

02 March 2023, Thursday



DENR

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DENR monitors oil spill from sunken tanker

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is monitoring a possible oil spill after an oil tanker sank off the coast of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro on Tuesday.

The DENR directed its regional personnel to inspect the site.

"Access to the area was limited due to the bad weather. Observation of the impact has been limited to aerial survey," the DENR said.

The department is coordinating with the Naujan municipal government and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to address the threat of oil spill in the area.

The oil tanker, *MT Princess Empress*, encountered engine problem and drifted toward the waters off Naujan due to rough seas.

The Maritime Industry Authority said it would investigate the cause of the sinking of the oil tanker.

The PCG also created a crisis management committee to probe the mishap.

Meanwhile, the PCG rescued nearly 150 passengers and crewmembers of a passenger vessel and a motorized boat in the waters off Bohol and Basilan on Tuesday.

The PCG said it deployed its *BRP Malamawi* before 10 p.m. on Tuesday after receiving a report that *MV Starlite Saturn* ran aground in the waters off Danajon Bank in Talibani town.

The PCG said the vessel, which was bound for Cebu City, was loaded with 12 rolling cargoes and had 86 passengers, 55 crewmembers and two PCG sea marshals when it encountered an engine problem.

In Basilan, six passengers of a motorized boat were rescued off the coast of Pandak Island in Hadji Muhtamad.

The PCG said the boat, which departed from Jolo, sank after its hull was damaged due to big waves.

- Robertzon Ramirez, Evelyn Macairan, Roel Pareño



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AND
INITIATIVES
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PHILIPPINE DAILY

INQUIRER



08-02-23

DATE

Hasten spill cleanup, groups urge gov't

Environment advocates say oil slick from sunken tanker off Oriental Mindoro puts at risk livelihood of fishers, tourism workers relying on Verde Island Passage

By Jane Bautista,
Frances Mangosing
and Madonna T. Virola
@Team_Inquirer

Environmental groups urged the government to act swiftly to contain the oil spill caused by the tanker that sank in the waters off Oriental Mindoro province on Tuesday, saying this could harm the livelihood of coastal communities in the area.

According to the Protect Verde Island Passage (VIP) campaign network, more than 2 million Filipinos, which include fisherfolk and tourism workers, depend on the biodiversity and resources from this strait that separates mainland Luzon and Mindoro Island.

"We are calling on the government to expedite cleanup operations to minimize the damage and allow the people who depend on the riches of the sea to resume their normal activities," Fr. Edwin Gariguez, convener of Protect VIP, said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has "confirmed the presence and possible source" of the oil spill from the capsized oil tanker MT Princess Empress, which was carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel oil, off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

The oil slick, which was described by the PCG as "black and thick with strong odor" based on water samples, was seen in the waters 13.7 kilometers (7.4 nautical miles) southwest off Balingawan Point in Naujan around 3 p.m. on Wednesday.



SLICK The Philippine Coast Guard has confirmed the presence and possible source of oil spill in waters 13.7 kilometers (7.4 nautical miles) southwest off Balingawan Point in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro on Wednesday, a day after a fuel tanker on its way to Iloilo capsized. —PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

The tugboat Titan has started spraying oil dispersants in the area, the PCG said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the PCG said the spill spanned 6 km long and 4 km wide. It was being assessed if the industrial fuel oil it was ferrying was already included in the spilled oil.

The tanker's shipping company, RDC Reield Marine Services Inc., has contracted Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp. to assess the level of oil spillage, the PCG said.

The MT Princess Empress, which was on its way to Iloilo province from Limay, Bataan, when its engines encountered trouble due to overheating early Tuesday. It drifted toward Balingawan Point in rough seas until it capsized. The PCG described the vessel's condition on Tuesday as "half-submerged" but said the

vessel sank on Wednesday.

All the 20 crew members onboard were earlier rescued by a passing foreign cargo vessel.

'Potent' poison

Gariguez, a religious leader and long-time environmental justice advocate, said the industrial oil was a "potent" poison to the flora and fauna of the passage and could negatively affect food security.

The oil spill could also result in turbid waters that would make it difficult for seagrasses and coral to grow and reduced growth of fish or fish kills that could cause lesser fish stocks.

"The oil spill exacerbates the existing issues faced by our fisherfolk, who are among the poorest sector in the country," Gariguez said.

Naujan Mayor Henry Joel

Teves, in a text message to the Inquirer on Wednesday, said: "We continue to coordinate with concerned agencies regarding the maritime incident, like the Coast Guard, so we can undertake the necessary action."

Teves feared that the oil spill would reach their fish sanctuary, a marine protected area, covering the villages of Hererra, Masaguing and Montemayor. He said the livelihood of fishing families in coastal villages in Naujan was also at risk.

Like Guimaras

Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, also warned about the impact of oil spills, citing the Guimaras oil spill in 2006 that leaked 500,000 liters of oil from the Guimaras Strait up to the Iloilo Strait.

"The Guimaras Strait incident way back in 2006 was a portrait of how gruesome oil spills can be. The recovery was long and arduous where mangroves only began to show signs of recovery in 2019—13 years after the incident," Arances said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it instructed its regional personnel to go to the site upon being notified of the incident on Wednesday afternoon.

"We are monitoring the site in relation to the potential marine biodiversity impacts and the possible risk to lives and livelihoods in the area due to the direction of the current and distance from the shoreline which may be affected," the agency said in a statement. **INQ**



Agencies scramble to contain possible oil spill off Mindoro

BY JED MACAPAGAL
and VICTOR REYES

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Energy (DOE) yesterday scrambled to contain a possible oil spill after a tanker carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel oil sank off Oriental Mindoro last Tuesday.

The Philippine Coast Guard initially reported that the vessel, MT Princess Empress, was half-submerged after encountering engine trouble but later said it eventually sank off Naujan, a first-class municipality in Oriental Mindoro, raising the possibility of a massive oil spill.

"The Philippine Coast Guard response team confirmed that from being half-submerged, MT Princess eventually sank in the said area (later on Tuesday)," PCG

spokesman Rear Adm. Armand Balilo said, adding contingency measures are in place in case industrial fuel oil spills into the ocean.

"What we can do for the meantime is to wait for the oil spill, talk to the shipping company and discuss possible salvage operations," Balilo said, referring to the DC Reield Marines Services, the owner of the vessel.

The DENR is coordinating with the local government of Naujan and the PCG in monitoring the potential impact to marine biodiversity and the possible risk to lives and livelihoods in the area.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lortilla called on local oil companies to extend assistance to the PCG in trying to avert what could be an "environmental catastrophe," similar to the Guimaras incident in

See AGENCIES ► Page B3



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

AGENCIES

2006 when the oil tanker MT Solar 1, carrying more than two million liters of bunker fuel, sank during a violent storm, causing some 500,000 liters of oil to spill into the Guimaras and Iloilo Straits.

"Preliminary reports gathered stated that the vessel encountered engine trouble and drifted towards the vicinity waters of Naujan due to rough seas. It then became half-submerged. Access to the area was limited due to the bad weather. Observation of the impact has been limited to aerial survey," the DENR said, in a statement.

In the face of an impending disaster, Protect VIP, a coalition that seeks to protect the Verde Island Passage (VIP), called on the government to urgently act, saying the crippled vessel is in one of the five provinces surrounding the fragile marine corridor of VIP.

"Industrial oil is a very potent poison to the flora and fauna of the Verde Island Passage and will negatively impact food security specifically in the fisheries sector. This oil spill exposes the rich bounty of VIP — fishes may experience reduced growth and the turbid waters will make it harder for seagrasses and coral to grow. We are calling on the government to expedite clean-up operations to minimize the damage and allow the people who depend on the riches of the sea to resume their normal activities," said Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Protect VIP convener, in a statement.

Protect VIP said that more than two million Filipinos, including fisherfolk and those in the tourism industry, depend on the biodiversity and resources from VIP, which has been called the center of the shore fish biodiversity.

Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, also cautioned against the lasting impacts of oil spills.

"The Guimaras Strait incident way back in 2006 was a portrait of how gruesome oil spills can be.

The recovery was long and arduous where mangroves only began to show signs of recovery in 2019 — 13 years after the incident. This should have been a warning sign to the government that relying on fossil fuels like oil poses massive damage to the environment but it seems like they still haven't learned a lesson," Arances warned.

Greenpeace Philippines said somebody should be held accountable.

"Fossil fuels destroy biodiversity and human lives. When incidents like oil spills happen, companies are allowed to just move on, while fisherfolk and coastal communities bear the brunt of the consequences," said Jefferson Chua, Greenpeace campaigner, in a statement.

PCG REPORT

The PCG confirmed that diesel fuel from the sunken vessel has spilled into the ocean but added it is still assessing if the industrial fuel cargo of the vessel has also spilled. The area covered by the diesel fuel spill was about six kilometers long and four kilometers wide as of yesterday morning.

Balilo said efforts are underway for the "mechanical recovery" of the diesel fuel, adding authorities have started spraying oil dispersants in the area.

Balilo implied that diesel fuel is not much of a concern, noting it dissipates if exposed to the heat of the sun and hit by waves.

"What we're preparing for is the possible spillage of the industrial fuel oil. The Philippine Coast Guard has already prepared for it. We already have a ship there and another one from Batangas will also proceed to the area," said Balilo.

"We've already coordinated with the owner, the stakeholders, to help in case there will be spillage of the (industrial fuel) oil," he added.

He said industrial fuel oil takes time to dissipate if not recovered or treated with dispersants.

Balilo said the PCG's commander on the ground has coordinated

with the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro to discuss actions to be taken in case the industrial fuel oil spills into the ocean.

"The assurance given by Admiral (Artemio) Abu, the commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, is that all our available resources, when it comes to oil spill response, are ready. We are taking action to prevent an environmental catastrophe," he said, adding the PCG was still conducting an assessment

as of yesterday afternoon.

"The Philippine Coast Guard has confirmed the presence and possible source of the oil spill (black and thick with strong odor) at the vicinity waters 7.4 nautical miles southwest off Balingawan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, at around 3 p.m. today," said Balilo.

Asked if this means industrial fuel oil has spilled into the ocean, Balilo said: "We still don't know."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Tanker sinks, spills oil off Oriental Mindoro

BY RAFFY AYENG
@tribunephil_raf

A tanker carrying 80,000 liters of industrial fuel oil sank Wednesday off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, causing a six-kilometer-long and four-kilometer-wide oil spill.

The *m/t Princess Empress* stalled due to engine trouble and pushed towards the vicinity of Naujan by the rough seas, according to authorities. It then became half-submerged before totally sinking.

The tanker's 20 crew members were saved by a foreign vessel, *m/v EFES*, are now safe.

The Marine Environmental Protection Unit of the Philippine Coast Guard Station in Oriental Mindoro and *m/tug Titan* have jointly kicked off an oil spill response operation.

Also, the PCG has formed a crisis management committee that will initiate a thorough investigation of the said incident.

If found liable, the operator of the *m/t Princess Empress*, identified as RDC Reield Marine Services Inc.,

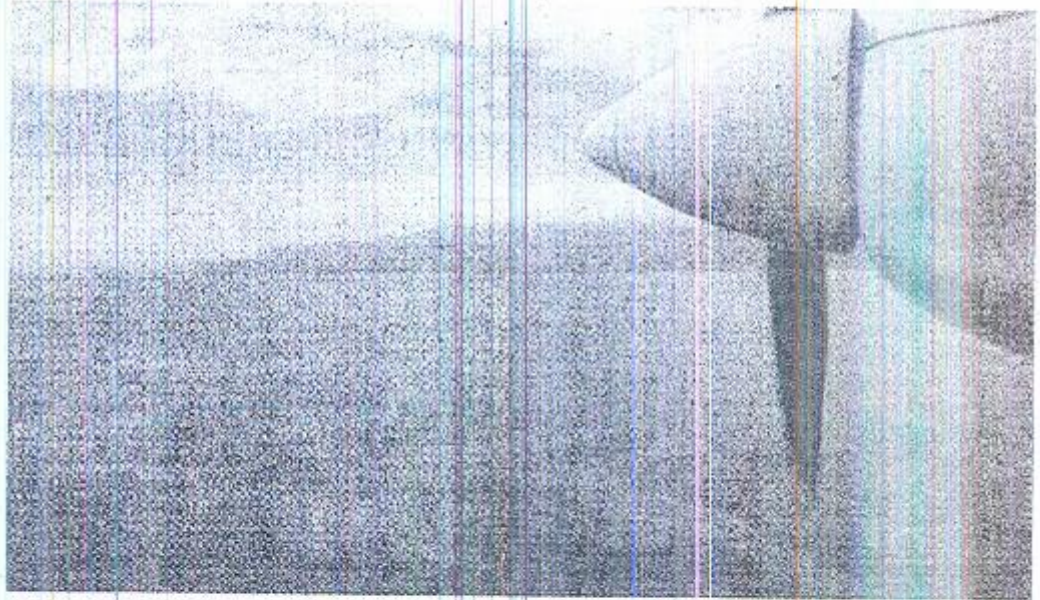


PHOTO COURTESY OF PCG

THE oil spill in Naujan waters as seen from a coast guard plane on Wednesday, 1 March 2023.

will be facing charges of violating the Oil Pollution Compensation Act of 2007.

Based on the 1 March report from the Philippine Coast Guard vessel *BRP Melchora Aquino*, the oil spill

was evident in the Balingawan Point in the Municipality of Naujan as of 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday said

it is coordinating with the local government of Naujan and the PCG to determine the impact of the oil spill on marine life and affected coastal community.

WITH JING VILLAMENTE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessWorld™

B/S/P
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03-02-23

TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE

Malinao Updates



A PHILIPPINE Coast Guard aerial surveillance shows the oil spill off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

miles southwest off Balingawan Point in Naujan, and water samples were being collected for assessment and planning for further response operations.

The PCG said the shipping company that owns the *MT Princess Empress*, which already completely sank Wednesday, has already contracted a towage service provider that also has oil spill response equipment.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), meanwhile, said it has coordinated with the local government of Naujan and the Coast Guard.

"We are monitoring the site in relation to the potential marine biodiversity impacts and the possible risk to lives and livelihoods in the area due to the direction of the current and distance from the shoreline which may be affected,"

the DENR said in a statement late Tuesday. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

BFAR raises red tide alert in six areas

THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on Wednesday cautioned the public from consuming all kinds of shellfish and small shrimps locally known as *alamang* from six areas that tested positive for toxic red tide.

BFAR Chief Information Officer Nazario C. Briguera said the areas affected by paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) are: Masbate, San Pedro Bay in Samar, Dauis and Tagbilaran in Bohol, Lianga Bay in Sanga del Sur, and Dumanquilas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur.

"To the mentioned areas, our message, do not harvest, do not sell, do not buy, and do not eat all kinds of shellfish, including *alamang*," said Mr. Briguera in Filipino during a Laging Handa briefing. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

FULL ROUNDUP

Read the full story by clicking the link
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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

**PEOPLES
JOURNALS**
Everybody's Newspaper

13
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03-02-23

FILE :

PAGE

DATE

DENR monitors sinking fuel tanker in Mindoro

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday said it is closely monitoring a fuel tanker that is partially sunk off the coast of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro for possible oil spill that may affect marine biodiversity and possible risk to lives and livelihoods in the area.

After being notified of the maritime incident, the DENR immediately instructed its regional office to access to the site.

Reports said that MT Princess Princess Empress experienced engine trouble and drifted towards the vicinity waters of Naujan due to rough seas until it became half-submerged.

The Philippine Coast Guard said Princess Empress was carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel oil from Bataan province heading Iloilo when its engine overheated.

The DENR said it is con-

tinuously coordinating with the government of Naujan and the PCG to implement necessary actions.

"We are monitoring the site in relation to the potential marine biodiversity impacts and the possible risk to lives and livelihoods in the area due to the direction of the current and distance from the shoreline which may be affected," it said.

"As of this time, the vessel is positioned on the east-

ern side of Mindoro Island at an estimated distance of eight to 12 nautical miles. Wind direction is northwards," the DENR added.

The Department said access to the area was limited due to bad weather. Observation of the impact was limited to aerial survey only.

Meanwhile, the PCG said the 20 crew members on board have been rescued and are in good physical condition.

Joel dela Torre



Oil spill sa karagatan ng Or. Mindoro, binabantayan ng PCG

**NI ZAIDA
DELOS REYES**

BINABANTAYAN ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang kalagayan ng oil spill mula sa motor tanker na may kargang 800,000 litro ng industrial fuel na lumubog sa katubigan ng Naujan, Oriental Mindoro nitong Martes.

Sa pinakahuling ulat ng BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) nitong Miyerkules, na-monitor ang humigit-kumulang anim na kilometrong haba at apat na kilometrong lawak ng oil spillage sa katubigan ng Balingawan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Kinumpirma din ng PCG response team na mula sa pagiging "half-submerged" ay tuluyan nang lumubog ang MT Princess Empress sa naturang katubigan.

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy ng binabantayan ng

BRP Melchora Aquino, katuwang ang Coast Guard Station Oriental Mindoro, Marine Environmental Protection Unit (MEPU)-Southern Tagalog, at M/TUG TITAN, ang pinangyarihan ng insidente para makibahagi sa isinasagawang oil spill assessment at response operation.

Kaugnay nito, pinalipad din ang Coast Guard Aviation Force para mag-sagawa ng karagdagang aerial surveillance.

Ayon kay PCG spokesperson Rear Admiral Armand Balilo, ang BRP Melchora Aquino ang naatasan na mag-monitor sa sitwasyon.

"Yung ating BRP Melchora Aquino ay na-kaantabay at may mga dalang oil spill boom at nakahanda po. May instruction si [PCG commandant] Admiral [Artemio] Abu na i-monitor at gawin yung tamang oil spill procedure para sakaling

magkaroon ng tagas ay nakahanda po tayo," pahayag ni Balilo.

Isa pang barko mula sa PCG naval station sa Batangas ang idineploy sa area upang tumulong.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni Balilo na wala namang pangamb sa marine ecosystem ang diesel fuel.

Sa ngayon aniya ay hindi pa mabatid ang eksaktong lokasyon ng lumubog na tanker.

Sa sandaling masiguro umano ang lokasyon ng tanker ay isusunod agad ang salvage operation na isasagawa ng may-aring barko sa tulong narin ng PCG at iba pang stakeholders.

Ayon sa ulat, nailigtas ng mga nagdaraang foreign vessels ang 20 pasahero ng MT Princess Empress bago ito tuluyang lumubog.

Pinayuhan na rin ng mga awtoridad ang mga residente na huwag mungang lumapit sa pinangyarihan ng insidente.

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03-02-23

Oil spill sa Oriental Mindoro, bubusisiin ng DENR

Niina **ANGIE DELA CRUZ** at **DANILO GARCIA**

Nagtungo na ang mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lugar kung saan nangyari ang sinasabing malawakang oil spill sa Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Ito ay makaraang tuluyan nang lumubog kagapon ang motor tanker na MT Princess Empress na may kargang 800,000 litro ng industrial fuel sa karegatang sakop ng Balingawan Point, Naujan sa nasabing lalawigan.

Minomonitor ng ahonsya ang insidente upang makita ang posibleng pinsala nito sa marine biodiversity at ang epakto ng lumagas na langis sa kabuhayan ng mga residente malapit sa baybayin ng Naujan.

Aminado ang DENR na pahirapang makarating sa site dahil sa masamang legay ng panahon doon. Sa ngayon ay limitado lang sa aerial survey ang paglapit sa site.

Sa pinakahuling ulat ng BRP Melchora Aquino na nagmo-monitor sa insidente, lumubog ang MT Princess Empress sa katubigan sa Balingawan Point, Naujan sanhi ng oil spill sa dagat na may haba nang 6-kilometro at lawak na 4-kilometro. Ito ay sa kabila ng paglalagay ng may-ari ng MT Princess Empress ng oil spill boom sa dagat nitong nakaraang Martes.

Matatandaan na nagkaroon ng problema sa makina ang oil tanker at lumubog ang kalahating bahagi nito nitong Pebrero 28. Naiklas naman ang 20 crew nito habang agad na nagpadala ng barge ang may-ari ng tanker at oil spill boom para makontrol ang pagtagas ng langis sa dagat.

Katuwang ang Coast Guard Oriental Mindoro, Marine Environmental Protection Unit (MEPU)- Southern Tagalog at MTUG Titan, patuloy na binabantayan ng BRP Melchora Aquino ang pinangyarihan ng insidente para makibahagi sa isinasagawang oil spill assessment at oil spill response operation, ayon sa PCG.



Banta sa oil spill todo-bantay ng PH Coast Guard

TODO-BANTAY ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) sa posibleng oil spill mula sa oil tanker na may kargang 800,000 litro ng industrial fuel na lumubog sa karagatan ng Naujan, Oriental Mindoro nitong Martes.

Sa panayam kahapon kay PCG spokesperson Rear Admiral Armand Balilo, umiikot ang BRP Meichora Aquino sa lugar kung saan lumubog ang MT Princess Empress bandang alas-dos ng madaling-araw.

Aniya, mahigpit ang utos ni PCG commandant Admiral Artemio Abu na 24-oras na i-monitor ang lugar at gawin agad ang tsmang oil spill procedure saka-ling magkaroon ng ta-

gas sa dagat.

Sa inisyal na aerial survey ng PCG nitong Martes, may naisipatan silang posibleng oil spill kaya inaalam nila kung ito ay tagas mula sa diesel fuel ng lumubog na tanker.

Iginiit ni Balilo na hindi naman delikado ang diesel fuel sa marine ecosystem sa lugar.

"Nagdi-dissipate agad 'yan under the heat of the sun tsaka kapag nahahampas ng alon 'yung small particles nito natatunaw agad," paliwanay ni Balilo.

Samantala, hindi pa maikasa ng may-ari ng oil tanker ang salvage operation dahil hindi pa natutukoy PCG ang eksaktong lugar ng pinaglubugan ng tanker. (Edwin Balasa)



OIL SPILL SA ORIENTAL MINDORO

PINAG-AARALAN na ng mga awtoridad kung paano makukuha ang 800 li-bong litrong industrial fuel oil mula sa lumubog na MT Princess Empress sa karagatang sakop ng Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Sinahingi Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Rear Admiral Armand Balilo na natukoy na ang lugar kung saan lumubog ang barko.

Pero tinutungan pa niya kung ano ang magandang gawin para makuha ang karga nitong langis o kung kaila-ngang maangat muna ang

barko o kumin ito kahit nasa dagat pa.

Sa ngayon ay nagsasagawa na rin niya ng assessment at water sampling ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources pero walang pang resulta.

Ayon sa PCG, nasa anim na kilometrong haba at apat na kilometro na ang lawak ng oil spill.

Nag-abiso naman ang PCG sa mga mangingisda na huwag munang pumunta malapit sa mga lugar kung saan may kumalat na langis.

(Madel Moratillo)



Barko na nagkaaberya sa Oriental Mindoro, tuluyan nang lumubog

TULUYAN nang lumubog ang barkong MT Princess Empress na nagkaaberya sa bahagi ng karagatan ng Oriental Mindoro.

Kinumpirma ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang anim na kilometrong oil spillage.

Kamakailan lang kinumpirma ng PCG ang insidente ng oil spill nang lumubog ang motor tanker

na Princess Empress na may dalang 800,000 litrong industrial fuel oil sa Naujan, Oriental Mindoro nitong Martes, Pebrero 28.



TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE:

Ilang barangay sa Botolan, Zambales nanganganib mabura



MARY BACER

Abante
AKSYON
LADY

Kakakilabot ang inaabot ng mga residente sa isang barangay sa Botolan, Zambales sa kamay ng mga naglalakihang mga barko sa karagatan malapit sa kanilang mga kabahayan.

Sa post sa social media ng ilang residente akala daw nila ay may lindol sa kanilang lugar habang nasa sila ay nagpapahinga.

Pero laking gulat nila nang maispitan ang halos sampung barkong naglalayag sa karagatang sakop ng kanilang barangay na nag-iingay.

Isang residente rin na ating nakausap ang nagsabing nagising daw sya isang gabi na tila may gumagalaw sa ilalim ng kanilang kusina. Duda nito baka nasisipsip na ang bahagi ng kanyang bahay.

Masyadong delikado ang ginagawang ito ng mga Chinese vessel dahil kapag bumaha ay basta na lamang luhubog ang mga bahay sa nasabing barangay.

Sa ating pagtatanong-tanong ay nalaman nating nagsasagawa pala ng dredging ang mga barko ng China sa nasabing karagatan na sakop ng ilang barangay sa Botolan.

In fairness may basbas naman daw ng barangay ang dredging sa kanilang lugar.

Gagawan naman daw ito ng dike para mai-

wasan ang pagbaha, pramis ng padrino ng mga pasimuno sa dredging.

Asan kaya ang kukote ng mga taga-barangay na pumayag na mag-dredging sa kanilang lugar at kalaunan ay lalagyan ng dike para maiwasan ang pagbaha?

Hindi ba dapat ay huwag na lamang nila itong payagan para walang perwisyong idulot sa kanilang lugar?

Sa magkanong halaga kaya ipinagkanulo ng mga barangay official ang karagatang sakop ng kanilang lugar para hayaang sipsipin ito ng mga barko mula China?

Anyare na sa mga opisyal ng Botolan? Talaga bang ipapahukay n'yo na ang buong karagatan sa bahaging iyan?

Ang hirap kasi sa Botolan ay hindi raw tubong mga Botolan ang mga namumuno.

Ito kaya ang dahilan kaya wala silang pald na gahasain ang kapaligiran diyan dahil hindi naman sila apektado sakaling magkagipitan?

Kaya sa mga taga-Botolan mag-isip-isip kayo, piliin ang manumuno na may malasakit talaga sa inyong bayan, hindi iyong may masama palang plano.

Walang tutulong sa inyo na mapatigil ang panggagahasa sa mga likas na yaman diyan kung hindi kayo-kayo lang. Kaya kumilos na kayo at magagawa ninyo ito sa paghalal ng matinong lider na talagang ang puso ay para sa kapakanan ng mga taga-Botolan at hindi ng kanilang angkan lamang.



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

03-02-23

TITLE

PAGE

DATE

The irony of Masungi: DENR is the problem

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vironmental governance is people participation. People's organizations, including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private foundations are now involved in environmental protection in more direct and active ways. The Philippine government has a rich history of people participation in community-based resource management activities. **►ContrerasA5**

■ CONTRERAS FROM A1

The irony of Masungi: DENR is the problem

Local communities are organized and awarded tenurial rights not only to engage in productive activities such as upland farming. More importantly, they are expected to mobilize their ranks to become actively involved in resource protection and conservation.

In the larger scheme of things, we also have institutionalized private-public partnerships not only in infrastructure development, but even in resource management. It is stated in Section 2 of Article XII of the 1987 Constitution that while the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State, and that the State may directly undertake such activities, it may enter into co-production, joint venture, or production-sharing agreements with Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least 60 per centum of whose capital is owned by Filipino citizens.

It is a given that there are areas that are declared by the government as protected areas. The National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipás) was established by RA 7586 otherwise known as the "Nipás Law of 1992." In 2018, twenty-six years after RA 7586 was passed, Congress passed RA 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded Nipás Law," or "E-Nipás."

These laws identified several types of protected areas, all of which ideally should be strictly protected. However, there is a need to recognize the presence of communities inside protected areas, and their needs and interests have to be addressed and their rights protected, without compromising the goal of protecting the resource. These include Indigenous communities with prior rights, as well as migrants who possess certain tenurial instruments. To support communities who are dependent on these areas for their livelihood, the law stipulated for the establishment of buffer zones outside the boundaries and immediately adjacent which shall be devoted to livelihood activities. RA 11038 also did not repeal the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997, or RA 8371, and tacitly recognizes the role of indigenous communities in protected area management.

11038 as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Area (UMRBP). The chronology of events, and a deeper inquiry into the matter, would reveal a great irony. We would be confronted with the fact that the crisis is actually caused by the failure of government to properly do its job, exercise due diligence, and practice fairness and justice.

These are the glaring facts: Prior to the passage of RA 11038, a valid contract was already signed between the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017. The contract granted the MGFI the authority to manage not only the 300 hectares which was used for ecotourism purposes, but expanded this to include around 2,700 hectares. It cannot be said that the passage of RA 11038, which formalized UMRBP, has voided the 2017 contract. While the law amended RA 7536, it is standard practice that existing valid contracts, unless contrary to the law itself, is respected.

Like the rights being claimed by, and yet to be formalized through the granting of a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to, the remontados, as well as the usufruct rights of tenured migrants, that are recognized by law, the 2017 contract between MGFI and DENR cannot be deemed as "illegal," "infirm" and "disadvantageous to government." After all, it is a fact that RA 11038 has recognized the role of the private sector, of which MGFI is one, in protected area management. It is also a fact that MGFI has delivered its part of the contract, which is to protect and conserve the areas assigned to it. It has rehabilitated and recovered about 2,000 hectares of degraded forestland, at no cost to taxpayers except to those who pay to use the area's facilities. Hence, it is simply bizarre to claim that the contract was "disadvantageous" to the government.

In fact, MGFI has received international recognition for its conservation efforts from multilateral bodies such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Global Water Partnership, and World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).



PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

The Masingi of Masungi

PAGE

2/2

03-02-23

DATE

Thus, managing protected areas demands a rational compromise among competing interests, but the bottom line is always to manage the resources in order to maintain and even enhance their capacity to render ecological services. In most cases, particularly when the resource is degraded, it entails restoring and rehabilitating the protected area.

Section 2 of RA 11038, which amends Section 2 of RA 7586, clearly stipulates the multisectoral nature of protected area management when it declared that, "... the effective administration of these areas is possible only through cooperation among the national government, local governments, concerned nongovernment organizations, private organizations, and local communities."

One protected area that has become problematic because of a breakdown in what should have been a collaborative venture among the abovementioned actors is the Masungi Georeserve, which is part of the 26,125.64 hectares of land in Rizal province which was set aside by RA

If there are infirmities in the agreement, the DENR should have used its authority to improve the agreement. In view of conflicting claims, the DENR should bring all concerned parties to the table. These include MGFL, the local communities, the remontados, other resource users, like the resort owners whose existence should be backed by a Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism (FLAGT), and the Bureau of Corrections with its ownership claim over a portion of the protected area.

The best venue for this would have been the Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB). Unfortunately, with the DENR as chair, the PAMB became MGFL's executioner, as it voted to terminate the contract with MGFL, one that the DENR signed and approved in 2017 in good faith, and with all the presumptions of regularity,



SENADO, IIMBESTIGAHAN ANG PLANONG BAGONG BUCOR HEADQUARTERS SA MASUNGI GEORESERVE



No. 495 na nagpapatawag ng imbestigasyon sa plano ng BuCor.

Ang Masungi ay simbolo ng sustainable development at nangunguna sa mga pagsisikap na konsebihin at palaguhin ang kalikasan, lalo na sa harap ng krisis sa klima.

Dahil dito, kailangang protektahan natin ang Masungi.

Naiinundihan natin ang pangangailangan ng BuCor sa mga pasilidad na plano nitong itayo.

Ngunit kailangan ding timbangin natin kung ano ang magiging epekto sa kalikasan kung matutuloy ang pagpapatayo sa bagong BuCor headquarters.

Hindi natin dapat kalimutan na paglating sa kalikasan, kahit ang pinakamalit na aksyon ay may epekto sa kabuuan.

□□□

NOONG mga nakaraang araw ay naging laman ng balita ang paglahad ng Bureau of Corrections na plano nilang gawing headquarters ang Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal.

Base raw sa Proclamation No. 1158 na inilabas noong Setyembre 8, 2006, nakalaan ang 270 hectares na tinatawag na 'Lot 10' para sa pagtayo ng New Bilibid Prison.

Dagdag pa ni BuCor acting Director General Gregorio Catapang, kasama sa planong headquarters ang pag-develop ng residential area para sa kanilang personnel, at pag-implimenta ng land use development plan para sa 'basic institutional food requirements.'

□□□

Marumi ang nagulat sa balitang ito, na lumabas pagkatapos magsagawa ng ocular inspection ang BuCor sa Masungi.

Ilang araw matapos ang ocular inspection, sinabi ng DG Catapang na magpapatuloy ang proyekto kung magbibigay ng katiyakan ang mga eksperto, partikular ang mga urban planning experts ng University of the Philippines, na mananatiling protektado ang Masungi Georeserve.

Naghabala ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation na may negatibong epekto sa kalikasan at maging sa sektor ng turismo ang plano ng BuCor.

□□□

Dahil sa mga nangyari, inihan natin ang Senate Resolution



DENR moves to protect Callao Cave

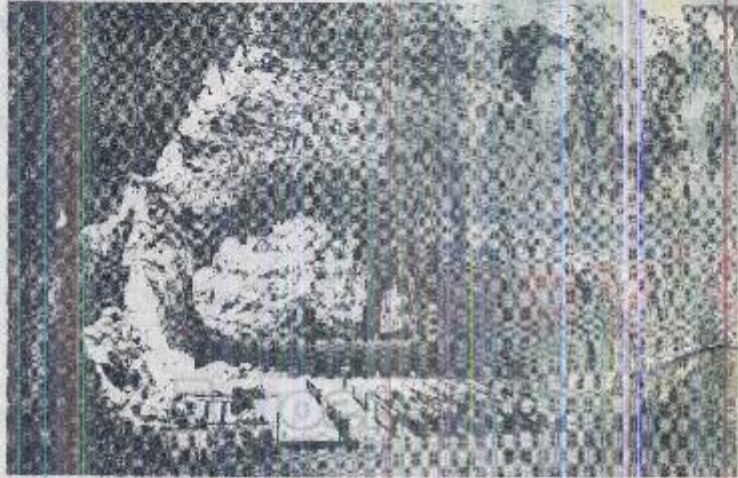
TUGUEGARAO CITY: In a move to protect the famous Callao Cave of Peñablanca, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has appealed to local officials to ensure the successful implementation of the agency's plans and initiatives for the preservation of the caves.

DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan reminded local officials that they share the same goal, that is, to protect and preserve the environment, including the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS).

A legislated protected area under Republic Act (RA) 11038, Series of 2018, the PPLS has a total area of 118,781.58 hectares. It is known for its limestone forest areas or *karst*. The PPLS has a total area of 118,781.58 hectares. It is known for its limestone forest comprising more than 200 cave systems which include the Callao Cave, known for its archaeological and aesthetic features.

The caves are located in the villages of Magdato and Quibal in the municipality of Peñablanca.

"We must help one another to ensure the success of all our plans and initiatives for the preservation of the PPLS," Bambalan said during the recent Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)



■ The Callao Cave in Peñablanca town, Cagayan Province. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

meeting held in Peñablanca town.

She said there is an urgent need to protect and conserve the caves and cave resources, especially the

She said there is an urgent need to protect and conserve the caves and cave resources, especially the Callao Cave.

Citing RA 9072, known as the "National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act," Bambalan said it is prohibited to destroy, disturb, deface, mar, alter, remove or harm the speleothems of any cave or alter the free movement of any animal or plant life into or out of any cave.

Also the PAMB chairman, Bambalan also urged the board to push for sustainable ecotourism

in consonance with the protected area management plan and environmental laws.

She also encouraged the academe, area management plan and environmental laws.

She also encouraged the academe, research institutions and concerned organizations to secure a gratuitous permit from the DENR authorizing the gathering and transporting of wildlife species for research and scientific purposes.

Meanwhile, Police Regional Office 2 director BGen. Percival Rumbaoa expressed commitment to support the enforcement of environmental laws, especially within the PPLS.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Celebrating partnerships for wildlife conservation

By DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

BASED on fossil records and current data, scientists have determined that we are already losing a substantial number of species within a short geological period, suggesting that we may be on the verge of a sixth mass extinction. But unlike prehistoric extinctions, the dire situation we are in now, as far as species diversity is concerned, is highly avoidable.

What brought us here can be traced to the choices we, as humanity, have made throughout our history.

Now, with the wisdom of hindsight and the benefit of modern research and science and technology, we have a better appreciation of how having a harmonious co-existence with nature and other species is vital to our survival and our way of life.

A region brimming with life

WITH the theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation," this year's World Wildlife Day is a celebration of multi-stakeholder collaborations for the protection and conservation of the planet's plant and animal species. As a region as biodiverse as Asean, with over 25 percent of the world's known plant and animal species, we really need to work together to significantly reduce the risk of extinction of these species, as they are essential to the health of ecosystems from which we derive all of our needs to survive.

The Asean region's high species diversity and high mean country endemic proportions emphasize the region's significance for conservation. New species members under major taxa continue to be discovered in the remaining intact natural ecosys-

tems in the region. In fact, in 2020, a global report revealed that over 200 new species were discovered in the Greater Mekong region alone. Just last year, two new hedgehog species were discovered in Mindanao, the southern part of the Philippines.

However, the conservation of this myriad of species remains a challenge since we are still faced with enormous threats such as poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and habitat loss.

Asean's response

THE Asean Centre for Biodiversity, together with the Asean member states, implements a number of initiatives for wildlife conservation. These include the Asean Flyway Network that is being led by Singapore, a project that is designed to protect migratory birds and the wetlands that serve as their habitats.

The ACB also serves as the secretariat of the Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) Program, a flagship initiative of the Asean that promotes effective protected area management and the conservation and preservation of both the cultural and natural heritage of this network of outstanding PAs. To date, there are 55 AHPs in the region that have been recognized for their

biological and ecological abundance and diversity. The AHPs are being supported by various partners of the ACB such as the European Union through the "Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asean (BCAMP)" project, and the Federal government of Germany through the KfW by providing small and micro grants for conservation and livelihood projects for local communities within and around the AHPs. These projects support activities focusing on effective park management, law enforcement, ecotourism, habitat and species management, policy development, wildlife research and monitoring, community development, and community outreach and conservation awareness.

The Asean Green Initiative, a recognition program intended to promote the restoration and conservation of habitats by planting native species of trees, is another effort of the region to keep its wild flora and fauna in their natural environment.

Through collaboration with Japan, Asean is also enhancing the taxonomic capacity of the member states by conducting training sessions on DNA barcoding and by producing taxonomy manuals and field guides. This is the region's effort to promote the use of technology to better comprehend our biological resources and the numerous physical and intangible benefits humans may obtain from them. Taxonomic information is also useful in identifying proper conservation measures, as well as in detecting and controlling invasive alien species.

All of these undertakings, we recognize that no single generation should have the monopoly of the benefits we derive from our wildlife resources; thus, the Asean considers the youth as vital partners in meeting our biodiversity goals. In consonance with this, the ACB is institutionalizing its Asean Youth Biodiversity Program (AYBP), which engages the youth in the region to more actively participate in biodiversity action. Under AYBP are notable sub-programs such as the Young Asean Storytellers, where 20 talented and skilled young leaders created powerful stories of conservation from 11 Asean Heritage Parks. There is also the Young Biodiversity Leaders cohort, which provides in-depth capacity building and mentorship for youth leaders

in biodiversity and increases youth participation in biodiversity governance while strengthening youth-led conservation efforts.

The region is also pushing for mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors such as business, tourism, agriculture, and health, among others, to ensure that conservation measures are incorporated into development processes.

Addressing illegal wildlife trade, as this year's theme connotes, requires strong partnerships. For the ACB, we highlight the value of engaging as many sectors as possible in protecting our wildlife resources in their natural habitat, and preventing wildlife trafficking at source.

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim is the Executive Director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity.



Aboitiz projects take int'l plums

At Aboitiz Land, we are committed to providing our homebuyers not just with quality homes but also communities that are sustainable and environmentally conscious

Business networking group International Real Estate Federation or FIABCI held the Philippines Property and Real Estate Excellence Awards last 21 February 2023, where two of Aboitiz Land's developments in Luzon were recognized.

Seafront Residences received the Silver Award in the environmental category, while The Villages at Lipa earned the Silver Award in the residential low-rise category.

"At Aboitiz Land, we are committed to providing our homebuyers not just with quality homes but also communities that are sustainable and environmentally conscious," Aboitiz Land president and CEO David Rafael said.

Seafront Residences in San Juan, Batangas took resort-inspired living further with its *pawikan* nature reserve.

The entire 43-hectare beachside development, including the shoreline, has been officially designated as a prime nesting ground for the endangered olive ridley sea turtles.

As a part of its conservation efforts, Seafront Residences launched the *Pawikan* Conservation Project last 2018 in partnership with the Aboitiz Foundation, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, and the University of the Philippines-Diliman Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology.

The project entails a five-year management plan to protect and preserve *pawikans* through research, proper monitoring, the establishment of hatching facilities, and community education drives.

Industry city in Lipa

Meanwhile, the 49-hectare development of The Villages at Lipa sits atop the industrial expansion of LIMA, Aboitiz Land's new industry city in Lipa and Malvar, Batangas – a fully-integrated township that fortifies businesses and elevates lifestyles.

Its communities are characterized by Aboitiz Land's signature features such as greenbelts and pocket parks which are natural green open areas in a network of walkable spaces and amenities.

The project entails a five-year management plan to protect and preserve *pawikans* through research, proper monitoring, the establishment of hatching facilities, and community education drives.

A wide array of house options inspired by Modern Filipino architecture are available to homebuyers in Brook Village and Sierra Village ranging from 53 square meter townhouses to 150 sqm home options.

Long-term sustainability

Aboitiz Land employs various innovative technologies in construction and features at The Villages at Lipa and Seafront Residences such as precast panels, smart block technology, sustainable building materials, and energy-efficient designs to build homes in the developments.

Aboitiz Land's commitment to sustaining and enriching lives is what keeps the flow moving forward toward a prosperous and harmonious future with the community and environment.

It is what families look for when it comes to finding the perfect home to raise kids and plan for their future.

Presented by the Philippine chapter of the internationally recognized FIABCI, the prestigious Property and Real Estate Awards honors the country's real estate developments that exhibit excellence throughout all real estate disciplines.



110

08-02-23

Point of view

Caring for Earth

By FEDERICO R. LOPEZ

By 2050 we will need five times the electricity we use today, and we will need 10-12 times the clean energy in use today. Even as we do this, we must continue to improve access to 24/7 electricity for billions of people (in the case of the Philippines, millions of households) who currently do not have it reliably in their lives if we are to even begin uplifting them from poverty.

Reducing the carbon intensity of electricity is a complex balancing act. Adding more 24/7 renewable energy (RE) sources like hydro and geothermal power to the grid is straightforward and should be encouraged where we can. What needs to be done thoughtfully is adding more intermittent RE sources like solar and wind. Their variable and intermittent nature necessitates that we match them with more storage to account for the fact that they're not there when night falls or on cloudy or windless days.

However, batteries are only capable of running 3-4 hours and thus fall short of fully providing power for the 10-12 hours before the sun rises or the stretches of cloudy or windless days or even weeks. This is why President BBM correctly points out the need for a low carbon emission fuel like natural gas to act as the bridge fuel that's technically more suited for complementing the variable nature of RE. Without this we cannot keep our lights on and affordable as we scale-up and deploy more intermittent renewable energy sources into our grids.

Of course, over time as more clean energy and storage is added into our grids, we must look toward decommissioning our fossil fuel powered plants: first the coal plants, and then ultimately the oil and natural gas plants. For the latter they can either be repowered with green fuels like hydrogen as they become feasible in the coming decade or outright decommissioned before 2050, similar to the process done for the coal plants earlier. We ought to keep an eye out for international funding for decommissioning these plants earlier than their useful lives. Such funds are increasingly becoming more available.

consecutive days). Let's expect more of these and prepare. Global warming's higher average temperatures also mean extreme wet seasons; but it also means more extreme dry ones when they come, with dire consequences for our fresh water supplies and even the possibilities of forest fires as is happening in many developed countries like Australia, the US and all over Europe as we I.

With 60 percent of Filipinos living in coastal areas, sea-level rise is a major threat. Temperatures on the planet are rising fastest at the poles. This will have grave consequences for sea-level rise as tipping points are triggered in the world's cryosphere. Permafrost areas in the Arctic circle are also recently discovered to contain enormous amounts of methane (80 times more potent a GHG than carbon dioxide). If triggered, it's a tipping point that could release massive emissions equivalent to that of China today. Except no amount of climate negotiations can pull that back.

One thought I want to emphasize is something I remember Al Gore saying in 2016 at the Climate Reality Project leadership training at the Sofitel Manila. "All our infrastructure was built for a world that's now changed." At 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming, where we are today, the world has already changed. It will be even more so as we successfully navigate the journey to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In addition to creating a future-ready energy system, our being fourth on the world's climate vulnerability list necessitates that we prepare Philippine cities, communities and infrastructure for resilience in a climate-changed world. We need to do this in a systematic and collaborative way if we want to succeed and make serious headway in tackling other issues like

hunger, poverty and the other pressing Sustainable Development Goals of our time. Trying to solve those will be futile if we don't build for the resilience we need and if we don't ultimately "solve" climate change."

Our being fourth on the world's climate vulnerability list necessitates that we prepare Philippine cities, communities and infrastructure for resilience in a climate-changed world.



Decarbonizing and scaling up a green electricity grid over the next three decades is probably the greatest energy transition in the history of mankind. It's not just changing the electricity system but building a new global energy system with components we have never built before and on a massive scale. This will need nothing short of collaborative action among various players that today consider themselves competitors. And these also need well-coordinated and timely action on the part of regulators who must be decisive and well-versed on the elements that make for a successful and just energy transition. The path is made more complex today by the Russia-Ukraine war's effects on energy prices worldwide, and our need to secure energy supplies at a time when all countries in the world are scrambling and paying top dollar to secure theirs to avoid Russian supplies and energy blackmail.

You may ask why the Philippines should undertake this, given our limited resources and the fact that we account for only 0.4 percent of global emissions. I would answer that question in this way: It's apparent that the world is changing, not as fast as it needs to, but eventually it will, and it must. The impacts of the climate crisis as well as climate action that will be demanded of everyone are among the forces in history that will transpire "gradually and then suddenly." If we're not prepared and conveniently ignore it, we'll be overwhelmed and not recognize the world around us in the coming 30 years.

The science tells us we no longer have a choice. Unless we have more of these pandemics that choke growth, there will no longer be any time extensions. Since we have limited resources, we must choose to spend it wisely and in a future-proof manner.

We are the fourth most climate vulnerable nation on earth, some say even THE most vulnerable. The poster boys for what's to come are massively destructive typhoons like Yolanda (powerful 314 kph winds), Ondoy (massive precipitation in highly concentrated cities like Metro Manila), Urduja (lingered and stayed stationary dumping rain on us for three

Having said all that, it is clear that the forces being triggered by the climate crisis and planetary degradation are very real. They're shaping local and global politics like no other time in history. Our social, economic, and political systems are all causing us to overshoot almost all of our planet's ecological ceilings. Biodiversity loss is happening at a rate that's hundreds of times faster than it's been over the last ten million years because of human activity. On the average, we use up 1.75 Earths each year to feed and fuel our current economies and lifestyles. Developed country lifestyles use up an average of four Earths.

Yet the inequality of benefits has caused massive shortfalls in the provision of basic foundations for billions of people. Poverty, hunger, loss of livelihoods have triggered wars, conflicts and mass migration all over the world. We're heading into a more unequal and politically unstable world yet one that's still driven primarily by metrics such as profit maximization, maximization of shareholder value and gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Remember too that healthy forests and trees are never given any value in GDP until they're cut down and used as wood. Rich schools of fish, corals and turtles are also not reflected in GDP until they appear on your dinner plate or hung as ornaments on your wall or as table décor.

Technology or even geo-engineering by themselves will not save the day for us. The times call for new paradigms and social constructs. We will need to measure progress using new metrics and reshape our way of life to thrive in a changed and rapidly changing world. It's all about reimagining our relationship to the planet and to one another. The flipside of the word Anthropocene is that if humans have such immense power to degenerate the Earth, if we so choose, humanity can also wield the same power to change course and regenerate it, not just for the sake of currently living humans but for the millions of other species that co-inhabit our world, today and tomorrow.

This article is excerpted from Mr. Lopez's remarks at the 4th Philippine Environment Summit held last Feb. 22 in Tagaytay City.



03-02-23
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Fighting for their lives: The world's forests in figures

By JEAN-PHILIPPE CHOIGNOT

PARIS, France (AFP) – Forests are central to biodiversity and the fight against climate change, as well as being a big money spinner for national economies.

But they are in critical danger.

As politicians, including French President Emmanuel Macron, prepare to descend on the West African nation of Gabon for an international summit on forests, AFP looks at how green our globe really is.

One-third of the globe

Forests cover almost a third, or 31 percent, of the global land area, according to a 2022 report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

They span some four billion hectares (9.9 billion acres), or close to the combined surface area of Canada, Russia, the United States, and all 27 members of the European Union.

More than one-third is primary forest, which the FAO defines as being "naturally regenerated forests of native species, where there are no visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed."

Brazil, Canada, China, Russia, and the United States account for more than half of all forest area.

Seven percent of the world's forests have been planted by humans.

Forests can be found in many climates but three-quarters are either in the tropics (45 percent) or in a ring around the North Pole (27 percent).

Two-thirds of all mammals

Forests, especially rainforests, are critical for biodiversity on land.

Four-fifths of the world's am-



AN INSECT feeds on flowers in Loknga forest, Indonesia, where deforestation is critical. (AFP)

phibian species live in forests, as do three-quarters of bird species, 68 percent of mammal species and many of the 60,000 kinds of trees found on Earth.

Three-quarters of the fungi species, two-thirds of the plant species and nearly half (45 percent) of the animal species considered vulnerable, endangered or extinct are found in forests.

Among the amphibians in critical danger of extinction are the Montseny brook newt in Spain and Lanza's Alpine salamander, which lives in the Franco-Italian Alps.

A carbon sink

Forests typically act as carbon sinks, absorbing more carbon from the atmosphere than they emit.

They contain 662 billion tons of carbon, more than half of all the carbon found in soil and vegetation.

Deforestation and climate change have had some impact on that function, though replanting and better forest management have helped.

According to the FAO, forests

absorbed more carbon than they emitted in 2011–2020, thanks to reforestation, improved management and other factors.

But it warns in its latest report on forests (2022) that they could start emitting carbon rather than absorbing it if deforestation is not halted.

"Unless additional action is taken, an estimated 289 million hectares of forests would be deforested between 2016 and 2050 in the tropics alone, resulting in the emission of 169 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent."

Source of money and jobs

The forestry sector pumped more than \$1.52 trillion into the world economy in 2015, directly and indirectly.

Whether working in wood putty and paper industries, forestry or solid wood products such as furniture, around 33 million people, or one percent of the world's workforce, are dependent on forests for a livelihood.

Under threat

Even though the rate of deforestation has slowed, it continues to occur "at an alarming rate" according to the FAO, which says 10 million hectares of forests were wiped out each year between 2015 and 2020.

The losses were not compensated by replanting and natural forest expansion, which is estimated at five million hectares per year.

Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Russia, and the United States lost the most forest cover between 2001 and 2021, according to Global Forest Watch (GFW).

The situation is most critical in Brazil and Indonesia, where the loss of primary forest to mining, agriculture and urban expansion is in most cases irreversible.



DEFORESTATION AND FIRES in the Amazon rainforest are eroding the habitat of jaguars. (AFP)



ONLINE GAMING BOSS TULO-LAWAY SA SIBUYAN MINING

Tado pang mining company ang naghain ng aplikasyon para pagagan silang magmuna sa Sibuyan Island sa Romblon, ayon sa dokumentong nakalip ng **Bilyonaryo**.

Kabilang sa mga nagbahabol na mabigyan ng mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) at exploration permit mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay ang Eramen Minerals, Fil-China Development Corp. at Graymont Philippines.

Ang Eramen Minerals kung siya untiunpong chairman si Enrique Fernandez, ay nag-apply para magmuna ng nickel silicate at mga katutulan na metal ore sa 2,500 ektaryang lupain na sakop ng San Fernando, Cagdiocan sa Romblon.

Kamakailan lamang ay nabigyan ang Eramen mining

ISKUP!

By Nancy Garza

company ng grant mula sa United States Trade Development Agency kasabay ng pagbisita sa Pilipinas ni US Vice President Kamala Harris noong Disyembre.

Ang Graymont Philippines naman na ang rehistradong may-ari ay sina Rommel Rodolfo at Linda Ibura ay nag-apply para magmuna ng 'nickel, iron, etcetera' sa 1,400 ektarya ng lupain na sakop ng Magdiwang, Cagdiocan, Romblon.

Ang ikatlong kompanya na Fil-China Dev't Corp. na minamayari ng online gaming businessman na si Wilfredo Keng ay nag-apply para magmuna ng feldspar mineral mula sa 621 ektaryang lupain na sakop ng San Fernando, Romblon.

Base sa mga naunang report, ang Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) na nakarehis-

tro kay Kenneth Garchalian ay pinagkalooban ng exploration permit ng DENR para magtukay at magbiyahe ng metallic materials sa 1,500 ektarya sa San Fernando, Romblon.

Ang buong isla ng Sibuyan ay higit kumulang sa 4,000 ektarya, kabilang ang Mount Guiting-guiting, na isang protected forest.

Dahil sa ginawang pagprotesta ng mga residente at ilang sektor sa Sibuyan, napilitan ang APMC na itigil ang pagmimina bago pa man ipadala ng DENR ang utos sa suspensyon ng kanilang operasyon.

Kanirwiran ng DENR, walang permit ang APMC sa pagpapagawa ng causeway para mahakot ang minerals patungo sa barko pero nanindigan ang kompanya na nakakuha sila ng permit mula sa Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

RUNNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03-02-23

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Herrera pushes swift passage of proposed water agencies

By RYAN PONCE PACPACO

A CONGRESSWOMAN has called for the swift approval of a bill establishing the national framework for water resource management and creating the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Water Regulatory Commission (WRC).

"This proposed legislation is long overdue as we have been fighting for its passage for more than a decade already. It is high time that we come up with a comprehensive regulatory framework designed to better balance the management of the country's water resources through the creation of DWR and WRC," Deputy Minority Leader Bernadette Herrera said.

"This measure is extremely important because it gives us the opportunity to sustainably use and manage our water resources for the long term to support the needs

of agriculture, industries, and households, among other sectors," Herrera added.

She made the call after attending Monday's meeting of the technical working group (TWC) tasked to consolidate several measures on the creation of DWR and WRC, including House Bill (HB) Nos. 1015 and 1014 that she filed in July last year.

The TWC was formed by the House committees on government reorganization and on public works and highways, which are jointly tackling the proposed "National Water Act."

The lawmaker said her twin measures would help the country achieve universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water services and sanitation for all Filipinos.



03-02-23

TITLE

PAGE

DATE



REMATO OPINION ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

SUPORTADO at isinusulong ng Public Private Partnership (PPP) ang paglikha ng Department of Water Resources (DWR) na siyang magpapatupad ng mga polisiya, programa at proyekto na may kinalaman sa water sector ng bansa.

Sa kasalukuyan kasi ay watak-watak ang iba't ibang mandato na may kinalaman sa tubig. Katulad na lamang ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na siyang may kapangyarihan kaugnay sa tamang paggamit

ng tubig sa buong bansa pero wala naman siyang police power para magpasara ng mga lumalabag na establisimyento kaugnay sa hindi tamang paggamit ng tubig at paglalagay ng mga balon, kailangan pa ninyang hilingin ang tulong ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) kung saan nasa superbisyon nito ang Philippine National Police (PNP), at gayundin ang Department of Health (DOH) kung mga ospital ang may paglabag.

Nakikita ng PPP na magiging magandang simula

PPP SUPORTADO ANG PAGBUO NG DEPARTMENT OF WATER

ang pagbuo ng isang Kawawaran para sa tubig dahil magiging iisa na lamang ang paggalaw ng mahigit 30 agency na may kinalaman sa usapin ng tubig, at higit itong makakabuti sa proteksyon ng malinis na tubig.

Kasalukuyang gumugulong na kapwa sa House of Representatives at sa Senado ang mga panukalang batas ukol dito, at isa ito sa mga key legislative agenda ni President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos, Jr. na kanyang inilatag sa kauna-unahan ninyang State of the Nation Address (SONA) at tiyak na hanapin ito sa susunod na

SONA ngayong 2023.

Pinag-usapan na rin ito sa kauna-unahang paghaharap ng LEDAC o ng Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council, kaya malamang ay umusad na ito ng tuloy-tuloy sa Kongreso.

Medyo usapin yata sa pagbuo ng DWR ng malaking pondong kakailanganin. Pero baka naman puwedeng pagtama-sama ang budget na inilalaan sa maraming ahensya na may kinalaman sa tubig katulad nga ng sa NWRB, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA),



2 new water agencies pushed

A party-list solon has appealed for the swift approval of a bill establishing the national framework for water resource management and creation of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Water Regulatory Commission (WRC).

According to Bagong Henerasyon Party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera, the proposed legislation is long overdue and it is high time to come up with a comprehensive regulatory framework designed to better balance the management of the country's water resources through the creation of DWR and WRC.

"This measure is extremely important because it gives us the opportunity to sustainably use and manage our water resources for the long-term to support the needs of agriculture, industries, and households, among other sectors," she said.

On Monday, a technical working group (TWG) was tasked to consolidate several measures on the creation of DWR and WRC, including House Bill Nos. 1013 and 1014 that Herrera filed in July last year.

The TWG was formed by the House Committees on Government Reorganization and on Public Works and Highways, which are jointly tackling the proposed "National Water Act."

Herrera said her twin measures would help the country achieve universal access to safe, adequate, affordable and sustainable water services and sanitation for all Filipinos.

"The Philippines is a water rich country, yet despite an overflowing capital, many Filipinos experience deprivation from affordable, safe drinking water and a working sanitation system.

The perennial problem has seriously affected the lives of our citizens in terms of health, sanitation, food security and livelihood, in addition to negatively impacting the environment," she added.

HB 1013 or the proposed Water Regulatory Act seeks to rationalize the economic and administrative regulation of water utilities through an independent, quasi-judicial body called the WRC.

HB 1014, on the other hand, aims to rationalize the resource management of water, sewage and sanitation through the creation of DWSS. *Jester Manalastas*



How to do agriculture in a changing climate

Agri biodiversity called for in the name of resilience, food security

Amid the continuing warnings of the agricultural sector on the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda calls for a massive shift on how the country does agriculture in a changing climate.

"Change is inevitable, I want us to take this opportunity to make the necessary shifts to resiliency and to protect our food supply. Business as usual cannot continue, but subsidies for the same type of agriculture also must go," she said.

The RCEP is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) of the Philippines that reaffirmed the rights and obligations of State parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity

(CBD) signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 5, 1992.

In late 2022, the Conference of Parties of the CBD affirmed new and unprecedented agreements that affect global agriculture. Among other commitments, the parties agreed to a 2030 deadline to reduce by half both excess nutrients and the overall risk posed by pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals and to progressively phase out or reform by 2030 subsidies that harm biodiversity by at least \$500 billion per year while scaling up positive incentives for biodiversity's conservation and sustainable use.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) assistant secretary Allan Gepty, the Philippines' chief negotiator for the RCEP, emphasizes that the language of the agreement on biodiver-



sity should help ensure that countries that ratify the RCEP will be mindful of the effects on biodiversity and the environment, as well as the need to promote sustainable development in crafting their policies and programs.

"Related to this, the Philippines, under services, made specific commitments on Research and Development Services on Agricultural Sciences. This commitment is expected to make R&D more accessible to the

agriculture sector by signaling that the country is open for collaboration in generating new products, services, processes, or other solutions with respect to the sector," he said.

to biodiversity, with 30 percent of these driving unsustainable agricultural practices.

"It is worth highlighting that Article 17.10 of the RCEP refers to compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity," said Legarda. "This should consider the implementation of the recently adopted Kunming Montreal

The commitment of 15 countries with 29 percent of global GDP to realize this target will contribute significantly to overcoming biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.

The Global Environment Facility predicts that 95 percent of land worldwide would be degraded by 2050 if trends for fertility reduction continue, while the executive director of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Center for Biodiversity (ACB) bewails that up to \$1.8 trillion or two percent of global GDP goes to perverse incentives that are harmful

Global Biodiversity Framework, specifically its Target 18 to reduce harmful subsidies by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030 and would definitely be something to watch out for. The commitment of 15 countries with 29 percent of global GDP to realize this target will contribute significantly to overcoming biodiversity loss and the climate crisis."



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4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE STORY

BANNER STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03-02-23

TITLE

PAGE

DATE

CCC fixes, good practices to global stocktake

THE Climate Change Commission is planning to submit "solutions and good practices" in dealing with the effects of climate change to global stocktake of the Paris Agreement.

The global stocktake of the Paris Agreement is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change website.

Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. said that submitting input in the global stocktake would put the spotlight on the country, which is at most at risk from the climate crisis.

"This is a crucial moment for our planet so we should be involved and have our voice heard, especially since we are among those that are severely affected by climate change and we rank as the most vulnerable to the

phenomenon," Dela Cruz said.

"We must submit the solutions and good practices we have so far formulated and initiated in order to help piece together answers to three vital questions when it comes to global efforts to address climate change: Where are we, where do we want to go, and how do we get there?" he added.

He also noted that for the stocktake to have a strong outcome, it would need robust input from all stakeholders.

"The dialogues are also about forward momentum to unlock more ambitious climate action and support," he said.

The climate official said the entry of the stocktake's "technical dialogues" in which countries and stakeholders gather to share the best-available science and assessments of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation (climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building).

He described the global stocktake as "a moment of truth for the world

when it comes to global efforts to address climate change".

The global stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference at the end of this year.

This is not just a routine checkup since the stocktake is "a course-correcting moment and an opportunity to ramp up ambition to achieve the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius", according to the CCC.

The first dialogue took place at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June last year, while the second dialogue was held at COP27 in Egypt in November last year.

The third and final dialogue is fast approaching, taking place at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June. But there's still time to have your say.

The call for submissions is open until March 6, 2023, and all inputs would influence the outcome of the global stocktake.



1/2

President Marcos as 'secretary of agribusiness'

AMONG the economists I have great respect for is Dr. Bernardo Villegas, one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution and founder of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Whenever he gives a talk virtually or in person, he never fails to impart timely and applicable views on how the Philippine economy can grow over the short, medium and long term. His views on agriculture and agribusiness are also very valuable.

Last February 23, Villegas discussed almost exhaustively issues on the Philippine economy in a hybrid event titled "The Philippine Economy among the Fastest Growing in Indo-Pacific Region."

His talk lasted two hours and tackled various subjects on the economy like infrastructure development and attracting foreign investments. He also gave valuable and compelling insights on how to level up the country's agriculture that I will discuss here.

Villegas said in his discussion on the Philippine agriculture sector that it needs to grow by at least by 2 to 3 percent every year, which he said is not asking much from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as Agriculture secretary.

He explained that the growth of



MOVING FORWARD

WILLIAM D. DAR

the agriculture sector of Thailand and Vietnam was 2 to 3 percent over the last 10 years, and both countries currently boast of having the most successful agricultural economies in Southeast Asia. I can even say that their agri-fishery economies are among the most robust in Asia.

"Vietnam did two things that we did not do," Villegas said. He explained that Vietnam opened up to foreign investments that the Philippines failed to do as the 1987 Constitution's economic provisions limited foreign participation to 40 percent in companies and industries.

Some observers may find this ironic as Vietnam is a communist country but welcomed foreign investments with more open arms compared to the Philippines.

Investment in countryside infrastructure

The second thing that Vietnam

did was to invest in countryside infrastructure in the form of expressways and agricultural infrastructure like irrigation and postharvest facilities.

"Vietnam devoted a lot of resources to the countryside and agriculture," Villegas said. He also observed that rice farmers in Vietnam do not dry their *palay* (unmilled rice) on the road like Filipino cultivators of the crop do, as they have access to modern drying facilities.

I thus agreed with Villegas' statement that former president Rodrigo Duterte did the right thing by investing in infrastructure in the countryside rather than concentrating it in Metro Manila and Metropolitan Cebu.

Villegas also said Vietnam is now the second top exporter of coffee globally behind top placer Brazil. I find this astounding as Vietnam in 2020 was the fifth top exporter of coffee globally. My research shows the Vietnamese coffee industry was supported by its government in terms of plantation/farm development and expansion, technology application, value adding and market promotion.

Vietnam also exports the fol-



TITLE: President Marcos^{sr} as Secretary of

PAGE

2/3

DATE

Agribusiness

lowing products in large quantities: pepper, tea, cashew nuts, rubber, cassava and aquatic products. Vietnam is one of the top most exporters of rice while India is No. 1.

As for Thailand, it is also the top exporter of durian to China with a more than 90-percent share, and is the top exporter of rice globally.

However, it is not too late for the Philippine agriculture sector to become an export powerhouse with Villegas saying: "Let's not reinvent the wheel. Let's look at what Vietnam did."

"Diversification — we were too obsessed with rice, rice, rice," he added, explaining that Thailand and Vietnam had the advantage of having a river system that can sustain their rice production unlike the Philippines where fresh water is not as abundant because we are an archipelago.

Also, the country's top farm exports are still bananas and coconut products.

Export diversification needed

The good news is President Marcos has clinched a deal with four China-based companies

to buy durian from the Philippines worth \$260 million or almost P14.3 billion. Also, in September 2021, the Philippines became the first Asian country to clinch a deal to export avocado to China.

Villegas said the country expanding the types of farm commodities it exports should form part of the diversification strategy that is in turn part of the four strategies that he said I outlined in the Department of Agriculture's (DA) transition report submitted to President Marcos. The other three, as mentioned by Villegas during the forum, are consolidation, digitalization and industrialization.

Also for consolidation, he also said the DA, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) should be unified in their efforts to make the country's agriculture and agribusiness more productive and efficient.

Villegas no longer sees a point in fragmenting farmlands into smaller units as this will not encourage economies of scale. Also, the DENR can allocate idle

lands for the massive planting of crops like coconuts. As for the DILG, I have stated in my past columns that local government units (LGUs) can facilitate the forging of agreements between farmers' groups and big companies seeking raw farm produce for processing. LGUs can also help organize or consolidate farmers or operate postharvest facilities for use by farmers.

This type of cooperation among the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG can be forged by President Marcos himself. "You have four agencies that have to be on the same page, and only the President can knock their heads together," Villegas said.

"It's good for the President to be the one to rule over the entire area of agribusiness," he said, adding he would rather call President Marcos "secretary of agribusiness."

Echoing that, a countryside "teeming with farmers and fishers" has been my dream for decades. I am hoping that dream will come true during this administration through the collective action of the government, LGUs, private sector and civil society. I am sure Villegas also shares that dream.



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PAGE

03-02-23

DATE

Video gagamitin sa mga kuwentong kalikasan

Naisip ng isang ecological literacy non-profit organization na nakabase sa Mindanao na gumamit ng video para epektibong maipalaganap sa publiko ang edukasyon, ideya at mga environment-related topics sa buong Northern Mindanao.

Naband na nag-produce ang Association of Young Environmental Journalists (AYEJ) ng "Kwentong Kalikasan", isang TV documentary at video magazine na tumatalalay sa mga kuwento at mga trabaho ng conservationists at adbokasya ng forest landscape.

Ayon kay Vel Vestil, executive director at AYEJ co-founder, ang serye ay pawang may kinalaman sa galaw ng forest conservation at isang inisyatibo



para malabuo nang isang nakaka-inspired na aksyon sa tulong nang mga pagkukuwento sa kasalukuyang estado ng ating mga kagubatan at kanilang ginawang aksyon para mapakinahangan ang kapaligiran.

"What better way to do that than by telling the stories of our frontline forest guardians and showing evidence of why it's of prime importance to protect the last remaining forest cover," ayon kay Vestil.

Sinabi ni Vestil na sila ay nakipag-

partner sa Forest Foundation Philippines para maisakatuparan ang 14 episodes na kaulang ginawa.

"We started the production in March last year (2022). That includes key messages, development, and workshop with stakeholders on what messages needed to be communicated in the documentaries," aripa Vestil.

Ang mga episodes ay mapapanood sa iba't ibang platform online ng "Kwentong Kalikasan" kabilang na sa AYEJ's YouTube channel.

Kabilang sa mga kuwento ay mula kay Anilaw Makumpot, 15 na isang miyembro ng Indigenous Peoples (IPs) communities na nakadiskubre ng kahalagahan ng koneksiyon sa forest conservation at ang paghubog sa kanilang kultura bilang bahagi ng Higaonon-Talaandig tribe ng Misamis Oriental.

"The forest is our church, pharmacy, market, and hospital. For us tumad youth, if we forget the importance of nature, we will also lose the value of being part of a tribe. Our identity as humans is tied to the forest," dagdag ni Makumpot.

Nai-feature rin si Reina Bontuyan, isang mountaineer na naging entrepreneur na nagtayo ng outdoor sports center na hindi lamang nagbebenta ng equipment at apparel kundi nagtuturo rin sa pamamagitan ng workshop kung papano aalagaan ang kalikasan. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



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DATE

DTI-PBIDC signs MoA on propagation of climate-smart bamboo

THE Department of Trade and Industry-Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (DTI-PBIDC) will sign a memorandum of agreement for bamboo's propagation in 1,500 towns nationwide in order to position bamboo as industrial crop.

The bamboo program is also in line with the Marcos Administration to fulfill commitments to global treaties on climate change.

A memorandum of agreement will be entered by DTI with the National Movement of Young Legislators Alumni Association (NMYLAA) even as carbon offsets are now upheld by the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (Inbar).

The program will be fulfilling a plan for many years now via Executive Order 879 (signed May 2010) to position bamboo not only as a primary climate tool and plant species against man-made disasters but as a crop for use as an industrial raw material.

"We are meeting with (DTI) Secretary (Alfredo) Pascual for this program to plant bamboo nationwide," said PBIDC Vice Chairman Deogracias Victor

Savellano.

Bamboo is envisioned to be used for biofuel, food, crafts. It can be developed as raw material for architectural and construction purposes, "ultimately playing a large role in the economy by creating job opportunities," said Savellano.

PBIDC will be reaching out to the grassroots through the bamboo production by tapping competent harangay leaders to carry this out.

The program can avail of prevailing government programs to support the bamboo propagation.

DENR DAO 2021-43 grants incentives to the private sector, upland organizations, and other entities in forest protection through verified carbon certificates. It will provide a standardized guidance for measurement of carbon projects. A registry for all forest carbon projects will be put up.

The DAO's Carbon Accounting, Verification, and Certification System (CAVCS) harmonizes with the principles of the Philippine National Standard (PNS), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),



Bamboo for climate change mitigation.

PHOTO BY DENR-ERDB

and Good Practice Guidance for Land Use.

CAVCS projects will have a life of a minimum of 20 years to guarantee stability and long term gain.



03-02-23

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Manila Water plants over 1.4-M trees

The Manila Water Company announced on Wednesday that it has planted and nurtured over 1.4 million trees across the country as of December 2022 under its watershed protection and management program to help fight climate change.

Among the tree species planted under the water firm's tree planting activities are narra, mahogany, yakal, kamagong, ipil, sandalwood, maguilomboy, agohoy and fruit-bearing trees that can also provide source of food and livelihood to the residents of watershed areas such as langka, rambutan, guyabano, santol, cacao and coffee trees.

It has also planted fishpole bamboos in Laguna province.

"We also move to protect life on land through watershed protection and management programs. The company's watershed management can help improve biodiversity and contribute to carbon sequestration that can mitigate the effects of climate change," Manila Water president and chief executive officer Jocot de Dios said in a statement on Wednesday.

Since the launch of its watershed management program in 2006, Manila Water has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, various local government units, indigenous people residing in watershed communities and other stakeholders for its implementation.

The water firm's watershed protection efforts focus on the Ipo watershed in Norzagaray town, Bulacan province; La Mesa watershed in Quezon City; Upper Marikina watershed in Marikina City; and General Nakar watershed in Quezon province.

It has pursued watershed management and protection programs in Nabaog watershed in Malay town, Aklan province; Villa Maria, Porac town, Pampanga; watershed and forest areas in Laguna province; Pan-As Hayiban watershed in Calbayog, Samar province; and Layang watershed in Carmen town, Cebu province.

Manila Water has also been supporting the Annual Million Trees Challenge of the MWSS since its launch in 2017.

The water firm has covered a total of 2,739.27 hectares of land in reforestation activities in different parts of the country. PNA



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU DENR, Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1115 Tel. No. 8638-6278 Website: www.denr.gov.ph Email: records@denr.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed LUMINO BISLIG TREE PLANTATION FOR BIOMASS PRODUCTION PROJECT of LUMINO ENERGY PLANTATIONS, INC. located in BRIGGS, SAN JOSE, PAMPAYEPAN AND SAN ANTONIO BISLIG CITY, SURIGAO DEL SUR, DARANGAYS, MAHAYAG AND RAJAH CABENGSUAN, LINGIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed LUMINO BISLIG TREE PLANTATION FOR BIOMASS PRODUCTION PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Venue. Date: 10 March 2023. Time: 9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM). Venue: Balig Highland Function Farm and Restaurant, Parok 3, John Beseo District, Brgy. Mangogay, Balig City, Surigao del Sur.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Table with 2 columns: Project Name, Project Location, Project Capacity/Area, Project Type, Project Rationale, Project Component/Facilities, Description. Includes details about Lumino Bislig Tree Plantation for Biomass Production Project.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email at eiamd@denr.gov.ph three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website. Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website while copies will be available in the following offices:

- 1. EMB CARAGA, P-5 Ambago-Masao Rd., Butuan City
2. Bislig City Hall, Bislig, Surigao Del Sur
3. Lingig Municipal Hall, Lingig, Surigao del Sur

For more details, please contact the EIA and Management Division of this Office at telephone number 8539-4378 loc. 166 and 116 and look for the project case handlers Engr. Mary Theres Gossaine and Engr. George Silvestria.

Protect the environment... Protect life.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU DENR, Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1115 Tel. No. 8638-6278 Website: www.denr.gov.ph Email: records@denr.gov.ph



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Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed LUMINO TRENTO TREE PLANTATION FOR BIOMASS PRODUCTION PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, Venue. Date: 9 March 2023. Time: 9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM). Venue: 3rd Floor, Wilson Hamilton Building, 15000 St. Paulino, Trento, Agusan del Sur.

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