

02 APRIL 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR Holds Ceremonial Bamboo Planting with DILG

Friday, April 1, 2022 Journal Online



**Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** Central Luzon Regional Executive Director Paquito T. Moreno Jr. (third from left) takes part in the ceremonial [bamboo planting](#) held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center on March 25, 2022 alongside the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between DENR Region 3 and the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Bureau of Fire Protection (DILG-BFP). The five-year partnership will adopt two 25-hectare reforestation sites in Bulacan located at Brgy. San Lorenzo in Norzagaray and Brgy. Kalawakan in Doña Remedios Trinidad for bamboo plantation, maintenance, and protection. DILG-BFP Chief Director Louie S. Puracan, [DENR](#)-Strategic Communication Initiatives Service (SCIS) Director Khalil Sergio Bayam, and Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council Executive Director Rene Madarang (not in photo) were also present in the event.



## DENR-GSIS Partnership for Forest Protection

Friday, April 1, 2022 Journal Online



Officials of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** and the **Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)**, DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer-Rizal Ramil Limpiada and GSIS Vice President for General Service Office and Chair of GSIS National Greening Program (NGP) Oversight Committee Paul Dela Cuadra (middle and right) with Malayang Samahan ng Mga Katutubo ng Antipolo City (MASAKA) Inc. chair Jimmy Garcia (left) present the memorandum of [agreement implementing a five-year plan](#) for the protection of a 56-hectare area previously rehabilitated under DENR's Enhanced NGP inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL). GSIS will foot the upkeep and protection costs of the area located at Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City through MASAKA, Inc. The agreement signing, held at the [DENR](#) Provincial office in Taytay, Rizal on March 28, marks the second DENR-GSIS partnership following the completion in 2017 of a three-year plan to rehabilitate a 50-hectare ENGP area in Barangay Isidro in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.



## PRRD orders DENR to shun applications for reclamation activities

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 1, 2022, 8:47 am



(File photo)

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday said he has directed acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna to halt the acceptance of applications for reclamation activities.

Duterte gave the directive, as he acknowledged that proposals to conduct massive land reclamation are nothing but a breeding ground for corruption.

*“Tanang application karon sa reclamation — tanan and it could include Cebu and Mindanao — giingnan nako si Acting Secretary na iundang tanan (All the applications right now for reclamation — all and it could include Cebu and Mindanao — I told the Acting Secretary to stop all of it),”* he said in a speech delivered in Lapu-Lapu City.

This, as Duterte bared that he had dismissed at least six Cabinet members because of their supposed involvement in questionable reclamation deals in Manila Bay.

Duterte refused to name the fired Cabinet officials. He also did not elaborate on the supposed shady reclamation proposals.

*“Di ko kuan og kanang magpa-announce sa media pero about, in the process, five Cabinet members ang akong, o six, akong napalagpot kay because of corruption (I’m not fond of announcing to the media but about, in the process, I’ve fired five or six Cabinet members because of corruption),”* he said. *“May dinimiss ako na Cabinet members and iyong ito ‘yung (I dismissed the Cabinet members and it has something to do with) reclamation projects in front of Manila.”*

Duterte reiterated that he could not support reclamation activities because they would benefit just the “big” companies.



## PRRD orders DENR to shun applications for reclamation activities

“Pero ‘yung iba lalo na ‘yung — alam mo dito sa gobyerno na ito, ‘yung projects kagaya ng mga reclamation, ang mga bilyonaryo ra diha. Ang mga way kwarta o laway ray imong kapital, di gyud puwede na because it would end sa corruption kay basig gamay ra imong kapital unya musulod ka anang butanga, eventually imo nang ibaligya sa kaning mga negosyanteng dagko. So mao to giingnan nako, ‘Habulin mo,’ (You know in this government’s reclamation projects, only the billionaires venture into that. Those who don’t have money or those who only use their communication skills as capital could never work because it would end in corruption because you joined the business with just small capital, eventually, you will still sell it to the big corporations. So, I said, ‘Pursue them’),” he said.

Duterte said he has no plans to approve any big-ticket projects, including the reclamation proposals, in his remaining months in office.

He said he would let his successor decide on the proposed reclamation activities.

“So daghan tong gusto mugukod, di na ko, di nako maka-pirma’g appointment, di na pud ko muhatag og dako na kwarta, project, parehas ani karong... And then ‘yung discretion sa itong magbigay sa mga reclamation areas sa Manila. It’s either akong giingon pungan nako, ihatag ko nalang sa sunod nga mudala (A lot of people want to see me. But I won’t anymore, I won’t sign appointments, neither will I approve huge amounts of money for projects just like... And then the discretion to allow reclamation in Manila, I said it’s either I’ll suspend it for the meantime and just leave it to the next administration),” Duterte said.

He, however, still raised the possibility that acceptable reclamation proposals might be approved at the “last minute.”

“It’s either we give it *basig* last minute *basta tinarong lang* and the legal requirements are complied, I might just you know — *pero sila, dili ako*. You review everything and if you think it’s proper and legal, *buhii nalang* (It’s either we give it to them last minute for as long as it’s honest and the legal requirements are complied with, I might just you know — but they’ll do it, not me. You review everything and if you think it’s proper and legal, give it to them,” Duterte said. (PNA)



## PDU30 sa DENR: Aplikasyon sa reclamation activities ‘wag tanggapin



April 1, 2022 @ 10:00 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Iniatas ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte kay acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna na itigil ang pagtanggap ng aplikasyon para sa reclamation activities.

Nagbigay ng direktiba ang Pangulo bilang pagkilala sa panukala na ang magsagawa ng massive land reclamation ay walang kwenta kundi “isang breeding ground” para sa korapsyon.

“All the applications right now for reclamation — all and it could include Cebu and Mindanao — I told the Acting Secretary to stop all of it,” ayon kay Pangulong Duterte sa naging talumpati nito sa isinagawang National Joint Task Force- Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict Meeting na idinaos sa JPark Island Resort, M.L. Quezon National Highway, Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, araw ng Huwebes, Marso 31.

Ayon pa rin sa Pangulo, ang dahilan ng pagsibak niya sa anim niyang Cabinet members ay ang diumano’y pagkakasangkot ng mga ito sa kwestiyonableng reclamation deals sa Manila Bay.

Tumanggi naman ang Pangulo na pangalanan ang mga sinibak niyang Cabinet officials.



## PDU30 sa DENR: Aplikasyon sa reclamation activities ‘wag tanggapin

Hindi naman nito pinalawig ang sinasabing ‘shady’ reclamation proposals.

“I’m not fond of announcing to the media but about, in the process, I’ve fired five or six Cabinet members because of corruption,” ayon sa Pangulo sa sabay sabing, “May dinismis ako na Cabinet members and iyong ito ‘yung reclamation projects in front of Manila.”

Muli namang inulit ng Chief Executive na hindi niya susuportahan ang reclamation activities dahil ang makikinabang lamang dito ay ang mga “big” companies.

“You know in this government’s reclamation projects, only the billionaires venture into that. Those who don’t have money or those who only use their communication skills as capital could never work because it would end in corruption because you joined the business with just small capital, eventually, you will still sell it to the big corporations. So, I said, ‘Pursue them,’ litaniya ng Pangulo.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na wala siyang plano na aprubahan ang anumang big-ticket projects, kabilang na ang reclamation proposals, sa natitira niyang buwan sa tanggapan.

Hahayaan aniya niya ang kanyang successor na magdesisyon sa panukalang reclamation activities.

“A lot of people want to see me. But I won’t anymore, I won’t sign appointments, neither will I approve huge amounts of money for projects just like... And then the discretion to allow reclamation in Manila, I said it’s either I’ll suspend it for the meantime and just leave it to the next administration,” ang pahayag ng Punong Ehekutibo.

Gayunman, posible aniyang ang pagtanggap sa panukalang reclamation ay aprubahan ng “last minute.”

“It’s either we give it to them last minute for as long as it’s honest and the legal requirements are complied with, I might just you know — but they’ll do it, not me. You review everything and if you think it’s proper and legal, give it to them,” aniya pa rin. **Kris Jose**



## Palace exec: Cimatu resigned from DENR due to health reasons, not corruption

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:25 PM April 01, 2022



FILE PHOTO: Former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. INQUIRER/GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday insisted that former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu resigned from his post due to health reasons and not because of allegations of corruption.

Acting presidential spokesman Martin Andanar noted that Malacañang even released a statement wishing the ex-environment chief good health.

President Rodrigo Duterte also commended Cimatu in the “successful transformation and clean-up of Boracay and Manila Bay,” he added.

“There is therefore no truth to the insinuation and /or rumor of his involvement in corruption,” Andanar said in a statement.

Subscribe Me

By providing an email address. I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and acknowledge that I have read the [Privacy Policy](#).

Andanar’s statement came after Duterte spoke about his sacking of some members of his Cabinet during a meeting in Lapulapu City with officials from the anti-insurgency task force in Central Visayas.

Duterte acknowledged Cimatu’s replacement, Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, before bringing up that he has fired up to six Cabinet members due to alleged corruption.





## Palace exec: Cimatu resigned from DENR due to health reasons, not corruption

“When I became President, [I heard reports of corruption](#). So si [Acting Environment] Secretary [Jim] Sampulna is new because I fired them all. I won’t name anybody because it’s painful for them for this to have happened. But you know, whether you helped me during the elections or contributed something good, I am very thankful,” he said in Cebuano.

JPV

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1576871/cimatu-quit-post-due-to-health-reasons-not-corruption#ixzz7PFNZJYIq>

Follow us: [@inquirerdotnet on Twitter](#) | [inquirerdotnet on Facebook](#)



## Ex-DENR chief Cimatu not corrupt: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 1, 2022, 3:00 pm



Resigned DENR secretary Roy Cimatu (*File photo*)

**MANILA** – There was no corruption issue hurled at resigned Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu when he was still leading the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Malacañang said Friday.

The clarification was made, a day after Duterte bared that he had fired at least six Cabinet officials involved in the questionable reclamation deals in Manila Bay.

In a press statement, acting Presidential Spokesperson and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Cimatu vacated the Environment post because of health reasons.

“Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu resigned due to health reasons,” Andanar said. “There is, therefore, no truth to the insinuation and/or rumor of his involvement in corruption.”

Duterte, in a speech delivered in Lapu-Lapu City on Thursday, refused to name the six Cabinet members who were dismissed from service because of their supposed involvement in the anomalous Manila Bay reclamation proposals.

Duterte, however, said the corruption issue had prompted him to direct the DENR to stop the processing of applications for reclamation activities.

Andanar said Duterte was not referring to Cimatu.



## Ex-DENR chief Cimatu not corrupt: Palace

“The Office of the Presidential Spokesperson on February 18, 2022 even released a statement wishing the former DENR Secretary good health,” he said. “Moreover, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in numerous occasions commended former Secretary Cimatu in the successful transformation and clean-up of Boracay and Manila Bay.”

Cimatu, a retired chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, submitted his resignation letter to Duterte’s office on February 17 due to health reasons.

Cimatu was named as DENR chief in May 2017, after the Commission on Appointments rejected the appointment of former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

At the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Cimatu was also tapped as an overseer of the government’s intensified pandemic response strategies in Cebu City on top of his job as DENR secretary.

In an online Palace press briefing, acting Deputy Presidential Spokesperson and Communications Undersecretary Michel Kristian Ablan said the Palace would let the legal process run its course over the alleged involvement of sacked Cabinet officials in corruption.

“*If kabuuan po iyan ng DENR officials, meron naman po tayong pina-follow dito po sa executive branch (If it involves DENR officials, the executive branch is following the right process),”* Ablan said. “*Dadaan naman po tayo sa tamang proseso kung meron po talagang proof na may corruption na nangyari (We will follow the right procedures if there is a proof of corruption). So we have to trust our institutions and we have to trust our processes.” (PNA)*



## Palasyo itinanggi na tinanggal ni Pang. Duterte si dating DENR chief Cimatú

By [Bombo Jane Buna](#)

-April 1, 2022 | 11:37 PM

Nilinaw ng Malakanyang ang mga sinabi kamakailan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at itinanggi na sinibak niya si dating Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú.

Ito ay may kaugnayan sa sinabi ni Duterte sa isang talumpati nitong Huwebes na sinibak niya ang ilang miyembro ng Gabinete dahil sa isyu ng “reclamation projects sa harap ng Manila.”

Muling iginiit ni Acting Palace Spokesman Martin Andanar na nagbitiw si Cimatú noong Pebrero dahil sa kadahilanang pangkalusugan, at umalis siya nang maayos sa Pangulo dahil sa “matagumpay” na rehabilitasyon ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

Aniya, naglabas pa ng pahayag ang Office of the Presidential Spokesperson na nagnanais ng mabuting kalusugan sa dating DENR Secretary.

Nilinaw nito na walang katotohanan ang insinuation at/o tsismis ng pagkakasangkot niya sa katiwalian.

## Antas ng tubig sa Angat dam, nananatiling mababa — NWRB

Robie de Guzman • April 1, 2022



**MANILA, Philippines** — Mababa pa rin kaysa normal ang water level ng Angat Dam sa kabila ng mga isinagawang cloud seeding operation.

Ayon sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB), pababa ang antas ng tubig sa dam dahil walang masyadong pag-ulan sa Angat watershed ngayong panahon ng tag-init.

Ngayong Huwebes, nasa 190.95 meters lang ang water level sa Angat na higit 20 metrong mababa kaysa normal high water level na 212 meters.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr., isa ito sa mga pinakamababang antas ng tubig na naitala sa nakalipas na 20 taon.

Pero pagtitiyak ni David, nananatili pa rin namang sapat ang supply ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam.

“Itong April, I think mayroon pa naman, we will still have sufficient water supply para po sa kababayan natin. In fact, yung allocation sa April ay despite itong pagbaba ng level ng Angat Dam ay mine-maintain pa rin po naman natin yung level ng tubig. Yun naman halos ang binibigay po nating allocations since last year,” ang wika ng opisyal.

Sa buwan ng Mayo ay posible namang mas bumaba pa sa minimum operating level na 180 meters ang nibel ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Ngunit bago pa aniya ito mangyari ay maaaring mas maaga pang magbawas ng alokasyon ng tubig ang NWRB.

Una nitong maaapektuhan ang mga irigasyon at hydropower plant upang bigyang prayoridad ang supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila.



## Antas ng tubig sa Angat dam, nananatiling mababa — NWRB

“Isa iyan sa mga nire-review natin kung kailangan nang mag-adjust or kung kinakailangan magkaroon ng adjustment nang pagka umabot po iyan ng 18o. But sabi nga ho natin, even bago siya umabot pwede naman po nating gawin iyan kung ang sinasabi naman ng rainfall forecast eh walang masyadong pag-ulan na darating,” ani David.

Umaasa ang NWRB na magkakaroon pa rin ng mga pag-ulan kahit nasa panahon na ng tag-tuyot ang bansa.

Naghahanda na rin ang mga water concessionaire sa Metro Manila sakaling kailanganin nilang magpatupad ng water service interruptions.

Payo ng NWRB sa publiko na magtipid at gamitin ng wasto ang tubig dahil malaki ang maitutulong nito upang mapanatiling sapat ang supply.



## Cloud seeding operations sinimulan na sa Angat Dam — NWRB

ni [Jasmin Joy Evangelista](#) | April 1, 2022



Nagsasagawa ng cloud seeding operations sa Angat Dam kasabay na patuloy na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig, ayon sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB) nitong Huwebes.

Ang naturang dam ang primary source ng potable water ng mga residente ng Metro Manila.

Dito rin nanggagaling ang water supply ng irigasyon sa Bustos Dam sa Bulacan at ilang parte ng mga palayang may irigasyon sa Pampanga, maging ng power generation sa Luzon Grid.

Sa isang pahayag, kinumpirma ni NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. na nagsasagawa ng cloud seeding operations ang Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) simula noong nakaraang linggo.

Nauna nang sinabi ng PAGASA na ang water level sa Angat Dam ay umabot sa critical level sa Hunyo dahil nakikita sa latest na datos ang pagkakatulad nito noong 2010 water crisis.



## Cloud seeding operations sinimulan na sa Angat Dam — NWRB

Sa datos ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office ng Bulacan, ang water elevation sa Angat Dam ay nasa 190.94 meters as of Thursday morning. Ito ay 10.94 meters na mas mataas sa minimum operating level na 180 meters.

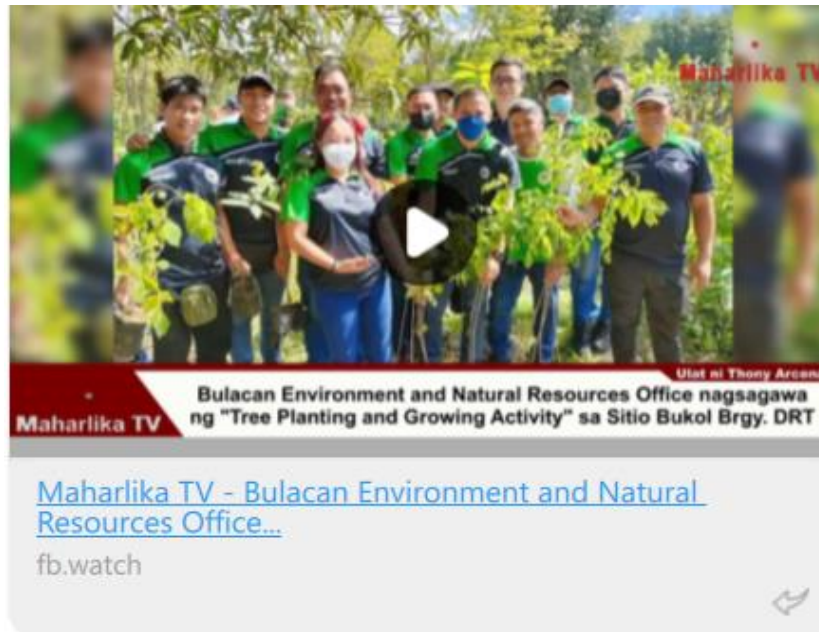
Sa patuloy na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig, binawasan ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has reduced ang supply nito sa south at north service areas sa Bulacan at ilang parte ng mga irrigated na palayan sa Pampanga.

Sa pagsisimula ng dry cropping season, nag-allocate ang NWRB ng 40 cubic meters per second (cms) sa dalawang service areas ng NIA na nire-regulate ng Bustos Dam.

Ayon kay Roberto dela Cruz, NIA provincial manager ng Bulacan, nabawasan ang water allocations sa kanilang service areas sa pag-allocate sa north zone ng eight cms at six cms sa south.

“The reduction in the irrigation allocations in these service areas will take effect at the start of the harvest season with minimal water requirements for maturing rice crops,” ani David.





Source:

<https://fb.watch/c6mBhBoiwK/>



## Climate change adaption hinges on sustainability, resilience – study

(The Philippine Star)  
- April 2, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines must pursue a different path to strengthen its contribution to the Paris Agreement – one that is anchored on climate change adaptation and resilience, and which finds context in sustainable development, instead of the usual green house gas (GHG) inventory-centric approach, a study showed.

In a paper presented during a recent virtual forum organized by think tank Stratbase ADR Institute, it was argued that the necessary first step for strengthening and accelerating climate action in the Philippines would be to “return to the first principle of adaptation as the anchor strategy, pursuing mitigation as a function of adaptation, with programs and measures driven by their impact on sustainable development and not by emissions reductions per se.”

Toby Melissa Monsod, a professor at the School of Economics of the University of the Philippines and a co-author of the study, said adaptation is the anchor strategy meant to be translated for all levels of governance toward ecosystem-based management which shall ultimately render sectors climate resilient.

“Robust community ownership of climate action, a necessary condition for any successful pursuit of climate-smart low-carbon development, will follow more easily from dedicated investments and targeted market interventions to build local resilience; the same cannot be said for campaigns to reduce GHG emissions,” she said.

The selection of measures for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) would not start with an accounting of GHG emissions, but end with it, making emissions reduction a co-benefit rather than a criteria for inclusion, Monsod said.

She pointed out that 60 percent of the population live in coastal zones and about 10 million rely on small-scale fishing for their food.

Despite this, and despite the role in human survival and the quality of life, the marine economy has received scant attention from the national government.

“The bias of public investments has been in the agri sector, which it is a part, has always been in crops, specifically rice. Thus, the degradation of coral reefs due to siltation, destructive fishing practices, overharvesting, etc. Even plastic pollution which has contributed to the decline in productivity and is threatening life,” she said.

But the degradation of coastal ecosystems is of particular concern, given their multiple roles, especially in the mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

“Prioritizing resilience can open up previously missed opportunities to significantly contribute to global efforts based on the country’s comparative advantage – for instance, the biodiversity of its seas.

Stratbase ADRI president Dindo Manhit said that environmental challenges like global warming have undermined the country’s capacity to respond to crises and emergencies.



## Climate change adaption hinges on sustainability, resilience – study

“This affects the security of states and the welfare of our people. This underscores the importance of fostering cooperation to address these emerging challenges with the same urgency as conventional security threats.”

Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said climate change would worsen the impact of the pandemic.

“GNP and GDP are not the only measures of progress,” he said. “It is time to establish resilience at the center of macroeconomics, and it is also time to establish ways to measure how resilient we are.”

“Climate action strategies need to be a part of a larger transition strategy focused on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic strategy,” he said.

We need to stop looking at climate change as an environmental problem, he said. We should stop our fixation on disasters.

“We must also look at local hunger, poverty incidence, forest fires, slow onset climate effects if these will have an impact in the future. We need to look at how we deliver responsive services, and how our different tiers in government will respond to our situation,” he said.

Constantino said the government must prioritize multi-modal public transportation programs, and chase affordable, reliable and secure power.



**LATEST**

# Legarda: Improve access of LGUs to people's survival fund

Published 23 hours ago on April 1, 2022 08:40 AM

By **TDI** @tribunephil



Senatorial bet Loren Legarda urged government agencies to improve the capacity of local government units and organizations to access climate finance from the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

The PSF is the country's local adaptation fund meant to provide grants to local government units and organizations for their projects and programs that can help communities and ecosystems cope with the impacts of climate change.

Legarda authored and sponsored its creation in 2012 through Republic Act 10174 or the People's Survival Fund Act, an amendatory law to the Climate Change Act of 2009.

The fund is annually allocated with P1 billion and may be augmented by other sources. It is managed by the PSF Board, which is chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF) and includes representatives from other government agencies such as the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management, and Climate Change Commission (CCC), the academe, business sector organizations, and civil society. The Board considers the presence of multiple climate hazards, poverty incidence, and key biodiversity areas in the approval of proposals from LGUs.

"Alam naman natin kung gaano ka-vulnerable ang ating bansa sa mga bagyo, tagtuyot, pagbaha, pagtaas ng karagatan, at iba pang epekto ng climate change that's why it frustrates me that we are not utilizing the one-billion annual allocation for the PSF. That fund is really meant to provide long-term financing for local climate projects and programs in order to prevent further destruction and losses within our vulnerable communities," Legarda expressed.

"Only six LGUs have secured PSF grants so far. I know that project development takes time, especially since our LGUs and organizations need also to appreciate the process behind it, including assessing their own locality's climate risks and vulnerabilities before identifying the needed interventions. That's why I'm also urging government agencies, most especially the CCC and the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Local Government Academy, to bolster your program in partnership with local academic institutions and civil society organizations, to help our LGUs access the climate finance that they urgently need," Legarda added.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/04/01/legarda-improve-access-of-lgus-to-peoples-survival-fund/>



## Pagbabawal sa single-use plastic ikinasa ng DOH



April 1, 2022 @ 9:48 AM 21 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Sinimulan na ng Department of Health (DOH)-Ilocos region ang implementasyon para sa pagbabawal ng anumang klase ng plastic sa lahat ng kanilang health facilities kabilang ang ospital ng DOH, mga tanggapan ng provincial DOH, DOH-attached agencies, Philhealth, National Nutrition Council at Philippine Institute of Traditional Alternative Health Care at iba pang nd all others concerned.

“Single use plastics do not decompose. They become plastic fragments that pollute our environment for years. This kinds of plastics are not biodegradable and when they are shred into tiny pieces they end up in canals, rivers, farmlands and eventually into the sea.” “Ito ang major cause ng blockages sa ating sewerage at drainage systems lalo na kung tag-ulan. At ang pagsunog sa mga ito naman ang dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng air pollution mula sa mga toxic na lumalabas mula sa usok nito,” ayon kay Regional Director Paula Paz M. Sydiongco.

Kabilang sa palaging ginagamit na single-use plastic products (SUPs) ay ang plastic drinking straws, plastic cups, plastic drinking bottles, plastic drink stirrers, plastic spoons, forks at knives, plastic at ang thin-filmed sando bags.

Hinikayat din ng Regional Office ang mga residente at local government units (LGUs) na pagtibayin ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single plastics sa mga residente upang mabawasan ang polusyon sa kalikasan at nakatulong sa global climate change.



## Pagbabawal sa single-use plastic ikinasa ng DOH

“We encourage residents to be responsible in using plastic products to reduce all kinds of marine pollution. Proper disposal and management of plastic wastes must be done accordingly,” ani Sydiongco.

“Importante na maging responsable tayo sa paggamit ng mga plastic products. Maari rin tayong gumamit ng ibang alternatibo gaya ng paper bags at recyclable plastic bags sa pamimili upang maiwasan ang paggamit at pag-uwi ng maraming plastic bag mula sa palengke,” patuloy niya.

“Reducing plastics pollution requires collective action and proactive collaboration among various sectors and stakeholders including LGUs and most important, the cooperation of every resident in the community.”

“Each of us must take part and play our respective roles in creating a plastic-free environment and policies that will support a plastic-free community,” dagdag pa ni Sydiongco. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**



## Address water shortage before it becomes a crisis

April 2, 2022

AUTHORITIES have begun sounding the alarm about the possibility of water shortages within the next few weeks, something which has become an almost annual occurrence in April and May. The warnings should be taken seriously and serve as a reminder to the government, water suppliers and consumers to take steps now to conserve water to avoid a repeat of past crises.

As of Thursday, March 31, the level of the Angat Reservoir, the primary source of water for Metro Manila, was at 190.94 meters (m), down from 192.75 m a week earlier and 15.36 m lower than the same time a year ago. The minimum operating level at Angat is 180 m; if the water level falls below that, customers in Metro Manila can expect service interruptions.

To address the low water level, the agencies concerned have already taken aggressive steps, for which they ought to be commended.

The Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and [Astronomical Services Administration](#) have been carrying out cloud-seeding operations over the Angat watershed since last week. Cloud-seeding is a method of triggering rainfall by spraying fine particles of silver iodide in cloud formations using aircraft. As fantastic as it sounds, the method does work, but its effectiveness is limited by the amount of moisture in the atmosphere.

[The National Irrigation Administration](#), on the other hand, has preemptively cut water allocations for crop irrigation in Bulacan and parts of Pampanga supplied by the Bustos Reservoir, which is fed by Angat. The total water allocation of 40 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) per second (the flow rate of water through the Bustos Dam into the irrigation distribution system) at the beginning of the dry cropping season has been cut to just 14 m<sup>3</sup> per second. Although there are no reports yet that crop production has been adversely affected, the cut in water allocation will result in that if the situation persists for more than a short period of time.

Lacking godlike abilities to cause heavy rainfall for an extended period, these measures are about the limit of what the responsible agencies can do. Water users can do their part by practicing their own conservation measures. Examples of these are avoiding unnecessary water use for things like washing cars or sidewalks, setting aside water supplies in case there is a service interruption and reducing the flow from supply valves.

The latter step is often overlooked, but can have a significant effect. By closing the supply valve — either the main valve at the water meter or individual valves that supply water to sink and toilet fixtures — by just a slight amount, a typical house can save a cubic meter or more of water without noticeable effect on water pressure.

All of the above, however, are only short-term measures. In order to ensure water security for the long term, broader steps must be taken. Foremost among these, of course, is the creation of new water supplies and key to this is the resolution of disputes that have delayed the Kaliwa Dam project.

Beyond that, greater efforts to preserve existing water supplies should be pursued. Taking better care of lakes and rivers is not only critical for flood control and general environmental health, but can also provide more potential sources of water supplies. [Laguna de Bay](#), for example, could



## Address water shortage before it becomes a crisis

provide a great deal more than it does, if it were not for pollution of the lake, much of which is carried into it by the streams that feed it.

Reforestation is also an important part of water management. Forested slopes, besides serving as carbon sinks to alleviate harmful emissions, prevent erosion that can clog water supplies. Customers whose supplies are distributed by the La Mesa Dam can certainly relate to this; heavy rainstorms over the watershed ironically often result in water service being interrupted due to turbidity or high levels of silt in the water, washed down from bare slopes higher up. Care should be taken, however, to avoid monoculture reforestation, which can have other unintended effects on the ecosystem.





## Dump-and-fill 'deterrence'

Group calls for protective measures on the environmental impact of land reclamation

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA APRIL 2, 2022



In this April 15, 2021, file photo, heavy equipment dump dolomite sand over a portion of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Manila to create an artificial beach.

OCEAN conservation advocate Oceana has urged national and local officials to protect marine habitats and coastal communities against the environmental impact of massive land reclamation projects and climate change.

In a news statement, Oceana particularly called on local government units (LGU) to prioritize fisheries management, ecological protection, promotion of food and nutritional security, and ensure the resiliency of marine habitats and coastal communities.

“The local governments have a shared responsibility with national agencies in the maintenance of ecological balance and thus should take the overall responsibility in their jurisdiction that proposed projects do not harm coastal and marine resources and the livelihoods of their constituents, including those residing along the coasts,” said the nongovernment Oceana’s vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos.

Ramos, an environmental lawyer and advocate of ocean conservation, said allowing ecologically disastrous projects such as land reclamation, also called dump-and-fill, is inconsistent with such LGU mandate.

### Strong policy action

RAMOS also commended the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), led by Secretary Eduardo Año, for what she described as the strong policy action “to deter these projects which violate the right of the people to a healthful and balanced ecology by reminding the local authorities to prioritize ecological protection.”

According to Ramos, deterring destructive development projects such as dump-and-fill should be in accord with the local development plan, coastal resource management plan, land use plan, climate change action plan, among others, which local governments are tasked to perform.

On Tuesday, Oceana unveiled its Citizen Scorecard to strengthen the aforesaid policy issuance by the DILG and provide a guiding tool for citizens on the environmental impact assessment and legal safeguards.

The DILG, meanwhile handed down Memorandum Circular 2022-018, which reiterates the responsibility of all LGUs over projects covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment Statement System (PEISS) and provides the necessary guidelines for them.



Under the PEISS Act and several environmental laws, proposed projects such as dump-and-fill have to be thoroughly assessed on their environmental, climate, cultural, social and health impacts. Violators of the various laws face administrative, civil, or criminal liability.

“The scorecard will enable constituents to assess compliance with the existing environmental, fisheries, and other related laws in processing application and approval of reclamation projects. Citizens have the most to lose if destructive dump-and-fill projects and other unwarranted developments of coastlines continue to persist. The proponents of these projects, including local governments, must not be allowed to circumvent relevant rules and regulations, and cause us to be more vulnerable to the continuing loss and damages on our coasts and oceans amid the declining state of fisheries, biodiversity degradation, and climate vulnerability,” Ramos said.

### **Irreversible damage**

DUMP-AND-FILL activities all over the country are causing massive and irreversible impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems, Ramos reiterated.

“We must protect these resources from which we derive food, livelihood, nutritional security, and climate resiliency. We urge our fellow Filipinos to use this scorecard as this is an empowering tool for participatory and accountable governance and preventing further environmental impacts of these projects,” she added.

Oceana devised the scorecard for citizens and stakeholders to rate the compliance by proponents of dump-and-fill activities with their impacts on coasts and marine habitats, which are covered by the PEISS and related laws.

It will enable citizens and stakeholder communities to check if all the required steps are fulfilled in processing the proposals for dump-and-fill and other similar projects.

Among the questions asked are whether genuine public consultations and public hearings were conducted on the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the project.

Roberto Ballon, 2021 Ramon Magsaysay and Ocean Heroes awardee and president of Katipunan ng mga Kilusan ng Artisanong Mangingisda sa Pilipinas (KKAMPi), a newly established national coalition of fisherfolk federations and organizations in the country, underscored the importance of LGU commitment to ensure marine habitat and coastal communities’ defense against destructive development projects. He reiterated that as fishermen, they depend on a healthy and balanced marine ecology for their income and livelihood.

As such, Ramos said, the national agencies and LGUs must ensure the protection of the coastal and marine environment. Coastal cities and municipalities have primary jurisdiction over the sustainable management of municipal waters; thus, they must be accountable since it is in their purview.

“The Philippines has the fifth-longest coastline in the world. About 60 percent of its municipalities and cities are coastal, with 10 of the largest cities located along the coast. We ranked second in the world...as having the most number of people highly dependent on a healthy marine ecosystem, next to Indonesia. It is incumbent upon LGUs of these municipalities and cities to strictly follow the safeguards in the Philippine EIS System and related rules and regulations,” she said.



“We urge the local governments to exercise great care and caution when they deliberate on dump-and-fill proposals. Oceana’s scorecard is a valuable tool to help them in handling projects that can potentially harm the marine environment. Dump-and-fill projects cause permanent and irreversible damage to coastal habitats and estuaries which serve as spawning grounds of many economically important fishes and are important in securing food security,” Ramos added.

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)



## Farmer rescues sick Philippine Eagle

By [John Unson](#)(Philstar.com)  
- April 1, 2022 - 4:53pm



A weak Philippine eagle was found crawling in an open area in Trento, Agusan del Sur.  
Handout via John Unson

COTABATO CITY, Philippines — A farmer on Thursday turned over to barangay officials a weak Philippine Eagle he found crawling in an open area in his farm in Trento town in Agusan del Sur.

Rey Borlaza told reporters he is convinced that the raptor (scientific name: *Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is sick since it did not have any wound or a broken wing or leg.

Borlaza turned over the eagle to Joyren Duron, chairperson of Barangay Pangyan in Trento on Thursday morning.



Farmer Rey Borlaza rescued a weak Philippine Eagle he found crawling in an open area in his farm in Trento town in Agusan del Sur province.



## Farmer rescues sick Philippine Eagle

Duron, in turn, endorsed the eagle to their local government unit.

The municipality of Trento is not too distant from tropical rainforests that are natural habitats of endangered bird and animal species.



## CSC IMPLEMENTS A PERMANENT 4-DAY WORK WEEK IN ALL GOV'T AGENCIES

[April 1, 2022](#) min read

By Glen S. Ramos

MANILA — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced yesterday that it will implement a permanent 4-day workweek schedule for all government agencies even after the COVID-19 pandemic.

CSC Commissioner Aileen A. Lizada stated that they have already consulted academics and other agencies, including the Department of Information and Communications Technology and National Privacy Commission on the new work arrangement.

Lizada added that aside from the 4-day work week, the commission is also looking for other alternative work arrangements, such as the work-from-home scheme.

“The commission is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, to finalize the target date of the new work arrangement”, Lizada added.

In 2020, the CSC urged government agencies to adopt alternative work arrangements due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as a 4-day work week, shifting hours. Flexible time schedules and work from home due to the Covid-18 threat.

A government worker will be required to render a service of 10 hours a day under the 4-day workweek schedule. (ai/mtvn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2022/04/01/csc-implements-a-permanent-4-day-work-week-in-all-govt-agencies/?fbclid=IwARo8UBi-bAsYoNxPr5HtoNoCRoHJRkAEHwpuFhiXtVUStUcWz7\\_bRNeLT6g](https://maharlika.tv/2022/04/01/csc-implements-a-permanent-4-day-work-week-in-all-govt-agencies/?fbclid=IwARo8UBi-bAsYoNxPr5HtoNoCRoHJRkAEHwpuFhiXtVUStUcWz7_bRNeLT6g)

02 APRIL 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## PRRD orders DENR to shun applications for reclamation activities

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS and PNA

President Duterte has directed acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna to stop accepting applications for reclamation activities.

The President gave the directive, as he acknowledged that proposals to conduct massive land reclamation are nothing but a breeding ground for corruption.

"Tanang application karon sa reclamation — tanan and it could include Cebu and Mindanao — giingnan nako si Acting Secretary na iundang tanan (All the applications for reclamation — all and it could include Cebu and Mindanao — I told the Acting Secretary to stop all of it)," he said in a speech delivered in Lapu-Lapu City on Thursday, March 31.

Duterte revealed he had dismissed at least six Cabinet members because of their supposed involvement in questionable reclamation deals in Manila Bay.

Duterte refused to name the Cabinet officials whom he fired. "I won't name anybody because it's painful for them for this to have happened. But you know, whether you helped me during the elections or contributed something good, I am very thankful," he said.

He also did not elaborate on the supposed shady reclamation proposals.

"Di ko kuan og kanang magpa-announce sa media pero about, in the process, five Cabinet members ang akong, o six, akong napalagpot kay because of corruption (I'm not fond of announcing it to the media but in the process, I've fired five or six Cabinet members because of corruption)," he said. "May dinimiss ako na Cabinet members and iyong ito 'yung (I dismissed Cabinet members and it has something to do with) reclamation projects in front of Manila."

Duterte reiterated that he could not support reclamation activities because they would benefit just the "big" companies.

"Pero 'yung iba lalo na 'yung — alam mo dito sa gobyerno na ito, 'yung projects kagaya ng mga reclamation, ang mga bilyonaryo ra diha. Ang mga way kwarta o

laway ray imong kapital, di gyud puwede na because it would end sa corruption kay basig gamay ra imong kapital unya musulod ka anang butanga, eventually imo nang ibaligya sa kaning mga negosyanteng dagko. So mao to giingnan nako, 'Habulin mo,' (You know in this government, only the billionaires venture in these reclamation projects. Those who don't have money or those who are skilled at selling as capital could never work because it would end up in corruption. You have a small capital and eventually, you will still sell it to the big corporations. So, I said, 'Pursue them')," the President added.

Duterte said he has no plans to approve any big-ticket projects, including the reclamation proposals, in his remaining months in office.

He said he would let his successor decide on the proposed reclamation activities.

"So daghan tong gusto mugukod, di na ko, di nako maka-pirma'g appointment, di na pud ko muhatag og dako na kwarta, project, parehas ani karong... And then 'yung discretion sa itong magbigay sa mga reclamation areas sa Manila. It's either akong giingon pungan nako, ihatag ko nalang sa sunod nga mudala (A lot of people want to see me. But I won't anymore, I won't sign appointments, neither will I approve huge amounts of money for projects just like... the discretion to allow reclamation in Manila, I said it's either I'll suspend it for the meantime and just leave it to the next administration)," Duterte said.

He, however, still raised the possibility that acceptable reclamation proposals might be approved at the "last minute."

"It's either we give it basig last minute basta tinarong lang and the legal requirements are complied, I might just you know — pero sila, dili ako. You review everything and if you think it's proper and legal, buhii nalang (It's either we give it to them last minute for as long as it's honest and the legal requirements are complied with, I might just you know — but they'll do it, not me. You review everything and if you think it's proper and legal, give it to them)," Duterte said.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
BALANCED NEWS • TEARLESS VIEWS  
**INQUIRER**

A2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04-01-22

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 113

# Du30 puts reclamation applications on hold

By Ador Vincent Mayol  
and Nestle Semilla  
@InqNational



**NO TO RECLAMATION** A fishing community is opposing a reclamation project that threatens their livelihood in this photo taken on Oct. 27, 2019 at Barangay Maliksi III in Bacoor City, Cavite province. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



TITLE: Duzo puts reclamation applications on hold

PAGE 2/3

CEBU CITY—President Duterte has ordered a stop to the processing of applications for reclamation projects in the country due to reports of corruption.

Speaking to top government officials from Central Visayas on Thursday night, he said he had fired several members of his Cabinet who were linked to corruption.

Mr. Duterte did not mention their names or say whether any of them had been dismissed due to controversies over reclamation projects.

“All applications for reclamation, all—and it could include Cebu and Mindanao—I told the acting secretary to stop all of it,” he said, referring to Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna who replaced Roy Cimatu last month as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). “I’m not fond of announcing to the media [but] I’ve fired five or six Cabinet members because of corruption,” the President said.

**Good news**

He said he had warned his friends whom he had invited to serve and help his administration: “If you help me coupled with corruption, you know you have to go.”

On the government’s Freedom of Information website, the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) listed 187 proposed reclamation projects across the country as of February this year. Majority of them are still in the application stage.

Fisherfolk and workers of various shipyards in Cebu province’s Consolacion town rejoiced over the President’s order.

“We are very happy with the development. I hope the good news continues even if there will be another president three months from now,” said Edward Ligas, an urban poor leader who represents the residents and workers affected by the reclamation project in Consolacion town.

**Letters to President**

Residents and workers wrote separate letters to the President, asking him to stop a 235.8-hectare reclamation project in the town’s Tayud village because they would lose their livelihood.

Environmental experts had warned that the Tayud reclamation project would damage marine biodiversity.

According to Dr. Filipina Sotito, the project leader of a study conducted by a Cebu-based think tank that focuses on environmental issues said the project would harm the poor the most, particularly the 500 fisherfolk from Consolacion and nearby localities.

The Consolacion municipal government partnered with a private consortium—La Consolacion Seafont Development Corp. (LCSDC)—to undertake the “Seafont City” reclamation project.

The Securities and Exchange Commission records show that LCSDC was incorporated on Oct. 31, 2019, with a capitalization of P10 million. Its incorporators included Rep. Victor Yap of Tarlac and his brother, Jose Yap Jr., who is the former mayor of San Jose town in Tarlac.

Last month, the Bureau of

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Central Visayas withdrew its “letter of no objection” to the application for area clearance for the project saying it had no authority to give permission for the reclamation.

**Mayor pushing project**

Consolacion Mayor Joannes Alegado, who is pushing for the project, said the President statement “would not totally and permanently prohibit this kind of development.”

“Projects like these are essential in a progressive area and would be the solution to societal problems and concerns,” he told the Inquirer, citing traffic and congestion as just some of the problems that would be resolved.

“As long as processes are being followed and requirements are complied with then there

would be nothing wrong with it at all,” Alegado said.

Nerito Martinez, a private consultant on special projects to the municipal government, told the Inquirer that they couldn’t do anything about his order. But he added: “Anyway, he’s on the last days in office.”

Martinez said officials of Consolacion should talk with the PRA on what can be done to pursue the reclamation.

Mr. Duterte said he would not approve big-ticket projects, including the applications for reclamation, in his remaining months in office.

But he said “acceptable” reclamation proposals might be approved at the “last minute for as long as it’s honest and the legal requirements were complied with.”

The President said he will suspend reclamation projects in Manila or leave their fate to the next administration. He did not say whether he would allow the dumping of dolomite on Manila Bay’s controversial artificial white sand beach to continue.



TITLE: DU 36 puts reclamation applications on hold

PAGE 3/3

04-01-22  
DATE

#### Up to next admin

In February 2020, the Mr. Duterte said he would ban private reclamation projects in Manila Bay, but would allow those connected to government projects or those that had been given prior approval.

"The next administration, whoever gets to be president of this country—study carefully—because that Manila there, that is an old city and it will decay if you add so many things in front of Manila Bay," Mr. Duterte said at the inauguration of the Sang-

ley Airport Project in Cavite City on Feb. 15, 2020.

#### Delegated power

In February 2019, Mr. Duterte issued Executive Order No. 74, delegating the power of the President to approve reclamation projects to the PRA Governing Board.

EO 74 repealed directives that placed the PRA under the DENR. It also removed the power of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to approve reclamation projects.

Neda is now just one of three agencies, along with the DENR and the Department of Finance, whose "advisory opinions" will be sought to guide the PRA in evaluating and approving proposed projects.

#### Temporary reprieve

Lea Guerrero, Greenpeace Philippines' country director, said Mr. Duterte's order was "merely a temporary reprieve."

The next president should ensure that the ecosystems—coral reefs and seagrass beds—that would be destroyed by reclamation are protected and made resilient to climate impacts, Guerrero said.

The Manila Bay Reclamation Project, which stretches from Navotas City to Cavite province, is currently ongoing.

Another is the 2,500-ha reclamation for the New Manila International Airport, "Aerocity," in Bulacan, according to Leon Dulce, the national coordinator for Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment.

Dulce said the Aerocity project already damaged wetlands and fisheries along the Bulacan coast, said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM  
DEMPSEY REYES AND INQUIRER RESEARCH  
INQ



# Climate change adaption hinges on sustainability, resilience - study

The Philippines must pursue a different path to strengthen its contribution to the Paris Agreement – one that is anchored on climate change adaptation and resilience, and which finds context in sustainable development, instead of the usual green house gas (GHG) inventory-centric approach, a study showed.

In a paper presented during a recent virtual forum organized by think tank Stratbase ADR Institute, it was argued that the necessary first step for strengthening and accelerating climate action in the Philippines would be to “return to the first principle of adaptation as the anchor strategy, pursuing mitigation as a function of adaptation, with programs and measures driven by their impact on sustainable development and not by emissions reductions per se.”

Toby Melissa Monsod, a professor at the School of Economics of the University of the Philippines and a co-author

of the study, said adaptation is the anchor strategy meant to be translated for all levels of governance toward ecosystem-based management which shall ultimately render sectors climate resilient.

“Robust community ownership of climate action, a necessary condition for any successful pursuit of climate-smart low-carbon development, will follow more easily from dedicated investments and targeted market interventions to build local resilience; the same cannot be said for campaigns to reduce GHG emissions,” she said.

The selection of measures for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) would not start with an accounting of GHG emissions, but end with it, making emissions reduction a co-benefit rather than a criteria for inclusion, Monsod said.

She pointed out that 60 percent of the population live in coastal zones and about 10 million rely on small-scale fishing for their food.

Despite this, and despite the role in human survival and the quality of life, the marine economy has received scant attention from the national government.

“The bias of public investments has been in the agri sector, which it is a part, has always been in crops, specifically rice. Thus, the degradation of coral reefs due to siltation, destructive fishing practices, overharvesting, etc. Even plastic pollution which has contributed to the decline in productivity and is threatening life,” she said.

But the degradation of coastal ecosystems is of particular concern, given their multiple roles, especially in the mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

“Prioritizing resilience can open up previously missed opportunities to significantly contribute to global efforts based on the country’s comparative advantage – for instance, the biodiversity of its seas.

Stratbase ADRI president

Dindo Manhit said that environmental challenges like global warming have undermined the country’s capacity to respond to crises and emergencies.

“This affects the security of states and the welfare of our people. This underscores the importance of fostering cooperation to address these emerging challenges with the same urgency as conventional security threats.”

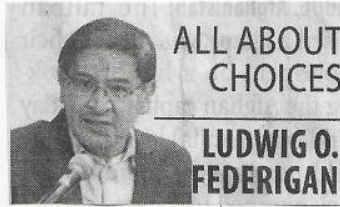
Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said climate change would worsen the impact of the pandemic.

“GNP and GDP are not the only measures of progress,” he said. “It is time to establish resilience at the center of macroeconomics, and it is also time to establish ways to measure how resilient we are.”

“Climate action strategies need to be a part of a larger transition strategy focused on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic strategy,” he said.



## Fighting climate change must be gender-sensitive and gender-responsive



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

**B**EING highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, the Philippines is consistently cited as one of the top countries most affected in terms of casualties, displaced populations, affected livelihoods, and losses and damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

We often attribute climate change to tropical storms and typhoons that have caused billions of pesos in losses, affected millions of lives and set back economic growth. But it's not just about tropical cyclones: climate change is also about creeping, slow-onset events, such as rising sea levels and ocean temperatures, that occur without the drama of a calamity but are likely to cause more damage to coastal communities and the economy.

We have also often looked at climate change from a gender-neutral perspective. This should not be. Climate change affects women and men differently because societal and cultural roles and responsibilities affect our responses to climate impacts. In light of existing gender inequalities in terms of decision-making and access to resources, climate change is found to affect and kill more women than men.

Let me provide more specific contexts:

- In Bangladesh in 1991, when a cyclone and massive flooding hit the country, deaths among women were almost five times higher, primarily because many women were not allowed to leave their homes without a male relative.

- Women in Senegal walk long distances to fetch drinkable water, particularly in areas where there are no wells or no connection to a water distribution network.

- Following the devastation of Super Typhoon "Yolanda" in 2013, an estimated 250,000 pregnant and 169,000 breastfeeding women in the Philippines were sheltered in evacuation centers but had no access to maternal care and services. Their distinct nutritional needs, when unmet, make coping with disasters even tougher.

- Women and girls are more exposed to violence, sexual abuse and trafficking after disasters as normal community activities are disrupted and as they temporarily reside in evacuation centers where there is less protection and privacy.

- Women account for a growing share of agricultural workers in the world and with climate change, various gender issues arise, including their access to land and lack of financial and other resources to improve and diversify economic activities.

Their vulnerability in times of disasters and climate change highlights the inequality that exists: women have lesser access to resources and information, gendered social roles and cultural constraints on their actions continue to persist, and lower levels of education prevents them from understanding disaster warnings and taking precautions.

These realities lead to a single resolve: that efforts to combat climate change and mitigate its risks and challenges must be gender-sensitive and gender-responsive. The initial step is to change the way we view women in the con-

text of climate change. Women are not victims. They constitute a formidable "first line of defense" against climate and disaster risks.

Though it has never been easy to push for climate change measures, we are challenged to reach out and help people understand that climate change affects our lives and most fundamental needs. It is an all-encompassing threat to the basic human rights: food, potable water, shelter, decent livelihood and life itself.



We need to capacitate women not only as primary caregivers in times of climate and economic distress but also as part of the overall climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. Empowering women means reducing their vulnerabilities.

We must design adaptation programs for them in food security, invest in gender-sensitive green technologies, empower women in disaster risk reduction efforts, ensure that women and girls have access to clean water and renewable energy, provide basic health opportunities and harness their strength in reducing social vulnerability.

We must lift the social, cultural and institutional barriers that constrain women from effectively adapting to climate change impacts. Women need solid grounding on issues. Education and information are a vital part of the effort to make them truly active in the climate change agenda.

Locally, women are leading efforts to build resilience through the rehabilitation of mangrove forests, tree-planting activities, solid waste management workshops and other environment-friendly initiatives.

Climate change is a great threat, especially to our micro, small and medium enterprises that are mostly run by women. Extreme weather events, such as stronger droughts or excessive rains that cause flooding, greatly affect these businesses.

We can build resilience by knowing the risks and how climate change can affect livelihoods, create business continuity plans that highlight resiliency as a core feature and develop strategies that advocate ecosystem protection and consider forthcoming environmental changes.

Addressing the risks that can break the chain and adopting sustainable practices will not only ensure continuity but also higher quality products. We can also integrate women's participation in the aim to shift to a green economy.

The time has come to provide more opportunities for women in education, the workplace, rural development, and governance and leadership roles.

We must pursue the drive to serve the grassroots, alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development while preserving our culture and championing climate action and the environment. We can only do this if we also champion women's and children's rights.

*The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a nonresident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. You can email him at [ludwig.federigan@gmail.com](mailto:ludwig.federigan@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter at [@WiggyFederigan](https://twitter.com/WiggyFederigan).*



# PH eyes UAE for climate efforts

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

**T**HE Philippines is looking forward to working with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in conceptualizing and implementing innovative energy efficiency programs in an effort to fight climate change.

During the Climate Change Virtual Conference hosted by the UAE Embassy in Manila on Thursday, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd welcomed the UAE's ongoing efforts to deploy and use clean en-

ergy solutions as one of the main pillars of its model to address the challenge of the worsening climate crisis and significantly reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Philippines has been at the

forefront of taking concrete actions in the fight against climate change, which has become "a real threat and a daily reality" for the country, said Dominguez, the designated representative of President Rodrigo Duterte to the Climate Change Commission.

Dominguez also stressed that the Philippines has been working hard to build practical and localized action plans to help mobilize communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change, as it is among the economies most vulnerable to the ill effects of global

warming even though it contributes only 0.3 percent to the world's GHG emissions.

"We will strive to send assistance, one community at a time. This is possible with strengthened coordination and with the guidance of science," he said.

According to the 2020 World Risk Index, the Philippines ranks 9th out of 181 nations in the world for the countries most affected by extreme weather events.

The Philippines is also sinking four times faster than the global

average and continues to endure cycles of drought and flooding.

Over the last decade, the Philippines incurred losses and damages from climate-related hazards estimated at about \$10 billion, which is equivalent to an annual average of about \$1 billion.

"For us, turning back the effects of climate change is a matter of survival. We are moving quickly to build the resilience of our communities and participate in the global effort to rescue the planet," Dominguez said.

He also said that the Philippines is undertaking a whole-of-nation approach to meet its bold commitment to the international community to reduce its GHG emissions by 75 percent in 2030.

"This, however, requires the financial support of the wealthier countries. We believe that the countries that polluted and continue to pollute the most must bear the greater part of the financial burden of reversing global warming that they started 170 years ago," Dominguez said.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Trusted Since 1970

The Manila Times

B3  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04-01-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## BioPrime pushes green solutions for farming

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



**TURTLE HATCHLINGS RELEASED** Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtle hatchlings are released to the sea by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Zamboanga Peninsula in President Manuel A. Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte on Thursday, March 31, 2022. PHOTO FROM DENR WEBSITE

AGRICULTURAL startup company BioPrime is elevating efforts in bringing solutions that reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, thus, lowering farming costs.

"Philippine farmers are admittedly some of the most underprivileged communities in the country despite their huge and invaluable contributions to the market and society. We at Ignite believe that BioPrime is definitely aligned with our mission to help these sectors and bring them out of extreme poverty, which is why their organic fertilizers are such a welcome development," said Maoi Arroyo, founder of social impact investment firm Ignite Impact Fund, which has included BioPrime as one of its portfolio companies.

BioPrime has proven in repeated independent trials with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) showing a farmer can reduce inorganic fertilizer use by 50 percent and still increase yield by 15 to 20 percent when using BioPrime at a rate of 15 grams per hectare.

The company's BioPrime is a nanofertilizer and tests have proven that it helps increase crop yield and the quality of a wide range of crops such as rice, corn, sugar, coffee, banana, cacao, tobacco, pineapple, vegetables and more.

Beyond that, in trials with PhilRice, the Department of Agriculture's rice agency, BioPrime has been proven to reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers — which is currently at record high prices — and pesticides, lowering farming costs.

"What that means is that the farmer saves money because they have less input costs and they make more money because the yield is improved. It's just a very exciting development for agriculture in the Philippines," said BioPrime chairman Ben Mead.

BioPrime hopes to move production of BioPrime to the Philippines, as it is currently manufactured in the United States. In moving production to the country, the company hopes to more easily supply not only the Philippines, but also the rest of Southeast Asia with its products.

"Given that we've demonstrated that BioPrime works and it can have a highly significant impact in improving the returns to farmers, now is absolutely the time for the Philippines to embrace this technology," said Mead.

Ignite Impact Fund, as a major investor in BioPrime, looks forward to scaling the company throughout the Southeast Asian region within the next few years in order to give the fund's investors risk-adjusted returns and a measurable impact in the lives of small-scale farmers.





# TUSC provides clean energy solutions to more companies

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

TRANSNATIONAL Uyeno Solar Corp. (TUSC) is helping more businesses and institutions on their transition toward clean and sustainable energy.

In a statement, TUSC general manager Jen Tablante said that for the company, industry growth means more opportunities to provide exceptional renewable solar solutions to more customers.

"We are in a strong position to help customers transition to clean energy. By providing exceptional quality at the best price, we are confident that more institutions and corporations will shift to solar pho-

tovoltaic (PV) systems in the coming years," Tablante said.

TUSC offers diverse solar solutions ranging from grid-tied roof-mounted or ground-mounted PV systems to off-grid and hybrid systems. To provide customers the most out of their investment, TUSC ensures the high efficiency, yield and uptime of its solar systems. This ensures maximum cost savings for customers as well as a reduction in carbon emissions.

The performance ratio is the efficiency metric that determines how much electricity the panels produce relative to

the amount of sunshine available; yield measures how much electricity is generated per unit installed; system uptime is the amount of time that the system is operational. At the end of the day, customers evaluate the return on their investment based on the amount of savings generated by the system over the life of the system relative to the initial investment.

TUSC's highly competent team of engineers ensures that these metrics are high throughout the 25-year lifespan of the installed solar PV systems. Customers can monitor the performance of their

systems on a real-time basis, thanks to the in-house mobile and web applications TUSC provides. Along with this, TUSC also provides comprehensive reports to clients regularly.

Over the years, TUSC has grown and maintained an impressive portfolio of customers with the list including S&R, Enomoto, Aikawa, Muramoto, Jollibee, Starbucks, Boysen, Omya, TRP Inc., RAM Foods, Team Energy, Goodyear Steel, Alsons Aquaculture, United States Agency for International Development, Carmelray and, most recently, BECIS.

Bohol Airport, the Philippines' first eco-friendly airport, is also among TUSC's roster of projects in partnership with Chiyoda Mitsubishi Joint Venture Corp.

"We have worked with multinational, Japanese and Philippine companies with very high standards and rigorous screening processes. The steady growth of clientele and sustained trust of loyal customers is a testament to our commitment to providing the highest quality at the best price," Tablante said.

Even at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, TUSC successfully completed several projects

for corporations, such as Alsons Aquaculture, Omya, Carmelray, Team Energy, First Natgas Power Corp. and BECIS for Dole Philippines, despite many challenges and setbacks brought about by the health crisis on manpower and materials availability.

"The confidence and trust accorded to us by our customers, and our mission to make clean energy accessible and affordable for a greener world, motivate us to keep providing the best value and long-term performance to our customers in the years to come," Tablante said.

02 APRIL 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## Nearly 66M Filipinos fully vaxxed, 12M with Covid-19 boosters

By Lade Jean Kabagani April 1, 2022, 4:31 pm



*(PNA file photo by Perla Lena)*

**MANILA** – A total of 65,992,980 Filipinos are now fully vaccinated against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) nationwide, with 12,075,001 eligible individuals having booster shots or additional protection, as of Friday.

Based on the latest data from the National Covid-19 Vaccination dashboard, the Philippines has so far administered a total of 142,489,795 doses, with 71,241,203 jabs used as first doses, or 79.15 percent of the government’s target vaccinees for population protection.

Meanwhile, individuals who received the two primary vaccine series represent 73.32 percent of the 80 percent or 90,005,357 total population of Filipinos in the country.

A total of 8,972,409 minors ages 12-17 years old are also fully protected against the disease and 2,126,651 belonging to the pediatric aged group 5-11 received at least one dose of reformulated Covid-19 vaccine, with 933,404 of them fully vaccinated.

Also, a total of 6,609,619 senior citizens have completed their two primary series to date.

The government targets to complete the primary doses for 90 million adult Filipinos before the end of President Rodrigo Duterte’s term on June 30.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer, earlier cited the need to further boost the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination program, particularly the administration of booster shots, in order to achieve the country’s goal of pushing total economic recovery.

“We will be needing other strategies to gather more vaccinees,” he said.



## Nearly 66M Filipinos fully vaxxed, 12M with Covid-19 boosters

The government has been intensifying its efforts to make the Covid-19 vaccines more accessible to the people such as house-to-house inoculation for the vulnerable sectors, workplace vaccination efforts, and special vaccination drives in areas that are still lagging in their vaccination coverage. (PNA)



## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa higit 488.19 milyon

By Angellic Jordan April 01, 2022 - 09:48 AM



Reuters photo

Pumalo na sa 488.19 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 488,190,194 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 81,779,312 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 43,025,556 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 29,947,895 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 25,614,843 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Germany - 21,228,065
- United Kingdom - 21,147,425
- Russia - 17,842,925
- Turkey - 14,860,560
- Italy - 14,642,354
- South Korea - 13,095,631
- Spain - 11,508,309

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 6,166,427 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 423,329,233 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/312093/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-sumampa-na-sa-higit-488-19-milyon#ixzz7PFIs4zGZ>

Follow us: [@inquirerdotnet on Twitter](#) | [inquirerdotnet on Facebook](#)

02 APRIL 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# ONBOARDING PROGRAM/FIELD VISIT OF DENR CENTRAL OFFICE NEW EMPLOYEES

Courtesy of PENRO Pampanga



**Please click this link:**

Source:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DQIED7PLcWK2YgMlInejx31mkPRh6c7o/view>



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/5Yb5Lhfcz3U>

#manilabay

MANILA BAY UPDATE APRIL 1, 2022

6,203 views • 1 Apr 2022

199 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS SAVE ...



BTV Pinas

73.2K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay

SHOW MORE






**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/35logepNqCI>

#manilabay #rehabilitation #battleformanilabay  
 Manila Bay Update: April 1, 2022  
 4,112 views • 1 Apr 2022

👍 135    🗨 DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ✂ CLIP    ≡+ SAVE    ...

 **PINOY BLOGGER PH**  
 29.1K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#manilabay #rehabilitation #battleformanilabay #dolomitebeach  
 SHOW MORE



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/ZV3XtQtVS-s>

MANILA BAYWALK NGAYON TALAGA NAMANG WOW NA WOW!

4,140 views • Streamed live 22 hours ago

320 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



engr. berto  
194K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

SHOW MORE




Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/71FD-m5Ax4E>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay  
MASAMANG EPEKTO NG DOLOMITE, ITO NA BA YUN?  
14,522 views • 1 Apr 2022

👍 785    🗨️ DISLIKE    ➦ SHARE    ✂️ CLIP    ⌵ SAVE    ...

 **engr. berto**  
194K subscribers

[JOIN](#)    [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach  
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



**Please click this link:**

Source: <https://youtu.be/k4KKMo-29no>

### Outreach program for IPs conducted in Agusan Del Norte

67 views • 1 Apr 2022

0 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



PTV ✓  
1.53M subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Outreach program for IPs conducted in Agusan Del Norte; 78-yr-old retired engineer successfully climbs to the top of Mt. Apo

SHOW MORE