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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR PLACES 7 MORE AREAS UNDER PROTECTION

By Jane Bautista
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Seven more protected areas (PAs) were established under the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems (Nipas) in 2022, bringing the total number of PAs in the country to 248.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bureau of Biodiversity Management (DENR-BMB), all seven PAs were covered by various legislation.

These areas include Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape (Republic Act No. 11684), Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape (RA 11685), Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape (RA 11686), Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Act (RA 11687), Banao Protected Landscape (RA 11688), Tugbo-Natural Biotic Area (RA 11806) and Sicogon Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RA 11933).

"The legislation of new PAs also contributes to the achievement of the Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which calls for improvement and increase in the number of PAs among the parties including the Phil-



PROTECTED MOUNTAIN Mt. Arayat in Pampanga is now a protected area. —INQUIRER PHOTO

ippines," the agency said in a statement.

Aside from this, 131 PAs have been turned into ecotourism facilities and a total of 171 PAs have established an Integrated Protected Area Fund following the Nipas Act.

"For the past five years, an estimated P386.8 million was generated, wherein 75 percent of the amount was retained to the PAs, which translated to more funds for the sustainable management of these areas," DENR-BMB said.

Natividad Bernardino, director of DENR-BMB, said the progress in protected area management, along with cave management and wildlife conservation was a testament that communities and policymak-

ers were prioritizing wildlife and natural habitat conservation.

"While we are treading into the postpandemic era, the BMB—together with DENR field offices—continues to be at the forefront of protecting, conserving and sustainably managing the country's flora and fauna," Bernardino said.

For cave management, the agency said they have identified 3,432 caves, of which 292 are within PAs.

"Existing or known caves must be identified and shall be supported by providing information such as the local name, general description (elevation, accessibility, etc.) and location using topographic and other maps available," it said. INQ



DENR to use satellites, drones vs. illegal logging

DRONES and satellite imagery will increasingly be used by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) given the proliferation of illegal logging and continued deforestation.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga said the use of technology would be accelerated in response to a Haribon report that at least 7,517 deforestation alerts had been recorded nationwide in a span of just two weeks.

"As you know, there are social and economic motivations to these activities. Each of them is contextualized in specific areas so if there are illegal activities ongoing, especially deforestation, we need to look closely at the social and economic drivers for these activities. We cannot treat this as a purely environmental problem," she said.

"It is not a very simple issue to tackle as it is complex. This is a complex activity and so we are trying our best in terms of monitoring. Given the resources that the department have, we don't have the capability to spot all of these and so we welcome the CSOs (civil society organizations), and the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that are able to help us with this information," she added.

"Rest assured that we are going to be applying some very advanced technologies. We are upscaling our drone capabilities and we will be using a lot of satellite imagery in terms of monitoring. That is an investment that the department is trying to make because at this moment, it's one forest ranger to 4,0000 hectares," Yulo-Loyzaga continued.

In a related development, the DENR chief said the department would be conducting consultations nationwide beginning this month in bid to consult with stakeholders.

"Multisectoral conferences will be held in Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro. The stay in Mindanao will be a little bit longer. We have discussions with BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). They have invited us to actually assist them technically and we accepted that invitation so we will be working closely with BARMM in Mindanao," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

"The consultative fora will be something the way we would like to be illustrative in the whole process of risk governance and environmental governance for the department," she added.

BELLA CARIASO



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DENR to create opportunities for biotech to tackle climate change

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

BUILDING opportunities in biotechnology will be prioritized to help address climate change and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth for all Filipinos.

This was the commitment made by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, during the opening program of the recently-held 18th National Biotechnology Week (NBW) in Pasay City.

Speaking on behalf of

Loyzaga, Jonas Leones, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, said biotechnology offers powerful solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Leones explained that with climate change already present and serious, the global phenomenon "compels us to act expeditiously and wisely, especially since the answer to the climate catastrophe requires [a] systematic transformation in the fusion of various disciplines."

"Biotechnology is one of the tools that we can use to boost economic growth, create jobs, develop healthcare solutions, improve agri-food

systems, and rehabilitate and protect our environment and natural resources," he pointed out.

The DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), led by Director Maria Lourdes G. Ferrer, was the official representative of the agency for the said event.

The ERDB hosted sub-events for the NBW celebration. These events include "Enviotech," which features biotechnology research and applications that were presented by various Filipino biotechnology scientists, and "Enviocon," a mobile photo essay contest for the youth.



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Agencies briefed on National Climate Action reports

THE Climate Change Commission has brought together national government agencies to discuss the progress of the country's national climate reports as part of efforts to pursue scientific, evidence-based and transparent climate governance.

The CCC said it held a "Coordination and Update Meeting on National Climate Action Monitoring and Reporting" with over 50 participants from 24 government agencies on December 21.

The meeting was a hybrid setup which took place at the Hive Hotel and Convention Place in Quezon City and also via Zoom video conference.

It covered the three ongoing reports

facilitated by CCC – the National Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2020 Monitoring Report, the 2015 and 2020 National Inventory Report and the Philippine Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The NCCAP Monitoring 2017-2020 tracks the progress of the government in concretizing its outputs and outcomes under its seven thematic priorities – food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy and knowledge and capacity development, in line with the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended.

The 2015 and 2020 NIR measure GHG emission levels to inform evidence-based mitigation policy and planning and is in line with the Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System, issued under Executive Order 174 in 2014.

The Philippine BUR is one of three national reports to be submitted to the UNFCCC to assess global progress on climate commitments and mobilize support needs of the parties.

The CCC also said the implementation of National Climate Public Expenditures was also presented to further encourage agencies to tag their climate programs.



Kinulang ba ng pera o paputok? Malinis na hangin sa 2023!

Kapansin-pansin ang kakaunting pailaw at paputok nitong nakaraang bisperas ng Bagong Taon lalo na sa aming barangay at katibing barangay.

Taon-taon ay binabasa ko ang harapang kalsada ng aming kalye dahil naranasan ko ang maraming kalye kinabukasan pagkaraan ng bisperas.

Maraming kalat sa kalsada na mga balat na papel ng paputok at mga kutwis na hindi winawalis o nililinis. Mayroon namang naglilinis ngunit kaunti lamang. Yun pang maraming pinaputok o pinailaw ang hindi naglilinis kadalasan.

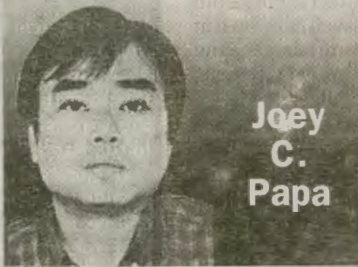
Mahigit isang dekada na kamang di gumagamit ng paputok o pailaw. Kontra ito sa aming paniniwala na kailangang panatiliin ang malinis na hangin na buhay natin at bahagi ng Inang Kalikasan.

Nakapagdadagdag din ng carbon ang mga pulburang pinapuputok o kaya'y pinasasabog at pupunta sa atmospera at nagpapainit lalo sa ating mundo o global warming.

Pagsapit ng alas-dose, may ilan nang nagpapailaw na may kasamang paputok sa katabing barangay namin. Ngunit mga lima sampung minuto lamang ay paisa-isa na lamang ang naririnig na pumaputok sa kalawakan maging mula sa malalayong barangay.

Gayunman, naramdaman ko na agad ang init ng kapaligiran-han-

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

gin na fulad nang nararanasan ko tuwing sasapit sa bagong taon.

Natural na mainit ang hangin dahil nag-iinit ang mga pulburang pinapuputok at ang hangin sa atmospera ay nakukulong ng mga pulbura ng pailaw.

Nang pagkaraan ng sampung minuto ay wala na akong naripig na paputok at pailaw, natuwa ako. Naririnig ko na lamang ang maraming tunog ng torotot hiyawan ng mga tao na masayang sinasalubong ang bagong taon. Ligtas ito at hindi toxic tulad ng mga paputok-pailaw na pulbura.

Sana nga'y magbago na ng ganap ang pagdiriwang ng bagong taon. Ginaya lang naman natin ito sa mga dayuhang Tsino na nagsasabing ginagawa nila ito upang paalisin ang masasamang ispiritu.

Nawala nga ba ang masasamang ispiritu o nagkatawang-lupa na rin at nakahalubilo ng mga tao? Ang

mga ito ang gumagawa ng katiwalian sa bayan natin.

Limang dekada na ang kultura ng pagpapaputok sa ating bayan upang palayasin 'umano ang masasamang ispiritu ngunit nananatili pa ring kinukububan ng masasamang nilalang ang ating kapaligiran. Kahit na ang mga tirahan ng mga Pilipinong katutubo sa may kabundukan ng Sierra Madre ay ginagambala ng mga taong ang nasa utak ay salapi at salapi lamang.

Hindi natatakot ang mga taong ito sa mga anito ng mga katutubo. Hindi sila natatakot sa mga namamahay sa mga kabundukang nakatira sa mga malalaking puno, burol, ilog, at sa buong kabundukan. Ang mga namamahay sa mga ito ay bahagi ng Inang Kalikasan na nakatakotang sirain ng mga dayuhang interes.

Sana'y magising ang mga ganitong tao sa taong 2023. Doon sila sa bansa nila magpakana ng mga paninira dahil hindi papayagan ng mga katutubong Pilipino na mawasak ang kanilang tahanan at ang kabundukang inalagaan nila ng humigit kumulang isang siglo na.

Nagmula pa ito sa kanilang mga ninuno at hindi nila ito isusuko sa mga kuko ng mga dayuhang interes lamang.

Sierra Madre ang kanilang tahanan, Sierra Madre din ang kanilang magiging himlayan.



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PROMOTE AND UTILIZE
RENEWABLE ENERGY

BATAAN
NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT

EDITORIAL

Renewable energy

ADMITTEDLY, many foreign businessmen are reluctant to invest in the Philippines, an impoverished but natural resources-rich Southeast Asian nation of more than 110 million people.

Various quarters attributed this reluctance to the high cost of electricity in the country, which is trying to attract foreign investors as part of efforts to meet the employment needs of Filipinos.

Thus, it is certainly heartening to know that the administration of President Marcos is pursuing measures and policies aimed at ensuring the availability of cheap and reliable energy.

This the government, through concerned state offices and agencies, will do by promoting and utilizing renewable energy (RE) sources, such as wind and solar power.

In a yearend report, the Department of Energy (DOE) listed its major plans for 2023, including updating the so-called Philippine Energy Plan and pursuing contingency measures.

These measures and other activities are designed to ensure enough energy supplies even during critical periods.

In his first state-of-the-nation address (SONA), President Marcos said energy will be a key sector in his administration's push for economic growth and increased employment.

The young Chief Executive from Ilocos Norte, the only son and namesake of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos, said the country is searching for new sources of energy.

Marcos said this is being done while the government is improving the mix of the energy supply between traditional and renewable energy sources.

At the same time, the highly-articulate Ilocano President believed that it's also high time to reexamine the country's strategy towards building nuclear power plants in the Philippines.

Likewise, he was quick to emphasize the need to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations for nuclear power plants.

Doubtless, the Marcos government is on the right track in looking for new renewable energy sources as part of its efforts to attract more foreign investors.



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SINALUBONG ng tone-toneladang basura ang isang environmental watchdog matapos ang pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon.

Dahil dito, nagpahayag ng pagkadismaya ang EcoWaste Coalition nang nagsagawa ito ng ocular monitoring, kung saan nadatnan nila ang tambak ng basura na naiwanan sa mga kalye ng Metro Manila, na tinatayang umabot sa 3.7 milyong tonelada.

Naobserbahan ang bundok ng Metro trash, kabilang ang mga food waste, disposable beverage at food container at iba pang basurang naiwan mula sa mga pagtitipon na isinagawa sa pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon, gayundin ang mga debris ng fireworks at firecrackers, lalo na sa mga matataong residential areas.

Bukod pa rito, nakitaan din ng mga tira-tirang paputok ang mga kalsada na hindi umano itinakda ng mga awtoridad bilang firecracker zone.

Matatandaang noong kasagsagan ng holiday season ay paulit-ulit na paalala at pakiusap ang isinagawa sa taumbayan na sikapin maging malinis ang pagdiriwang ng Kapaskuhan at pagsalubong ng Bagong Taon.

Kumbaga, iwasang mag-iwan ng mga kalat sa pasyalan at hangga't maaari ay mag-recycle ng mga pambalot ng regalo at dekorasyon para iwas-kalat.

Gayunman sa kabila ng mga paalala



BOSES

NI RYAN B. SISON

PROBLEMA SA BASURA, BANTA SA KALIKASAN AT KALUSUGAN

ay hindi pa rin naiwasan ang tambak ng basura.

Sa totoo lang, batid nating mula noon hanggang ngayon ay problema na ang basura.

May pagdiriwang man o wala at kahit saan ka man mapunta, tiyak na may tambak ng basura, bagay na malaking banta sa kalikasan at kalusugan.

Kaya ngayong 2023, pakiusap sa lahat na sikapin nating maging disiplinado, lalo na pagdating sa ating mga kalat.

Isama sa pagbabago ang pagiging responsable sa lahat ng pagkakataon at iwasan nating iasa sa iba ang kalinisan dahil ito ay dapat magmula sa ating mga sarili.

Para sa inyong opinyon, sumbong, hinaing o nais hinging tulong ito ang pagkakataong marinig ang inyong boses, sumulat lamang sa BOSES ni RYAN SISON at ipadala sa Bulgar Bldg. 538 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City o mag-email sa bores.bulgar@gmail.com.



STRATEGIC
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THE EXHIBENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1880
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CARTOON

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FIRST HATCH OF 2023: On the first sunrise of 2023, hatchling turtles Olive Ridley species crawl their way to the sea waters in front of ACEA Beach Resort in Subic Freeport Zone, Zambales. The sighting of baby turtles is a regular occurrence every Jan. 1 in the resort. (Noel Pablata)



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Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR • WITHOUT FAVOR



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EDITORIAL



CARTOON

JAN 03 2011

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AMID the controversies surrounding the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach along Roxas Boulevard, people still choose to spend the first day of the New Year at the location along with their families. PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY



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DOLOMITE BEACH People from all walks of life visit the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach to relax and inhale fresh air during the New Year's Day celebration on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. Dolomite Beach is one of the latest attractions in Manila.
RPA/PHOTO



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51 na patay, 19 missing sa baha at landslides sa VisMin



PUMALO na sa 51 katao ang nasawi habang 19 ang missing sanhi ng malawakang pagbaha at landslides dulot ng malakas na ulan sanhi ng shearline, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Sa report na ipinalabas ng NDRRMC, 25 ang nasawi sa Northern Mindanao (Region 10), 9 sa Bicol (Region 5), 5 sa Eastern Bisaya (Region 8), tig 4 sa Zamboanga (Region 9) at Davao, 3 sa Caraga, at 1 sa Mimaropa.

Habang 19 naman ang missing: 10 sa Eastern Visaya, 7 sa Bicol, at tig 1 sa Western Visaya at Zamboanga, at 1 ang sugatan dulot ng kalamidad.

Nasa kabuan 149,957 pamilya (595,693 individual) ang naapektuhan mula sa 966

Barangay ss Bicol, Western Visaya, Central Visaya, Eastern Visaya, Zamboanga, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Caraga at BARM.

Nanatili ang 2,811 pamilya (8,666 indibidwal) sa 78 evacuation centers, habang 11,003 pamilya (41,343 indibidwal) ang nanunuluyan sa kanilang mga kamag-anak.

Nasa kabuan 4,540 kabahayan ang napinsala kungsaan 836 ang totally damaged, at 3,704 ang partially damage.

At P1.137 billion ang halaga ng pinsala sa infrastructure, habang P243.029 million halaga ng pinsala sa agriculture sanhi ng flashflood.

Isinailalaim sa state of calamity ang 22 cities at municipalities.

(Mark Obleada)