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National, News

DENR partners with SoKor, Germany to pursue eco projects

Published July 1, 2022, 2:25 PM
by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has teamed up with the governments of South Korea and Germany to pursue development projects on marine litter management and peatlands conservation respectively, the agency announced on Friday, July 1.

The partnerships were formalized through the launching of the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project and Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) Project on June 22, said former DENR Acting Sec. Jim Sampulna.

The EMLM and EsBenePeat were implemented following the presentation of the pre-signed Record of Discussions (ROD) and Grant Agreement (GA) for the two projects.

Under the EMLM Project, Korea will provide a US\$7.7-million grant for the implementation of marine litter management within the Manila Bay area. The project will be jointly undertaken by the DENR and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

KOICA Asst. Country Director Choi Misun emphasized the importance of marine litter management in Manila Bay as it cited international studies which said the Philippines accounts for about 800,000 metric tons of plastic marine pollution annually.

The multi-year assistance project will be implemented until 2025 which includes the construction of a US\$5.7-million marine clean up vessel which will be sourced from the grant.

Meanwhile, the ESBenePeat project seeks to mitigate greenhouse gas emission by reforestation, re-wetting, and rehabilitating degraded areas, and enhancing biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices for the communities while ensuring the protection of peatlands.

It will be piloted in the 5,487-hectare Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest (CPSF) in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur, and in the Sab-a Basin in Leyte.

According to DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau, the country's peatlands – or terrestrial wetland ecosystems – cover around 200,000 hectares of area which have “remarkably higher carbon sequestration potential than any other studied forest types.”

DENR-BMD Director Natividad Bernardino even revealed that the Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest alone stores about 22.9 million tons of carbon.

Sampulna said the two projects will remain as among the priorities of the DENR even as former President Duterte suddenly changed leadership in the department days before he finished his six-year term.

Sampulna was replaced by Assistant Sec. Joselin Marcus Fragada as the DENR officer-in-charge (OIC) as announced by Malacanang last June 23. Meanwhile, newly-inaugurated Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has yet to name his DENR chief.



“Please be assured that the DENR will value and remain committed to the agreement that it has earlier entered into with your respective organizations during my incumbency,” Sampulna said in a statement sent through the DENR.

“These joint initiatives will certainly help in the attainment of our country’s goals and international commitment on climate change,” he added.



Korea, Germany to help in marine conservation



By Eireene Jairee Gomez



July 2, 2022



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THE Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has signed partnerships with South Korea and Germany to pursue development projects on marine litter management and peatlands conservation, respectively.

The Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project and the Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) Project were formally launched last June 22, following the presentation of EMLM's pre-signed record of discussions (ROD) and grant agreement (GA) for ESBenePeat.

"Please be assured that the DENR will value and remain committed to the agreement that it has earlier entered into with your respective organizations during my incumbency," former acting Environment secretary Jim Sampulna said.

"These joint initiatives will certainly help in the attainment of our country's goals and international commitment on climate change," he added.

The ROD and the GA serve as the legal implementation instrument of EMLM and ESBenePEat, respectively.

South Korea will provide a \$7.7-million grant for the implementation of marine litter management within the Manila Bay area.

It will be implemented by the DENR and Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard.

Marine litter reduction

Koica Assistant Country Director Misun Choi said the EMLM "marks the start of the Korean and Philippine governments' partnership in the prevention, reduction and management of marine litter," citing international studies that the Philippines accounts for about 800,000 metric tons of plastic marine pollution annually.

She said that the project will help prevent plastic waste from coastal areas near Manila Bay from escaping into the ocean.

EMLM is a multiyear assistance to be implemented until 2025 to establish a marine litter monitoring system and strengthen the government's capacity to address marine litter management, augmented with the construction of a \$5.7-million marine cleanup vessel to be sourced from the grant.



The event also green-lighted the ESBenePeat's implementation with a 713,537.23-euro-grant from the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany through the German International Agency for Cooperation.

ESBenePeat, which will be piloted in the 5,487-hectare Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest (CPSF) in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in the province of Agusan del Sur and Sab-a Basin in the province of Leyte, seeks to mitigate greenhouse gas emission by reforestation, re-wetting and rehabilitating degraded areas; and identifying and enhancing biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices for the communities, while ensuring protection of peatlands within the two areas.

The country's peatlands, estimated to cover some 20,000 hectares, are "remarkably higher carbon sequestration potential than any other studied forest types in the country" as carbon sinks "when left undisturbed," according to DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Natividad Bernardino.

She pointed out that CPSF alone stores about 22.9 million tons of carbon.

"However, the Philippine peatlands are among the least known and understood ecosystems found in the country," Bernardino lamented.

DA-DENR project

Also marking the event was a partnership launch between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the "Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines," which is now on its first year of implementation until 2027.

The project covers the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor in Region 4-B (Mimaropa or Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) and the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor in Region 11 (Davao Region) and Region 13 (Caraga Region), with a total area of 2.3 million hectares.

The DENR-DA partnership is in line with the project's aim to solve the increased degradation of habitats from deforestation, conversion to agriculture and expanding infrastructure development, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change in the two areas.

The project, with a financial grant of \$12.2 million from the Global Environmental Facility through the United Nations Development Program, seeks to enhance local biodiversity-friendly livelihoods and make the impact of the project be felt by communities and resource managers living within and around the biodiversity corridors.

This will be implemented through an integrated and comprehensive planning framework designed to mainstream land and natural resources management and biodiversity conservation objectives in the two key biodiversity corridors.



DENR nakipag-partner sa South Korea, Germany upang ipagpatuloy ang eco-projects

By **Bombo Jane Buna** · July 1, 2022 | 8:04 PM · 31

Nakipagtulungan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga pamahalaan ng South Korea at Germany upang ituloy ang mga development projects sa marine litter management at peatlands conservation.

Ang partnership ay pormal na ginawa sa pamamagitan ng paglulunsad ng Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project at Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) Project noong Hunyo 22, ayon kay dating DENR Acting Sec. Jim Sampulna.

Ang EMLM at ESBenePeat ay ipinatupad kasunod ng pagtatanghal ng paunang nilagdaan na Record of Discussions (ROD) at Grant Agreement (GA) para sa dalawang proyekto.

Sa ilalim ng EMLM Project, ang Korea ay magbibigay ng US\$7.7-million grant para sa pagpapatupad ng marine litter management sa loob ng Manila Bay area.

Ang proyekto ay magkatuwang na isasagawa ng DENR at Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) katuwang ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Binigyang-diin ni Country Director Choi Misun ang kahalagahan ng marine litter management sa Manila Bay dahil binanggit nito ang mga internasyonal na pag-aaral na nagsasabing ang Pilipinas ay nagkakahalaga ng humigit-kumulang 800,000 metric tons ng plastic marine pollution taun-taon.

Ang multi-year assistance project ay ipapatupad hanggang 2025 na kinabibilangan ng pagtatayo ng US\$5.7-million marine clean up vessel na pagkukunan ng grant.

Samantala, ang proyekto ng ESBenePeat ay naglalayong pagaanin ang greenhouse gas emission sa pamamagitan ng muling pagtanim, re-wetting, at pagsasaayos ng mga nasirang lugar, at pagpapahusay ng mga biodiversity-friendly na livelihood practices para sa mga komunidad habang tinitiyak ang proteksyon ng peatlands.



DENR nakiisa sa SoKor, Germany sa pagpapalakas ng PH marine litter management, peatland protection

MANILA, Philippines- Upang protektahan ang kapaligiran nakiisa ang Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa paglagda sa mga partnership sa Republic of Korea at Germany upang ipagpatuloy ang development projects sa marine litter management at peatlands conservation, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Sa press release ayon sa DENR ang Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project at ang Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) Project ay pormal na inilunsad noong Hunyo 22 kasunod ng presentasyon ng EMLM's pre-signed Record of Discussions (ROD) at Grant Agreement (GA) para sa ESBenePeat.

“Please be assured that the DENR will value and remain committed to the agreement that it has earlier entered into with your respective organizations during my incumbency,” saad ni dating DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna.

“These joint initiatives will certainly help in the attainment of our country’s goals and international commitment on climate change,” dagdag nito.

Kaugnay nito ang ROD at GA ay nagsisilbing legal implementation instrument ng EMLM at ng ESBenePEat, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Nabatid na maglalaan ang Republic of Korea ng US\$7.7-million grant para sa implementasyon ng marine litter management sa paligid ng Manila Bay area.

Ang implementasyon nito ay gagawin ng DENR at Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) sa pakikipagtulungan ng Philippine Coast Guard.

Samantala kaugnay nito ayon kay KOICA Assistant Country Director CHOI Misun, ang EMLM ay “marks the start of the Korean and Philippine governments’ partnership in the prevention, reduction and management of marine litter.” Binanggit nito na ayon sa international studies, galing sa Pilipinas ang may 800,000 metric tons ng plastic marine pollution kada taon.

Aniya, makatutulong ang proyektong ito upang mapigilang mapunta ang plastic waste mula sa coastal areas malapit sa Manila Bay patungo sa karagatan.

Ang EMLM ay isang multi-year assistance na gagawin hanggang 2025 kung saan ay maglalagay ng marine litter monitoring system at palalaksin ang kapasidad ng gobyerno na tugunan ang marine litter management, dagdag pa ang pagtayo ng US\$5.7-million marine clean up vessel na kukunin sa “grant.”

Dahil din dito, nabigyan ng ‘go signal’ ang implementasyon ng ESBenePeat na mayroong €713,53723-grant mula sa European Union at sa Federal Republic of Germany sa pamamagitan ng German International Agency for Cooperation (GIZ).



Ipinaliwanag ni DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Y. Bernardino na ang peatlands ng bansa ay tinatayang may 20,000 hectares ay may “remarkably higher carbon sequestration potential than any other studied forest types in the country as carbon sinks when left undisturbed.” Santi Celario



LMB, LRA Ink Joint Order on Land Registration

Friday, July 1, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Land Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) Director Emelyne V. Talabis (center, seated) and Land Registration Authority (LRA) Officer-in-Charge Administrator Robert Nomar Leyretana (left, seated) sign the Joint Memorandum Order (JMO) on the procedural guidelines for the registration of patents and plans approved by the DENR in the Registry of Deeds and other related matters on June 28 in Quezon City. Talabis highlighted that the JMO will provide a more coordinated, accurate, and accessible land information system between the two agencies. It will cover the processing and approval of transactions covering the issuance of DENR-issued patents; and processing, registration and issuance of subsequent titles in relation to LRA-approved plans. LRA is an attached agency of the Department of Justice. Witnessing the ceremonial signing are LMB Assistant Director Romeo Verzosa (right, seated), LRA officials and guests from the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines and Land Registration Systems, Inc.



DENR Region 10 Joins Arbor Day Tree Planting

Friday, July 1, 2022 Journal Online



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10 participates in the nationwide simultaneous tree-planting activity during the celebration of Arbor Day on June 25, 2022. Some 7,000 seedlings of indigenous tree species including dao (*Dracontomelon dao*) tree seedlings were planted to rehabilitate identified areas in the region. The activity is also part of the Environment Month, and pursuant to Proclamation 643, s. 2004 on declaring a day each year to conduct actual tree planting and foster partnership and environmental stewardship among various sectors in our society.



DBP, DENR to set up native tree seed center

Friday, July 1, 2022 Journal Online

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the establishment of an indigenous seed source center in Mt. Apo Natural Park in Digos City, Davao del Sur, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said the seed center shall serve as a storage facility of endemic species from the forests of Mt. Apo Natural Park and other neighboring forests in Mindanao for seed banking and propagation.

“The establishment of this seed center is a vital component of the DBP Seedbank Project, our Corporate Social Responsibility initiative that seeks to preserve the genetic diversity of Philippine Native Trees,” Herbosa said.

DBP is the fifth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and has a branch network of 131 branches and 14 branch-lite units. It provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; environment; social services and community development.

Under the agreement, DBP would provide start-up funding for 20 DENR-accredited organizations for the collection of native seeds and wildlings, as well as for germination and propagation, with DENR handling capacity building for project participants as well as seed storage and accrediting partner-communities for seed collection and production.

Herbosa said planting materials from the seed center would be transported to the DBP Seedbank Nursery, located in the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry Bago Oshiro compound in Davao City, adding that, “these materials would eventually be sold to local government units (LGUs), other government agencies and private sector buyers.

DBP Director and DBP Seedbank Project champion Maria Lourdes A. Arcenas said the project is a testament to the concerted efforts of government agencies, LGUs, organized upland communities, and the private sector to support the government’s Expanded National Greening Program which aims to promote food security, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.

She said DBP would continue to work with various development partners to enhance the capacities of rural communities in preserving the forest landscape while providing them with livelihood opportunities.

“As we encourage the establishment of agri-forestry enterprises to further boost business activity in rural economies, we also promote the DBP mindset of integrating environmental considerations in business decisions, asset management and operations towards sustained growth,” Arcenas said.



DENR surveys Samar Island Natural Park dwellers

By Sarwell Meniano

 July 1, 2022, 4:03 pm

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PROTECTED AREA. A demonstration farm within the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) in Paranas, Samar. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is eyeing to complete the survey of all occupants within the SINP as part of its biodiversity conservation efforts inside the protected area. *(Photo courtesy of Department of Tourism)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing to complete by 2025 the survey of all occupants within the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) as part of its biodiversity conservation efforts inside the protected area.

Angelito Villanueva, Samar provincial environment and natural resources officer, said on Friday the five-year survey and registration of protected area occupants within SINP, has already covered 40 percent of the population.

The project is a partnership of DENR and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and seeks to establish the actual number of male and female household heads recognized as tenured migrants.

A household head will be considered a "tenured migrant" if proven to have occupied a portion of the protected area for five years before its designation as a protected area and is solely dependent on its resources for living.

Villanueva said the results of the survey will also provide the DENR with basic data as the basis for establishing management and buffer zones and for the preparation of programs and future interventions within the area, including the identification of alternative livelihood opportunities for the occupants.

In 2010, a study found 70,000 upland dwellers in the SINP area with an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent.

Growing population and high poverty incidence remain a big threat to SINP, Villanueva said in an interview.



"If there are no economic activities in urban, people are dependent on natural resources. That would result to illegal land conversion. Timber poaching is very common because of impoverished situation. They do it because of lack of source of income," Villanueva told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

PSA data shows that Samar provinces posted a high proportion of the population suffering from poverty at 31 percent in both Northern Samar and Samar, and 43 percent in Eastern Samar.

In the biological resource assessment (BRA) conducted in 2006 by the Key Biodiversity Areas, it was found that 53 percent of the plant species are endemic, of which 35 species are considered endangered.

About 330 species of terrestrial vertebrates belonging to 86 families were recorded in the survey.

The BRA also noted that there's a rampant collection of wildlife in the sites covered by the survey.

In the eastern part of the island alone, an estimated 3,600 parrots were caught and sold as pets every year.

The SINP is a Protected Area established under Presidential Proclamation 442 by former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on April 13, 2003.

The park covers 333,000 hectares of forest and an additional 125,400 buffer zone encompassing 36 municipalities and one city.


It is one of the 94 sites declared as protected areas under Republic Act No. 11038, known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act of 2018.

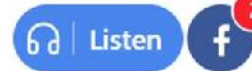
The law provides the state policy "to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated Protected Areas." (PNA)



A quarry-free Masungi and Upper Marikina Watershed



By Ludwig Federigan  July 2, 2022



Second of two parts

LIKE any other protected landscape in the country, the Masungi Georeserve and the Upper Marikina Watershed are not free from encroachment and destructive activities.

A total of 1,343 hectares of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, Unnamed National Park and the Masungi Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary were discovered to be under three mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) despite being protected by law and official mining and mineral exploration policies.

Presidential Proclamation 1636 signed by then-President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. on April 18, 1977, declared a certain parcel of land situated in the provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon as a national park, wildlife sanctuary and game preserve.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Department Administrative Order (DAO) 33, signed by then-Secretary Angel Alcala on May 10, 1993, declared the Masungi Rock and its vicinity as a strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary. DAO 33 declared the area "closed to mining location, exploration, development and exploitation, and other activities which might adversely affect the habitat and the ecological balance in the area."

Presidential Proclamation 296, signed by then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd on Nov. 24, 2011, declared the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Antipolo and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay, all in the province of Rizal, as a protected landscape pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7586 or the "National Integrated Protected Area System" (NIPAS) Act of 1992. The area was named the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

RA 11038 or the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System Act of 2018" amended RA 7586 that included "undertaking mineral exploration and extraction" and "engaging in commercial and large-scale quarrying" within the protected area as prohibited acts.

A quarry is a place where rocks, sand or minerals are extracted from the surface of the Earth. It is also called an open-pit mine because it is open to the Earth's surface. Quarrying results in irreversible damage to the soil and plants and forces animals out of the area. Aside from the negative impacts to the ecosystem, quarrying also increases the risk of flooding, landslides, water loss and biodiversity loss.

Based on the data from the DENR's Mines and Geoscience Bureau, three companies — Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quarry Rock Group Inc. and Quimson Limestone Inc. — received the questionable MPSAs. Two years ago, in March 2020, then-Environment



Secretary Roy Cimatu took out the fences installed by Rapid City Realty and "vowed to close down the quarry and cancel the mineral production sharing agreements issued in the protected area and reforestation site."

In November 2020, due to the flooding caused by Typhoon "Ulysses," former Rizal governor Rebecca Ynares issued a memorandum ordering a stoppage on all quarrying and mining operations and related activities within the province. The same issuance strongly urged the DENR to immediately stop all mining agreements that it granted, including all crushing plant operations that it was authorized to operate.

In February 2021, national scientist and former Environment secretary Alcala wrote a letter to Cimatu urging the latter for the "immediate cancellation of MPSAs in Masungi of Rapid City, Quarry Rock and Quimson Limestone."

In March 2021, the Upper Marikina Watershed Coalition with over 80 signatory organizations (as of July 2021) called on the government to make a quarry-free Upper Marikina Watershed.

On April 21, 2021, the MGB gave show-cause orders to the MPSA holders to explain why their contracts should not be canceled as there were gross violations found constituting breach in their contracts, the Philippine Mining Act, and implementing rules and regulations. Unfortunately, the MPSAs have not yet been canceled.

Three months ago, in April 2022, concerned leaders, experts and citizens published a joint letter to then-President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna to put conservation first in Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed by immediately cancelling the MPSAs.

Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

In the joint letter, it cited that "in the period of 2014 to 2018, the Manila Observatory found a persistent decline in the tree-covered area of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape despite its most recent proclamation as a protected area in 2011. Independent scientific studies estimate the remaining forest cover of the Upper Marikina Watershed to be 19.4 percent in 2006 and only 11 percent in 2021. This dire situation could significantly worsen the extent of flooding in low-lying reaches of the Upper Marikina Watershed, including the cities and communities of Metro Manila and Rizal."

On April 26, 2022, the Palace, through the Office of the Presidential Spokesman, ordered the DENR to investigate illegal activities within Masungi.

A few days ago, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, together with Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and Angono Vice Mayor Gerardo Calderon, added their voices and urged the DENR to cancel three large-scale quarrying permits in the Upper Marikina Watershed, citing possible widespread flooding and landslides.

In a joint statement, they warned of "disastrous floods and landslides" accelerated by "unlawful and misplaced quarrying, unscrupulous resort constructions, and other harmful activities that level mountains, obstruct waterways and vanish forests."

The action must be bold and immediate — the MPSAs must be canceled.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/02/business/green-industries/a-quarry-free-masungi-and-upper-marikina-watershed/1849415>



Governor suspends quarrying in Albay

By Connie Calipay and Emmanuel Solis

 July 1, 2022, 7:40 pm

LEGAZPI CITY – Governor Noel E. Rosal on his first day in office on Friday signed Executive Order (EO) No. 1 for the temporary suspension of quarry operations in Albay Province.

Rosal in an interview said Section 138, Paragraph 2 of the Local Government Code of 1991 states “the permit to extract sand, gravel, other resources shall be issued exclusively by the provincial governor under the Ordinance of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP).”

He added that he would check all the environmental compliance certificates (ECCs), including the location clearances as well as the status clearance, business permits, and the certification from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to make sure the quarry operators are compliant with the one-kilometer distance from any government infrastructure.

“I will not tolerate operating the quarry operators without a permit, expired permit, and over the volume of quarry materials,” Rosal said.

He added that he will create a provincial mining regulatory board as required by law to be composed of representatives from the Mines and Geo Science Bureau (MGB), accredited non-government organizations (NGOs), and also people from the small and large-scale mining groups.

The Philippine National Police will guard the areas to secure the location to make sure the quarry operators cannot operate until the EO is lifted, he said.

He added that only 10-wheeler trucks would be loaded with aggregates or quarry materials.

Truck routes will be divided with barangay roads being off-limits to delivery trucks loaded with aggregates to avoid destroying these.

Quarrying at night will no longer be allowed in order not to disturb the people, Rosal added.
(PNA)



Masungi foundation urges Marcos gov't to act on anti-quarrying plea

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by [Martin Sadongdong](#)



Photo courtesy of the Masungi Georeserve Facebook page

The new administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was urged by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation to immediately act on their request to prohibit quarrying operations in the area.

In a statement Friday, July 1, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation said that the continued existence of quarrying agreements despite their suspension under the Duterte administration “[pose] an existential threat” to Masungi landscape.

“Some Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and environment officials have given statements that there is no need to cancel quarry agreements here since they [quarry companies] are not operating anyway. This is not the issue. The continued existence of quarrying agreements [pose] an existential threat to the entire Masungi landscape and parts of the Upper Marikina Watershed,” the Masungi Georeserve Foundation said.

“The government must not condone projects that are contrary to law, especially when they pose a high risk to public safety, biodiversity, and restoration efforts. They must be categorically canceled at the earliest opportunity,” it added.

It can be recalled that former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna had issued suspension orders to sister quarry companies Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation and Quarry Rock Group, as well as to Quimson Limestone Inc.

According to the foundation, all of the three quarry companies hold Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) that cover more than 1,300 hectares of protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.



However, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation has been asking the government to officially cancel the MPSAs since they said the “mere” suspension order served to the quarry companies could be lifted or renewed again. The 25-year terms of the MPSAs are set to expire in 2023 and 2024.

“The continued interest of these quarry companies is obvious. Two of the quarry companies, Quarry Rock and Rapid City (sister companies), have said in their answers to Show Cause Orders that “they will not give up their advocacy to revive the economy,”” it added.

Various groups of environmentalists and experts have appealed to the government to cancel the large-scale quarrying agreements found within the Masungi and Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

The call to cancel the quarry agreements was bolstered by the support from various local chief executives including Mayors Joy Belmonte, Marcy Teodoro, Vico Sotto and Jaime Fresnedi of the local government units of Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, and Muntinlupa, respectively.

Rangers of the Masungi Geopark also emphasized that quarrying in protected areas, national parks, and proclaimed watershed reserves is explicitly banned by the law, with “no exceptions.”

At present, Marcos has yet to name his DENR chief.

The department is currently being headed by Asst. Sec. Joseline Marcus Fragada, who serves as an officer-in-charge (OIC) after Sampulna was ordered replaced by former Pres. Duterte on June 23, a week before his presidency ended.



Environment protection spending dips by 4.6% in 2021 — PSA

July 1, 2022 | 4:41 pm

Expenditures for environmental protection declined by 4.6% year on year in 2021, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

The statistics agency's Compendium of Philippine Environment Statistics (CPES) Component 6 showed annual government environmental protection expenditures went down to P25.4 billion last year from P26.6 billion in 2020.

The CPES, an adoption of the United Nations-developed Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, is a compilation of statistical data gathered from different government agencies. It consists of data on expenditures, regulations, and other activities such as international agreements focusing on the protection of the environment and management of resources.

Expenditures for the protection of biodiversity and landscape rose by 9.7% last year to P11.5 billion. It accounted for 45.1% of the total expenditures for environmental protection.

This was followed by environmental protection not elsewhere classified with P6.5 billion, or 25.7% of the total expenditures. Compared to 2020, expenditures allocated for this sector declined by 4.8%.

Expenditures for waste management, on the other hand, reached P3.3 billion, 13% of the total expenditures. Allocation for this sector was lower by 13.7% in 2021 from the P3.8 billion in 2020.

Meanwhile, spending on pollution abatement amounted to P2.8 billion, while research and development environment protection outlays reached P1.2 billion. These accounted for 11% and 4.9%, respectively, of the total environment protection spending in 2021.

Wastewater management had the lowest share in environmental protection outlays with 0.3% or a total of P80 million. This declined by 96.3% from P2.2 billion in 2020.

CPES also showed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had an annual budget of almost P18 billion in 2021, 4.8% lower than the budget allocated in 2020.

Number of staff or positions per plantilla showed that there were 16,379 staff positions in 2021, slightly higher compared with the 16,354 in 2020.

INTEREST UP AMONG YOUTH

Meanwhile, among the programs under the Philippine Standard Classification of Education, environmental science logged the highest number of enrolled students in the country, with 57,876, followed by forestry (57,073), and environmental planning/management (14,080).

Other programs included environmental and sanitary engineering with 10,624 enrolled students; environment and natural resources management (1,735); environmental education (115); and natural resources conservation (7).



Figures are based on the submission of higher education institutions, which includes pre-baccalaureate up to doctoral programs to the Commission on Higher Education.

Budget allocation for environmental education last year amounted to P1.90 million, 1.8% higher than P1.86 million in 2020.

CLIMATE CHANGE SPENDING DOWN

The CPES also provided data on the climate change expenditures by National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). Total climate change expenditures amounted to P181.9 billion with adaptation at P173.6 billion and mitigation at P8.3 billion.

Expenditures for climate change declined by 21.9% last year from P232.8 billion previously.

Broken down, NCCAP's strategic priorities showed water sufficiency had the highest expenditure with a total of P132.3 billion, 8.3% lower than the P144.3 billion in the prior year.

This was followed by food security with P22.4 billion; sustainable energy (P12.4 billion); ecosystem and environmental stability (P10.4 billion); climate smart industries and services (P2.7 billion); knowledge and capacity development (P881.9 million); human security (P693.8 million); and cross-cutting (P28 million).

The PSA noted that for the current CPES Component 6, 18 statistics were compiled out of the 50 identified indicators. — Abigail Marie P. Yraola



Maynilad to start distributing ‘new water’ in July

June 29, 2022 | 12:05 am



MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. targets to distribute starting in July up to 10 million liters per day (MLD) of its “new water” or treated used water from households that passes through a rigorous purifying process to make it potable.

“We’re still doing some pipe-laying in Sucat, and we’re still waiting for our permit to operate from the Department of Health, but once we get it, maybe next month we can already distribute 10 MLD,” Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrellado said partly in Filipino during a virtual press briefing on Tuesday.

He said the company’s target eventually is to use all the wastewater in Metro Manila to be purified into new water. He said 80% of the water produced in its concession area comes back as wastewater.

The treated water will come from its modular treatment plants or ModTPs that will get raw water from the Parañaque Water Reclamation Facility.

The initial 10 MLD will be flowed into the distribution system for blending with the standard drinking water produced by Maynilad’s La Mesa treatment plants.

The blended supply will then be conveyed to barangays San Dionisio and San Isidro in Parañaque City, which are the areas nearest to the ModTP location. The two barangays will benefit from the additional supply, as it will improve water availability in the area.

Maynilad said it had been holding a series of social acceptability tests and public consultations with residential and commercial customers, local government units, and government agencies such as the DoH, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and National Water Resources Board.

The consultations are meant to ensure that the new water will be acceptable to consumers.

Maynilad said that based on the results of its initial social acceptability test, its residential and commercial customers have expressed willingness to use new water after seeing it and understanding the process behind it.

“Mahaba ang pinagdaanan na journey ng Maynilad bago kami nakarating dito (Maynilad’s journey has been long before we got here),” Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez said.

“We will ensure that periodic tests will be done,” he added.



Maynilad said the new water will have no impact on customers' water bill. The standard water tariff rates will apply whether raw water is sourced from Angat Dam, Laguna Lake, or treated used water.

The initiative is part of Maynilad's move toward potable water reuse, which is aimed at boosting available supply in view of the growing demand for water. It is also in response to the strain on existing raw water sources due to the impact of climate change, the company said.

At present, used water from households is collected, cleaned in sewage treatment plants, and discharged into bodies of water. But with potable water reuse, treated used water goes through a second treatment plant for a more rigorous purification process. The new water output can be used for drinking, having passed the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water.

Maynilad officials said treated water reuse for drinking is already done in other countries.

Since 2019, Maynilad has been looking into potable water reuse when a water crisis hit Metro Manila, prompting the company to tap alternative sources, including Laguna Lake, apart from Angat Dam.

Maynilad is a private concessionaire of the MWSS. It is the water and wastewater services provider for the 17 cities and municipalities that comprise the west zone of the greater Metro Manila area.

Maynilad sources 91% of its supply from a single source — Angat Dam, which also supplies another water concessionaire, a hydroelectric plant, and the needs of farmers for irrigation.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — Victor V. Saulon

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2022/06/29/458102/maynilad-to-start-distributing-new-water-in-july/?fbclid=IwAR2h8mOCCVX_dujvd8-aBZ_1Cyj_7uZIDJ4Mx1kZwmSyzC8GYkOYFYAdVRM



Villar to Filipinos: Be passionate to contribute in healing Mother Earth

Published June 6, 2022, 1:30 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

As the Philippines celebrated the 49th World Environment Day yesterday (June 5), Senator Cynthia A. Villar encouraged everyone to be responsible and passionate to contribute and inspire others to do their own part in healing Mother Earth.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, guaranteed that Filipinos' collective efforts would make a difference in the protection and conservation of our environment.

Speaking during the installation of Verde Island Passage (VIP) Marker on the occasion of the UN World Environment Day organized by environmentalist lawyer Tony Oposa. Villar noted that the United Nations has confronted the country with the severe reality that the earth faces a triple planetary emergency.

Villar relates that these are the following:

- The climate is heating up too quickly for people and nature to adapt,
- The continuing habitat loss and other pressures mean an estimated one million species are threatened with extinction, and
- pollution continues to poison our air, land and water.

“Due to this, the United Nations finds it fitting to adopt the “Only One Earth” slogan as a reminder for us, earthlings, that while there are billions of galaxies, planets and stars, the Earth is just our one solitary home and we should take care of it,” she said.

“All of us are being encouraged to be more connected to it, focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature, and shift our lifestyles from harming the Earth to healing it,” she added.

The invitation of Oposa, the lady senator said, has brought into her consciousness the need to accord the appropriate protection status to VIP, the channel that cuts through the Philippines by the south of Luzon.

The marker is right in the center of the Coral Triangle that is considered an area of extreme ecological importance.

It was reported in the 2005 study led by marine biologist Dr. Kent Carpenter that the VIP has the highest concentration of marine shorefish biodiversity on the planet.

Because of this, Villar said it has been labeled as “the epicenter of marine biodiversity”.

“Even with this little information I gathered, I am a little bit surprised why up to now it seems that no protection status “by legislation” has been accorded to VIP that could ensure its sustainability,” she said.



Villar has been espousing on environmental protection.

She also related she is one of the many that was inspired by Oposa's brilliant work in instigating the continuing mandamus for the clean up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"The continuing mandamus has provided the needed justification that helped in boosting my very own continuing efforts that I have started way back in 2002 to clean up two rivers in my hometown, namely the Zapote River and the Las Pinas River, and even my more recent efforts of cleaning up as well the neighboring Molino River in Bacoor City. All of these rivers directly flow into Manila Bay," she related.

"To finally witness a clean and pollution-free Manila Bay that is fit for recreational swimming (just like in the old days) is indeed an aspiration worth pursuing for the benefit of the living and future generations," she stated.



Marcos to seek help from other nations in fight vs climate change

Gaea Katreena Cabico - Philstar.com

June 30, 2022 | 5:54pm

MANILA, Philippines — As the risks linked to climate change continue to increase, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Thursday that his administration will tackle the crisis by working with the international community.

“We will look to our partners and friends to help the Philippines who, despite having very small carbon footprints, is at the highest risk,” Marcos said in his inaugural speech.

Marcos takes oath as 17th Philippine president

“First, spare victims then help them recover and move on to lessen the harmful impact of climate change,” he added.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts such as strong cyclones, flooding, and sea level rise.

“The rich world talks a great deal but does a lot less about it (climate change) than those with much less, but have suffered more death and destruction from climate change and lack of adaptation,” Marcos said.

Climate finance

Climate Reality Project Philippines manager Nazrin Castro told Philstar.com that the organization is hoping that Marcos will bring the responsibility of the developed world to climate-vulnerable countries to climate change negotiations.

Castro urged Marcos to demand wealthy nations to deliver their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion annually in climate finance, and ensure the Philippines will have a voice in the COP27 climate talks on the establishment of the loss and damage financing facility for developing countries. Marcos is invited to attend COP27 in Egypt this November.

In its first Nationally Determined Contribution, the Philippines committed to slash its carbon emissions by 75% by 2030 from sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy. However, a bulk of this commitment is hinged on foreign funding and assistance.

Marcos also stressed that the Philippines has to play its part in addressing plastic pollution. The Philippines is among the top contributors to the marine plastic crisis.

“We won’t shirk from that responsibility, we will clean up.”

Energy transition

Marcos mentioned in his speech that there are “tried and proven ways of mitigation” as he once again took credit for the wind farm in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, claiming he built it. He did not. The wind farm is a project of Ayala-owned North Wind Power Development Corp.



He also hinted at tapping oil and gas as the prices of gas and diesel continue to rise.

“But surely, a free world awash with oil can assure supplies or we will find a way. We are not far from oil and gas reserves that have already been developed,” Marcos said.

The Philippines is scaling up the development of infrastructures that will support the import of liquefied natural gas in anticipation of the depletion of the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project in Palawan. But groups like the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development warn that this blocks the transition to cleaner and cheaper renewable energy.

“We, however, lament his position on fossil fuels and his failure to mention the critical role of renewable energy in addressing our issues on energy, specifically reliability, affordability, and security,” Castro said.

“At this point, the clean energy transition must be pursued because it makes good economic sense. The climate change mitigation factor is just a co-benefit,” she added.



Pilipinas, ikatlong pinakamalaking polluter ng karagatan sa daigdig, batay sa pag-aaral

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Sagada reopens natural caves for trekking

By Liza Agoot

 July 1, 2022, 7:37 pm



REOPENING. The St. Mary the Virgin church, built by the Episcopalian denomination in early 1900 remains a popular landmark in Sagada, Mountain Province in this photo on Friday (July 1, 2022). The local government has reopened its doors to tourists and has allowed public utility buses to transport visitors fully vaccinated against the coronavirus disease 2019. (PNA photo by Liza T. Agoot)

AGADA, Mt. Province – "Revenge tourists" or travelers whose trips have been held back by lockdowns due to the pandemic can finally marvel anew at the splendor of Sagada's famous natural caves after the town swung open its doors.

Municipal tourism officer Maria Teresa Abad on Friday urged tourists to register online via <https://umali-kayo.sagada.gov.ph/views/pages/tourist/accommodations.php> to generate a quick response (QR) code, which will be required at the border checkpoint upon entering the Sagada-Dantay Road from the national highway.

"We are now open. We have allowed two bus lines to transport tourists and locals from Baguio City," she said in Ilocano.

Abad said women who are in charge of the border checkpoint will also require tourists to be fully vaccinated and must show their vaccination cards, before being allowed to enter the place.

GL Trans and Coda Lines, which have scheduled daily trips, can accommodate fully vaccinated tourists.

Abad, however, clarified that for now, only the Sumaguing Cave, Lumiang Cave, and the Balangagan Cave have been opened to tourists for trekking.



She said the other destinations, meanwhile, are undergoing rehabilitation and thus are still closed to the public.

Abad said the local government made sure all establishments and tour guides were ready to take in tourists again before the decision to reopen the town was made.

Sagada, which continues to maintain its serene environment, has become a popular tourist destination, especially among foreigners.

Among its popular attractions are its caves, waterfalls, and hanging coffins. The town is also popular for its culture and tradition that people still practice now. (PNA)



Meralco seeks more eco-warriors to participate in QC Trash-to-Cashback Program

Friday, July 1, 2022 Journal Online



Under the Trash-to-Cashback Program, eco-warriors can drop off their waste in exchange for Bayad credits that they can use to pay their utility bills. In the photo is a drop-off location at Meralco Business Center in Commonwealth.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) is seeking more individuals to join the Quezon City government's waste reduction program that allows the trading of recyclable materials in exchange for points which can in turn be used to pay utility bills.

The Trash-to-Cashback Program is an initiative of the Quezon City local government unit (LGU), in partnership with bXTRA Philippines Inc. and Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies (BEST) Inc.

Meralco and Bayad, its payment services company, partnered with the Quezon City LGU for this program in December 2021.

Meralco's Business Centers in Kamuning, Commonwealth, and Novaliches serve as drop-off points for recyclable materials and have collected a total of 2,015 kilograms of paper, plastic, and metal from December 2021 to June 2022.



The total waste collected was converted into 6,865 environmental points, and were used by 59 eco-warriors to pay their utility bills in Bayad storefronts located at Ever Gotesco-Commonwealth, and Barangays Gulod and Sauyo in Novaliches.

“Some eco-warriors not living in QC participated in the program and made use of our drop-off locations to avail of the environmental points conversion for their utility bills, particularly their Meralco bill,” said Meralco Kamuning-Roosevelt Business Center Head Agnes R. Macob.

With the success of the initial run, the program was extended from March 2022 to December 2022. With this extension, Meralco seeks to encourage more eco-warriors to participate in the program.

Meralco QC Trash-to-Cashback Program

“With the success of our partnership with the Quezon City LGU, we hope that other LGUs will be inspired to adopt this program, to realize its positive impact on the government’s waste reduction efforts, and to embed sustainability in the hearts and minds of their constituents. We wish to acknowledge our Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte for her unwavering support to this initiative, and to encourage other companies to take part in this program,” said Meralco First Vice-President and Chief Commercial Officer, and Head of Customer Retail Services Ferdinand O. Geluz.

Meralco’s participation in the Trash-to-Cashback Program supports and promotes the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production.

02 JULY 2022, SATURDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH partners with Korea, Germany to address marine litters

By
Joel
dela Torre

THE Philippines partnered with the Republic of Korea and Germany to pursue development projects on marine litter management and peatlands conservation.

In launching the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) and the Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) projects, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sees better programs to address climate change.

"Please be assured that the DENR will value and remain committed to the agreement that it has earlier entered into with your respective organizations during my incumbency," former DENR acting chief Jim Sampulna said.

Sampulna stressed these joint initiatives will certainly help in the attainment of our country's goals and international commitment on climate change.

Under the agreement, Republic of Korea will be providing a US\$7.7 million grant for the implementation of marine litter management within the Manila Bay area. It will be implemented by the DENR and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard.

KOICA Assistant Country Director Choi Misun said that the EMLM "marks the start of the Korean and Philippine governments' partnership in the prevention, reduction and management of marine litter."

Choi cited international studies that the Philippines accounts for about 800,000 metric tons of plastic marine pollution annually, adding the project will help prevent plastic waste from coastal areas near Manila Bay from escaping into the ocean.

EMLM is a multi-year assistance to be implemented until 2025 to establish a marine litter monitoring system and strengthen the government's capacity to address marine litter management, augmented with the construction of a US\$5.7-million marine clean up vessel to be sourced from the grant.

The event also green-lighted the ESBenePeat's implementation with a 713,537.23-grant from the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany through the German International Agency for Cooperation (GESBenePeat will be piloted in the 5,487-hectare Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest (CPSF) in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in the province of Agusan del Sur and Sab-a Basin in the province of Leyte.



DENR to conduct bamboo DNA barcoding

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

TO conserve and propagate the bamboo species in typhoon-affected Cagayan Valley, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will conduct phytochemical screening and DNA barcoding of economically important bamboos in the said province.

Alvin Jose L. Reyes and Eddie B. Abugan Jr. of the DENR-Project Management Division (PMD) said that bamboo has numerous industrial, pharmaceutical, phytochemical, medical, nutritional, and food advantages.

The two officials added that the characterization of bamboo germplasm is an essential connection between conservation of diversity and utilization of germplasm (seeds or living

tissues that carry genetic resources helpful in plant breeding and protection).

The bamboo characterization project of the Cagayan State University (CSU)-Gonzaga through its project leader Jeff M. Opeña recently made a presentation at DENR Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

The presentation was made in connection with the CSU's petition for a gratuitous permit to conduct the bamboo characterization and sample collection activities in the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.

The project also aims to refurbish a research laboratory in CSU-Gonzaga. It will collect and characterize different species in different ecosystems in Cagayan Province.

DNA barcoding will be a modern and innovative way to characterize bamboo species.

It will accelerate experts' identification of the species they desire to use based on traits – such as fast propagation or medicinal properties.

Bamboo has been traditionally characterized based on its flowering frequency or abundance – annual flowering, sporadic or regular flowering, and gregarious flowering.

“However, characterization using floral morphology posed a limitation and difficulty due to the requirement of a long period which can occur in years or even decades,” according to Reyes and Abugan.

Moreover, biochemical characterization through phytochemical (plant chemistry) screening enables experts in pharmaceuticals and medicine to detect plant secondary metabolites in bamboo, which have utilization potentials in the industry.

While primary metabo-

lites include small molecules like amino acids and sugars, secondary plant metabolites include alkaloids, anthocyanin, flavonoids, phenols, saponins, steroids, tannins, and terpenoids studied for medicinal plant herbal purposes, among other possible commercial uses.

Former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ordered in November 2020 the extensive propagation of bamboo in Cagayan Valley to prevent massive flooding that plagued the province from Typhoon Ulysses.

The bamboo project costs P1.601 million consisting of P1.261 million from DENR and P340,000 from CSU.

Aside from involving DENR's local offices in Cagayan, the implementor includes the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices of Cagayan and the Central Analytical Laboratory of CSU.



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Career diplomat named DFA chief

*Executive posts
declared vacant*

By HELEN FLORES

For the first time in nearly two decades, a career diplomat, Enrique Manalo, has been designated secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

President Marcos' appointment of Manalo as replacement for Teodoro Locsin Jr. was confirmed yesterday by press secretary Trixie Angeles.

"He asked for a few days to wind up affairs in his previous post," Angeles said, referring to Manalo.

According to reports, 69-year-old Manalo took his oath before Marcos at Malacañang yesterday.

The last career diplomat to head the DFA was Delia Albert, who served from December 2003 to August 2004.

Prior to his appointment, Manalo was the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

He served as acting DFA chief from March 9 to May 17, 2017, after the appointment of the late Perfecto Yasay Jr. was rejected by the Commission on Appointments. Manalo was DFA undersecretary for policy from 2007 to 2010 and from 2016 to 2020.

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Image from the Facebook page of Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand Jesus Domingo shows President Marcos administering the oath to incoming Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo.



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Career From Page 1

He served as ambassador to the United Kingdom from 2011 to 2016, non-resident ambassador to Ireland from 2013 to 2016, ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and head of the Philippine Mission to the European Union from 2010 to 2011.

He served as Philippine ambassador and permanent representative to the Philippine mission to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland from 2003 to 2007.

Manalo began his career in foreign service as special assistant to the Office of the Deputy Minister from 1979 to 1981.

After completing his first tour of duty with the Philippine Mission to the UN in Geneva, he was assigned as Special Assistant to the First Undersecretary of the DFA.

He also served as the Assistant Secretary for European Affairs after his stint as the minister counselor of the Philippine Mission to the UN in New York from 1998 to 2000.

Marcos has yet to announce his picks for the Departments of Health, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, and Science and Technology.

President Marcos issued yesterday Memorandum Circular No. 1, declaring certain positions in departments, offices, agencies and bureaus in the Executive department vacant to ensure continuous and effective delivery of service.

The order was signed by Executive Secretary Vic Rodriguez.

"Effective noontime of June 30, the following are deemed separated from service, and the positions held by them in the departments, offices, agencies and bureaus of the Executive department are declared vacant: all presidential appointees whose appointments are classified as coterminous; all presidential appointees occupying positions created in excess of the authorized staffing pattern; all non-Career Executive Service Officials (CESO) occupying Career Executive Service positions; and contractual and/or casual employees," the memo read.

His new Cabinet officials, mean-

while, said they acknowledge the immensity of the tasks that lie ahead but stressed the administration has what it takes to fulfill its vision for a more prosperous Philippines.

Ready for tasks ahead

Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista has committed to complete the Duterte administration's infrastructure projects in line with his vision to raise the transport industry to global standards.

Bautista said the Marcos administration would complete infrastructure projects left behind by the Duterte presidency, due to budget reallocation or construction delays due to the pandemic.

"We don't need to reinvent the wheel. These big-ticket projects truly deserve continuity to achieve the maximum benefits for the Filipino people," Bautista said.

"As discussed during my initial meeting with President Bongbong (Marcos), we will transform the Philippine transport industry and elevate it to global standards," Bautista said.

In performing his duties as transport chief, Bautista asked both the career officials and rank and file employees of the DOTr to help him in policymaking.

"As a newcomer to this office, I anticipate the usual hesitation to any changes in the way you do things. I promise to listen to your suggestions. I have always been a good listener," the transport chief said.

"I will not pretend to have all the solutions. With many daunting tasks ahead of us, I ask for your help in making this administration succeed in solving all the seemingly insurmountable transport concerns of Filipinos," he added.

Bautista served as president of flag carrier Philippine Airlines prior to his retirement in 2019.

Focus on MSMEs

For Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, greater support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including those in the agriculture sector,

would greatly help the economy recover from the effects of the pandemic.

In a pre-recorded turnover ceremony aired yesterday, Pascual emphasized MSMEs are the backbone of the country's economy.

"We want our small businesses to be driven by science, technology and innovation to meet changing market demands for quality and new products," Pascual said.

He also stressed the need for digital transformation among MSMEs so that they can attain efficiency, reduce cost and earn profit even as they make their products more affordable to consumers.

"We would like to integrate them into the domestic and global value chain so that they can become formidable players in the domestic and global economy," Pascual said.

He also cited the major role played by MSMEs in agriculture in ensuring the country's food security.

"To address the food security challenges, we will collaborate with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to improve the food value chain with upgraded transport and logistics facilities, including cold storage and cold chain facilities," he pointed out.

"We will also pursue urban food production and support small businesses involved in the supply chain," he added.

Apart from MSME support, the secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) also stressed the importance of promoting the country's manufacturing sector.

"Manufacturing is our guarantee for sustainable and inclusive growth for our country because manufacturing provides more stable and higher paying jobs," Pascual said.

"We at DTI will take the lead in positioning for success in the manufacturing sectors in which we possess strategic advantages," he added.

Pascual also said the DTI will intensify efforts to attract investments and expand exports.

In line with this, he said the department would continue to push for the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and other trade agreements.

"This agreement will diversify



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the country's exports in terms of products and services and country destinations and enhance the country's attractiveness to foreign investments," he said.

Moreover, the trade secretary stressed the need for a second look at DTI's organizational structure and processes because of changing conditions and sector priorities.

"There is now a very clear and definite shift to digital technology. So we need to really gear up our expertise to that particular area. As the country moves into its recovery and expansionary mode, we will do this review and see how we can contribute seamlessly and in timely fashion to the implementation of the earlier initiatives that I discussed," Pascual said.

More responsive

Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma said that under his watch, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) would be a "more responsible and responsive institution that reaches out to needy workers, especially those in rural and far-urban areas."

"I would like to see DOLE become more conscientious and committed to delivering services, especially to those with limited knowledge and access to DOLE," he said. He took over from Silvestre Bello III.

"Your fresh mandate to steer the DOLE once more signifies the continuity of the noble initiatives that we have undertaken for the Filipino workers and the people," Bello said in welcoming Laguesma, who had served as labor chief during the Estrada administration.

In a speech after officially assuming the post of secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Susan Ople said she would make sure every OFW would have a home in government.

"We will build that home, together, in accordance with the law creating this department and with all the very best intentions in the world. In this home, rude, disrespectful people are not allowed, even those rumor spreaders. Together, we will build this home for our new heroes.

It will be open to all of them, to their families," Ople said.

"To our OFWs, write to us at feedback@dmw.gov.ph and if there are DMW personnel or staff of related agencies that will snub or would not provide you good service, we will remind them to smile and be respectful."

"We will launch partnerships with various government agencies, civil society and the private sector - as many meaningful partnerships as possible. We will hold global and national reintegration summits to harness the power of the private sector and big business to ensure that our programs are viable and sustainable. We have to present to our returning OFWs an array of options that are practical, doable and sustainable," she said.

She also revealed she would lead the DMW Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons: "I have 18 years of experience in the fight against human trafficking, and there will be zero tolerance for syndicates, whether online or offline, preying on our OFWs. I will not hesitate to go after lawyers who take advantage of our OFWs and who harm our industry."

In a statement, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco cited the need to "focus on zoning and land use regulations that enhance rather than degrade the long-term value of tourist attractions."

She also called for "proactive and aggressive infrastructure development that provides quality access to roads, bridges, water systems, providing access to various methods of transportation by land, sea and air, as well as heritage and environmental protection that ensures sustainable tourism development."

"The goal is to improve the overall tourism experience by both domestic and foreign tourists so that they not only enjoy the idea of the brand that is the Philippines but fully immerse in and keep buying into the product that is our beautiful country and the work of its people," she added.

- With Catherine Talavera, Elijah Felice Rosales, Rhodina Villanueva, Mayen Jaymalin, Ghio Ong



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Multi-layered plastic upcycling facility in Antipolo

This plastic upcycling facility uses the TrashBot technology imported from TrashCon Laboratory in India which turns plastics and non-degradable materials that are otherwise dumped or burnt. This prevents the dumping of plastics and helps the environment by preventing trees from being cut.

Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC), together with D&G Pacific Corporation, RePurpose Inc. and the local government of Antipolo City, broke ground in Antipolo City, Rizal Province, Philippines, to begin the construction of a Multi-layered Plastic Upcycling Facility to advance AMC's goal to attain net-zero plastic waste by year-end.

"As sustainability continues to be a top priority of AMC, industries and governments here and abroad, this partnership with D&G Pacific Corporation to build an upcycling facility is our way of staying relevant – offering solutions to our consumers, helping the environment and contributing to nation-building as a whole," said Tarang Gupta, managing director of AMC.

Signed on 6 December 2021, this partnership with D&G Pacific to build this upcycling facility will produce WoW boards. These are sturdy panels or sheets that are a direct replacement for particle boards, MDF and plyboards and can be used to create various projects such as furniture.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AMC

AMC's partnership with D&G Pacific will collect single-use plastics being generated by AMC in the market to attain net-zero plastic waste for the company. This is just one of the many programs being launched by AMC to celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. These plastics will be upcycled to produce sturdy panels that can be used to create various projects such as furniture.

"The environmental benefits of upcycling are mammoth. Aside from minimizing the volume of discarded materials and waste being sent to landfills each year, it also reduces the need for production using new or raw materials, which means a reduction in air and water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and often conservation of global resources," remarked Edmund Gregory Dimalanta, president of D&G Pacific Corporation.

D&G Pacific is a leading local waste-management company founded in 2012. It provides customer-specific, environmentally aware cleaning and waste management service solutions for the private sector in the Philippines. It also helps develop self-liquidating and sustainable Materials Recovery Facilities with their ecologically conscious partners and clients.

"This initiative by AMC and D&G Pacific is a forward-thinking approach that the private sector can emulate. The City of Antipolo is very honored that we have been chosen to host this facility. We hope to be the best practice example to other cities looking into partnering with the private sector to help reduce plastic waste that is often thrown back to oceans and landfills," said Violeta Fayaz, City Environment and Waste Management Officer, on behalf of Antipolo City Mayor Andrea Ynares.



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Jail officers participate in a tree planting activity at the Osmeña shrine in Barangay Kalunasan in Cebu City yesterday to mark the 31st anniversary of the BJMP. THE FREEMAN



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ENGINEERED SOLUTION The largest engineered sanitary landfill facility (SLF) in the country was inaugurated and commissioned on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in Barangay Malimono, Marawi City and Barangay Kasayanan, Kapai, Lanao del Sur. The 31.7- hectare SLF would help address the solid waste management problem in the city as it can accommodate around 1 million tons of residual wastes. PHOTO FROM DENR



Sustaining recovery aid for MSMEs amid pandemic

THE Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation has reiterated its commitment to supporting the livelihood of the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country.

The PDRF said it has recently conducted a business continuity workshop for some 30 sari-sari store and carinderia owners in Bohol, as part of its livelihood recovery support to MSMEs under the Synergizing Recovery Initiatives, Knowledge, and Adaptation Practices program.

Participants underwent a two-day training workshop focusing on "business continuity and foresight planning," particularly preparing during

disasters.

The PDRF said the participants were able to draft a business continuity roadmap, by identifying their vulnerability in terms of risks and hazards; critical business assets; and activities needed to maintain during a crisis.

They also developed strategies to prepare for possible future scenarios that may affect their businesses.

The activity was also supported by the Department of Trade and Industry - Bohol Provincial Office.

Under the program, MSME owners would also be receiving livelihood starter kits worth P10,000 that would further support the recovery of their busi-

ness amid the ongoing health crisis.

The PDRF said it will further expand this is the first batch of MSME trainees.

It would soon conduct another workshop for MSMEs residing in Dinagat Island and in other parts of Bohol province.

SIKAP, launched in 2020, provides free resources, training, and mentorship opportunities for MSMEs to boost their disaster resilience.

This program was developed with the support of Connecting Business initiative, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the United Nations Development Programme.



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Higit 1,000 puno itinanim sa Cotabato

Umatot sa mahigit 1,000 tree seedlings ang itinanim sa ginanap na tree planting activity na inorganisa ng National Irrigation Administration Re-

gion XII sa kolaborasyon ng 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division sa 6ID Kampilan Golf Course ng Camp Paulino Santos sa Brgy. Dado, Alamada, Cotabato

noong Hunyo 29.

Nagpartisipa sa aktibidad na tinawag na "Trees, Water, Life: Greening the Philippines the NIA Way" ang tropa ng 6ID, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) Alamada, NIA-Libungan Rover Irrigation System, NIA XII Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Philippine National Police at iba pang stakeholders. Pinuri ni Major General Roberto Capulong, acting commander ng 6ID at JTF Central ang naturang aktibidad na nagsisimbolo aniya ng pagkakaisa sa layuning makamit ang "greener at sustainable community".





TITLE: *You will not be disappointed so do not be afraid* PAGE 1/2

EDITORIAL

'You will not be disappointed. So do not be afraid'

The inaugural address of the 17th president of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand Romualdez R. Marcos Jr., emphasized the transformative power of hope, as he said, "Your hope is my hope." It also resounded with the call for unity, which he credited as the message that propelled him to garner the biggest mandate in the country's electoral history.

Though it was inevitable to miss out some issues because of the limitation of a 30-minute speech, nevertheless it gave the nation a preview of what a Marcos presidency will shape like. Contrary to critics who said that the speech was vague, Marcos laid out some initial plans with regard to education, agriculture, OFWs, climate change, tourism, healthcare, and foreign policy.

With education and OFWs, he specifically mentioned two Cabinet members by name, Vice President Sara Duterte who will take up the education portfolio, and an Ople – Susan Ople – who will lead the newly created Department of Migrant Workers. With the environment, he vowed that "we will clean up;" with foreign policy, he said, "we seek friendship with all;" while for agriculture, he stressed that "food sufficiency must get the preferential treatment." There are still more plans to be unveiled in the coming days and names announced for top positions in various departments; we then hope to see a fully functioning administration before the President's State of the Nation Address this month, especially as the pandemic is still upon us and the typhoon season brings with it a myriad of challenges.

On the part of Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion III, he echoed the sentiments of the country's small businessmen when he said that the inaugural speech "moved" them.

"President Marcos spoke of the people's dreams being his own dreams, of wishing for a better life in a safer, more prosperous country. I think that resonated deeply with our country's small entrepreneurs," Concepcion said. "I could feel his

sincerity and determination to bring a better life for all of us."

Concepcion is optimistic that the President's plan to prioritize agriculture and to promote self-sufficiency will mean unprecedented assistance for the country's farmers, many of whom are self-employed agripreneurs. "Given the many challenges we are facing today, I agree with the President that the sooner we start, the surer and quicker the prospect of achieving our goals for the future."

The inaugural address of any president sets the path and tone of the administration. This early, people are hopeful as they felt the empathic drive of Marcos to lift the nation out of the economic doldrum and the clutch of the pandemic. After all, Marcos said he owes the nation a "debt of gratitude for the honor and responsibility conferred on him."

"You have other responsibilities to carry but I will not spare myself from shedding the last bead of sweat or giving the last ounce of courage and sacrifice," the President said in conclusion.

Yes, Mr. President. We pin our hopes on you this day forward as you also have 110 million reasons to succeed. May your words turn into action and motivate us to "put our shoulders to the wheel and give that wheel a faster turn to repair and to rebuild" our nation. May we all see a future where no Filipino is afraid, where no Filipino is deprived of food and shelter, and where no Filipino is hopeless in an ever changing world.



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TITLE: *"You will not be disappointed. So do not be afraid"* PAGE 2

02 JUL 2022
DATE





Cagayan niyanig ng magnitud 6 na lindol

Ni JUN I. LEGASPI

YINUGYOG ng magnitud 6 na lindol ang probinsiya ng Cagayan Biyernes ng umaga, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Philvolcs).

Ayon sa ahensiya, 2:40 a.m. ng maramdaman ang lindol ang sentro 27 kilometer southeast ng Dalupiri Island sa Calayan.

Tectonic ang origin ng lindol at 27 kilometer ang lalim nito sa lupa ayon sa agency

Walang naitalang pinsala ayon sa Phivolcs.

Dahil sa lakas ng lindol naramdaman ang Intensity V sa mga lugar ng Aparri, Calayan sa Cagayan, Flora, Apayao, at Claveria.

Intensity IV, naman ang naramdaman sa Peñablanca, at Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Laoag City, Pasuguin, Ilocos Norter, Gonzaga at Penablanca, at Cagayan.

Naramdaman din ang Intensity III sa Vigan City at Sinit, Ilocos Sur; Ilagan, Isabela; Intensity II naman sa Tabuk, Kalinga at Intensity I sa mga lugar ng Baler, Aurora; Santiago City, Isabela; Dagupan City, Pangasinan ang naramdaman, ayon sa naturang ahensiya.

17



Address weeks-long flood, Malabon mayor urged

Residents of Malabon inundated Mayor Jeannie Sandoval with appeals for help as she assumed office yesterday after low-lying parts of the city have been flooded for the past three weeks.

Netizens posted their calls for help as comments on a photo Sandoval – known for her slogan, “Ahon, Malabon” – posted on Facebook page of her inauguration as mayor on June 30. The Filipino word *ahon* can mean to ascend or

to get out of the water.

Most of the appeals for help came from residents of Barangay Hulong Duhat and Dampalit, who said their houses have been destroyed by the flooding that started around three weeks ago.

“*Umahon na po tayo, magkaka-alipunga na ako* (Let’s get out of the water, I might get athlete’s foot!)” one netizen said.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Au-

thority has vowed to speed up the repair of two defective floodgates in Malabon and Navotas, though it said fixing underwater components remains a challenge.

In a statement, Sandoval promised to help residents, saying she would be “one call away.”

She said the city government would accept new methods and technologies to ensure Malabon’s food security.

– Ghio Ong



NDRRMC kicks off disaster resilience month

Topics to be discussed will cover the four thematic areas of DRRM – Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; Preparedness; Response; and Rehabilitation and Recovery.

BY NEIL ALCOBER

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) launched its month-long celebration of National Disaster Resilience Month from 1 to 29 July which seeks to advocate unity towards resilience and sustainable development.

An online kick-off ceremony was held on Friday, 1 July, via livestream on Civil Defense PH and NDRRMC social media pages to mark the official start of the observance and a webinar series dubbed as “Resilience Hours” is set to be conducted every Thursday of the month.

Topics to be discussed will cover the four thematic areas of DRRM – Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; Preparedness; Response; and Rehabilitation and Recovery.

As part of pre-activities of National Disaster Resilience Month, the NDRRMC also launched various contests to encourage public participation in the observance. Submissions for tagline making contest and music composition contest ran from 13 to 30 June 2022.


The NDRRMC is once again calling on the public to participate in all National Disaster Resilience Month related activities as well as in the programs and activities of other NDRRMC-member agencies that seek to strengthen the resilience of the communities.

Executive Order Number 29 signed on 28 June 2017 mandates the observance of NDRRMC “throughout the country through the conduct of activities relative to building of disaster resilience covering the four thematic areas.”





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. XI
2nd Floor EMB-MGB XI Bldg., 3rd Avenue corner V. Guzman Street, Brgy. 27-C, Davao City 8000
Tel. No. (082) 221-8535 Telefax No. (082) 221-8535 Email: region 11@mgb.gov.ph



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF MS. ALICIA N. TUMBALI

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, that **Ms. Alicia N. Tumbali** with office address at **Phase 2, Block 28, Lot 12, Parrot St., Deca Homes, Indangan, Davao City**, has filed an application for Exploration Permit for the exploration of **copper, gold, and other associated minerals** particularly described as follows:

I. Tenement Application No.: EXPA 000190-XI
II. Date of Filing: November 20, 2007

III. Area Location: PARCEL 1
Barangay of Panansalan, Municipality of Compostela,
Province of Davao de Oro
Municipality of Cateel Province of Davao Oriental

PARCEL 2
Barangay of Camantangan, Municipality of New Bataan,
Province of Davao de Oro

IV. Technical Description of the Area

Technical Description		
Parcel 1		
Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	7° 38' 00.00"	126° 15' 00.00"
2	7° 40' 46.23"	126° 15' 00.00"
3	7° 40' 48.35"	126° 15' 06.55"
4	7° 40' 45.64"	126° 15' 11.34"
5	7° 40' 38.86"	126° 15' 21.72"
6	7° 40' 36.79"	126° 15' 34.94"
7	7° 37' 30.00"	126° 16' 59.50"
8	7° 37' 30.00"	126° 16' 30.00"
9	7° 38' 00.00"	126° 16' 30.00"
Area = 1,121.40 hectares		

Technical Description		
Parcel 2		
Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	7° 28' 02.00"	126° 06' 57.00"
2	7° 28' 12.00"	126° 06' 57.00"
3	7° 28' 12.00"	126° 07' 06.00"
4	7° 28' 22.00"	126° 07' 06.00"
5	7° 28' 22.00"	126° 06' 56.00"
6	7° 28' 31.00"	126° 06' 56.00"
7	7° 28' 31.00"	126° 06' 47.00"
8	7° 28' 51.00"	126° 06' 47.00"
9	7° 28' 51.00"	126° 06' 37.00"
10	7° 29' 00.00"	126° 06' 37.00"
11	7° 29' 00.00"	126° 06' 30.00"
12	7° 29' 40.06"	126° 06' 30.00"
13	7° 29' 40.06"	126° 06' 41.96"
14	7° 29' 20.53"	126° 06' 41.96"
15	7° 29' 20.53"	126° 06' 51.75"
16	7° 29' 10.77"	126° 06' 51.75"
17	7° 29' 10.77"	126° 07' 01.54"
18	7° 29' 01.02"	126° 07' 01.54"
19	7° 29' 01.02"	126° 07' 02.47"
20	7° 28' 49.46"	126° 07' 02.47"
21	7° 28' 49.46"	126° 07' 12.25"
22	7° 28' 39.69"	126° 07' 12.25"
23	7° 28' 39.69"	126° 07' 22.04"
24	7° 28' 29.94"	126° 07' 22.04"
25	7° 28' 29.94"	126° 07' 12.25"
26	7° 28' 02.00"	126° 07' 12.21"
Area = 185.04 hectares		

Total Size of the Area: **1,306.44 hectares**, more or less
Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"

Exceptions:
The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), and Section 105 ("Entry to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-072, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, old growth/virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon the written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: areas near or under the public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CALG/CAD/CAL), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking exploration therein;
- Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by RA No. 6857 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reforms Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, such as but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

V. Duration of the Permit.
Exploration Permit - shall have a term of two (2) years from the date of issuance thereof, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of four (4) years for nonmetallic mineral exploration or six (6) years for metallic mineral exploration.
Total duration of the Mineral Agreement shall be twenty-five (25) years from the date of execution subject to renewal for another period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years under the same terms and conditions. The same is subject to changes mutually agreed upon by both parties, provided that, such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with law and do not prejudice the principle of sustainable development.

VI. Relinquishment
After the exploration period, the contractor/applicant is obliged to relinquish portions of the contract area that are not needed for the development and utilization

VII. Extent of activities/operations to be undertaken
Research Work, Reconnaissance / Regional Survey or Studies, Semi-detailed Survey or follow-up studies, Topographic Survey, Detailed Survey and Subsurface Investigations will be conducted by the applicant.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims shall be filed directly within ten (10) days from the date of publication or from the last date of posting/radio announcement, with the Regional Office concerned or through any PENRO or CENRO concerned for filing in the MGB Regional Office No. XI for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 and its implementing rules and regulations. Adverse claims, protests or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21, and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. XI located at 2nd Floor EMB - MGB - XI Bldg., 3rd Avenue corner V. Guzman Street, Brgy. 27-C, Davao City.

Very truly yours,
By the Authority of the Regional Director:

MS. BEVERLY MAE M. BREBANTE
Chief, Geosciences Division


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




TITLE: _____

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DATE _____



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
 Tel.Nos. (02) 8539 4378
 Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



Measurement
 ISO 9001:2015
 ISO 14001:2015
 ISO 45001:2018
 REGISTERED
 TO STANDARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the PROPOSED SAMAR AGGREGATES PROJECT of the MAJESTIC EARTH CORE VENTURES INC (INC.) located in BARANGAYS SAN JOAQUIN, BA-AY, AND BINALIW, CITY OF CALBAYOG, SAMAR PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the **PROPOSED SAMAR AGGREGATES PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
13 July 2022 (Wednesday);	09:00 AM (Registration starts at 08:00 AM)	Barangay San Joaquin Covered Court, Brgy. San Joaquin, Calbayog City, Samar Province

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

The following is the project information: Project Name



Project	Samar Aggregates Project												
Project Location	Barangays San Joaquin, Ba-ay, and Binaliw, City of Calbayog, Samar												
Project Capacity	561, 600 MT/yr												
Project Type	Resource Extractive Industry												
Project Rationale	With the quarrying of basalt and production of aggregates and base course, this proposed project will satisfy the requirements for road and bridge construction, and vertical structures construction. Because of the higher demand for quality aggregates brought by the Build, Build, Build Program of the current administration, continuous supply of construction materials must be satisfied.												
Project components	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Component</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Area/ Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Quarry</td> <td>• 15.5 Ha</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Crusher</td> <td>• 561, 600 MT/yr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Overburden/topsoil stockpile</td> <td>• 3.1 hectares</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Aggregate Stockpile</td> <td>• 2,500 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Mine (Haul Road)</td> <td>• 12m x 540 m @max. 10% gradient Proponent</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	Area/ Capacity	• Quarry	• 15.5 Ha	• Crusher	• 561, 600 MT/yr	• Overburden/topsoil stockpile	• 3.1 hectares	• Aggregate Stockpile	• 2,500 m ²	• Mine (Haul Road)	• 12m x 540 m @max. 10% gradient Proponent
Component	Area/ Capacity												
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• Aggregate Stockpile	• 2,500 m ²												
• Mine (Haul Road)	• 12m x 540 m @max. 10% gradient Proponent												
Proponent	Majestic Earth Core Ventures Inc.												

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

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

- **EMB Region 8**
DENR Compound, Jones Street, Tacloban City
Tel. No. (053) 832-2319
- **City Environment & Natural Resources Office- Calbayog**
Calbayog City Hall, Calbayog City, Samar, Province

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Joel Polintan** and **Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra**.

(MS-JUNE 28 & JULY 2, 2022)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
REGION IV - CALABARZON
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office - Cavite

NOTICE OF LEASE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) at Trece Martires City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 am) on 15 August 2022 for the lease of Industrial-Commercial (mixed used) purposes of the tract of foreshore/offshore land herein below described:

Location	:	Barangay Calibuyo, Tanza, Cavite
Description	:	Miscellaneous land covered by approved plan Mlc-042120-09-D
Total Area	:	50,033 square meters
Approved Value Of the Foreshore land	:	Php 4,750.00 per square meters or Php7,129,702.50 for the whole tract
Value of Existing Improvements	:	Php 1,034,912,155.00
Annual Rental	:	Php 17,478,824.05 (3% value of the land & 1% of improvement)
Applied By	:	F & E DE CASTRO CORPORATION REP BY MR.FREDERICK A. DE CASTRO MLC-042120-09 & MLC-042120-09-A

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) month's rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Trece Martires City, June 3, 2022.

JANUEL PERAS
OIC-PENR Officer

02 JULY 2022, SATURDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Covid-19 cases in NCR up 52% from previous week: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [July 1, 2022, 5:46 pm](#)



MANILA – The number of coronavirus diseases 2019 (Covid-19) cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) continues its increase at 52 percent higher than the previous week.

In its latest Covid-19 situation report, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that the region logged 442 new infections for the period of June 25 to July 1 – 151 cases or 52 percent higher than last week's count of 291.

As of June 30, NCR's weekly positivity rate, or the number of people who test positive for Covid-19 in an area, is now at 8.2 percent.

Nationally, the case trend also shows a continuous increase with its average daily reported cases 53 percent higher at 914 for the period of June 25 to July 1 compared to the previous week's 599.

Currently, the country's weekly positivity rate increased to 6 percent.

As of July 1, the country logged 6,399 new cases which brought the overall tally to 3,705,649.

The top five regions with the most number of new infections include the NCR with 3,097; Calabarzon, 1,170; Western Visayas, 537; Central Luzon, 464; and Central Visayas, 318.

Meantime, the top five regions with the most number of new cases include Quezon City with 730; Cavite, 446; City of Manila, 443; City of Makati, 432; and Laguna, 293.

The DOH said about 89 or 86 percent of the areas outside the NCR report case increases.

“Of these, 57 areas showing both positive one-week growth rate (OWGR) and two-week growth rate (TWGR), 32 remaining areas have either positive OWGR or TWGR. All areas have low risk average daily attack rates while Lucena City, Bohol, and Tawi-Tawi at moderate to critical risk healthcare utilization,” it added.

The utilization rate of Covid-19 beds in hospitals nationwide remains under the low-risk classification at 19 percent.

Moreover, the national intensive care unit bed utilization remains under the low-risk classification at 15 percent.



Data from the National Admissions by Health Status showed that only 10.62 percent or 648 cases of the total 6,103 admissions are severe and critical cases as of June 30.

Covid-19 fatalities are on a continued decline from a peak this year in January (2,379 deaths), averaging one death per day in May 2022.

Only three Covid-19 deaths were logged for the month of June 2022. **(PNA)**



DOH: Positivity rates in Metro Manila, 3 other regions exceed WHO benchmark

Philstar.com July 1, 2022 | 5:33pm



Residents splash and spray water over pedestrians as they take part in celebrations of their patron saint, John the Baptist, in San Juan City, Metro Manila, on Thursday, June 24, 2022.

AFP / Jam Sta. Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health said Friday that COVID-19 positivity rates in Metro Manila and three other regions surpassed the threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Latest data from the DOH showed that the national positivity rate, or the percentage of infected people out of all tested, increased to 6% from 4.1% the previous week.

In Metro Manila, the positivity rate climbed to 8.2% from 5.8%. Other regions with positivity rates exceeding 5% were Calabarzon (7%), Mimaropa (6.6%) and Western Visayas (6.4%).

The WHO recommends that the proportion of COVID-19 tests coming back positive remains below 5% to ensure that the spread of the coronavirus is under control.

In a separate report Friday, the OCTA Research said that positivity rates increased in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, Pampanga, Iloilo, Batangas and Benguet.

From June 25 to July 1, the Philippines recorded 6,399 new cases. Nearly half or 48% of the additional cases came from the capital region.

The seven-day moving average of 914 cases was 53% higher than the previous week.

“Most areas show a sharp increase in cases with NCR reaching almost 450 cases daily,” the DOH said in a situationer sent to reporters.

“Mindanao showed a slight uptick mid-June 2022 but currently shows signs of plateau with 50 cases per day,” it added.

According to DOH, 32 areas in Luzon, 14 areas in Visayas, and 11 areas in Mindanao showed positive growth in cases in the recent one and two weeks.

Despite the increase in cases, the entire Philippines remained at low risk for COVID-19 spread.

Healthcare utilization rates also remained at low risk in all regions. Severe and critical cases account for only 1% of total hospital admissions.

However, the bed utilization rates in Lucena City, Bohol and Tawi-Tawi were at moderate to critical.



The Philippines is once again seeing an increase in cases, driven by the presence of fast-spreading variants with immune escape characteristics, increased mobility, and waning vaccine immunity.

“Active case surveillance must be done to address these case increases, maintain minimal transmission, and keep severe and critical cases low,” the health department said. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



COVID-19 sumirit sa NCR, 9 lalawigan -- OCTA

[Angie dela Cruz](#) - Pang-masa July 2, 2022 | 12:00am



Residents of San Juan City participated in this year's Wattah Wattah Festival on June 24, 2022. This tradition is held yearly to celebrate the feast of St. John the Baptist.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Inihayag ng OCTA Research base sa nakalap nilang datos noong Hunyo 25 hanggang Hunyo 29 na tumataas pa rin ang COVID-19 positivity rate sa National Capital Region (NCR) at siyam na lalawigan.

Sinabi ni OCTA Research fellow, Dr. Guido David, tumaas sa 7.5 porsiyento ang positivity rate sa Metro Manila mula sa 6.0 porsiyento. Sa Cavite, naitala ang pinakamataas na positivity rate sa 13.2 porsiyento mula sa 5.9 porsiyento.

Sa lalawigan ng Rizal, bumaba sa 9.7 porsiyento mula sa 11.9 porsiyento ang positivity rate ng nakakamatay na sakit.

Bukod sa NCR, tumaas din ang positivity rate sa Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, Benguet, Bulacan, Cebu, Davao del Sur, at Iloilo.

Batay sa World Health Organization's (WHO), ang benchmark positive rate ay dapat hanggang 5 porsiyento lamang.

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
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