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PBBM: No need to declare yearlong calamity state

By Mervin Lopez

THERE is no need to declare a national state of calamity after Severe Tropical Storm Paeng ravaged different parts of the country because the damage was "highly localized," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Monday.

Paeng weakened into a tropical storm status on Sunday but intensified again into a severe tropical storm on Monday as it continued to move over the West Philippine Sea, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

said (see related story on A1 – Editors).

Marcos's statement came a day after the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) recommended a declaration of a national state of calamity.

"I don't think it's necessary. I came to that conclusion in consultation with DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources]. They said it wasn't extensive. The damage is highly localized," he told reporters in a press briefing in Noveleta, Cavite.

Citing government reports, he said

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AIDING CAVITENOS. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. walks the muddy streets of Noveleta, Cavite after conducting an aerial inspection of the province with Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla on Monday. Mr. Marcos and Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo then hand out hygiene kits and cash aid to recipients in Barangay San Jose, with Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and Noveleta Mayor Dino Reyes Chua watching. **Presidential photos**

PBBM:...

From A1

only three provinces – Quezon, Cavite, and Maguindanao -- suffered the most damage to infrastructure.

"We're talking about the east coast Quezon, here in Cavite, and then Maguindanao. Those are the areas. It doesn't warrant a national calamity," he said.

Marcos said it was enough for the NDRRMC to implement the state of calamity status in specific areas only.

"I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status as we have now," he added.

On Sunday, the NDRRMC declared a state of calamity in 55 areas in the Bicol (Region 5), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and Soccsksargen (Region 12).

These areas were heavily damaged by Paeng, which brought massive flooding and landslides that resulted in casualties.

The NDRRMC said the storm damaged 4,188 houses worth about P12.415 million and did infrastructure damage worth P757.84 million.

On Monday morning, Marcos conducted an aerial survey over areas hit by the severe tropical storm, particularly parts of Cavite.

He also led the ceremonial distribution of aid to families in Barangay San Jose II in Noveleta, Cavite, and assured them that the government will ensure their safe return to their homes.

Marcos earlier presided over a full council meeting of the NDRRMC on Saturday.



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MARCOS: STATE OF NAT'L CALAMITY NOT NEEDED

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

President says damage caused by 'Paeng' 'highly localized,' not extensive. Storm leaves 98 dead, 63 missing, while agriculture suffers P1.3 billion in losses. Gov't starts giving aid in affected areas.

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LOOK WHO'S HERE President Marcos, accompanied by Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo and local officials, on Monday hands out relief goods to residents of Noveleta town in Cavite province, one of several areas hit by floods as Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (Nalgae) battered the country over the weekend. At right, a resident cleans household items covered by mud after heavy flooding in the village of Putol in Kawit, also in Cavite. —PHOTOS BY MARIANNE BERMUDEZ AND RICHARD A. REYES



We're talking about the east coast [like] Quezon [province], here in Cavite and then Maguindanao. So those are the areas. There's no need for a national calamity [declaration]

President Marcos



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FROM A1

**By Jerome Aning,
Frances Mangosing,
Jane Bautista
and Inquirer Bureaus
@Team_Inquirer**

President Marcos on Monday said a state of national calamity was not necessary as the damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (international name: Nalgae) was not extensive and was "highly localized."

Paeng, which exited the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) Monday morning, left 98 people dead and 63 others missing in its wake, according to the latest report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). It affected 1.9 million individuals in 17 regions and forced 975,000 to take shelter in evacuation centers.

In a brief interview with reporters at Barangay San Jose II in Noveleta, Cavite, where he led the distribution of government assistance to evacuees and attended a briefing on the impact of Paeng, the President said he had consulted with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which informed him that the damage the storm inflicted was not widespread and was limited to certain areas.

"I don't think it's necessary. I came to that conclusion in consultation with the DENR. The [damage was] not extensive and [was] highly localized," Mr. Marcos said, when asked about the NDRRMC's earlier

recommendation.

"We're talking about the east coast [like] Quezon [province], here in Cavite and then Maguindanao. So those are the areas. There's no need for a national calamity [declaration]," he added, saying that other regions, such as the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley and most of the Visayas, were not heavily affected by Paeng.

Rising casualties

"I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status as we have now," the President noted, alluding to states of calamity declared by local governments in their areas of jurisdiction.

The President ended the media interview with a quip, "Welcome to Hokkaido!", apparently a jab against critics on social media who claimed the reason he was not able to preside over the NDRRMC meeting in person last Saturday was because he was in Japan.

Of the deaths from flooding and landslides caused by Paeng, the NDRRMC said the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) accounted for 53 fatalities, while Western Visayas had 19; Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), 12; Eastern Visayas, six; Zamboanga, four, Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City), three; and Bicol, one.

Almost two million people

were affected by the storm in 17 regions, the NDRRMC said.

More than 4,100 houses and P757 million worth of infrastructure were reported damaged.

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), however, around 2.1 million individuals, or 560,000 families, nationwide were affected as of Monday.

Social Welfare Undersecretary Edu Punay said the DSWD had distributed P48.1 million worth of food packs and nonfood

items to affected communities.

Based on the DSWD's latest data, 852 houses were destroyed by Paeng, while 2,212 were damaged.

Affected regions

The number of fatalities in Western Visayas rose to 20 while six people remained missing.

Eighteen of the deaths were due to drowning, many of them after being swept away by floodwaters.

A resident died after he was covered by mounds of earth following a landslide in Tobias Fornier town in Antique, while another suffered a heart attack and hypothermia in Sibalom town, also in Antique.

Antique had the most number of fatalities at nine. Six fatalities were reported in Aklan, two in Capiz and three in Iloilo, according to the report released by the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in

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MARCOS: STATE OF NAT'L CALAMITY NOT NEEDED

FROM A2

The council also reported six missing persons in Western Visayas as of Monday morning. This includes four from Antique, and one each from Aklan and Iloilo.

At least 217,300 families, or 821,497 people from 1,432 barangays in the region, were affected by the storm either because of floods, forced evacuation, displacement, or effects on their crops and employment.

In Luzon, the number of fatalities related to Paeng rose to 22 as authorities in Calabarzon and Cordillera regions tallied new deaths on Monday, while the damage to agriculture climbed to P701 million.

Seven of the latest fatalities were from Quezon, four from Batangas, three from Cavite, and two from Laguna, the police in these provinces said.

The victims were either trapped in floodwaters, electrocuted, struck by falling trees, buried by landslides or drowned in swollen rivers from Oct. 29 to Oct. 30, police said.

Agricultural damage

On the farm sector, the estimated damage wrought by Paeng has breached the P1-billion mark, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday.

In a report, the DA said the farm sector incurred P1.33 bil-

lion in losses due to the weather disturbance as of Monday afternoon, sharply up from the initial estimate of P49.54 million.

The livelihood of 53,849 farmers and fishers were affected and the volume of production loss was 66,963 metric tons covering 64,607 hectares of land.

"Affected commodities include rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, and fisheries. Damage has also been incurred in agricultural facilities," the DA said.

Assistance to farmers

The rice sector accounted for more than 92 percent of the recorded damage at P1.23 billion. High-value crops came second with P60 million; fisheries, P16 million; corn, P5.59 million; agricultural infrastructure, P20.6 million; and livestock and poultry, P1.92 million.

The latest tally adds to the P594.02 million in losses reported following the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Maymay" and Typhoon "Neneng" last month.

The President, who is concurrently the agriculture secretary, said the government was ready to provide support for farmers affected by Paeng.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JORDEENE B. LAGARE, JOEY MARZAN, DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., VILLAMOR VISAYA JR., KIMBERLIE QUITASOL, VINCENT CABREZA, REY ANTHONY OSTRIA, MA. APRIL MIER-MANJARES, JUN A. MALIG AND TONETTE OREJAS INQ



Dahil sa pinsala ni 'Paeng'...

BBM ibinasura ang rekomendasyon na 1 taong state of calamity sa Pinas

Hindi na kailangang isailalim sa state of calamity ang Pilipinas sa loob ng isang taon dahil sa 'localized' lang ang pinsala ng bagyong Paeng.

Ito ang sinabi kahapon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., matapos ang post-disaster briefing sa Cavite.

"I came to that conclusion with the DENR kasi highly localized ang mga damage. We are talking about east coast, like in Cavite, Quezon and Maguindanao," paliwanag pa ng Pangulo.

Noong Linggo, inirekomenda ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) ang deklarasyon ng national state of calamity dahil 16 mula sa 17 rehiyon sa bansa ang klinasipikang 'high risk areas' matapos ang panalasa ng bagyo.

Umakyat na sa 98 katao ang naitalang namatay sa bagyong Paeng, 63 ang nawawala at 69 naman ang nasugatan.

Ayon sa NDRRMC, tinatayang 590,000 pamilya o 1.9 milyong katao ang apektado ng bagyo kung saan 309,000 dito ay pansamantalang nanuluyan sa mga evacuation center. *-Malou Escudero-*



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Marcos: No need for nat'l state of calamity

THERE is no need to declare a national state of calamity after Severe Tropical Storm Paeng ravaged different parts of the country because the damage was "highly localized", President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said Monday.

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MARCOS FROM PAGE 1

Paeng weakened into a tropical storm status on Sunday but re-intensified into a severe tropical storm on Monday as it continues to move over the West Philippine Sea, according to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Marcos made this remark a day after the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) announced on Sunday that it has submitted a resolution recommending a declaration of a national state of calamity which will trigger a price freeze and will allow the release of emergency funds.

"I don't think it's necessary. I came to that conclusion in consultation with DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources]. Sabi hindi naman kasi extensive (They said it wasn't extensive). Highly localized ang mga damage (The damage is highly local-

ized)," he told reporters in a press briefing in Noveleta, Cavite.

Citing government reports, he said only three provinces — Quezon, Cavite, and Maguindanao — suffered the most damage to infrastructure.

"We're talking about the east coast Quezon, dito sa Cavite, and then Maguindanao. Those are the areas. It does need to have...like in the Visayas there's no need for a national calamity. For Region 1, 2, hindi naman kailangan ng national calamity (it doesn't warrant a national calamity)," he said.

Marcos said it was enough for the NDRRMC to implement the state of calamity status in specific areas only.

"I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status as we have now," he added.

On Sunday, the NDRRMC declared a state of calamity in 55 areas in the Bicol (Region 5), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

(BARMM), and Soccsksargen (Region 12).

These areas were heavily devastated by Paeng which brought massive flooding and landslides that resulted to casualties.

As of posting time, the NDRRMC said the number of damaged houses stood at 4,188 worth around PHP12.415 million, 37 damaged infrastructure that costs PHP757.841 million, and agricultural damage was pegged at over PHP435.464 million.

Paeng is still expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday afternoon or evening, according to the weather bureau.

On Monday morning, Marcos conducted an aerial survey over areas hit by the severe tropical storm, particularly parts of Cavite.

He also led the ceremonial distribution of aid to families and individuals Barangay San Jose II in Noveleta, Cavite and assured that government will ensure the safe return to their homes.

PNA



Marcos rules out national calamity declaration

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Monday he will no longer declare a national state of calamity and instead directed the government to focus on relief and recovery efforts in areas devastated by Tropical Storm "Paeng."

"I don't think it's necessary. I came to that conclusion in consultation with DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) who said it was not extensive, how do we say... damage was highly localized," Marcos said in a press briefing following his inspection of the town of Novleta in Cavite, one of the provinces which felt the wrath of the storm.

"We're talking about the east coast of Quezon, here in Cavite, and then Maguindanao. So, those are areas. There's no need for a national calamity.

"For Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), there's also no need for [a declaration of] a national calamity. I don't think it's necessary.

➤ **CalamityA9**

I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status as we have now," he said.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) had recommended placing the entire country under a state of calamity after 16 of the 17 regions suffered damage from Paeng.

Marcos assured the availability of different kinds of assistance for those displaced by the calamity.

"If the weather again becomes really bad, let's find other ways to send the goods, their needs, the relief goods, everything — water, medicines, everything the evacuees would need," he said.

Department of Budget and Management Assistant Secretary Cristina Clasara said the NDRRMC has enough funds for relief efforts.

The NDRRMC reported that 590,990 families or 1,953,814 individuals were affected by Paeng.



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Marcos thumbs down nationwide calamity declaration

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Monday thumbed down proposals to place the country under a state of calamity for a year after Tropical Storm Nalgae, locally named Paeng, affected many areas and killed almost a hundred people, noting that damage from the storm were highly localized.

Speaking to reporters after a situation briefing, Mr. Marcos said he found that a nationwide state of calamity was unnecessary after consulting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the matter.

"I don't think it's necessary. I came to that conclusion in consultation with DENR," he said. "They said it's not extensive... the damage is highly localized."

Mr. Marcos said "there's no need for a national calamity" for the regions of Ilocos and Cagayan Valley in the north as well as parts of the Visayas in the central part of the archipelago.

Local governments are authorized under the law to declare a state of calamity within their jurisdictions. Such declarations serves as basis for the release of special disaster response funds.

"I don't think it's necessary," the President said. "I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status that we have now."

The Bangsamoro region, three provinces, and 158 cities and municipalities have declared a state of calamity, based on the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's (NDRRMC) monitoring report as of Monday.

PRICE FREEZE

The Department of Trade and Industry issued a reminder that an automatic price freeze takes effect for 60 days in areas under a state of calamity.

"For areas under a state of calamity, a price freeze on basic necessities is in effect. We will continue to monitor and provide feedback on possible concerns," Trade Undersecretary Ana Carolina P. Sanchez said in a Viber message to reporters on Monday.

Basic necessities under the DTI's jurisdiction include canned fish, locally made instant noodles, bottled water, bread,

processed milk, coffee, candles, laundry soap, detergent, and salt.

Other government agencies such as the Agriculture department is in charge of monitoring prices on farm and marine products, while the Health department monitors the prices of drugs deemed as essential.

DEATHS, DAMAGE

The death toll from the typhoon has hit 98, of which 58 have been confirmed, according to the NDRRMC report.

Of the validated deaths, 53 were from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and two from the Soccsksargen region in the country's south, areas which were not directly in the typhoon's path but had been inundated by rain in recent weeks.

Three other verified deaths were from Western Visayas in central Philippines.

The NDRRMC said 69 people were reported to have been injured, while 63 were missing.

The typhoon, which was set to leave the Philippine area on Monday afternoon or evening, affected 590,990 families or 1.95 million people in 17 regions, the disaster council said.

Western Visayas topped the list with 217,000 affected families, followed by BARMM with more than 177,000, and Soccsksargen with over 42,000.

More than 105,000 people had been evacuated, it added.

The storm has affected 4,188 houses, 3,499 of which were partially damaged while 689 were totally destroyed.

Many businesses incurred additional losses after the typhoon led to power disruptions, which forced some establishments to use fossil fuel generators to continue their operations amid the storm.

NDRRMC said brownouts had been experienced in 263 cities and municipalities, while water supply was disrupted in eight areas.

Damage in the agriculture sector increased to P285.28 million from an initial report of P49.54 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

A total of 8,608 farmers and fishers, and 13,408 hectares of agricultural areas were

affected, based on the DA's report as of late Sunday afternoon.

Damage in the agriculture sector increased to P1.33 billion from an initial report of P49.54 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

A total of 53,849 farmers and fishers, and 64,607 hectares of agricultural areas were affected, based on the DA's report as of Monday afternoon.

Agricultural losses and damage have been reported in the regions of Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Soccsksargen.

"Affected commodities include rice, corn, high value crops and fisheries. Damage has also been incurred in agricultural facilities. These values are subject to validation," the bulletin said.

The DA said affected farmers can avail of assistance such as rice, corn, and assorted vegetable seeds, and drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is also extending aid to fisherfolk.

ANOTHER STORM

Meanwhile, a new tropical storm named Queenie was spotted 815 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao, packing maximum winds of 65 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 80 kph, PAGASA said in an 11:00 a.m. bulletin on Monday.

"Queenie is unlikely to directly affect the country until Tuesday," PAGASA said. "However, light to moderate with at times heavy rains [are] possible over Caraga, Eastern Visayas, and Bicol Region beginning Wednesday."

Wind signals might be raised over the eastern portion of Caraga region in the country's south and in some areas in Eastern Visayas on Tuesday evening.

Queenie was expected to further intensify. It could weaken by Tuesday evening or Wednesday.

It might lose the characteristics of a tropical cyclone by Friday while approaching Caraga or Eastern Visayas, PAGASA said.

— Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza and Revlin Mikhael D. Ochave



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Cotabato provincial gov't pitches airport project to locators, carriers

THE LOCAL government of Cotabato made a pitch last week to potential locators and airline companies for an airport in the southern province that is planned for revival.

Cotabato Governor Emmylou "Lala" Taliño-Mendoza, in her 1st First 100 Days Report, said the airport project remains a priority as it is considered a vital infrastructure for economic development, particularly for moving agricultural output and tourism.

The project, previously known as the M'lang Airport and now referred to as the Central Mindanao Airport, is not included in the list of priority airports under the 2023 national budget.

"A team of stakeholders... are set to leave for Manila before the end of this week to do a pitch for possible locators and airline companies," said Ms. Mendoza, who will be heading the delegation.

Cotabato Rep. Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño-Santos has also been in talks with officials of the national tourism and transport agencies to secure funding for the planned reopening of the Central Mindanao Airport.

At the same time, the governor said the legal office is working on the processing of documents for private properties acquired by the provincial government for the airport site.

"Tourism is an important sector that will provide additional livelihood for each Cotabateño," Ms. Mendoza said in her report.

Cotabato has several eco-tourism destinations, including an entry point to Mt. Apo, the highest peak in the Philippines.

The Central Mindanao Airport is included in the Mindanao Development Authority's (MinDA) priority infrastructure projects portfolio.

It is seen to "catalyze inclusive and balanced rural development in Mindanao... complement General Santos and Awang Airports and will boost the economic activities of the area where many agricultural products, including highly-perishable fruits come from," according to MinDA.

Ms. Mendoza also reported that roads and other vital infrastructure such as water systems in the rural areas are being implemented.

"It (road network) is the key to rural development as it provides access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for those who need it most... linking our farmers to markets, students to schools, workers to job sites, and patients to hospitals," she said. —

Maya M. Padillo

Healthcare workers in 4 QC hospitals offered free rides

MOTORCYCLE taxi hailing service firm MOVE IT, a subsidiary of Grab Philippines, is extending its partnership with a party-list group for the provision of free rides to healthcare workers.

The extended free service will cover health workers in four state-owned hospitals in Quezon City.

These are: East Avenue Medical Center and National Kidney and Transplant Institute from Nov. 2 to 8; and Philippine Heart Center and Philippine Children's Medical Center from Nov. 9 to 15.

BHW Party-list Rep. Angelica Natasha A. Co said healthcare workers from these hospitals have 300 free ride slots available to them.

"Health care workers at these hospitals who usually take long commutes can get home and go to their workplaces sooner rather than later and without the risk of catching COVID from other commuters if they usually take public transport," Ms. Co said in a statement on Monday.

"(The) expansion of the Libreng Sakay was necessary to ensure wider coverage to include not just barangay health workers but other health care frontliners as well, so focusing on key hospital locations achieves this goal," she said.

The BHW-MOVE IT partnership started last month, covering workers assigned in community health facilities. — **Matthew Carl L. Montecillo**



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REGIONS

'Pawikan' nest sites gone with 'Paeng'

LUCENA CITY—Several nesting sites of "pawikan" (sea turtles) along the coast of Tayabas Bay in Sariaya, Quezon, were destroyed during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (Nalgae) last week. Tanggol Kalikasan said more than 600 eggs were wiped out on Saturday. The environmental group said the disaster was a "big setback" to the preservation and protection of endangered marine species in Tayabas Bay. —STORY BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. **A8**

600 EGGS LOST TO WAVES

'PAENG' WIPES OUT 'PAWIKAN' NESTING SITES IN QUEZON

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Several nesting sites of "pawikan," or sea turtles, along the coast of Tayabas Bay in Sariaya town in Quezon province were destroyed at the height of Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (international name: Nalgae), an environmental group said on Monday.

Jay Lim, Tanggol Kalikasan (TK) project officer, said more than 600 eggs waiting to be hatched were wiped out by huge waves during the onslaught of Paeng since Oct. 29.

TK, a Lucena-based public interest law office, has long been conducting a campaign to educate the public on existing laws on environmental and wildlife protection.

"The destruction of [pawikan] nesting sites and the loss of the first batch of turtle eggs were a big setback to the ongoing preservation and protection of endangered marine species in Tayabas Bay," Lim said in an interview.

The eggs were expected to be hatched in December, said Sherwin Rosales, fishery technician at the municipal government's agriculture office.

Tayabas Bay stretches from San Juan town in Batangas province to the towns of Sariaya, Pagbilao, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Unisan, Pitogo, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Mulanay, San Francisco and Lucena City in Quezon.

Transfer

Lim said the incident prompted them to plan for the transfer of the nesting sites to safer ground.

The Sariaya coastline, host to many beach resorts, serves

as a sanctuary for turtles that usually come to lay and hatch their eggs from October to December and stay for 58 days throughout the nesting period.

Fishermen, fish wardens and the local government in four nesting sites in the villages of Castañas, San Roque, Guisguis and Bignay 2 have been taking care of the hatchlings, said Lim.

During the hatching season in the cold months, the baby turtles would be set free in Tayabas Bay in batches.

The release of the turtles becomes a tourist attraction that draws crowds of children, students and Manila-based visitors. The spectators would take photos and videos of the turtles crawling on the shore toward the bay, which they would post on various social media platforms.

In recent years, the Sariaya government has been promoting the town as the "home of sea turtles."

Endangered

The sea turtles are considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora due to loss of nesting habitat brought on by, among others, climate change and urbanization of coastal areas.

Lim said the storm also destroyed the newly planted mangrove propagules along the bay.

According to experts, mangrove forests, also known as the "rainforest of the sea," are an important part of the marine ecosystem, as the roots of the trees provide shelter for marine life while their fallen leaves become feed for fish and other marine animals. INQ



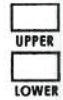
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Editor
Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

ALL GONE In this photo taken on Sunday, Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (international name: Nalgae) leaves in disarray the coastline of Tayabas Bay in Sariaya, Quezon, a nesting site of "pawikan" (sea turtles), and destroys around 600 turtle eggs due to be hatched in December.

—PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SHERWIN ROSALES .



98 nasawi kay 'Paeng', 63 pa missing - NDRRMC

Umakyat na sa 98 ang bilang ng mga namatay sa Severe Tropical Storm Paeng batay sa ulat kahapon ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Ayon kay NDRRMC Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro

IV, tumaas na umano ang bilang ng casualty sa 98 kung saan 53 ay mula sa Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM); 19 sa Western Visayas, 12 sa Calabarzon, 6 sa Eastern Visayas, 4 sa Zamboanga, 3 sa Soccsksargen at isa sa Bicol.

Meron din umanong 69 sugatan at 63 ang nawawala.

Umabot umano sa kabuuang 1,812,740 indibidwal o 575,728 pamilya mula sa 31,942 barangays sa 17 rehiyon sa bansa ang naapektuhan ni Paeng.

Nasa P435,464,774.16 naman umano ang napin-

sala sa sektor ng agrikultura sa Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao at Soccsksargen.

Base kay Alejandro, inirekomenda ng NDRRMC kay Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. ang pagdeklara ng nationwide state of calamity. *-Doris Franche-*



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EDITORIAL



CARTOON

01 NOV 2022

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DENR: Rich countries should cut emissions

A RANKING official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged countries most threatened by climate change to unite to pressure rich countries to comply with plans to cut emissions. In an interview with *The Manila Times*, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga will issue the call when she attends the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt on November 6.

"That's the reason our secretary is going to Egypt to negotiate with the laws and damages that we are experiencing caused by the other big countries," Leones said.

The United Nations has reported that international climate pledges to limit rising temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (C) remain far off track.

The UN issued the report ahead of high-stakes negotiations to tackle global warming. It said the combined climate pledges of more than 190 nations that signed up to the 2015 Paris climate deal put Earth on track to warm by around 2.5C (36 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial levels by the century's end.

"We need to pressure them (rich countries). Our suggestion is we need to

regroup, all the vulnerable countries should come together to pressure these big countries to comply to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target," Leones said.

He said the Philippines has been complying with the nationally determined contributions (NDC). "Although the contribution of the Philippines is less than one percent in global warming emission, we are still committed to strictly adhere to the NDC, 75 percent emission reduction, conditional, and then 25 percent nonconditional. Other big countries can follow suit because the effect of climate change is really visible to vulnerable countries like us," Leones added.

Experts said the world is still failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions despite the planet already being battered by climate-enhanced heat waves, storms and floods after just 1.2C of warming.

The UN's climate experts have said emissions — compared to 2010 levels — need to drop by 45 percent by 2030 to meet the Paris deal's goal.

But the UN noted that current commitments from governments around the world will in fact increase emissions by 10.6 percent by 2030.

BELLA CARIASO



'PHL must push for climate-related loss and damage funds'

COUNTRIES like the Philippines must continue to push for acknowledgment and compensation for "loss and damage" ahead of Conference of the Parties (COP) 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Joey Sarte Salceda has said.

In a statement, Salceda said that "Typhoon Paeng wasn't supposed to be that strong, and yet killed several dozens of people due to stronger than expected floods."

Salceda, who was formerly the Co-Chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, will be part of the Philippine delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, set in Egypt this year.

"Climate change kills. There is loss and damage. And countries like the Philippines that are the most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage," Salceda said.

Loss and damage, in international climate law, refers to the permanent loss or irreparable damage caused by climate change, including extreme weather events like typhoons, as well as slow-onset events such as sea-level rise.

"International aid and green financing are not enough. There has to be some form of compensation to the most vulnerable and affected countries," he said.

"Due to climate risks, we are now the most at-risk country in the world according to the 2022 Global Risk Report. Arguably, nobody is more affected by climate change than we are. If we are soft on this position, we throw other climate-vulnerable countries under the bus. So, we have to be strong on loss and damage," Salceda added.

Salceda said he hopes that vulnerable countries will band together in COP 27 to demand more from major polluters like the United States and the European Union, as well as from the world's oil-rich countries, which tend to be the highest per-capital polluters.

"Paeng isn't even that strong, as far as typhoons in the October-November season go. Some 45 people dead during a 'normal' storm is no small matter. It's the climate problem manifesting itself in the death toll," he added.

"It didn't even hit Mindanao, as far as landfalls go. But most of the dead is from Mindanao. More communities are becoming vulnerable to the effects of stronger weather events," the lawmaker said.

Calamity fund

SALCEDA said that apart from demanding more support for the country's clean energy transition, countries like the Philippines should also ask for more direct compensation mechanisms and funds that can be activated as soon as climate-related disasters take place.

"If the world won't achieve consensus on loss and damage, we at least need a global 'quick response fund' similar to our Calamity Fund but funded to by countries according to their pollution contributions, and accessed by countries as soon as climate-related disasters affect them," he said.

Salceda said the fund can be administered by a committee where both developed and developing countries are represented.

"Mitigation and adaptation measures are not enough. They're good, but not enough. And coming from a disaster like Paeng, we have the moral duty and moral ascendancy to make demands to the world's biggest polluters," he said.

Jovee Marie N. Dela Cruz



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Salceda presses 'loss and damage' to address impacts of climate change

By Maricel V. Cruz

ALBAY Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda on Monday said that countries like the Philippines must continue to push for acknowledgment and compensation for "loss and damage."

Salceda, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, noted that "Typhoon Paeng wasn't supposed to be that strong, and yet killed dozens of people due to stronger than expected floods."

"Climate change kills. There is loss and damage. And countries like the Philippines that are the most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage," Salceda said.

Loss and damage, in international climate law, refers to the permanent loss or reparable damage caused by climate change, including extreme weather events like typhoons, as well as slow-onset events such as sea-level rise, Salceda explained.

Salceda, who was formerly the co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, will be part of the Philippine delegation to the Conference of Parties (COP) 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, set in Egypt this year.

"International aid and green financing are not enough. There has to be some form of compensation to the most vulnerable and affected countries," Salceda said.

"Due to climate risks, we are now the most at-risk country in the world according to the 2022 Global Risk Report. Arguably, nobody is more affected by climate change than we are. If we are soft on this position, we throw other climate-vulnerable countries under the bus. So, we have to be strong on loss and damage," Salceda added.

"Paeng isn't even that strong, as far as typhoons in the October-November season go. Some 45 people dead during a 'normal' storm is no small matter. It's the climate problem manifesting itself in the death toll."

"It didn't even hit Mindanao, as far as landfalls go. But most of the dead is from Mindanao. More communities are becoming vulnerable to the effects of stronger weather events."



NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

PHL lawmaker calls on vulnerable nations to unite in pushing for accountability from big polluters

A PHILIPPINE lawmaker said nations that are most vulnerable to climate change should band together in pushing for more direct compensation systems from the world's biggest polluters.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda said he hopes that vulnerable countries will form a united front in the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt this month to demand accountability from major polluters like the United States and the European Union.

"International aid and green financing are not enough," Mr. Salceda, a former co-chair of the UN Green Climate Fund, said in a statement on Sunday. "There has to be some form of compensation to the most vulnerable and affected countries."

He recommended the creation of a global "quick response fund," similar to the Philippines' calamity fund, with the money to be provided "by countries according to

their pollution contributions, and accessed by countries as soon as climate-related disasters affect them."

He said nations "like the Philippines that are the most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage."

The 2022 Global Risk Report ranked the Philippines as number one among 193 countries in terms of risk because of climate change.

"If we are soft on this position, we throw other climate-vulnerable countries under the bus," he said. "So, we have to be strong on loss and damage."

Mr. Salceda said international climate law defines "loss and damage" as the permanent loss or reparable damage caused by climate change including "extreme weather events like typhoons, as well as slow-onset events such as sea-level rise".

— **Kyanna Angela Bulan**

Proposed law seeks to institutionalize burial aid for poor families

A BILL that seeks to give a 50% discount for burial services to indigent families has been filed by progressive lawmakers at the House of Representatives.

Under House Bill 5753 or the Free and Discounted Funeral Services Act, mortuaries nationwide are mandated to provide the assistance to beneficiaries, who will be determined based on the government's Community-Based Monitoring System supervised by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

"Living is already hard but it's still difficult when you die plus you have to spend," ACT-Teachers Party-list Rep. France L. Castro, one of the authors of the bill, said in a statement on Monday.

"This measure seeks to help our countrymen on this by providing immediate relief to the poor, especially during the loss of their loved ones."

Several government agencies, including the Department of Social and Welfare and Development (DSWD) and social insurance institutions, have existing burial assistance programs.

The proposed discounted and free funeral services will be funded under the DSWD budget.

"We trust that the House leadership will fast track the measure and approve it as soon as possible to help our poor people cope with the rising cost of funeral services," Ms. Castro said. — **Matthew Carl L. Montecillo**



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PH must receive redress for 'loss and damage'

By RYAN PONCE PACPACO

A HOUSE leader has said countries like the Philippines must continue to push for acknowledgment and compensation for "loss and damage," noting that "Typhoon Paeng wasn't supposed to be that strong, and yet killed several dozens of people due to stronger than expected floods."

"Climate change kills. There is loss and damage. And countries like the Philippines that are the most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage," Albay 2nd District Representative Joey Sarte Salceda, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said.

In international climate law, loss and damage refer to the permanent loss or repairable

damage caused by climate change, including extreme weather events like typhoons and slow-onset events like sea-level rise.

In a related development, Basilan Rep. Mujiv Hataman said he is heartbroken by the devastation caused by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng, expressing sympathy to the victims of calamity.

"Nakikiramay at nakikidalamhati kami sa mga kapamilya at kaanak ng mga nasawi sa pananalansa ng bagyong Paeng, kasama ang napakaraming mag-anak na nasalanta ng kalamidad na ito," Hataman said as he appealed for help and assistance to all the victims of Paeng.

"Nananawagan tayo sa kinauukulang ahen-siya ng gobyerno, maging sa pribadong sektor, na magpadala ng agarang

tulong para sa mga biktima ng bagyo, lalong-lalo na sa lugar ng BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) kung saan mataas ang bilang ng mga nasawi. Hiling din natin sa national government na hangga't maaari ay i-augment ang kapasidad ng LGUs (local government units) at tumulong sa search and rescue operations para sa mga nananatiling unaccounted pa at nawawala nating kababayan," Hataman said.

Salceda, who was formerly the co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund, will be part of the Philippine delegation to the Conference of Parties (COP) 27, or the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, set in Egypt this year.

"International aid and green financing are not enough. There has to be

some form of compensation to the most vulnerable and affected countries," Salceda said.

"Paeng isn't even that strong, as far as typhoons in the October-November season go. Some 45 people dead during a 'normal' storm is no small matter. It's the climate problem manifesting itself in the death toll," he said.

"It didn't even hit Mindanao, as far as landfalls go. But most of the dead [are] from Mindanao. More communities are becoming vulnerable to the effects of stronger weather events," Salceda added.

Salceda said he hopes that vulnerable countries will band together in COP 27 to demand more from major polluters like the United States and the European Union (EU), as well as from the world's oil-rich countries, which tend to be the highest per-capita polluters.



COP27 IN EGYPT

ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG TO SKIP 'GREENWASHING' CLIMATE SUMMIT

LONDON—Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said on Sunday she would skip this month's COP27 talks in Egypt, slamming the global summit as a forum for "greenwashing."

"I'm not going to COP27 for many reasons, but the space for civil society this year is extremely limited," she said during a question and answer at the launch of her latest book at London's Southbank Centre.

The 19-year-old activist had previously expressed solidarity on Twitter with "prisoners of conscience" being held in Egypt ahead of the United Nations' 27th conference on climate, opening in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh on Nov. 6.

'Educational' book

"The COPs are mainly used as an opportunity for leaders and people in power to get attention, using many different kinds of greenwashing," she said, adding that the conferences "are not really meant to change the whole system" but instead encourage gradual progress.

"So as it is, the COPs are not really working, unless of course we use them as an opportunity to mobilize."

Meanwhile, Thunberg's "The Climate Book" was released on Thursday. She said she wanted it



Greta Thunberg —AFP

to "be educational, which is a bit ironic since my thing is school strikes"—referring to her protests in front of the Swedish parliament starting in 2018.

The book includes about 100 contributions from various experts, including economist Thomas Piketty, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and writer Naomi Klein.

Thunberg's royalties will go to her eponymous foundation, which will distribute them to charitable organizations working on environmental issues.

Again on Sunday, she urged more people to get involved in climate activism, saying the time had come for "drastic changes" to the status quo.

"In order to change things, we need everyone—we need billions of activists," she said. —AFP



FALLING SHORT OF PARIS GOALS

NEW CLIMATE REPORTS POINT TO SURGING GLOBAL DISASTER

By **Krixia Subingsubing**
@krixiasINQ

Two new reports on climate change are pointing to an accelerating climate disaster, as their conclusions show the world was falling drastically short of its goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Both reports by the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were released ahead of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, which begins on Sunday.

With their respective findings, the UNFCC and WMO aim to convince governments to revisit and revamp their climate plans within the next eight years—considering that 2030 was the target period set by the United Nations when global warming should be eased to 2 degrees Celsius, then 1.5 degrees Celsius.

According to the UNFCC report, climate pledges among the 194 parties (193 countries plus the European Union) under the 2015 Paris Agreement could still put the world on track for the goal of 2.5 degrees warming by the end of this century. The planet has a total of 195 states, including the Vatican and the State of Palestine.



SUMMIT VENUE Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh is hosting delegates to the COP27 summit that will start this week. —REUTERS

UNFCC analyzed the climate action plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs), of those countries under the agreement.

'Global catastrophe'

Among others, it found that, despite ambitious promises to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions dramatically, the world's nations could only shave off less than 1 percent from their projected 2030 emissions of 54 to 56 GtCO₂eq (gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent).

An earlier UN report pegged carbon emissions at 42 GtCO₂eq as a manageable level to ease global warming.

A more recent report, the 2022 UN Emissions Gap Report

by the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) released last Thursday, said GHG emissions needed to be cut by 45 percent by 2030 "to avoid global catastrophe."

The WMO, in its report, noted that atmospheric levels of the three main GHGs—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—reached new record highs in 2021. But UNFCC said there was still hope in averting a climate disaster—affirming Unep's recommendation that NDCs must be improved to strengthen commitments among nations to help reduce global warming.

Sameh Shoukry, Egyptian minister of foreign affairs and COP27 president designate, said the upcoming conference was

the right occasion for that goal. Meanwhile a lawmaker said the Philippines could seek compensation from developed countries for damage caused by climate change-related disasters, such as the destruction wrought by Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" (international name: Nalgae). (See related story on Page A2)

'Moral responsibility'

"Climate change kills. There is loss and damage, and countries like the Philippines that are most at-risk due to its impacts have a moral responsibility and the moral ascendancy to fight for the principle of loss and damage," Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said in a statement on Monday.

He said countries vulnerable to climate change conditions like the Philippines should band together at COP27 and "demand more" in terms of not only compensation, but also relief funding and promotion of clean energy, from "major polluters like the United States and the European Union."

"Mitigation and adaptation measures are not enough ... And coming from a disaster like Paeng, we have the moral duty and moral ascendancy to make demands to the world's biggest polluters," Salceda said. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AURELIO INQ



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*It's better to mine
the world's rainforests
than farm them*



By David Fickling

AS IF THE WORLD'S rainforests didn't have enough problems to contend with, even the transition to zero-carbon power is threatening to level them.

Industrial mining ate up 3,265 square kilometers (1,260 square miles) of tropical forest between 2002 and 2019, according to a recent study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Some 80% of that total happened in just four countries: Indonesia, Brazil, Ghana, and Suriname.

With the COP27 climate conference in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El Sheikh next week expected to increase the focus on the climate needs of developing countries, that's raised concerns that there isn't enough land to manage a shift away from fossil fuels. Much of the world's reserves of nickel, an essential metal for making electric-vehicle batteries, lie under the rainforests of Southeast Asia. Some 6,732 sq km of Indonesian forest has been granted to nickel mining concessions, a coalition of environmental groups wrote in a July letter to Tesla, Inc.

An "honest and comprehensive evaluation of the entire life cycle of clean energy" cars would show a "negative societal and environmental impact" on land, Michael Heberling, an academic at Michigan's Baker College, noted this year.

Mining certainly involves destruction of the land that surrounds it. Even where minerals are extracted from underground rather than surface mines, the tailings, processing facilities, and transport infrastructure that surround them consume many hectares of countryside.

Still, the challenges of preserving the world's ecosystems are so vast that we risk looking only at one small part of the elephant, rather than the whole beast. Almost every economic activity carries some sort of environmental cost. The question isn't about finding activities that are cost-free, but identifying the ones that maximize the associated social and economic benefits.

At the outset, it's worth considering that the sheer amounts of commodities that we use each year vary greatly: about 8.2 billion tons of coal and 4.2 billion tons of oil; 1.2 billion tons of corn and 780 million tons of wheat; 25 million tons of copper and 2.7 million tons of nickel; 3,000 tons of gold and 180 tons of platinum.

That doesn't give the whole story, though. Nickel ores contain about a thousand times more metal per ton than gold ores, so the far smaller output of the gold industry results in a roughly similar volume of waste rock. Then there's the question of surface disturbance: commodities extracted from open-cut mines such as iron ore have a far bigger footprint than those like platinum that are mostly mined from deep underground. Oil and gas tapped from the ocean floor don't take up a single hectare of land, except for what's used for onshore transport and processing.

Looked at in terms of land intensity — the number of hectares needed to supply humanity's needs — it's clear that minerals are still a highly efficient use of space. All the world's mines cover just 101,583 square kilometers, according to a study this year based on satellite observations — a smaller area than we use to grow oats, and equivalent to less than 0.2% of the world's agricultural land.

Another consideration is how often the commodity gets re-used. The 50kg of nickel in an electric car battery will get used again and again over the tens of thousands of kilometers the vehicle is driven, and then may well be recycled for other uses when the vehicle is scrapped. The 50 liters of gasoline in your fuel tank, on the other hand, will need to be refilled several thousand times before the car is taken to the junkyard. Farmland, for all the vast areas that it consumes, can produce the same volumes year after year, even increasing over time with improvements in agricultural yields.

Energy is an important and related consideration. If your electric car is charged up with power produced by burning coal, it's likely to have a far more substantial land footprint than with electricity from nuclear, wind, or gas — both because coal is profligate in terms of its demands for land, and because its supplies must be constantly renewed by digging yet more coal. Solar power, for all its advantages in terms of carbon emissions, also chews up a great deal of land.

A final consideration is to think about the cost of land use as well as its benefits. All land is not created equal. Some 60% of the world's carbon biomass is stored in forests, with another 22% in grasslands and savannah. Keeping that carbon locked up in living tissues rather than venting it into the atmosphere is a burden that falls particularly hard on lower-income tropical countries, which have some of the largest reserves of forest and some of the greatest needs to consume land as an input into economic growth.

That's where the rest of the world has a part to play. Economic development requires not just land, but labor, capital, and productivity improvements. Most emerging countries have no shortage of labor, but the capital required to develop land efficiently and drive their economies up the productivity value chain is far too scarce. Pledges that rich nations made a decade ago to provide \$100 billion in annual investments to the rest of the world to decarbonize and adapt to the effects of climate change have still not been met.

If wealthy countries want the tropical forest lands that have already been cleared to be used more efficiently — and, where possible, returned to their natural state — then they're going to need more, not less capital-intensive activity. Mining isn't devoid of environmental impacts. But it's a lot better than most of the alternatives. ■

BLOOMBERG OPINION



'Iba ang may pinagsamahan?'

“The law bars new sources of pollutants in non-attainment areas. The Batangas project of SMC’s EERI and Linseed is considered by environment activists as an ‘additional source of pollutants.’

Environment groups have cited the Philippine Clean Water Act to halt the degradation of the Verde Island Passage, a vital marine resource off Batangas, and in the process countering an integrated liquefied natural gas project of San Miguel Corp. and its partners.

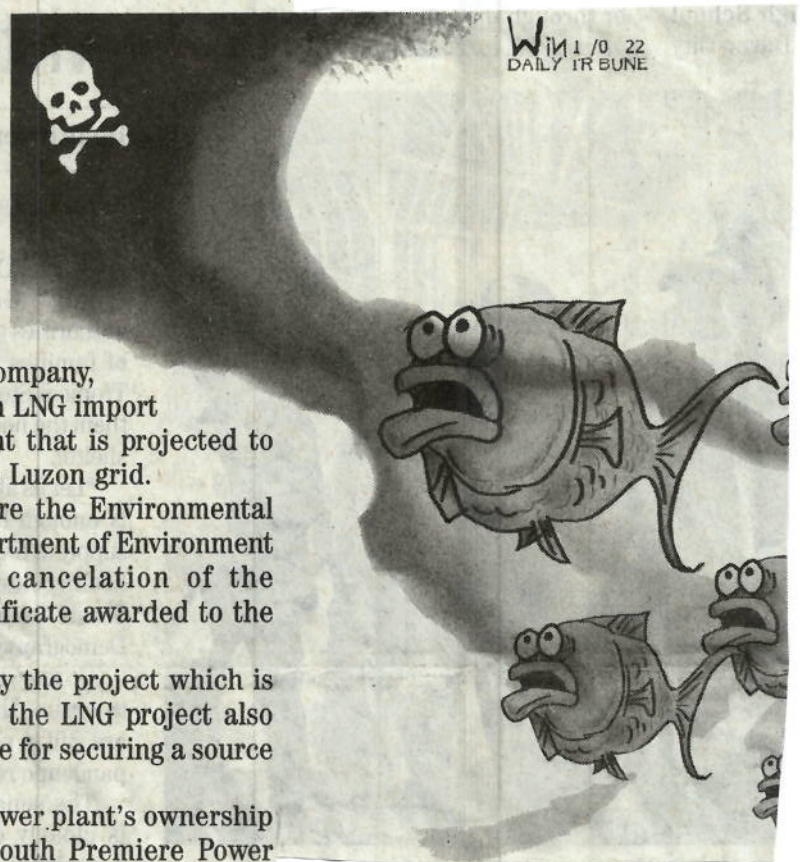
San Miguel Corporation subsidiary Excellent Energy Resources Inc. and Linseed Field Corporation, a local unit of international infrastructure firm Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company, are building a combination of an LNG import terminal and a new power plant that is projected to have the biggest capacity in the Luzon grid.

Ecology advocates filed before the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the cancelation of the environmental compliance certificate awarded to the project.

The petition will further delay the project which is overdue since June. A delay in the LNG project also affects the Ilijan plant’s timetable for securing a source of fuel.

Last June, the 1.2-gigawatt power plant’s ownership was transferred to SMC unit South Premiere Power Corp. based on an independent power producer agreement signed in 2010.

Simultaneously, SPPC ended a supply contract with the Malampaya natural gas consortium leaving it without a reliable source of fuel.





SMC was looking at the banked gas it purchased from the government through the Philippine National Oil Co. and the LNG project to feed the requirements of Ilijan, a second phase for which that will double its capacity is under construction.

The AG&P terminal project, however, encountered delays while SMC can't draw from the banked gas it bought since the Malampaya consortium had already committed the scheduled output of banked gas for the year to First Gen power plants.

More delays will face the Batangas project after ecology groups sought DENR's action to declare the bodies around Barangays Ilijan and Dela Paz and the Verde Island Passage as non-attainment areas under the Philippine Clean Water Act.

The law bars new sources of pollutants in non-attainment areas. The Batangas project of SMC's EERI and Linseed is considered by environment activists as an "additional source of pollutants."

The DENR told the petitioners against the SMC project that it is drafting the guidelines on naming bodies of water as non-attainment areas.

"With the dangers posed by the project proponents' violations of their ECC and lack of permits from other agencies, the urgency for the issuance of a cease-and-desist order against the operations of respondent EERI's 1,750-megawatt combined-cycle power plant must be underlined," according to the petition sent to the DENR.

“
San Miguel beer advertisements were famous for their slogan 'Iba ang may pinagsamahan' which seems to have not permeated in its treatment of communities in its project site.

It added that "the complainants would like to remind (the DENR) that the same project is also due to start operating in December 2022."

The complaint also alleged the SMC unit failed "to submit proof of its compliance with obligations that tie into its social and environmental responsibility to the community" where the project is located and its "cavalier" disregard for government permitting requirements.

During the 1980s, San Miguel beer advertisements were famous for their slogan "Iba ang may pinagsamahan" which seems to have not permeated in its treatment of communities in its project site.

SMC which claims to value its relationship with Filipino consumers in its 132 years of existence must squarely address the complaints.



Editorial

Huwag magsawalang-kibo sa ginagawa ng China sa WPS

PATULOY ang China sa paggawa ng illegal structures sa West Philippine Sea. Hindi tumitigil. Hindi lang napagtuunan ng media ang kanilang ginagawa dahil napokus sa mga kaganapan sa bansa sa mga nakalipas na buwan. Patuloy sila sa paggawa ng istraktura sa Panganiban (Mischief) Reef. Ang Panganiban Reef ay nakapaloob sa 370 kilometer exclusive economic zone ng Pilipinas.

Lingid din sa kaalaman nang marami, mayroon na namang mga bangkang pangisda ng Pinoy ang sinundan ng China Coast Guard at itinaboy upang hindi makapangisda sa teritoryo ng Pilipinas. Hindi rin ito gaanong nabigyan ng pansin dahil sa mga malalaking balita na nagsulputan ngayon.

Ang patuloy na paggawa ng China ng illegal struc-



tures sa mga teritoryong pag-aari ng Pilipinas ay malaking hamon sa administrasyon ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Pati na rin ang ginagawang pambully at pagtataboy sa mga Pilipinong mangingisda. Inaagawan nila ng ikinabubuhay ang mga kawawang Pinoy na ang pangangisda ang pinagkukunan ng ikinabubuhay. Mula nang okupahin ng mga Chinese ang mga teritoryo sa WPS, maraming mangingisdang Pinoy ang problemado kung paano maitatawid ang kanilang buhay at pamilya. Sa tuwing papalaot sila, aandap-andap ang kanilang kalooban at iniisip kung makakabalik pa ba ng buhay dahil sa ginagawa ng China Coast Guard. Ilang pagkakataon na binangga sila at binomba ng tubig ng CCG.

Sa unang State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Marcos Jr. noong Hulyo, sinabi niya na hindi siya papayag na makatapak ang sinuman sa pag-aari ng Pilipinas. Hindi raw niya igi-give up kahit square inch ng teritoryo ng Pilipinas. Ipaglalaban umano niya ang soberanya ng bansa.

Ngayon niya patunayan ang mga sinabi o ipinangako. Magkaroon ng posisyon sa ginagawang pasilidad sa mga teritoryong napanalunan ng bansa sa arbitrary ruling ng UN tribunal noong Hulyo 2016. Ayon sa UN walang legal basis ang China sa sinasabi nilang historic rights at sa iginigiit nilang 9-dash-line claim sa inaangking teritoryo.

Hindi dapat magsawalang kibo ang bansa sa nangyayari sa WPS at kawalang respeto ng China. Magpasya at tumindig na sa ginagawa ng bansang ito sa Inang Pilipinas.



GMA and Nestlé Philippines conduct coastal cleanup

GMA Network and Nestlé Philippines teamed up for the nationwide coastal cleanup at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA).

The activity was part of the "Kapuso at Kasambuhay ng Kalikasan" partnership between the two companies to inform the public about the pressing environmental challenges, especially the plastic waste problem in the country.

It also aimed to educate everyone about their responsibility in caring for and preserving the planet via reducing, reusing, and recycling plastics.

Sparkle GMA Artist Center Assistant Vice President Joy Marcelo expressed her gratitude to Nestlé for collaborating with GMA: "We're glad that Nestlé partnered with us for this. Protecting the environment is a cherished value of the television network. For us at Sparkle, everything that our artists do always resonates. Like their fans and people who look up to them get inspired by what they do. Hopefully they set good examples such as this. And I'm happy because we have social and environment-conscious artists."

Nestlé PH Assistant Vice President and Sustainability Lead Maria Christine Ponce-Garcia expressed her hope that the coastal cleanup with the participation of Sparkle GMA Artist Center talents would help encourage audiences to participate in safeguarding the planet by tackling plastic waste in their daily lives.

"As the Kasambuhay ng Kalikasan, Nestlé's partnership with the Kapuso Network is important in enabling us promote awareness about environmental issues and rallying more Kapuso and Kasambuhay to take action. We have to work together and everybody needs to get involved," she said.

Sparkle GMA Artist Center talents Rabiya Mateo, Rain Matienzo, Yasser Marta and Vanessa Peña, together with the members of GMA's employee-volunteer group GMA G.I.V.E.S. (Guide. Interact. Volunteer. Educate. Serve.), and Nestlé employees participated in the closed loop clean up initiative at LPPCHEA, the first established critical habitat in the Philippines.

Rabiya said, "I am very happy to be part of this program as a Kapuso and as a Kasambuhay ng Kalikasan. It is also giving back to our home. Nakakataba ng puso to be part of GMA Network hindi lang siya for entertainment, for news and public affairs, but taking action in real problems of the planet. It's a beautiful message na may pag-asa. It is a call to action sa lahat that climate change is real but we can do something as responsible citizens to stop it. This coastal cleanup is also an action to take nothing but memories but leave nothing but footprints."



Sparkle artists



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'FLYING UNDER THE RADAR'

Wren rocks New Zealand's beauty contest for birds



WELLINGTON—A tiny mountain-dwelling wren was the surprise winner Monday of New Zealand's controversial bird of the year competition, which even had Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in a flap.

The piwauwau rock wren punched above its 20-gram weight, flying under the radar to win the annual contest ahead of popular fellow native contenders, the little penguin and the kea.

Fans of the wren set up a Facebook page to help the outsider soar up the final rankings when the fortnight-long poll closed Monday.

"It's not the size, it's the underbird you vote for that counts," wrote one supporter.

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WREN ROCKS NEW ZEALAND'S BEAUTY CONTEST FOR BIRDS

FROM A1

The annual competition ruffled voters' feathers in years past after a native bat was allowed to enter, then won, the 2021 title.

Politicians' choices

There was also outcry this year after the flightless kaka— a twice previous winner dubbed the world's fattest parrot—was barred from running to give others a chance.

The annual avian beauty contest run by environmental group Forest and Bird is popular with New Zealanders, includ-



TOP BIRD The rock wren is New Zealand's bird of the year. —DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION NEW ZEALAND PHOTO

ing the country's top politicians.

The leader of the opposition, Christopher Luxon, took to Twitter—where else?—over

the weekend to endorse the wrybill, a river bird with a distinctive bent beak.

On Monday, New Zealand's prime minister was momentarily ruffled live on air when asked if she had voted for her favorite bird.

"No I haven't yet—you can't just chuck a controversial question at me without a warning!" Ardern said with a smile.

New Zealand's leader revealed she will "always and forever" be loyal to the black petrel, which only breeds on the North Island but can fly as far as Ecuador, and she hopes the 2023 competition "will be its year." —AFP



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Customs stops shipment of nickel bound for China

SURIGAO CITY—The Bureau of Customs has ordered its District Inspector in this city to immediately unload about 100,000 metric tons of nickel ore loaded at M/V Lucky Source and M/V De Xin Xing Long and allegedly bound for China.

In a signed memorandum dated October 26, 2022, Customs Acting District Collector Jonah Herbert Dollano stated that this step was undertaken pursuant to Customs laws and regulations and in compliance to a memorandum their office received from DENR's Mines and Geosciences

Bureau, Regional Office X111.

The memorandum dated October 17, 2022 and signed by Romeo Dalodalo, chief of Geoscience Division, has issued a cease-and-desist order to Claver Mineral Development Corp. (CMDC) within the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement covering an area of 433.9798 hectares located at Barangay Cagdianao, Claver, Surigao del Norte and Barangay Carrascal, Surigao del Sur from conducting all forms of mining activities within its contract area.

Copies of the said memorandum were also sent to the Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, and to concerned barangay officials and local government units.

However, Dalodalo said that despite this order, they received information that CMDC continues to haul, load, and ship nickel ore without the supporting Ore Transport Permit and Mineral Ore Export Permit. **Roy Tomandao**



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Cebu Landmasters developing 21-hectare mountain resort

By Jenniffer B. Austria

PROPERTY developer Cebu Landmasters Inc. is bolstering its leisure and hospitality portfolio with the launch of a 21-hectare mountain resort in Balamban, Cebu.

The project, called Magsaysay Peak Resort and Villas, is a joint venture between CLI and MagsPeak Nature Park Inc. composed of Cebuano businessmen Bob Gothong, Segundino Selma Jr., Richard Ray King and Douglas Gacasan.

Under the plan, CLI's hospitality arm will build 13 exclusive mountain villas and 20 hotel rooms within the resort. It will also offer amenities including clubhouse, infinity pools, a farm-to-table restaurant and eco-friendly and outdoor programs such as hiking trails, camping facilities and other

child-friendly activities.

"We believe MagsPeak will further enhance the variety of tourist attractions in Cebu and the Visayas. It is our way of strategically anticipating the rebound of tourism in our country and also providing a sanctuary for those seeking spiritual retreat," CLI chairman and chief executive Jose Soberano III said.

CLI said the resort, which is set to open in 2025, was designed to create a holistic mountain experience for visitors with an outdoor, religious and hospitality component and built with sustainability at its core.

"With sustainability integral to its development, MagsPeak showcases eco-friendly initiatives and outdoor programs such as hiking trails, camping facilities, and other child-friendly activities surrounded by nature," CLI

said.

CLI said it integrated environmental conservation and sustainability features in the project's master plan through tree reforestation programs such as planting thousands of endemic trees prior to construction activities and a solar-powered water retention system promoting a sustainable and responsible development.

MagsPeak will have a 42-kilometer pilgrim trail, traversing the mountain-side of Manunggal Balamban, going down to the municipality of Compostela whose patron is St. James the Apostle.

The latest project is expected to boost CLI's pipeline of hospitality projects which include 10 hotels and resorts in the Visayas and Mindanao with more than 1,700 room keys upon completion.