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DENR

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Manila Bay water quality improves

BY JED MACAPAGAL

MANILA Bay's water quality continues to improve with the government's rehabilitation efforts that started in January 2019, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Citing data from the Manila Bay Coordinating Office, the agency said as of October 2022, fecal coliform level in the National Capital Region went down to 51,300 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) from a high of 126,000 MPN/100mL in 2019.

In the Manila Baywalk area, coliform levels were also at 658,000 MPN/100mL from a high of 5.75 million MPN/100mL.

For the same period, coliform level in Calabarzon's bathing beaches also dropped to 643 MPN/100mL from 3,040 MPN/100mL as coliform levels in the region's river mouths or outfalls went down to 47,000 MPN/100mL from 94,000 MPN/100mL.

In Central Luzon, coliform level fell to 1,243 MPN/100mL from 5,099 MPN/100mL.

In terms of liquid waste management, MBCO reported as of the third quarter of 2022, a total of 1,202 establishments were surveyed and mapped while 5,919 establishments were monitored, of which 61 were slapped with cease and desist orders and 949 were issued notices of violation.

The MBCO said in terms of solid waste management, more than 125,000 cubic meters of solid waste were collected through trash traps, trash boats and cleanup activities as of September 2022.

In terms of managing informal settler families and illegal structures, a total of 128.47 kilometers were delineated to comply with the 20-meter easement across the three regions of Manila Bay for the said period.

DENR said alternative livelihoods were provided to resettled individuals through the construction of floating restaurants and development of an ecotourism area.

As for habitat and resources management, the MBCO reported 13,535 mangroves and 24,730 bamboo propagules were planted throughout the bay region during the third quarter of 2022.

As of October 2022, two of the seven projects in Manila Baywalk have also been completed including the solar-powered comfort rooms on Padre Faura and Abad streets and the security, operation and maintenance of a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant (STP), with the rest at 83 to 96 percent completion.

Jacob Meimban, MBCO executive director, said STP interventions are expected to significantly reduce pollution in major waterways with agencies involved in the Manila Bay rehabilitation set to adopt further sustainable management interventions in the area in the coming year aside from implementing community-based approach in solid waste management through waste-to-energy and upscaling as well as promote nature-based approach through the development of a mangrove agenda.

"At the moment, we are also working on the institutionalization of the MBCO to ensure continuity in the implementation of the projects and activities under the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program," Meimban added.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



REIMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

NAGBUBUNGA na ang kasalukuyang pagsisikap ng gobyerno na isaayos ang Manila Bay matapos na patuloy na maging maayos ang kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay region.

Iniugnay ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang tagumpay na ito sa tuloy-tuloy at maayos na implementasyon ng Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OPMBCS) at ang geo-engineering initiatives ng

inter-agency Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF) na pinamumunuan ng DENR.

Matapos ang halos apat na taon ng rehabilitasyon, ang tinaguriang "Battle for Manila Bay" ay nag resulta sa mas mabuting water quality sa Manila Bay region na nakita sa anti-unting pagbaba ng fecal coliform level simula noong January 2019.

Noong October 2022, ang fecal coliform level sa National Capital Region (NCR) ay bumaba sa 51,300 most probable number per 100 mil-

MAS MABUTING WATER QUALITY AT PAGBABA NG FECAL COLIFORM LEVEL SA MANILA BAY REGION

liliters (MPN/100mL) mula sa 126,000 MPN/100mL noong 2019, ayon sa Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO).

Nagkaroon din ng pagbaba sa coliform levels sa ibang lugar na nasasakupan ng Manila Bay. Ang coliform level sa bathing beaches ng Region IV-A ay bumaba sa 643 MPN/100mL mula 3,040 MPN/100mL.

Sa Region III, bumaba ang coliform level sa 1,243 MPN/100mL mula 5,099 MPN/100mL. Bumaba rin ito sa river mouths o outfalls sa Region IV-A mula 94,000 MPN/100mL patungo sa 47,000 MPN/100mL.

Sa kilalang Manila Bay-walk area, malaki rin ang bina-ba ng coliform level na ngayon ay nasa 658,000 MPN/100mL mula sa napakataas na 5.75 million MPN/100mL.

Sa larangan ng liquid waste management, iniulat ng MBCO na noong third quarter

ng 2022, may kabuuang 1,202 establisyamento ang na-survey at na-map habang 5,919 establishments ang namonitor, kung saan 61 ay binigyan ng cease and desist orders at 949 ang nabigyan ng notices of violation.

Ayon sa MBCO, sa larangan ng solid waste management, mahigit 125,000 cubic meters ng solid waste ang nakolekta sa pamamagitan ng trash traps, trash boats at cleanup activities hanggang nitong September 2022.

Ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ay nakiisa sa INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP noong September 17, 2022. Isinasagawa ang International Coastal Clean-up tuwing ikatlong Sabado sa buwan ng Setyembre alinsunod sa

Presidential Proclamation No. 470. Layon nito na ma-itaas ang antas ng kaalaman ng publiko at makuha ang kanilang suporta para sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan ng mga baybayin, dalampasigan, look o anomang anyong tubig ng bansa.

Sa pamamahala ng informal settler families at illegal structures, may kabuuang 128.47 kilometers ang naisaayos bilang pagsunod sa 20-meter easement sa tatlong rehiyon ng Manila Bay.

Kung nais ninyo malaman ang TAMANG IMPORMASYON, TAMANG SERBISYO ni AGARANG SERBISYO LADY, i-search sa YOUTUBE CHANNEL, "HILDA ONG" at sa Facebook Fanpage "TV RADIO HILDA ONG". Huwag kalimutan i-click ang salitang "SUBSCRIBE", "LIKE" at "SHARE".



Dams stop spill but floods persist in Bulacan, Isabela

Some 4,000 displaced persons have been allowed to return home but some bridges, road still not passable

CITY OF MALOLOS—Weather conditions have improved in Luzon but some villages in Bulacan and bridges and low-lying areas in Isabela and Cagayan provinces were still flooded on Sunday.

Floodwaters in at least 13 villages in Calumpit town in Bulacan have started to subside on Sunday as Angat and Ipo dams stopped discharging waters.

The 1.52-meter (5 feet) floodwaters experienced in the town's village of Sapang Bayan on Saturday have subsided to only 0.91 meters (3 feet) by Sunday, said Jonjon Santiago of the Calumpit municipal disaster risk reduction management office (DRRMO) in a phone interview.

The water level in other inundated villages that had rose to up to 1.22 meters (4 feet) had also subsided after the heavy rains spawned by the shear line and the through of the low pressure area outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility has abated, he added.

In the town of Hagonoy, the villages around Angat, Ipo and Bustos dams were likewise seeing improved conditions but some areas were still under up to 0.61 meters (2 feet) of water although residents opted not to evacuate, said Jesus Cruz, the head of the town's DRMMO.

Water release stopped

Angat, Ipo and Bustos dams harness water from the Angat River that traverses through the



RECEDING These children, who are among those evacuated last week from the flood-hit village of Sapang Bayan in Calumpit, Bulacan, wade through floodwater which has since receded. On Friday, the floods reached 1.52 meters (5 feet) after Angat, Ipo and Bustos dams breached their spilling levels and discharged water, flooding areas along Angat River. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALUMPIT MUNICIPAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Bulacan towns of Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliwag, Plaridel, Pulilan, Calumpit, Hagonoy and Paombong before ending in Manila Bay. Calumpit

and Hagonoy are the two catch basin towns of these waters.

The improved weather condition on Sunday prompted authorities to stop water discharge in the three dams.

However, water level at the Angat Dam still measured 214.04 meters above sea level (masl) as of early Sunday, about two meters beyond the 212.00-masl spilling level.

Ipo Dam was at 100.95 masl as of 11 a.m. on Sunday, which was already below its 101.00-masl spilling level, while Bustos Dam was within its 17.30-masl spilling level as of 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Evacuees to go home

About 4,000 residents from 500 families in 30 villages living along the low-lying areas of Angat River in Norzagaray, Angat, Bustos, San Rafael, Baliwag, Plaridel, Pulilan and Calumpit were preemptively evacuated on Friday because of the dam discharges.

Felicisima Mungcal, head of the Bulacan provincial DRRMO, said they have allowed displaced residents to return home on Sunday until Monday.

Gov. Daniel Fernando has ordered the distribution of relief packs to the affected families, said Rowena Tiongson, the provincial social welfare and development officer.

In Isabela province, the scheduled release of 200 cubic meters of water per second

in Magat Dam set starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday was deferred pending assessment of the watershed situation, said National Irrigation Administration Division Manager Carlo Ablan.

The dam has stayed within its 189.09-masl reservoir level after it released water since Saturday afternoon.

Road, bridges flooded

But the Baculod, Cansan-Bagutari and Cabagan-Santa Maria bridges in Isabela remain flooded on Sunday morning.

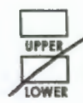
In Tuguegarao City, the capital of Cagayan province, the flood monitoring command center reported that Pina-canauan Bridge and the area between Teresa Boulevard to Cataggaman section and Bunagan Bridge remained not passable to motorists due to floods.

The water is expected to recede amid recorded sunny weather in Tuguegarao, Peñablanca, Enrile and Solana towns in Cagayan, officials said.

The water level at Buntun Bridge also receded from 8.1 meters high on Saturday to 6.9 meters on Sunday morning.

On Saturday, parts of Solana were submerged in knee-deep flood, including farms in villages close to Cagayan River, the municipal DRRMO reported.

In Cagayan's town of Enrile, low-lying areas remained flooded since Saturday. —REPORTS FROM VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. AND CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ



JAN 09 2023

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Angat, Ipo dams' gate closed

All gates of Angat Dam are now closed and stopped their spilling operation at 5:30 a.m. today, 8 January

BY LADE JEAN KABAGANI

Authorities from the Angat and Ipo dams in Norzagaray, Bulacan halted the release of excess water on Sunday as water levels were "slowly decreasing" and minimizing flooding.

At least 500 families were evacuated from several areas in Norzagaray, Bulacan due to flooding caused by the release of water from Angat and Ipo dams as both opened several gates on Saturday to secure the reservoir water levels will remain at normal levels amid the continuous pouring of heavy rains over the past few days.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration announced that all gates of Angat Dam have been closed since 5:30 a.m. on Sunday while those gates of Ipo Dam were closed since 6 a.m.

"All gates of Angat Dam are now closed and stopped their spilling operation at 5:30 a.m. today, 8 January," PAGASA said in a flood advisory.

Based on the PAGASA monitoring, the reservoir water level in Angat Dam was down to 214.04 meters on Sunday morning, from 215.03 meters on Saturday.

The spilling level or normal high water level in Angat Dam should be at 212-meter.

Ipo Dam had a 101.21-meter RWL, slightly higher than its 101.0-meter normal high water level.



3 dam sa Bulacan nagpakawala ng tubig, higit 3 libong pamilya inilikas

DAHIL sa patuloy na pagulan na dala ng hanging Amihan at pangangailangang magpakawala ng tubig mula sa tatlong dam sa Bulacan, umaabot sa 3,096 pamilya ang inilikas sa mga evacuation center at pinagkalooban ng family food packs ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Bulacan.

Sa pangunguna ng Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office na pinamumunuan ni Rowena J. Tiongon, nakapagsagawa ng relief operations para sa may 1,190 apektadong pamilya.

Ang 475 na pamilya rito ay mula sa Lungsod ng Baliwag; 470 mula sa Norzagaray; 114 mula sa San Rafael; 88 mula sa Angat; 38 mula sa Plaridel at limang pamilya mula sa Pulilan.

Personal ding binantayan ni Gobernador Daniel R. Fernando ang mga dam at kalagayan ng pagbaha sa lalawigan sa Communication, Control and Command Center (C4) sa Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office at nagbigay ng kanyang mga direktiba upang sigaruduhin ang kaligtasan ng mga residente.

"Una sa lahat, sigaruduhin natin na coordinated ang mga pamahalaang lokal sa mga inilalabas na anunsyo

ng PGB. Agad na ipaalam sa kanila ang mga detalye sa pagre-release ng tubig sa dam at siguraduhin na ang mga apektadong pamilya at komunidad ay nailikas na. Tinitiyak rin natin na mabibigyan ang bawat pamilyang apektado ng mga family food pack habang sila ay nananatili sa evacuation centers," anang gobernador.

Mahigpit pa ring binabantayan ng PDRRMO ang kalagayan ng mga dam sa lalawigan dahil sa kasalukuyan, nasa 214.80 mts. na ang lebel ng tubig ng Angat Dam; 101.04 mts. sa Ipo Dam at 17.42 mts. sa Bustos Dam na mas mataas sa karaniwang lebel ng tubig ng mga ito. **DANNY GRAVADOR**



Higit 7k residente inilikas sa baha sa Bulacan

MAHIGIT 2,198 pamilya o 7,198 indibidwal ang dinala sa evacuation center nitong Linggo dahil sa pagbaha sa Bulacan.

Kabilang sa mga inilikas ang 5 pamilya (25 indibidwal) sa Pulilan; 65 pamilya (238 indibidwal) sa Plaridel; 1,498 pamilya (6,487 indibidwal) mula sa Baliwag; 46 pamilya (20 indibidwal) sa angat; 114 pamilya (400 indibidwal) sa San Rafael at 470 pamilya mula Norzagaray.

Ayon sa mga residente, Huwebes ng gabi nang tumaas ang tubig sa kanilang lugar sanhi ng pagpakaawala ng tubig ng Angat at Ipon dams nitong Sabado.

Nanawagan ang mga residente na mabigyan sila ng mga damit at pagkain.



JAN 09 2023

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Floods force thousands of Bulacan residents to flee homes

MORE than 7,000 residents in the low-lying barangays in Bulacan province fled from their homes after their villages were flooded following bad weather and the release of excess water from Angat and Ipo dams on Friday and Saturday.

Residents said the floodwater began to rise on Thursday night due to continuous rains.

They decided to leave their homes after the Angat and Ipo dams started releasing excess water at 8 a.m. on Friday and still releasing until Saturday.

Norzagaray hosts the

two dams providing more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's potable water supply.

At 6 a.m. Saturday, Angat Dam still had three gates open at 8.5 meters, while Ipo Dam had six gates open at 9.2 meters.

As of 8 a.m., the water level of Angat Dam is at 214.80 meters against its 212 meters normal water level.

The Ipo Dam's water level is at 101.04 meters compared to its spilling level of 101.00 meters while water level of Bustos Dam in Bustos town in this province is at 17.42 meters against its spilling

level of 17.00 meters.

Among those evacuated to safer areas were five families or 25 individuals from Pulilan, 65 families or 238 individuals from Plaridel, 1,498 families or 6,487 individuals from Baliwag, 46 families or 20 individuals from Angat, 114 families or 400 individuals from San Rafael and 470 families from Norzagaray town.

Grace Osido, information officer of the municipal government of Norzagaray, said Bgys. Matic, San Mateo and Poblacion were hit by floods after the Angat river over-

flowed due to the release of excess water coming from the Ipo and Angat dams.

"The floodwaters affected 2,007 individuals, 806 of whom are children, and were brought to evacuation centers in the said villages," Osido said.

The displaced individuals are temporarily sheltered in three evacuation centers, or one center in each affected barangays.

The municipal government of Norzagaray led by Mayor Elena Germar gave relief goods to the evacuees.

Jane Eleda, PNA



RESCUE TEAM ON STANDBY. Members of the rescue team of the municipal government of Norzagaray in Bulacan province closely monitor Angat River on Saturday after it overflowed and caused flooding in the low-lying villages of the town. Over 7,000 residents in Bulacan were affected by floods following the release of water from Ipo and Angat dams.

(Photo courtesy of the municipal government of Norzagaray)



JAN 09 2023

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Angat, Ipo Dams stop releasing water

By ELLALYN RUIZ

The Angat and Ipo Dams in Norzagaray, Bulacan stopped releasing excess water yesterday as water levels were slowly decreasing, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

PAGASA said that the water level of Angat Dam was 214.02 meters as of 8 a.m. Angat Dam has a normal high water level of 212 meters.

Although light rains are still expected in the Bulacan reservoir, PAGASA said the water

level in Angat Dam is gradually decreasing.

"All gates of Angat Dam are now closed and stopped their spilling operation at 5:30 a.m. today, Jan. 8," PAGASA said in a flood advisory.

Ipo Dam has also stopped its spilling operations. The current level of Ipo Dam is 101.21 meters, slightly higher than its 101-meter normal high water level.

However, PAGASA still advised local disaster risk reduction and management office and residents living in low-lying areas and those near

the banks of Angat River from Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliuag, Pulilan, Plaridel, Calumpit, Paombong, and Hagonoy to "take appropriate actions caused by the remnants of pluvial floods (submerged roads and croplands) and fluvial floods (riverbank erosion)."

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Bulacan reported yesterday that 3,096 residents were affected by flood due to the release of excess water from the Angat, Ipo, and Bustos Dams.

They have been evacuated and received family food packs. (with a report from Freddie Velez)



Matapos magpakawala ng tubig sa Bulacan

Gates ng Angat at Ipo Dam, sarado na – PAGASA

Sarado nang muli ang mga gate ng Angat Dam at Ipo Dam sa Norzagaray, Bulacan matapos magpakawala ng tubig noong Sabado, na nagresulta sa mga pagbaha sa may 9 na lugar sa matatag na lalawigan.

Ayon kay PAGASA

hydrologist Rosalie Pagulayan, dakong alas-5:30 ng umaga kahapon o Linggo nang isarado ang lahat ng gate ng Angat Dam habang ang mga gate naman ng Ipo Dam ay isinarado pagsapit ng alas-6:00 ng umaga.

Nauna rito, noong

Sabado ay binuksan ang ilang gates ng mga natatag na dam upang magpalabas ng tubig.

Bunsod anila ito nang malalakas na pag-ulan na naranasan nitong mga nakalipas na araw, na nagresulta sa pag-abot ng reservoir water level

NI MER LAYSON

(RWL) ng mga dam sa spilling level nito.

Dahil sa pagpapalabas ng tubig ng mga dam, aabot sa may 500 pamilya sa Norzagaray, Bulacan ang napilitang lumikas mula sa kanilang mga

tahanan dahil sa mga pagbaha.

"There are many reported floodings within the Angat River, particularly in our low-lying areas... Actually, this is not only caused by the release of water from dams. We also have what we call local inflows or rains that do not come from that watershed but within the Angat River," ani Pagulayan sa isang panayam.

Ipinaliwanag din ni Pagulayan na bago na-

man magpalabas ng tubig ang mga dam, nag-isyu ang PAGASA ng flood advisories, habang ang mga operators naman ng mga dam offices ay nagpalabas din ng mga warning at abiso sa Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (DRRMO) upang paghandain ang mga komunidad hinggil sa mga posibleng pagbaha.

Hanggang alas-6:00 naman ng umaga nitong Linggo, ang RWL sa Angat

Dam, na may 212-meter spilling level o normal high water level, ay nasa 214.04 metro na lamang, o pagbaha mula sa dating 215.03 metro noong Sabado.

Samantala, ang Ipo Dam naman, na may 101-meter spilling level o normal high water level, ay mayroon na lamang na 101.21-meter RWL hanggang kahapon ng umaga, bahagyang mas mataas sa 101.04 metro noong Sabado.

Marcos urged to impose national

A WASTE and pollution watchdog has reiterated its call on the Marcos administration to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and immediately put in place a national waste-import ban policy to effectively prevent hazardous waste entering the country's borders.

The EcoWaste Coalition issued the call as part of the commemoration of Zero Waste Month this January.

Through the group's trustees and staff, EcoWaste Coalition sent a letter last Friday to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to appeal for the expeditious ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment.

The Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which entered into force on December 5, 2019, prohibits affluent

countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU) and Liechtenstein from exporting hazardous wastes to developing countries like the Philippines for any reason, including for reuse, recycling or recovery operations.

Complete, permanent ban

THE country's ratification in 1993 of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and current laws and regulations are not adequate to protect the national interest from the damaging effects of the global waste trade to public health and the environment, the group said, citing high profile cases of illegal waste imports, especially those from Canada and South Korea.

"To protect our country from the illegal traffic of hazardous waste and other wastes, we request you, Mr. President, to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and to call and encourage the Senate to concur with the ratification of the same," the group's letter read.

Based on the cost-benefit study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), "the overall beneficial impact of the Ban Amendment in the Philippines outweighs the short-term costs."

The group further urged the government to completely and permanently ban all waste imports to send a clear and unequivocal message to waste traders and traffickers that exporting hazardous waste and other wastes to

waste-import ban policy

our country is now disallowed.

"The ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, the implementation of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments, and the national prohibition on waste importation, we believe, will offer our country the formidable legal protection against the illegal traffic of hazardous and other wastes," the group pointed out.

Canada waste

IN their letter, the group recalled the highly-controversial waste shipments from Canada, which arrived in Manila in 2013 and 2014 and were partially re-exported to Vancouver City in 2019, rousing citizens' awareness and abhorrence against foreign waste dumping into the country.

As Senator of the 16th Congress, Marcos even filed a resolution "to

investigate, in aid of legislation, the dumping of Canadian trash into the country, and institute measures to protect public health and the environment against toxic and hazardous materials, and ensure environmentally sound waste management."

In the years that followed, the Philippines again fell victim to illicit waste shipments that were intercepted by customs authorities, including the massive 7,408 metric tons of contaminated plastic waste imports in 2018 from South Korea that were unloaded in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental and re-exported in batches to Pyeongtaek City in 2019-2020.

The group said there may have been other cases of foreign waste shipments not intercepted and returned to their sources.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



TITLE:

PAGE

Filinvest REIT targets portfolio's

FILINVEST REIT Corp. (FILRT) said it is aiming to have all of its buildings certified and accredited with an internationally recognized sustainability certification as it targets to be a sustainable real estate investment trust (REIT).

At present, the company has two buildings — Vector Three and Axis Tower One — with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certifications.

LEED-certified buildings save money, improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions, and create healthier places for people. They are evaluated by Green Business Certification, Inc.

Gold certifications require projects to achieve 60 to 79 points, which they meet by adhering to prerequisites and credits that address carbon, energy, water, waste, transportation, materials, health, and indoor environmental quality.

Meanwhile, the company has an ongoing application and qualification for Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) certification for its six buildings, which are expected to be secured within the year. The six buildings are Plaza A and D, Filinvest 2 and 3, and Vector 1 and 2.

EDGE is a globally recognized certification led by International Finance

sustainability certification

Corp., the private sector investment arm of the World Bank.

Aside from getting certifications, the company has also engaged in other sustainability initiatives including the enrollment of its buildings in the retail electricity supply (RES) system as a fully renewable energy generation supplier.

Under the RES system, FILRT buildings are connected to an efficient chilled-water generation plant through a piping network. It also aims to explore rain harvesting.

The company said that its medium- and long-term sustainability targets are set to comply with new or proposed regulatory environmental standards

such as wastewater management, solid waste management, and the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

To date, FILRT has 17 buildings in its portfolio. It is looking to acquire eight buildings with an aggregate total gross leasable area of 164,417 square meters (sq.m.).

"All of these assets are targeted to be acquired sometime between 2023 to 2025," the company said in a disclosure.

Once done, the acquisitions will increase the company's total gross leasable area to 494,865 sq.m. or an increase of 64% from its initial public offering gross leasable area of 301,362 sq.m. —

Justine Irish D. Tabile



DTI chief targets investments in mineral processing, EV, mfg.

BEIJING — President Marcos, Jr. and Trade and Industry Sec. Alfredo Pascual led the Roundtable Meeting on Strategic Industries covering nickel processing, power batteries, electric vehicles, electronics manufacturing, and steel manufacturing.

"The processing of nickel and manufacturing of battery and e-vehicles are vital to the Philippines' economic transformation. Both sectors can create lasting impact on our country's industrialization, economic development, clean energy future, and climate resilience," Pascual stated.

The RTM revolved around a discussion to encourage Chinese investments in the Philippines,

particularly in strategic industries in the manufacturing sector.

It was also attended by Former president Gloria Arroyo, House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, other members of the Cabinet, and representatives of Chinese businesses.

In total, about \$7.32-billion investment pledges from Chinese companies were secured in the aforementioned sectors.

The Philippines has been the supplier of 60 percent to 70 percent of China's total imports of nickel ore and concentrates.

Chinese companies are also increasingly interested in the reported Philippine policy discussions on discouraging the export of unprocessed nickel ore.

The DTI chief boasted that the Philippines now has a healthy and competitive business environment that would enable strategic and sustainable manufacturing companies to thrive.

He noted that the country is a key player in the green metals sector, which are vital to the global transition to clean energy, saying: "The Philippines has over nine million hectares of land with mineral potential, 92 percent of which have yet to be responsibly utilized. We also have over 450 million metric tons of nickel reserves. Our country is home to nickel mines, nickel-processing plants, and copper mines. And we are keen to have investments in value-adding mineral activities."



TITLE:

PAGE

TUBBATAHA REEF PATOK NA SCUBA DIVING SA MUNDO

PASOK sa listahan ng '19 Beautiful Destinations with the Best Scuba Diving In the World' ang Tubbataha Reef Marine Park na ipinagmamalaki ng Pilipinas. Inilabas ito ng New York-Based Magazine na Travel + Leisure.

Ang ala-paraisong reef na ito ay matatagpuan malapit sa Sulu at Palawan na talaga namang hitik sa likas na yaman.

Nakuha nito ang ika-18th spot kabilang ang iba pang magagandang reef sa mundo gaya ng Tuamotu Archipelago sa French Polynesia (1st), Palau (2nd), Raja Ampat Island sa Indonesia (3rd), at iba pa.

Sa artikulo na inilabas ng naturang magazine, inilarawan nila ang Tubbataha Reef bilang "The place has more turtles, rays, and sharks than you ever imagined all in one place on incredible reef and drift dives."

"[It] makes for an extraordinary adventure," dagdag pa rin Terry Ward, author nito.

Bukod dito, ~~inilabas~~ na ring kinilala ito bilang 'World Heritage Site' ng United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Siyang tunay na 'di nauubusan ng ganda at karikitan ang Perlas ng Silangan! (Moises Caleon)



2 Palawan resort operator swak sa global ecotourism award

ITINANGHAL bilang 'finalists' ang dalawang operator ng mga breathtaking tourism spot sa El Nido, Palawan para sa International Ecotourism Awards.

Ito ay iba't ibang parangal na ni-launch ng Asian Ecotourism Network na layuning bigyang-pagkilala ang best practices ng mga tourism operator gaya ng pangangalaga sa kalikasan at kapakanan ng kanilang mga lokal na residente.

Dalawa nga sa mga resort operator mula sa Pilipinas ang matagumpay na nakapasok bilang finalist. Una na rito ay

Abante MO

ang Ten Knots Development Corp. para sa kategoryang 'Biodiversity Conservation, and Ecotourism Promotion', at ang Lio Tourism Estate para naman sa 'Waste Management Category'.

Mayroong iba pang kategorya ang naturang awards tulad ng Destination Governance, Sustainable Building, Community Benefit, Climate Action, at Environment Leadership.

Dagdag pa rito, kasama ito sa magiging highlights ng gaganaping first International Ecotourism Travel Mart (IETM) sa Silang, Cavite na naka-schedule sa darating na Marso 29 hanggang Abril 2, 2023.

Inaasahan na dadaluhan ito ng humigit-kumulang 21 na bansa sa mundo na magfe-feature ng kani-kanilang ecotourism packages, exhibitions at marketplace.

Talaga namang kahit saang aspekto nakikipag-sabayan ang Pinas! (Moises Caleon)



(El Nido Resorts website)



Palawan niyanig ng pagsambulat

Niyang ng malakas na pagsabog ang dalawang bayan sa Palawan, Sabado nang gabi.

Ayon sa mga saksi, sinasabing tila nagmula sa bulalakaw sa kalangitan ang pagsabog.

Randam umano ang pagsambulat at pagyanig nito sa mga bayan ng Bataraza at Rizal.

Nangyari umano ito pasado alas-7:00 nang gabi, ayon kay Eddie Bonsato ng MDRRMO Bataraza, na sinasabing personal niyang nasaksihan ang pangyayari kung saan

mala-bulalakaw aniya ito na mabilis na lumilipad sa kalangitan na tila bola at makalipas ang 15 minuto ay may narinig nang pagsabog.

Sinabi naman ni Rizal MDRRMO, Anthony Lorenzo na inaalam pa nila ang iba pang mga may kaugnayan dito. Iniulat na rin sa kanila ito ng punong barangay ng Panalingaan.

Bago ang pagpasok ng 2023, nagbabala ang Philippine Space Agency (PhlSA) sa posibleng pagbagsak ng mga debris mula sa

rocket na inilunsad ng China noong December 29, 2022.

Ayon sa Civil Aviation Administration ng China sa Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), may posibilidad na ito ay bumagsak sa Recto Bank, na 137 kilometers lang ang layo sa Ayungin Shoal at 200 kilometers sa Quezon, Palawan.

Patuloy pang nangangalap ng impormasyon ang MDRRMO ng Bataraza at Rizal kaugnay dito. **(Catherine Reyes)**



Davao Oriental niyanig ng magnitude 5 na lindol

Niyanig ng magnitude 5.0 na lindol ang Davao Oriental nitong Linggo ng umaga.

Batay sa bulletin na inilabas ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), nabatid na dakong alas-7:00 ng umaga nang maganap ang tectonic quake.

Ang epicenter ng lindol

ay natunton sa 07.53°N, 126.46°E - 012 km S 66° W ng munisipalidad ng Baganga.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, ang naturang lindol ay may lalim na 129 km.

Nakapagtala rin umano sila ng instrumental intensities na Intensity II sa Nabunturan, Davao de Oro; at Intensity I naman

sa Malapatan, a Alabel, Sarangani; Don Marcelino, Davao Occidental; at General Santos City, South Cotabato.

Sinabi ng Phivolcs na wala silang inaasahang pinsalang naidulot ang lindol, ngunit asahan na anila ang pagkakaroon ng mga aftershocks sa mga susunod na oras. (Mer Layson)



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

DAVAO ORIENTAL NIYANIG NG MAGNITUDE 5

NAITALA ang magni-
tude 5.0 na lindol sa Baganga,
Davao Oriental na ang lakas
ay naramdaman sa ilang mga
lugar sa rehiyon.

Ayon sa Philippine Insti-
tute of Volcanology and Seis-
mology (Phivolcs), bandang
alas-7 ng umaga ng Linggo
nang magkaroon ng pagyanig
sa layong 12 kilometro sa
bayan ng Baganga na umabot
ng Intensity 3.

Naramdaman naman ang
Intensity 2 sa Caraga, Davao

Oriental at Intensity 1 sa
Manay, Davao Oriental;
Compostela at Nabunturan,
Davao de Oro.

May lalim na 143 kilo-
metro ang lindol na tectonic
ang pinagmulan.

Samantala, hindi na inaa-
sahan ng Phivolcs na magdu-
dulot ng pinsala ang lindol
bagama't nakapagtatala pa
rin ng ilang aftershocks.

(V. Reyes)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

JAN 09 2023

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Magnitude-5 quake rocks Davao

A magnitude-5 earthquake rocked Davao Oriental yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) traced the epicenter of the 7 a.m. earthquake at 12 kilometers southwest of Baganga, Davao Oriental.

It was recorded at Intensity II in Nabunturan, Davao de Oro

and Intensity I in Malapatan and Alabel, Sarangani; Don Marcelino, Davao Occidental, and General Santos City.

The earthquake was tectonic, caused by the movement of an active fault near the area.

Phivolcs advised the public to stay vigilant as aftershocks may occur. (Ellalyn Ruiz)



NEWS BRIEF

DavOr inuga ng magnitude 5

INUGA ng magnitude 5 na lindol ang bayan ng Banganga sa Davao Oriental kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon sa ulat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), naitala ang episentro ng lindol may 12 kilometro sa

southern part ng Banganga ganap na alas-yete ng umaga mula sa lalim na 129 kilometro. Tectonic o pagkiskis ng mga plato sa ilalim ng lupa ang sanhi nito.

Naramdaman ang intensity II sa Nabunturan. Davao de Oro habang Intensity I sa

Malapatan at Alabel, Sarangani; Don Marcelino, Davao Occidental at sa General Santos City sa South Cotabato.

Wala namang inasahang danyos dahil sa pagyanig pero maaaring magkaroon ng mga aftershock sa susunod na mga oras.



BULKANG TAAAL 136 BESES YUMANIG

MULING inalarma ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) ang mga residente sa paligid ng Bulkang Taal sa Batangas matapos itong yumanig ng 136 beses sa loob ng nakalipas na 24 oras.

Ayon sa ahensya, tumagal ng mula dalawa hanggang apat na minuto ang mga pagyanig ng bulkan habang umabot sa taas na 600 metro ang ibinuga nitong usok.

Napansin din ang pag-alsa ng mainit na likido sa bunganga ng



bulkan.

Dagdag ng Phivolcs, may aver-

age na 8,575 tonelada ng asupre o sulfur dioxide ang (SO₂) ibinubuga ng bulkan kada araw simula noong Enero 5.

Nasa ilalim pa rin ng Alert Level 1 ang bulkan, isang indikasyon na nananatili itong abnormal at posibleng pumutok anumang oras.

Dahil dito ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang paglapit at pagpasok sa permanent danger zone ng bulkan, partikular sa mga bitak sa bahagi ng Daang Kastila. (Betchai Julian)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PEOPLES JOURNALS

Everybody's Newspaper

7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

JAN '09 2023

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Trough of LPA, 'amihan' bring rains over PH

THE trough of low pressure area (LPA) and northeast monsoon or "amihan" will continue to affect the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Sunday.

In its 4 a.m. bulletin, the weather bureau said Visa-

yas, Mindanao and the southern portion of Palawan including Kalayaan Islands will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to trough of LPA.

PAGASA said the LPA is now outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and though it may reenter

PAR in the following days, the LPA has a slim chance of developing into a tropical depression.

Meanwhile, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, Bicol Region, Aurora and Quezon will continue to experience cloudy skies with rains due to "amihan."

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with light rains also due to the northeast monsoon.

The whole country will experience moderate to strong winds and moderate to rough seas.

The temperature ranges between 22.8°C and 29.6°C. PNA



Higanteng lapu-lapu, naibenta ng P19K



ISANG lapu-lapu na tumitimbang ng 123 kilos ang nahuli ng mangingisdang si Peter Beldeniza, na taga-Brooke's Point, Palawan.

Nai-post ni Peter sa kanyang Facebook account noong May 4, 2022 ang "biyaya" na kanyang nahuli.

"Nag-iisa si Peter nang mahuli niya ang higanteng

lapu-lapu sa karagatan malapit sa Pirates Island sa bayan ng Bataraza noong gabi ng May 3.

Pagbabahagi ni Peter, "Mag-isa lang ako na nag-laot, alas dos ng May 2. Pagdating ng gabi, nakahuli ako ng dugso."

Pero noong May 3 ng gabi matumal ang kanyang huli.

"Ang tagal, walang ku-

makagat sa pain ng kawil ko. Siguro walang isda kasi nabulabog niya [lapu-lapu]."

Bandang 10:00 ng gabi, naramdaman ni Peter na may kumakain sa kanyang kawil.

"Tulingan ang pain ko, mga kalahating kilo. Pag-arya ko ng kawil, itinali ko sa palatik, tapos umikot na ang nylon."

Ang higanteng lapu-lapu na pala ang nakawil niya.

Nang mahuli niya ang lapu-lapu ay agad niyang tinalian sa panga at hinila na lang ng bangka hanggang sa pampang. Doon na siya tinulungan ng mga kasamahan na maiahon ang higanteng isda.

"Hindi ko na siya kayang iakyat sa bangka. Iti-

INCREDIBLE STORY BY: XENON B.

nalj ko na lang ng tatlong lubid sa panga ng isda saka hinila ko patabi."

Kuwento pa ni Peter, magkahalong tuwa at nabiyos ang naramdaman niya noong mga sandaling iyon.

"Masaya ako at nagpasalamat sa Panginoon dahil nabigyan ako ng biyaya."

Hindi naman ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakahuli siya ng higanteng lapu-lapu.

Nakakawil na rin, siya noong 2018 ng isda na may timbang na 40 kilos, at na-

benta niya ng P4,000.

Nang matimbang naman ang bagong huli niyang higanteng lapu-lapu, umabot ito sa 123 kilos at naibenta ni Peter ng P19,000.

Ani Peter, "Pag may ganitong biyaya po, malaki ang pasasalamat namin sa Panginoon. Doble ang blessing namin kasi katatapos lang ng anak naming mag-training sa Philippine Coast Guard, kaya medyo nagkautang din kami.

"Kaya ngayon na may panibagong blessing, magbabawas na kami ng mga utang namin."



TITLE:



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU MIMAROPA Region 7/F DENR Bldg., 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR OREGON MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7942 otherwise known as "The Philippine Mining Act of 1995," that OREGON MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, a Filipino Corporation duly organized under Philippine Laws, with official address at Unit 1901-2001, BSA Mansion Building, No. 108 Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City has filed an application for Exploration Permit (EP) for the exploration of Nickel and other related minerals particularly described as follows:

- I. EP Application No. :EPA No. 382-MIMAROPA
II. Date of Filing :12 July 2022
III. Area Location :Brgys. Taratak and Sumbiling, Municipality of Bataraza, and Brgy. Latud, Municipality of Rizal, all in the Province of Palawan

IV. Description of the Applied Area

1. Geographical Coordinates:

Table with 3 columns: CORNER, LATITUDE, LONGITUDE. Contains 10 rows of coordinates and a total area of 1,409.8522 hectares.

2. Sketch Plan

"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE."

Please refer to "Annex A"

3. Size

The applied area covers one thousand four hundred nine and 8522/10000 (1,409.8522) hectares.

4. Restrictions

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 ("Entry Into Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 1 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications") of Executive Order No. 79 which provide, among others, that

- a. The following are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights and mining applications; old growth or virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, and other protected areas as defined by law and identified initial components of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) pursuant to RA No. 7586; areas which the Secretary may exclude based, inter alia, on proper assessment of their environmental impacts and implications on sustainable land uses; offshore areas within 500 meters from the mean low tide level and onshore areas within 200 meters from the mean low tide along the coast, in case of seabed/marine aggregate quarrying and other areas less than 1,500 meters from the mean low tide level of land or island(s) and where the seabed depth is less than 30 meters measured at mean sea level; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
b. The following areas are likewise closed to mining applications: protected areas categorized and established under the NIPAS; prime agricultural lands, in addition to lands covered by RA No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended; tourism development areas, as identified in the National Tourism Development Plan; and other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies;
c. The following areas which are closed to mining applications but may be opened upon written consent, prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: military and other Government Reservations; areas near or under public or private

buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historic sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops and DENR project areas;

- d. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Cultural Community/ies (ICC) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CALC/CADT/CALT), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned ICCs; and
e. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking exploration therein.

V. Term/Duration of the Exploration Permit

The term of the EP shall be for a period of two (2) years, from the date of issuance thereof, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of six (6) years: Provided, that no renewal of Permit shall be allowed unless the Permittee has complied with all the terms and conditions thereof, and has not been found guilty of violation of any provision of the Act and DAO No. 2010-21. Provided further, that the conduct of a feasibility study and filing of the declaration of mining project feasibility shall be undertaken during the term of the EP, subject to the provisions of Section 30 of DAO No. 2010-21.

VI. Relinquishment

The Permittee shall annually relinquish at least 20% of the permit area during the first two (2) years of exploration and at least 10% of the remaining area annually during the extended exploration period. However, if the permit is less than Five Thousand (5,000) hectares, the Permittee need not relinquish any part therefore.

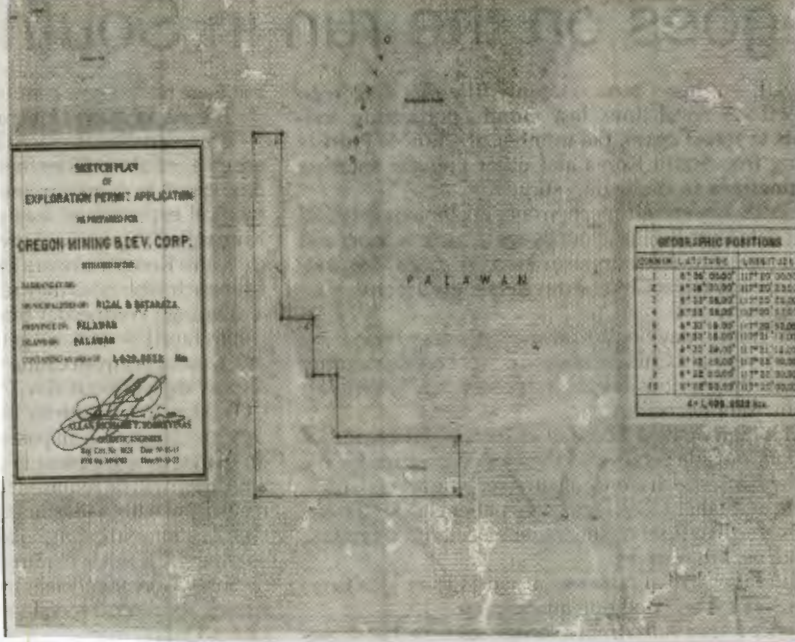
VII. Extent of Operations to be Undertaken

- 1. Research Work;
2. Reconnaissance/Regional Survey or Studies;
a. Geological Mapping/Alteration Studies
b. Geochemical Survey
3. Semi-detailed survey or follow-up studies;
a. Geological Mapping or follow-up studies
b. Geochemical Survey
c. Subsurface Investigation-Auger drilling, test pitting
4. Topographic Survey;
5. Detailed Geologic Survey;
a. Detailed Geologic Mapping
b. Geologic Survey
c. Subsurface investigation
- Detailed subsurface investigation by X-Ray drilling in case the results of exploration activities indicate highly anomalous areas. To be undertaken during the renewal of the permit that may be issued.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) calendar days from the last date of publication/posting/radio announcement hereof, directly to the Regional Office concerned or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer(CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer(PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its Resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provisions of RA No. 7942 and its Revised IRR. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA Region located at 7th Floor DENR Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila or through e-mail at mines_4b@yahoo.com.

Signature of Regional Director: LOLO C. NOME



SKETCH PLAN OF EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICATION PREPARED FOR OREGON MINING & DEV. CORP. AUTHORIZED BY: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MIMAROPA REGION, DENR

Table with 3 columns: CORNER, LATITUDE, LONGITUDE. Contains 10 rows of coordinates and a total area of 1,409.8522 hectares.