

12 May 2023 Friday



**DENR**

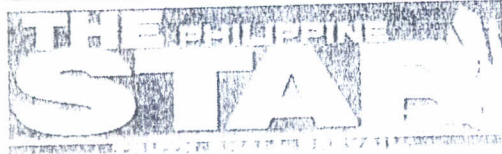
# **NEWS ALERTS**

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## Aid to oil spill victims reaches P1 B

Nearly P1 billion in cash and other assistance have been provided to 40,733 families affected by the oil spill from the sunken tanker *Princess Empress*.

Raffy Alejandro, spokesperson for the Office of Civil Defense, said various government agencies are helping address the problem through a whole-of-nation approach.

The actions taken by concerned government agencies were discussed during a meeting of the National Task Force on Oil Spill Management at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development reported that it has provided P430.9 million in assistance with the distribution of family food packs and non-food items as well as cash aid under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations program, emergency cash transfer and cash-for-work.

The Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR) said early recovery assistance worth P517 million was distributed to 96,256 beneficiaries in Mimaropa, Calabarzon and Western Visayas.

The DENR is conducting water quality monitoring and waste management activities in the affected shorelines.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said 84.26 percent of the affected coastlines have been "acceptably" cleaned as of Wednesday.

The PCG said joint shoreline surveys and activities with the DENR and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources as well as collaboration with contracted oil waste collectors and international agencies for oil spill containment and recovery operations are ongoing.

The Department of Health has been conducting surveillance of drinking water resources. It is also monitoring individuals exposed to chemicals.

- Michael Punongbayan



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## 84% of coastline affected by massive oil slick cleaned up

By AARON RECUENCO

Authorities have cleaned up 84.26 percent of coastline affected by the oil slick in the past two months, with the national government now focusing on programs and strategies to address the impact of the tragedy.

In a statement, the National Task Force on Oil Spill Management said one of the strategies being pursued is to assist all the affected families, particularly fishing communities in Oriental Mindoro and nearby areas.

Initially, it reported that a total of ₱430-million worth of assistance have already been downloaded through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) via the distribution of family food packs and non-food items, as well as other programs that include Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS), Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT), and Cash for Work (CFW).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), on the other hand, reported that a total of ₱517-million worth of early recovery assistance

was distributed to 96,256 beneficiaries in Regions 4-A (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon area), 4-B (Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan area), and Region 6 or Western Visayas.

As of May 11, the National Task Force on Oil Spill Management said the oil slick has affected a total of 40,733 families in the three regions.

The oil slick started when an oil tanker loaded with more than 800,000 liters of industrial oil sank off the waters of Naujan town in Oriental Mindoro on Feb. 28.

### Cleared

The task force also revealed that 15.74 percent of coastline affected by the oil slick have yet to be cleaned by the Philippine Coast Guard.

"The Philippine Coast Guard reported that as of May 10, the estimated total length of coastline 'acceptably' cleaned is now at 84.26 percent with the remaining length of affected coastline at 15.74 percent," the task force said.



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EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

# PH TO INCENTIVIZE FIRMS WILLING TO SIGN UP FOR WAR VS PLASTICS

**By Jordeene B. Lagare**  
[@jordeenelagare](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is crafting a scheme to incentivize large-scale companies that are able to recover their plastic footprint.

"We'll target it (the promulgation) probably within or after one year because everything is still being set up," Environment Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta-Teh told the Inquirer. She was referring to the incentive plan in support of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law.

She said the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue were helping the DENR flesh out the details of a planned circular.

"Under the EPR law, they will have to submit a report on the certain number of waste

diverted or retrieved," she said, adding:

"There's an existing system in terms of how to accredit their incentive but how do you measure is something that we have to settle with the DOF."

### Biggest challenges

In January this year, the DENR promulgated the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 11898 or the EPR Act. The law requires large-scale companies to manage their plastic packaging waste throughout the life cycle of the product.

In a separate media briefing, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga pointed out that education and behavioral change were the biggest challenges to enforcing the law.

"The biggest challenge is education and changing the behaviors of people. At the end

of the day, that's what will determine the success of the EPR law and it's not solely on the large producers," Loyzaga said.

The DENR chief said it was necessary to shape the behavior of the public as early as childhood "because that's where in fact the biggest influence can actually be made."

Teh said the DENR was partnering with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education to educate the public about the law.

"A one-time, big-time information and education campaign is no longer effective. It's supposed to be more strategic and incorporated into the curriculum of the students," she added.

A 2021 Science Advances study showed the Philippines was the single, largest contributor to ocean plastic waste at 356,371 tonnes. [INQ](#)



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## Biggest beach clean-up in Anilao for Saving Our Seas campaign

THE Philippines is now taking more steps to achieve cleaner and livelier seas as canned tuna brand Century Tuna kicked off its Saving Our Seas campaign, becoming the biggest beach clean-up in the history of Mabini, Batangas. In partnership with the impact organization HOPE, and Aling



SOS Volunteers picking up waste from the reef of Anilao, Batangas

Tindera's Waste-to-Cash program which encourages the public to become responsible in plastic waste management, the brand aims to continue their Saving Our Seas program not just this year but in the years to come.

Being in the canned tuna industry for more than 40 years, Century Tuna wants to continue to provide nourishment to Filipinos. In order to do that, the brand aims to fish sustainably by removing anything that makes the seas unhealthy.

"We should see it as a historic moment because Century Tuna has moved forward in terms of taking an initiative on sustainability, by putting together the right elements that will make it sustainable. I think it's a start, and given the response it's inspiring to continue this campaign," said Century Pacific Food Inc. EVP and COO Greg Banzon.

The commencement of the campaign which started in Anilao, Batangas, saw a successful turnout, as the first day of the shore and reef clean-up gathered a total of 156 trash bags with 805.4 kilograms of trash collected by a total of 212 clean-up volunteers, joined by Century Tuna Ambassador Alden Richards and the Century Tuna Superbods. This makes the event the biggest beach clean-up ever in Mabini, Batangas.

Carlo Endaya, Century Pacific Food vice president and general manager for Branded Tuna Business, emphasized that

even if the clean-up started in Anilao, the program will happen nationwide.

"We still want everybody in the Philippines to join even if they're not at the beach, because plastic pollution prevention starts in our home. Our usage of plastic has to make its way into the right material and recovering facility, and the Aling Tindera sites are also nationwide. That's what we want to communicate to people," said Endaya.

More than just a clean-up activity, Century Tuna aims to inspire Filipinos through the Saving Our Seas campaign to take part in lessening the plastic pollution in the seas, and take action to clear away existing plastic waste.

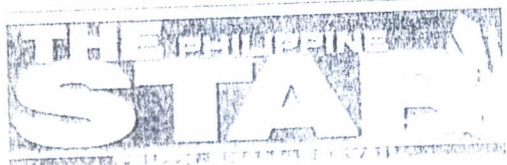
With the help of the public in joining the advocacy, the brand's goal is to collect 10 metric tons of plastic away from the seas this year.

Prior to the campaign, Century Tuna has been plastic-neutral in their operations for three years now. The brand recognizes Aling Tindera and HOPE Foundation as the game changers in completing the plastic circular economy, as they allow communities to earn money from collecting plastic, and makes sure that the plastic collected goes to the right facilities to be properly recycled or disposed of.

More information is available at [www.centurytuna.ph/SavingOurSeas/](http://www.centurytuna.ph/SavingOurSeas/)



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# Angat, 5 other dams' water level down

By BELLA CARIASO

The water levels in Angat and five other dams in the country continue to drop despite rains experienced in many parts of the country, according to latest data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, the water level of Angat Dam decreased to 193.30 meters or 0.25 meters less compared to its previous level of 193.55 meters on Wednesday morning. Metro Manila and other areas had rains on Wednesday brought by localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA said the current level of Angat Dam is still 7.89 meters away from its rule curve level (the level needed for the dam to fulfill its functions) of 185.41 meters. Angat supplies more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's potable water needs and provides for

the irrigation needs of 25,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga provinces.

The water levels of La Mesa Dam in Quezon City also dropped to 76.82 meters from its previous level of 76.83 meters or 0.01 meters less; San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, 231.58 meters from the previous 231.75 meters or 0.17 meters less; Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija, 181.14 meters from the previous 181.26 meters or reduction of 0.12 meters; Magat Dam in Isabela, 178.13 meters compared to 178.20 meters or 0.07 meters less; and Caliraya Dam in Laguna, 286.45 meters compared to 286.58 meters or a reduction of 0.13 meters.

Meanwhile, the highest heat index on Wednesday was recorded in Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas; Catarman, Northern Samar; and Guiuan, Eastern Samar - each registering at 45 degrees Celsius; Dagupan City and Roxas City in Capiz followed with 44 degrees Celsius.