ronmental clearance for OSW Projects, taking into account international sustainable development principles and good practices."

In a meeting with the Philippine delegation, Danish consulting firm Niras, which has been extending consultancy services to OSW developers in various parts of the world, emphasized that the environmental baseline investigations typically done for offshore wind projects include marine mammals, fish, fisheries and fish populations, benthic fauna and flora, birds, bats, underwater noise, radar and radio interference as well as maritime traffic.

As advised by global experts, one guaranteed way of ensuring that offshore wind farm projects are developed and operated in environmentally sustainable manner is to require the conduct of comprehensive environ-

mental impact assessment; and for the project-sponsors to incorporate mitigation strategies into the design as well as operation of the OSW installations.

Throughout the life cycle operation of offshore wind projects, one of the hot topics currently debated globally also is the disposal as well as proposed recycling of wind turbines and its components.

According to the State of Green in Denmark, at current phase, "it is only possible to recycle 85-percent of a wind turbine when ageing offshore wind farms are being decommissioned," hence, that is seen to be still impeding fully circular solution loop.

As specified "the blade is the central hurdle because dissolving the resin used to fuse the different elements of the blade together has not yet been possible."





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# Eco-workers for TWNP

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

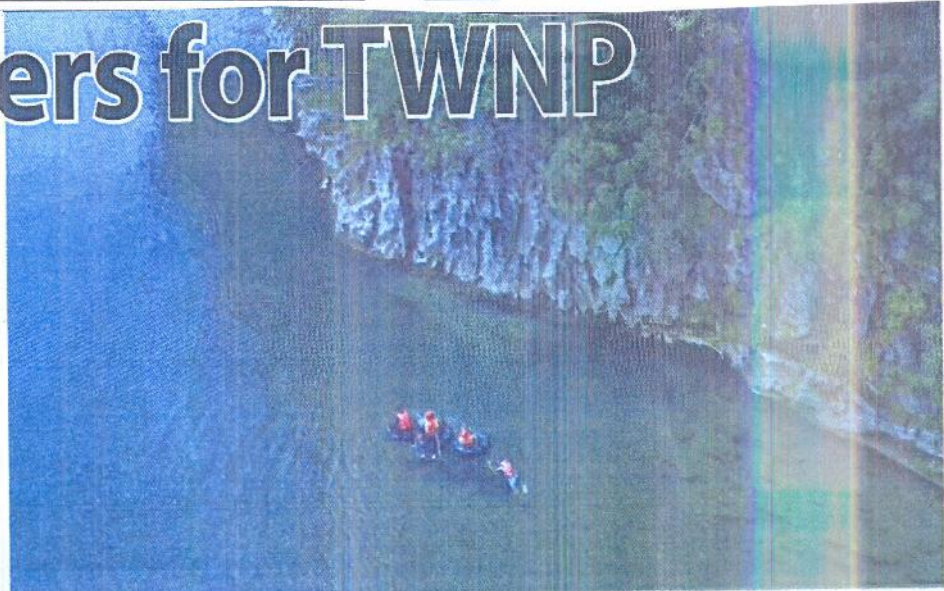
**T**O boost the ecotourism industry in Isabela province, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Tumauni Watershed Natural Park (TWNP) will be hiring ecotourism laborers after the park's work and financial plan for 2023 are approved.

Protected Area Superintendent Tito Mangantulao said the employment of ecotourism laborers is part of a program under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to provide socioeconomic benefits to communities through the ecotourism industry.

Among the personnel to be hired are ecotourism aides, park laborers, administrative aides and lifeguards. "These ecotourism aides will be of great help in assisting visitors

and maintaining cleanliness in the ecotourism sites within the TWNP," Mangantulao said.

DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan emphasized that engaging community partners in ecotourism livelihood can also help in the protection and conservation of the protected areas where they reside. Bamabalan, also the PAMB chairman, said the board has agreed to purchase a mobile vehicle and two motorcycles for forest patrolling and biodiversity



■ The Tumauni Watershed Natural Park in Tumauni town in Isabela province. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

monitoring activities at the protected areas.

Additional ecotourism amenities will be established this year

to include a welcome arch, garden landscape and standee, a photo booth and other facilities at the Calepkep trail "to promote the

protected area and encourage more visitors."

The board said a police checkpoint will also be established

within the park to ensure the safety of visitors and manage the entry and exit of vehicles in the area.





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## Gabay Kalikasan Park



METRO Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) recently broke ground on the Gabay Kalikasan Park, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), and the local government unit of Quezon City.

Gabay Kalikasan Park is envisioned to be an urban green park model as part of a three-year public-private partnership for urban biodiversity in the Philippines. The goal of the project is to contribute to the development of a biodiversity-

friendly city to increase access of urban dwellers to green spaces and maintain functional urban green spaces. "Gabay Kalikasan Park, aptly named after our advocacy on environment stewardship, is a testament to our group's commitment to become a catalyst for inclusive, safer, resilient, livable, and sustainable cities and communities," said MPIC chief finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla.

At the groundbreaking were from left: QC LGU's climate change and environmental sustainability department representative Carl Ignacio; DENR-NCR conservation and development

division chief Aida Esguerra; DENR-BMB caves, wetlands and other ecosystems division OIC chief Anson Tagtag; MPIC executive director and chief finance, sustainability and risk officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla; Barangay Mariana chairperson Regina Celeste San Miguel; Barangay Mariana councilor Ma. Conception Amorillo; DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caanan; MPIC vice president for investor relations Maricris Aldover-Ysmael; and QC LGU parks development and administration department OIC architect Baltazar Avelino.





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## Manila Water NRW now on par with developed nations

**M**ANILA Water Company, Inc., the private water concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for the East Zone, said the company's level of water losses, or non-revenue water (NRW), is now at par with water utilities in developed countries.

Last year, Manila Water averaged 12.69 percent NRW, one of the lowest in Asia.

Non-revenue water is defined as water that is not billed and is lost through leaks or illegal connections. This means that for every cubic meter of water produced, only around 0.12 cubic meters are lost, a stark difference from the 63 percent NRW inherited by the company in 1997.

The standard set by the World Bank is 25 percent or lower.

Furthermore, in a study conducted by the World Bank, the NRW is pegged at 15 percent for developed countries, such as Japan, Germany, England and Wales, and Singapore.

In a statement, Manila Water said that since 1997, the company has put a premium on reducing its water losses since it takes time to develop long-term water sources, which include the construction of infrastructure such as dams and large water mains.

Manila Water's approach at reducing NRW includes a multi-pronged approach that puts together a combination of proactive technical solutions, engineering, and social interventions.

Among the technical and engineering solutions adopted by the company are the reconfiguration of the network, accurate measurement of supply volumes, active leakage control and repairs, supply and pressure management, along with meter management programs, all using modern and innovative systems and equipment.

Manila Water has also strengthened its stakeholder relations with the communities to actively report leaks and illegal connections.

The water company remains vigorous

in rehabilitating aging primary lines and maintaining the integrity of its mainlines. Regular maintenance and rehabilitation cut the incidence of breakages in the water system. When breakages do occur, the company ensures work efficiency to fix the leak as fast as possible. In 2022, Manila Water repaired a total of 529 pipe bursts, all within 24 hours.

Manila Water has remained persistent in cracking down on illegal connections, not merely to further minimize NRW but also to protect the public's health. Illegal connections are prone to breakages that may lead to water contamination.

With its social flagship program called "Tubig para sa Barangay (TPSB)," Manila Water has partnered with marginalized communities to provide affordable and safe water connections. In 2022 alone, the program completed 29 projects with 826 new water connections, which are now providing clean and potable water to 1,222 low-income households. The TPSB program is now benefiting nearly 2 million residents from low-income communities after completing more than 750 TPSB projects.

Manila Water is also advocating the responsible and wise use of water to its customers year in and year out. The company utilizes information drives on social media and partners with government agencies, notably the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Water Resources Board, as well as private organizations, for various campaigns supporting this venture.

Because of the low NRW level, Manila Water was able to facilitate the installation of 33,309 new water service connections in the East Zone of Metro Manila and Rizal in 2022, compared to 21,680 the year prior. The more efficient water network enables more customers to have greater access to water supply through new and regular water service connections. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**





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Photo shows an irrigation canal in Barangay Sipat in Piaridel, Bulacan yesterday. The National Water Resources Board said the suspension of water allocation for irrigation this month is not related to the low water level in Angat Dam. MICHAEL VARCAS







## ISU, Japan dialogue on water management

THE Isabela State University's (ISU) participation in a series of dialogues set in Japan earlier this year will propel a new roster of water-related disaster mitigation efforts.

One of these dialogues was the three-part event comprising the 9th International Conference on Flood Management, the 2023 Annual Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) and the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (Satrep) program.

Gathering disaster risk reduction management practitioners from over 41 nations, these cross-border sessions discussed water resources management among river basin systems toward mitigating water-related hazards.

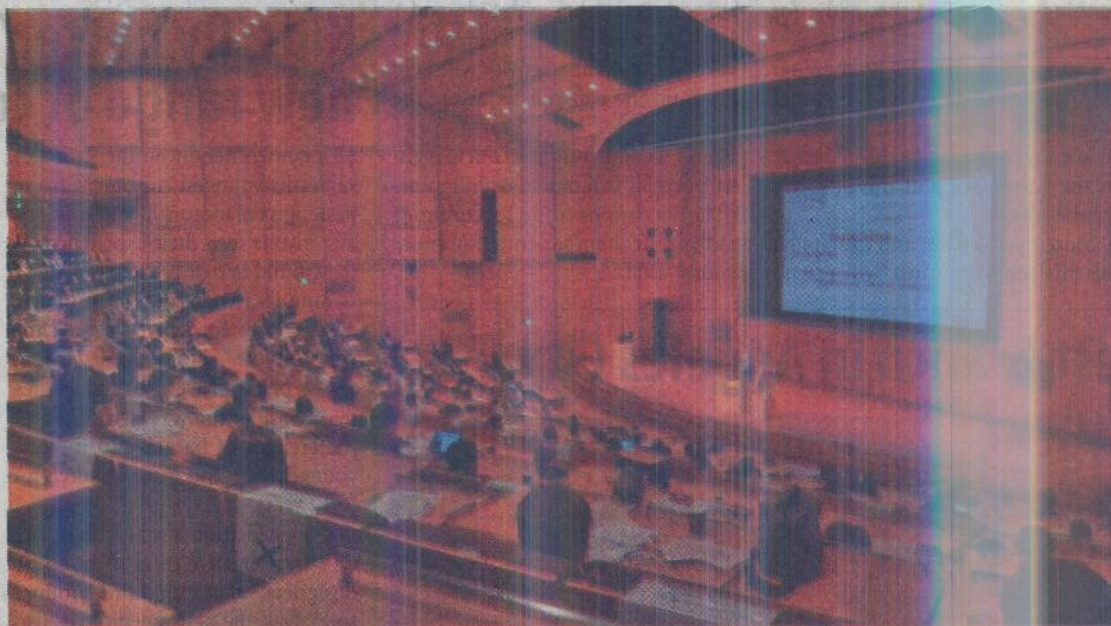
According to Orlando Balderama, ISU vice president for research, the university shared with the international community the ongoing efforts of the academe and its research results on integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach.

During the 9th International Conference in February, Balderama presented the case of the Cagayan River Basin on Integrated Flood and Sediment Management in River Basins for Sustainable Development.

### Project localization

From February 21 to 22, during the annual DPRI meeting, Lanie Alejandro, ISU Water Research and Development Center director, discussed her research topic "Integrated Water and Flood Management in the Cagayan River Basin."

Pioneering a niche in IWRM, ISU will be spearheading the localization of the projects in the country and will lead the Philip-



■ Isabela State University joins some 41 nations in a three-part event in Japan which will help draw the Philippines to new water-related disaster mitigation efforts. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pine academe to collaborate for water studies.

To study the adoption and implementation of Satrep from an earlier collaborative model of Japan with Algeria, ISU is forming a consortium with four other Philippine universities.

As Japan's way of addressing sustainable development goals, Satrep funds and supports international collaborations through the following Japanese government agencies: the Japan Science and Technology Agency, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Satrep is set to allocate funding support to ISU and the consortium to propel the implementation.

During a fellowship dinner for Satrep, ISU President Ricmar Aquino joined Mylene Garcia-Albano, Philippine ambassador to Japan, together with dignitaries from Kyoto University and Japan Water Agency.

Aquino said the university will

continue as the lead convenor of agencies with a focus on IWRM initiatives in the Philippines. He called this a new milestone in upscaling ISU's existing research results and operations.

### River basin management

ISU has worked with the National Economic Development Authority in the crafting of the Water Evaluation and Planning Model, describing it as "the only study in the Philippines with a focus on river basin management which is set to be adopted for the crafting of national policy on the said matter."

ISU has conducted an extensive study proposing the rehabilitation of the Cagayan River Basin using Japanese technologies and reservoir management protocols through the Japan Water Agency and Kyoto University.

The drafted proposal has been

submitted to the Provincial Government of Isabela and will be presented to the Philippine Legislature.

Aquino said this is part of the project series through ISU's participation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations sub-regional network of the academe on water resources management. These projects comprise the Integrated Flood and Sediment Management in River Basin for Sustainable Development and Integrated Flood and Water Resources Management in Asean Basins for Sustainable Development.

The only center in the Philippines that caters to the IWRM is the university's Smart Water Infrastructure Management Research and Development Center. Accredited by the Department of Science and Technology, the center is also the Cagayan Valley region's second Niche Center in the Regions for Research and Development.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## 85% of Pola shoreline cleaned of oil slick, says Coast Guard

Authorities are optimistic that the ongoing cleanup operations in areas affected by the massive oil slick in Oriental Mindoro will yield more positive results as 85.41 percent of the shoreline in the municipality of Pola has been cleared, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Friday, May 5.

Based on its Shoreline Cleanup Accomplishment Report dated Thursday, May 4, the PCG said that its Incident Management Team (IMT) in Oriental Mindoro has already covered 29.13 kilometers (85.41 percent) of total length cleaned from 11 oil spill-impacted barangays in Pola which is one of the heavily affected towns by the oil slick.

The cleanup percentage reflected an "acceptably clean" shoreline in Pola compared to the previous impact of the spill, the PCG said.

Meanwhile, four barangays

– Misong, Tiguihan, Zone 1, and Zone 2 – remain to be 100 percent "acceptably clean" in Pola.

In Naujan town, where motor tanker (MT) Princess Empress sank, the PCG said that some 5.3 kms of affected shoreline have been cleared for a 74.82 percent cleanup rate.

Commodore Geronimo Tuvilla, commander of IMT-Oriental Mindoro, thanked the joint workforce in the Oriental Mindoro cleanup for their "diligent efforts" in mitigating the impact of the incident to the maritime environment.

Among the workers involved in the cleanup are PCG marine science technicians and counterparts from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Harbor Start Shipping Services Inc., and volunteers. (Martin Sadongdong)





## Why climate alarmists switched brands from 'global warming' to 'climate change'

First word

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amid the noise about the climate, for both climate alarmists and climate skeptics to know precisely what they mean when they wave the terms in public, either in advocacy or opposition. >MakabentaA11

### MAKABENTA FROM A1

# Why climate alarmists switched brands from 'global warming' to 'climate change'

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and *National Geographic* magazine, global warming and climate change are not interchangeable. Scientifically, they mean different things.

In its article on climate change and global warming, Wikipedia instructively recounts the origins and evolution of the terminology. It says:

"Before the 1980s, when it was unclear whether the warming effect of increased greenhouse gases were stronger than the cooling effect of airborne particulates in air pollution, scientists used the term 'inadvertent climate modification' to refer to human impacts on the climate.

"In the 1980s, the terms *global warming* and *climate change* became more common. Though the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably, scientifically, global warming refers only to increased surface warming, while climate change describes the totality of changes to Earth's climate system.

"Global warming — used as early as 1975 — became the more popular term after NASA climate scientist James Hansen used it in his 1988 testimony in the US Senate. Since the 2000s, climate change has increased in usage. Climate change can also refer more broadly to both human-caused changes or natural changes throughout Earth's history.

invention of vocabulary can often be more effective than any social protest movement. Malarial swamps can become healthy "wetlands." Fetid "dumps" are often rebranded as green "landfills." And he used global warming as one major illustration of his argument. He wrote:

"Global warming was once a worry about too much heat. It implied that man-made carbon emissions had so warmed the planet that life as we knew it would soon be imperiled without radical changes in consumer lifestyles.

"Yet in the last 30 years, record cold spells, inordinate snow levels and devastating rains have been common. How to square that circle?

"Substitute 'climate change' for global warming. Presto! Any radical change in weather could be perceived as symptomatic of too much climate-changing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"Suddenly, blizzards, deluges and sub-zero temperatures meant that typically unpredictable weather was 'haywire' because of affluent Westernized lifestyles."

In the same essay, Hanson also recounted how the term and concept of "affirmative action" came to be replaced by the term and concept of "diversity" in contemporary culture. He wrote:

"Affirmative action originated as a means of making up for past prejudices against the

ally to distance itself from negative connotations of the previous branding, or to move the brand upmarket; they may also communicate a new message that a new board of directors wishes to communicate.

Rebranding can be applied to new products, mature products, or even products still in development. The process can occur through a change in marketing strategy or in various other situations such as Chapter 11 corporate restructuring, union busting or bankruptcy. Rebranding can also refer to a change in a company or corporate brand that may own several sub-brands for products or companies.

Rebranding became something of a fad at the turn of the millennium, with some companies rebranding several times. The rebranding of Philip Morris to Altria was done to help the company shed its negative image. Other rebrandings, such as the British Post Office's attempt to rebrand itself as Consignia, have proved such a failure that millions more had to be spent going back to square one.

In a study of 165 cases of rebranding, Muzellec and Lambkin (2006) found that whether a rebranding follows from corporate strategy (e.g., M&A) or constitutes the actual marketing strategy (change the corporate reputation), it aims at enhancing, regaining, transferring and/or recreating the corporate brand equity.





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# The Manila Times

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Various scientists, politicians and media now use the term climate crisis or climate emergency to talk about climate change, and global heating instead of global warming."

"During the turn of the century from the 20th to the 21st, alarmists joined by the media promoted an explicit shift from global warming to climate change in the burgeoning climate change movement.

"One reason for the change was a perceived need of a vocabulary in the face of a storm of criticism and skepticism that erupted in the media.

"The second reason was strategic. There was a definite desire to rebrand as a means to make global warming more popular with public opinion."

## Changing reality with words

Victor Davis Hanson, a historian and classics professor at the Hoover Institution in Stanford University, offered an intriguing explanation and case for the vocabulary change in his essay in *Investor's Business Daily* (Jan. 21, 2019) entitled "Changing reality with words."

Hanson's main thesis is that the re-

African American community, which comprised about 12 percent of the population.

"By the late 1960s, slavery, Jim Crow and institutionalized segregation were finally considered unique stains on the American past, to be redeemed in the present by set-aside programs in college admissions and hiring predicated on racial considerations.

"The problem with affirmative action is that the very name implies redress for historical wrongs that could be "affirmed" by compensatory action for a particular minority of the population. But lots of other groups wished to be included in an ever-expanding catalog of the oppressed."

## Rebranding

Rebranding is a popular term and concept from the world of business management and marketing. Companies and organizations resort to rebranding in order to enhance their public standing and acceptability to the public.

Often, this involves radical changes to a brand's logo, name, legal names, image, marketing strategy and advertising themes. Such changes typically aim to reposition the brand/company, occasion-

Much the same course has been followed by the climate alarmists in their program to promote radical change in public policy to address global warming and the environment.

When the global warming alarm was greeted by a charge of 'hot air' from no less than UK prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and "hoax" from US president Donald Trump, and "science fiction" in the US Congress, and "travesty" by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will, the movement had to look in the mirror.

The wave of criticism prompted the climate alarmist to undertake a review of the program and their public image. It was then that they decided to change brands from "global warming" to "climate change."

Has the switch been successful in selling climate alarmism to humanity?

The issue is open. Skeptics and deniers have persisted despite the rebranding.

The rebranding did not change the dogmas and the policy prescriptions of the climate movement.

Now they're talking about switching from climate change to climate emergency.

yenobserver@gmail.com





# Beyond the Bottom Line AboitizPower eco-warriors at work

**T**he surface of our tiny, blue dot in the vast universe is made up of about 70 percent water. Water is crucial for the sustenance of all living things on the planet, most obvious perhaps with that of marine life. While we humans are naturally surface-dwellers, modern day heroes scout the life aquatic by virtue of a profound purpose: the care and protection of our common home.

In celebration of Earth Day, employees of Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) in different parts of the country dedicated their time and the best of their abilities in making a better and cleaner Earth for all humans and animals.



AboitizPower employees and community members from La Trinidad, Benguet team up for the Balili River Clean-up.

## The Balili River Clean-up

In northern Luzon, AboitizPower renewable energy subsidiary Hedcor, Inc. acted on their environmental protection goals with the collection of almost 246 kilograms of waste in its Balili River Clean-up Drive last March 24, a joint project with the Municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet.

The Balili River became infamous when it was pronounced biologically dead in 2004 by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). According to accounts of local old-timers, the river used to be so pristine that fishes thrived in it abundantly. An indigenous people's mandatory representative from Barangay Balili even recalls washing her white school uniform in the river in the 1960s.

"The river used to be clean and unpolluted," a local shared. The state of the river gradually deteriorated

when establishments and settlers in La Trinidad grew exponentially.

This inspired the personnel of Hedcor to support the Balili River Clean-up.

"At Hedcor, we are taking concrete steps to further environmental sustainability for future generations," said Hedcor official Jay Kabamalan. "Hedcor recognizes that the health of the environment is vital to the well-being of local communities. As such, Hedcor aims to create a culture of environmental stewardship and encourage people to take responsibility for their surroundings."

Hedcor's efforts were conducted in partnership with the local Municipal Environment Natural Resources Office (MENRO) and the Benguet State University (BSU). Hedcor also supports Barangay Balili's local ordinance mandating its officials and residents to conduct a clean-up drive every first Saturday of the month. To date, Hedcor has collected over two million kilograms of waste, all of which were properly disposed.

## Scubasureros

The "scubasureros" of AboitizPower subsidiary Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI) conducted a coastal clean-up activity at the Bato Marine Sanctuary in Brgy. Bato, Toledo City in Cebu. The idea behind this environmental project came from TVI employees who are also scuba diving enthusiasts.

"Scubasurero is a portmanteau combining 'scuba diving' and 'basurero' or garbage collector," explained Therma South, Inc. (TSI) Reputation and Stakeholder Management Manager Lou Jason Deligencia. "We conducted this activity as part of our personal advocacy to help protect marine life."

The Bato Marine Sanctuary is a marine-protected area in the host community of TVI, and is home to various fish species, corals and marine creatures. With the increasing upsurge of marine pollution due to plastic and other non-biodegradable waste, the TVI scuba divers saw the need to support the Bato Marine Sanctuary and preserve the area's marine life through the reduction of solid waste on the sanctuary's sea bed.

The Scubasurero project is being managed in close coordination with the DENR - Tanon Strait Protected Seascape (TSPS), the Toledo City local government





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BEYOND THE BOTTOM LINE

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through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), as well as the Toledo City Agriculture Office, Bantay Dagat, and the Philippine Coast Guard. The TSPS is the biggest National Integrated Protected Areas System - Marine Protected Area (NIPAS-MPA) in the Philippines covering 534,589 hectares.

"Scuba divers and free divers from the local community, local fisherfolk and members of the Philippine Coast Guard continue to support us in this endeavor," said TVI Vice President and Facility Head Noel Cabahug, who also partook in the activity being a scuba diving enthusiast himself.

In total, 280 kilograms of garbage were collected which is composed of 167 kg of residual waste and 113 kg of biodegradable waste.

### Nursing endangered sea turtles back to health

Another AboitizPower subsidiary, Davao Light and Power Co., Inc. (Davao Light), along with Aboitiz Foundation Inc. and in partnership with the DENR Region XI, continues to support the conservation efforts for sea turtles at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park which is a pawikan rescue center facility.

Out of the seven sea turtle species in the world, three species of pawikan — the olive ridley, the green sea turtle, and the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle — are at the park. The park is a known nesting ground for the hawksbill turtle and has released over 7,000 hatchlings since 2015.

There are currently seven rescued pawikans under the care of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park. The latest addition is a female hawksbill sea turtle (scientific name *Eretmochelys imbricata*) that was turned over to the eight-hectare ecological preserve and biodiversity conservation site at Sitio Punta Dumalag, Matina Aplaya, Davao City. The turtle was found caught weakly floating in a fish trap by fisherfolk led by Kagawad Ronel P. Simo in the sea near Purok Libra, Sitio Tambangan, Lasang, Davao City.

In coordination with the DENR Region XI, the endangered reptiles are provided with veterinary care and are being observed at the facility until they are fully recovered and can be released back into the wild.

"Pawikans are known to return faithfully to the same beach where they were born or previously nested," said Davao Light President and Chief Operating



(Upper) A female hawksbill sea turtle rescued by local fisherfolks is brought to the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park to be nursed back to health. (Lower) Visitors to the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park see a rare and diverse ecosystem which includes a mangrove forest, marine turtle habitat and nesting area, and a fish sanctuary.

Officer Rodger S. Velasco. "With the sea turtles coming back and laying eggs through the years, the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park has successfully lived up to its objective of protecting and preserving the area and its flora and fauna, despite daily environmental threats such as pollution and soil erosion."

The pawikan protection efforts, along with coastal clean-up and tree planting activities conducted frequently at the park, are aligned with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) [14], which aims to conserve life below water.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), sea turtles help maintain the health of seagrass beds and coral reefs. The critically endangered hawksbill sea turtles live on coral reefs, eating the overgrown sponges that suffocate slow-growing corals, resulting in a healthy reef and also helping to prevent the overpopulation of jellyfishes in the ocean.

The care and protection of the planet, our common home, is a joint human responsibility. Working together and taking responsibility is vital in ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for ourselves, the generations to come, and the animal kingdom.

"This year's Earth Day theme, 'Investing in our future,' highlights the importance of dedicating our time, resources, and energy to the care of our environment," said AboitizPower President and CEO Emmanuel Rubio. "We are happy that we are afforded with opportunities to help and contribute in leaving a positive impact to its protection."







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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
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Tel.#: 8931-1331 local | CPD:1110-1113 | EMED:1118-1124 | FAD:1103-1107 | ORD:1114-1117

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) REPORT of the proposed **SUNTRUST ASCENTIA** project, a mixed-use high-rise building of **SUNTRUST PROPERTIES, INC.** to be located in New Panaderos St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **SUNTRUST ASCENTIA PROJECT** to attend the **PUBLIC HEARING** on:

Date	Time	Venue
19 MAY 2023 (Friday)	10:00 AM	Jollibee-Sta. Ana 2422 Pedro Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS Report of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

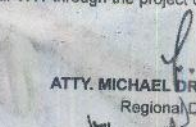
The following are the project details:

Project Name	<b>SUNTRUST ASCENTIA</b>
Project Location	New Panaderos St., Brgy. 885, Sta. Ana, Manila
Project Size (Gross Floor Area)	89,451.95 square meters
Project Rationale	The project will provide reasonable commercial, residential, condominium units and amenities to interested buyers. It will also offer an alternative place for people who work within San Juan, Makati, Manila, travelers, tourist, overseas contract workers, among other due to its proximity to the business centers, tourist area among others.
Project Components	37-Storey Building including basement, roof deck, podium & towers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Basement</li> <li>■ Eight (8) Storey Podium</li> <li>■ Three (3) 28-Storey Towers</li> </ul>
Proponent	<b>SUNTRUST PROPERTIES, INC.</b>

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation or give their opinion(s) in concise position paper to the EIA Section of this Office through mail or through email at [cpd.eia.embnrc@gmail.com](mailto:cpd.eia.embnrc@gmail.com) at least three (3) days before the Public Hearing Schedule. Those who will not able to register or submit their written positions may be given opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The Project's EIS Report and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [nrc.emb.gov.ph](http://nrc.emb.gov.ph). (Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing link found in our website).

For more details, please contact the EIA Section of Clearance and Permitting Division of this Office at telephone number 8931-1331 local 1111 through the project casehandler Ms. Riza C. Arjona.

  
**ATTY. MICHAEL DRAKE P. MATIAS**  
Regional Director