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Headline

Occ Mindoro's Apo Reef Park bags int'l award for marine wildlife conservation

Published July 7, 2022, 10:21 AM by Jel Santos

An international council of marine conservation experts awarded the Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) in Occidental Mindoro the prestigious Blue Park Award for exceptional marine wildlife conservation.

The award was given at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It was received by ARNP Protected Area Superintendent Krystal Villanada and Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria.



(Photo courtesy of the DENR)

In a statement, the DENR said the international council of marine conservation experts which recognized the ARNP was assembled by the United States-based non-government organization Marine Conservation Institute.

DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr., said the award serves as an inspiration for the national government to further fortify its initiatives to conserve and protect marine protected areas in the country.

"Such recognition bestowed upon the Apo Reef Natural Park is a testament "of the hard work of our people at the Protected Area Management Office and all the stakeholders who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area," said Adobo.





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(Photo courtesy of the DENR)

"This award is an impetus not only for our hardworking men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs, and collaboration with various stakeholders," he added.

A side from ARNP, also awarded were Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area and Colombia's Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park.

The DENR said that the ARNP is the second platinum-level, the highest possible recognition, Blue Park Award recipient in the Philippines next to Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, which was recognized in 2017.

The Blue Park Award recognizes outstanding efforts by national governments, non-profit organizations, marine protected area managers, and local communities in the effective protection of marine ecosystems.

Following this international recognition of the ARNP, Villanda said they are looking forward to expanding our networks and collaborations with different organizations to ensure a sustainable ocean for the future generation.

Source: https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/07/occ-mindoros-apo-reef-park-bags-intl-award-for-marine-wildlife-conservation/





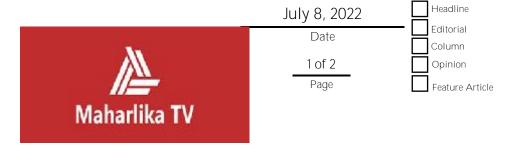
PH Wins Platinum-Level Blue Park Award for Apo Reef Natural Park

Thursday, July 7, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Protected Area Superintendent for Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) Krystal Dayne Villanada (right, standing) and Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria (middle, standing) receive the platinum-level Blue Park Award for the country's effective conservation of the ARNP, a marine protected area (MPA) in the town of Sablayan, province of Occidental Mindoro during the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal on July 1. ARNP is one of the three MPAs granted the award along with Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area in Indonesia and Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park in Colombia. The Blue Park Award is conferred by the Marine Conservation Institute to national governments, non-profit organizations, marine protected area managers, and local communities in recognition of their outstanding efforts in protecting marine ecosystems. Also in photo are Blue Parks Science Council member Dr. Barbara Horta e Costa (extreme left), and Ecuador Vice Minister of Environment Bianca Dager and Ecuador Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Luis Vayas (seated, left to right, respectively).





Apo Reef Natural Park bags Blue Park Award

<u>July 7, 2022</u>2 min read By Rjhay E. Laurea

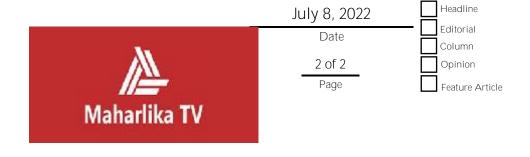


MANILA — Occidental Mindoro's Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) recently bagged the internationally prestigious Blue Park Award for exceptional marine wildlife conservation at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

With this development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) commended the management of ARNP for receiving such an international conservation award.







Apo Reef Natural Park bags Blue Park Award

The ARNP, along with Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area and Colombia's Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park, was selected by an international council of marine conservation experts, which was assembled by the United States-based non-government organization Marine Conservation Institute.

"We are very happy for this recognition bestowed on the Apo Reef Natural Park which is a testament to the hard work of our people at the Protected Area Management Office and all the stakeholders who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area," DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. said.

He pointed out that the award will serve as an inspiration for the national government to strengthen its initiatives to conserve and protect marine protected areas in the country.

"This award is an impetus not only for our hardworking men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs, and collaboration with various stakeholders," Adobo said.

ARNP Protected Area Superintendent Krystal Villanada and Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria received the award on July 1.

"As ARNP is now being acknowledged globally, we are looking forward to expanding our networks and collaborations with different organizations to ensure a sustainable ocean for the future generation," Villanada said.

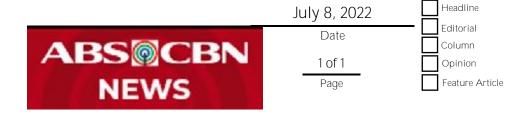
The Blue Park Award recognizes outstanding efforts by the national government, non-profit organizations, marine protected area managers, and local communities in the effective protection of marine ecosystems.

ARNP is the second platinum-level, the highest possible recognition, Blue Park Award recipient in the Philippines next to Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, which was recognized in 2017.

It joins a growing network of 24 awarded Blue Parks around the globe that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectiveness. (ai/mtvn)

Source:





After Tubbataha, Apo Reef Park gets platinum-level Blue Park Award

Rowegie Abanto, ABS-CBN News Posted at Jul 07 2022 03:42 PM

MANILA — The Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro has received the platinum-level Blue Park Award from the Marine Conservation International at this year's United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, joining Palawan's Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park which was recognized in 2017 for the similar recognition.

The award was received by Protected Area Superintendent Krystal Villanada and Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria last week, July 1.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Apo Reef Natural Park now joins "a growing network of 24 awarded Blue Parks around the globe that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectiveness."

"We are very happy for this recognition bestowed on the Apo Reef Natural Park which is a testament of the hard work of our people at the Protected Area Management Office and all the stakeholders who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area," DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. said in a statement.

"This award is an impetus not only for our hardworking men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs, and collaboration with various stakeholders," Adobo also said.

Now that the Apo Reef Natural Park is being acknowledged globally, Villanada said that they are looking forward to expanding their networks and collaborations with different organizations to ensure "a sustainable ocean for the future generation."

The Blue Park Award recognizes outstanding marine protected areas in the world, according to the Marine Conservation Institute.

The award, the institute said, provides funding leverage and ecotourism opportunities and "aligns governments' interests with biodiversity conservation."

"Blue Park status also provides a benchmark that both private and governmental funders can use to measure the impacts of their investments," it added.

The Apo Reef Natural Park protects 3 small islands and its surrounding 34-square-kilometer coral atoll, the second-largest contiguous coral reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

The 275-square-kilometer reef park also serves as a sanctuary for several endangered or critically endangered species, including overfished species.

The park is being managed by the DENR, Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Local Government Unit of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/07/22/after-tubbataha-apo-reef-park-gets-platinum-level-blue-park-





Engineered Sanitary Lanfill for Marawi Rehab

Thursday, July 7, 2022 Journal Online



Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (inset) unveil the marker of the 31.7-hectare <u>Category IV Engineered Sanitary Landfill</u> (SLF) located between Brgy. Malimono, Marawi City and Brgy. Kasanayan, Municipality of Kapai in the province of Lanao del Sur to formally turn over the SLF to the local government of Lanao del Sur on June 28, 2022. The facility is the DENR's contribution to the Comprehensive Marawi Recovery, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation Program. DENR Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Michelle Angelica Go, head of the <u>DENR</u> Sub-Committee on Task Force Bangon Marawi with Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Western Mindanao Arleigh J. Adorable, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda, Environmental Management Bureau Region 10 Director Reynaldo Digamo, Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra, and Lanao del Sur Provincial Government Mamintal Adiong Jr. were present in the ceremony.

Source: https://journal.com.ph/engineered-sanitary-lanfill-for-marawi-rehab/





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Tugbo Natural Biotic Area now a PA under NIPAS - Villar

July 7, 2022 By Ernie Reyes



MANILA — The Tugbo Natural Biotic Area (TNBA), found in Masbate City and Municipality of Mobo in Masbate Province, is now among the country's Protected Areas (PAs) under Republic Act (RA) 11806, which became law on 2 June 2022, said Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

RA 11806 declares that the said protected area will be managed within the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and thus, should be allocated with funds consistent with its protection.

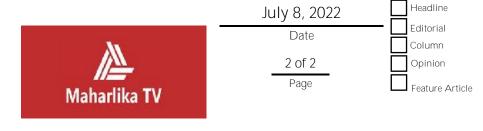
Villar, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Climate Change, along with Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (Masbate, 2nd District) in the Lower House, authored and pushed for the declaration of the 255-hectare TNBA as a PA.

Villar noted that it is a primary water source and home to various endemic flora and fauna, including vulnerable wild bird species.

The law states that TBNA is acknowledged as a protected area "in recognition of the richness of its biological resources, both flora, and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance."

For this reason, the law mandates for the conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and effective administration of the TBNA, which could be made possible through cooperation among national government, concerned local government units, non-government agencies, private entities, and





Tugbo Natural Biotic Area now a PA under NIPAS - Villar

local communities. The law further read that "the enjoyment of the area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development".

The inclusion of TNBA as a protected area has brought to 113 the legislated protected areas in the country. However, Villar pointed out that there is more work to be done as "there are still numerous sites in the country that has yet to be given protected status by legislative action to ensure their conservation."

Villar also pushed for the passage of RA No. 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, which strengthened the legal framework for the establishment, management and maintenance of all designated PAs in the country or those that are identified to be ecologically rich and biologically important public lands.

The Expanded NIPAS Act is a landmark law because it facilitated the legislation of ninety-four (94) more protected areas or PAs, in addition to the 13 PAs individually legislated under the operation of the original NIPAS law. (ai/mtvn)





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SAMAR ISLAND GUSTONG MAPASAMA SA WORLD HERITAGE LIST NG UNESCO



July 7, 2022 @ 11:39 AM 18 hours ago

NAKAPLANO na ang iba't ibang aktibidades at programa kaugnay sa kampanya ng Samar Island Natural Park na mapabilang sa prestihiyosong listahan ng "World Heritage Sites" ng UNESCO o ng United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

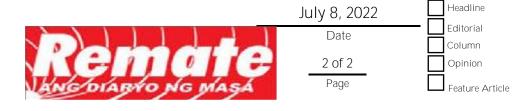
Ayon sa Samar Provincial Environment and Natural Resources, taong 2021 pa nagsimula ang paghahanda para mapasama sa listahan ang Samar Island.

Kabilang sa ginagawang proyekto ay ang paglalagay ng concrete monuments sa tatlong daang sulok ng island para magsilbing landmark ng protektadong lugar.

Naglagay rin ng "buffer zones" ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources para sa biodiversity conservation.

Taong 2018 ng ipanukala ni Samar governor Sharee Ann Tan na i-nomina ang Samar Island sa UNESCO list. Sinuportahan ito ng mga gobernador ng Eastern Samar at Northern Samar.





SAMAR ISLAND GUSTONG MAPASAMA SA WORLD HERITAGE LIST NG UNESCO

Ang Samar Island ay nadeklarang protected area alinsunod sa Presidential Proclamation No. 442 ni dating Pangulo at ngayon ay Pampanga representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Taglay nito ang makapal pang old-growth forest sa bansa at siyang "largest terrestrial protected area" sa sukat na 333,300 hectares na saklaw ang tatlong lalawigan ng Samar, Eastern Samar at Northern Samar.

Makikita sa loob ng Samar Island ang kilalang Sohoton Cave and Natural Bridge national park, ang Calbiga Cave na siyang pinakamalaking kuweba sa bansa at pangalawa sa buong Asian continent; at ang Ulot river na may habang 100 kilometers.

Sentro din ito ng *plant and animal diversity and endemism*. Mayroon ditong 33 species of mammals, 215 species of birds kabilang ang Philippine Eagle, 51 species of reptiles, 26 species of amphibians, at higit 1,000 species of plants.

Bahagi rin ng inisyatibo ang pagkuha sa University of Santo Tomas Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics para magsagawa ng capacity-building at seminar-workshop para sa technical working groups na binuo ng bawat lalawigan na naayon sa modules on outstanding universal value; authenticity and integrity; at protection and management.

Sa kasalukuyan, may siyam na deklaradong World Heritage Sites sa bansa kabilang ang -

- Ø Four Baroque Churches na matatagpuan sa Intramuros, Manila; Miag-ao sa Iloilo; Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur; at Paoay, Ilocos Norte;
- Ø Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park na nasa Sulu sea, Palawan;
- Ø Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera na matatagpuan sa Batad, Bangaan, Mayoyao, Hungduan, at Nagacadan sa lalawigan ng Ifugao;
- Ø Historic city of Vigan sa Ilocos Sur;
- Ø Puerto Princesa Subterranean River sa Palawan; at ang
- Ø Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary

Source:

https://www.remate.ph/samar-island-gustong-mapasama-sa-world-heritage-list-ng-unesco/



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8 NCR LGUs kinilala ng EMB

Published on: July 07, 2022

By Alice Sicat





Larawan mula sa EMB-NCR

LUNGSOD QUEZON (PIA) -- Walong lokal na pamahalaan sa Kalakhang Maynila ang kabilang sa mga kinilala kamakailan lang ng Environmental Management Bureau–National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) dahil sa hindi matawarang kontribusyon ng mga ito sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran.

Sa kanyang pambungad na pananalita, kinilala ni EMB-NCR Regional Director Atty. Drake P. Matias ang Lungsod Quezon, Valenzuela, Manila, Makati, Marikina, Mandaluyong, Parañaque, at Malabon dahil na kanilang walang patid na pagsuporta sa mga programa ng naturang ahensya.

Pinangunahan naman ng Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division (EMED) ang pagkilala sa mga lokal na pamahalaan via Zoom Meeting.



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8 NCR LGUs kinilala ng EMB

Kasama ring kinilala ang ilang NCR stakeholder, mga partner organization, at mga miyembro ng private sector gaya ng SM Prime Holdings, Water Environment Association of the Philippines, Mach Union Water Laboratories, Inc., at Maynilad Water Services, Inc., na nagpakita ng kanilang pinakamahusay na kasanayan hinggil sa mga batas para sa kapaligiran.

Samantala, nagbigay naman si EMED OIC Engr. Jean Borromeo ng kaniyang mensahe sa pagtatapos ng programa.

Dito, binati niya ang mga tumanggap ng pagkilala at mga dumalo, kasabay ng pagbibigay ng kanyang taos-pusong pasasalamat.

Ang aktibidad ay alinsunod sa pandaigdigang pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day na may temang, "Only One Earth" noong Hunyo. (EMB/PIA-NCR)





Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/07/8-ncr-lgus-kinilala-ng-emb





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PH pioneers Holcim Circular Explorer to help in Manila Bay rehab

July 7, 20223 min read

MANILA – The Philippines was chosen by cement manufacturer Holcim to launch its first Circular Explorer, a pioneering solar-powered catamaran designed to help in cleaning coastal areas in the country.

Holcim's Circular Explorer is a prototype of catamaran created to recover and recycle plastic from bodies of water.

During the launch at the Manila Yacht Club Thursday, Holcim Philippines president and chief executive officer Horia Adrian said the Circular Explorer will go around Manila Bay in the next three years to help in the government's effort to rehabilitate the bay.

Operated by One Ocean One Earth, the Circular Explorer has a capacity to hold four tons of recovered plastic waste per shift.

Adrian said the recovered plastic from the bay will be brought to Holcim Manila Terminal to sort plastic waste that could still be recycled. Other plastic waste will also be processed as an alternative fuel used by the company in its operation.

"It is an initiative of the Holcim Group. We are proud in the Philippines as we are selected as the first country to host this vessel," he added.

Holcim Group sustainability and innovation officer Magali Anderson said the company chose the Philippines to pioneer the Circular Explorer as it believes that the vessel will create the most impact here and the firm also has "great operations" in the country.

"The Circular Explorer is a symbol of Holcim's commitment to sustainability and its key principles are reducing the footprint of building, recycling materials across our business, but also





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PH pioneers Holcim Circular Explorer to help in Manila Bay rehab

regenerating marine ecosystem and in general, all our ecosystems. That was the vision for our project. We want to multiply this. If we can make this happen in Manila, we should be able to multiply this in the Philippines to start with, and around the world ideally," Holcim Group head of communications and public affairs Nollaig Forrest added.

Aside from helping in the clean-up drive in Manila Bay, Adrian said the Circular Explorer is part of the Holcim Group's advocacy to promote a circular economy.

Circular economy addresses climate change challenges by "building more by using less", as it reuses existing materials and recycles generated waste to preserve the resources of the planet and avoid adding more waste to the planet.

Adrian added that Holcim, through the Circular Explorer, will be partnering with schools and universities in the country to raise awareness about the circular economy and address issues on plastic waste in coastal areas.

"It's really a matter of pride for us because Holcim is the biggest name in construction activity in the Philippines, and if we are not showing and leading by example about the future way of building the country, then who? We took the responsibility as the leading brand in the country to make this happen and give an example to the Philippines," A drian said. (PNA)



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Boracay tourism spike sign of economic recovery: solon

By Filane Mikee Cervantes July 7, 2022, 7:02 pm



Boracay Island (File photo)

MANILA – A lawmaker on Thursday lauded the increase of foreign arrivals in Boracay Island as a good sign of economic recovery not only for the Aklan province but also for the country.

Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. cited a report from the municipal tourism office of Malay in Aklan showing that there has been a constant influx of foreign tourists on the island indicated by a 69-percent increase.

The tourism office recorded 6,873 tourists in June, up from 4,268 in May, 4,737 in April, and 2,533 in March.

"The revival of the tourism industry, especially of famed destinations like Boracay Island, will be key to providing more local jobs and boosting our economic recovery," Haresco said.

He noted that the tourism industry contributed about 12.8 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.

Haresco, however, said international travel restrictions imposed because of the pandemic have greatly reduced the sector's contribution to 5.4 percent in 2020.

He said employment in tourism industries was estimated at 4.68 million in 2020, or 11.9 percent of total employment, which, he said, was the "lowest contribution of the tourism sector in our GDP" after tourism employment dropped from 5.72 million in 2019.

"After enduring two years of travel restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic, Boracay Island has allowed local tourists to enter in September 2021, and foreign tourists in February 2022, contributing to the early recovery of the economy," Haresco said.

The bulk of foreign arrivals came from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Singapore, and Korea. Domestic tourism also contributed to the tourism boom with the number of visitors in March soaring to 111,022 compared to 80,095 in February.



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Boracay tourism spike sign of economic recovery: solon

"The challenge for us now is to continue to strictly enforce health and safety protocols to protect both locals and tourists from Covid-19 while keeping holistic and comprehensive efforts to expand tourism recovery and build back the economy better," he said.

Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco, meanwhile, said President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s directive for the agency was to become one of the "major economic contributors" to help the country recover from the effects of the pandemic in the past few years.

"We must not only continue to do the work that we have been doing, but we must exert extra effort to give everything that we can within what is humanly possible," she said.

Tourism was among the hardest hit industries at the height of the pandemic.

In addition to crafting national policy, she said the DOT would be "in touch with the realities on the ground" and give attention to tourism sites, peoples, and products that "have not necessarily been given equal opportunity."

"All of our partners in the local government units in the 81 provinces, over 140 cities, and over 1,400 municipalities across the Philippines, to extend to them the hand of collaboration from the DOT, and to send across the message that we are here to help the industry arise and recover," she said. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178482



Headline

Leyte's Kalanggaman Island closed for one month

By Roel Amazona July 7, 2022, 1:04 pm



CLOSED. The 750-meter long Kalanggaman Island in Palompon town, Leyte is closed to tourists for one month to pave way for rehabilitation. The rehabilitation from July 1 to 30 includes cleaning and repair of damaged facilities on the island. (*Photo courtesy of Department of Tourism*)

TACLOBAN CITY – Kalanggaman, the top destination in Leyte province, is closed to tourists for one month to pave way for the rehabilitation of the picturesque island.

The rehabilitation from July 1 to 30 includes cleaning and repair of damaged facilities on Kalanggaman Island situated in the town of Palompon. Authorities will also conduct full assessment of the island.

"This is a multi-sectoral effort. Every day, we have different set of volunteers from the military and police, different groups, agencies and civic organizations," said Raoul Bacalla, chief of Palompon municipal environment and natural resources office, in a phone interview Thursday.

Since the island destination was opened to public in 2013, the local government unit regularly conducts rehabilitation every month of July. However, past closures only lasted a week.

"It would take more time to cope with all the problems such as physical and infrastructure damages, tainted social media reputation, and management system that needs to be revised," Bacalla said.

In 2020, Kalanggaman was closed to all tourists for several months due to pandemic restrictions. It was opened last year by the local government to local tourists and for day visits only. Some 500 tourists are only allowed to tour the island daily.

In the first four months of 2022, the island has welcomed 3,954 tourists based on the data provided by the local government to the Department of Tourism.

As the prime tourist destination in Leyte, Kalanggaman is the first spot visited by international cruise ships in the region. In the past nine years, several international cruise ships included Kalanggaman in their stops.





Leyte's Kalanggaman Island closed for one month

Kalanggaman is located between Cebu and Leyte provinces. The island is about 45 minutes of sea travel from Palompon town and about two hours boat ride from Malapascua Island in Cebu.

The island is called Kalanggaman because of its bird-like shape when viewed from above due to the long sandbar on both ends of the island. "Langgam" is a local word for bird.

The white sand in Kalanggaman is as fine as a powder with turquoise-colored water. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178408





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EDITORIAL - A splash of dirty water

The Freeman

This content was originally published by <u>The Freeman</u> following its editorial guidelines. Philstar.com hosts its content but has no editorial control over it.

July 8, 2022 | 12:00am



For those who think the city has licked the problem of flooding, the truth hit them in the face like a splash of cold water. But in this case, more like a splash of dirty water. And not just in the face too, but in the legs, feet, and arms as well.

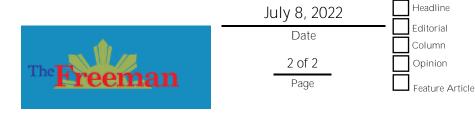
Heavy rainfall the other day led to massive flooding in different parts of the city including the downtown area. Streets were turned into rivers, leaving many commuters stranded. In settlements near rivers, residents quickly evacuated as the waters rose and flooded communities, turning narrow passageways into waterways.

It is quite a miracle no one was swept away and died as a result of the floods. In fact we saw quite the opposite; people, especially children, playing, frolicking and even swimming in the dirty, brackish water.

While these scenes have become familiar, this should stop being the case. It's no longer just a matter of water destroying properties or sweeping people away. There are health risks that should be considered now.

Remember that just last month the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the Guadalupe, Butuanon, Mahiga, Lahug, Kinalumsan, and Bulacao rivers, as well as the Estero de





EDITORIAL - A splash of dirty water

Parian all have alarming levels of fecal coliform. It's usually from these rivers where the floodwaters come.

Someone infected with fecal coliform may suffer only severe stomach cramps, bloody diarrhea, and vomiting, but there is always the risk of possible outbreaks of disease.

As we said earlier, a solution to the flooding problem needs to be found soon. And long-term solutions at that.

It's good that Mayor Michael Rama has announced that his administration will prioritize flooding for now. He can't achieve that vision of Cebu becoming like Singapore if major parts of the city get inundated whenever a heavy downpour occurs.

We urge him to get his people and plans moving as soon as possible. Because right now while Cebu City may not be like Singapore, many parts of it become like Singapore bay when the rains start.

Source: https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2022/07/08/2193849/editorial-splash-dirty-water



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Benguet town seeks lifting of mining ban

By Dexter A. See July 8, 2022

ITOGON, Benguet: The municipal government will take up with the new national leadership the possible lifting of the almost four-year ban on pocket mining to help gradually and safely revive the heavily impacted local economy.

Mayor <u>Bernard Waclin</u> said he will meet with leaders of pocket miners in the municipality to solicit their support in strictly cooperating with the ongoing ban to allow incumbent provincial and municipal officials to be able to lobby with the new environment officials and even President <u>Ferdinand</u> "Bongbong" <u>Marcos Jr.</u> to lift the temporary suspension of small-scale mining activities in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Waclin said pocket mining has been a major source of livelihood for a large portion of the population in Itogon.

Waclin noted that the ban really affects the economic life of residents that has been aggravated by the lingering <u>Covid-19</u> pandemic.

Waclin said the local government will consolidate various pocket-mining groups to reiterate a previous appeal for the immediate lifting of the temporary ban on small-scale mining issued by former Environment secretary Roy Cimatu in September 2018.

Cimatu ordered the ban after many pocket miners and their relatives who had sought refuge in an abandoned bunkhouse were killed in Barangay Ucab in a landslide caused by Typhoon "Ompong."

Itogon is one of the five first-class municipalities and one of the three first-class towns that rely heavily on the operation of large-scale mining companies.

Waclin expressed hope that the new national leadership of the country will heed the long-standing appeal of thousands of displaced pocket miners and their families for the resumption of small-scale mining activities.

Waclin commended the pocket miners for their continuous cooperation and understanding on the implementation of the ban, vowing to help them lobby for its lifting.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/08/news/regions/benguet-town-seeks-lifting-of-mining-ban/1850139





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Town residents 'help' illegal loggers

By Celso M. Cajucom July 8, 2022



INTERCEPTED Col. Jess Mendez (right), Nueva Ecija police provincial director, and Lt. Franklyn Sindac of the Public Information Office inspect seized illegally cut sawn lumber being transported across a river in General Tinio town in Nueva Ecija. PHOTO BY CELSO M. CAJUCOM

<u>CABANATUAN City</u>, Nueva Ecija: "Only in Nueva Ecija," said the provincial police director of Nueva Ecija of an incident involving local residents and illegal loggers in General Tinio town, this province.

At least 100 of the residents helped the illegal loggers escape while police seized 127 pieces of illegally cut sawn lumber totaling 6,833 board feet and worth P410,019 being transported across a river, a police report said on Thursday, July 7.

The incident took place at about 4:30 p.m. of July 6, 2022 at the Sumakbao river in Barangay Pias in General Tinio, the report added.

The logs were believed to have come from protected areas of the <u>Sierra Madre</u> mountain range.

Col. <u>Jess Mendez</u>, Nueva Ecija police provincial director, said the contraband was being pulled by a boat made from balsa wood when intercepted by members of the Provincial Intelligence Unit led by LtCol. Lory Tarrazona, the 2nd Police Mobile Force and the <u>Regional Mobile Force</u> 3.

When the Provincial Intelligence Unit learned about the transporting of the logs, four operatives were immediately dispatched to Barangay Pias in General Tinio, Mendez said in an interview with reporters in Cabanatuan City.



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Town residents 'help' illegal loggers

Two illegal loggers were identified and arrested and six John Does were also arrested, but all were able to escape with the help of at least 100 residents, including women and children, witnesses said.

"Pinaligiran ang aming apat na operatiba, nagkaroon ng hatakan, nagkagulo, hinatak ang aming pulis at pinatakas nila ang mga suspek na nahuli (The residents surrounded our four operatives, there was a tug-of-war, pandemonium, our men were grabbed and the residents facilitated the escape of the illegal loggers)," Mendez said.

Mendez added that the residents flattened with nails the tires of a police mobile car used by the operatives.

"Grabe ang mga residente dito. <u>Sa</u> susunod, huhulihin na namin silang lahat (The residents here are something. Next time, we will arrest them all) It's time to end this," Mendez said.

Maj. <u>Lawrence Lira</u>, the newly installed General Tinio police chief, said they will file charges against the two suspects and the six John Does, who are all at-large.

The eight suspects violated the Forestry Code of the <u>Philippines</u> (Presidential Decree 705) and <u>Republic Act</u> 9175 or the "<u>Chainsaw Act</u> of 2002," Lira said.

Illegal logging causes a number of environmental issues such as deforestation, soil erosion and biodiversity loss, according to experts.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/08/news/regions/town-residents-help-illegal-loggers/1850137



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Eco-friendly slope protection project completed in La Union

Published on: July 07, 2022 By Joanne Namnama Dilim



SAN FERNANDO CITY, July 7 (PIA) -- Motorists will feel secure in navigating the San Fernando – Bagulin Road in Barangay Bacsil in this city after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed an eco-friendly slope protection project.

This P48.99 million infrastructure was implemented by the La Union 2nd District Engineering Office.

Franjhen Marie Concepcion, DPWH La Union 1st District Engineering information staff, said their Department has adopted a new and convenient technology that will protect and maintain the stability of the slopes in the San Fernando – Bagulin Road.

"It will also mitigate the risks of soil erosion in the area," she said.

The 154 lineal meter long slope protection structure project was erected with erosion control mats that were fastened to the ground with ground anchor nails and high-tensile wire mesh to keep rock masses in place and stop debris from falling.



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Eco-friendly slope protection project completed in La Union

The completed active protection system not only provides environmental advantages and convenience but also safety for more drivers and other road users who travel on the said landslide-prone barangay road. (JCR/JPD, PIA La Union)

Source: https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/07/eco-friendly-slope-protection-project-completed-in-la-union



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Merging nature and finance is crucial to meet biodiversity targets

Published on: July 07, 2022

By ACB



LAGUNA -- The finalisation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is fast approaching, but for these ambitious yet realistic targets to materialise and be fully implemented in the next 10 to 30 years, massive support and commitment, most especially in the aspect of sustainable financing, are imperative. Earlier this year, the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative underlined the importance of the "alignment of financial flows" and the pivotal role of private finance in bridging the calculated USD4.1 trillion gap.

Speaking at the Ethical Finance ASEAN 2022 Summit fireside chat on Financing Nature and Biodiversity last week, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Dr Theresa Mundita Lim emphasised the significance of the "whole-of-society" approach in addressing biodiversity loss, particularly the need to mobilise support from various stakeholders and sectors.

"The ACB believes that biodiversity is everyone's business, thus we endeavour to forge partnerships and cooperation to scale up mainstreaming biodiversity, particularly in the business and finance sector," said Dr Lim. She added that the rate of biodiversity loss in the ASEAN and in the rest of the world has been identified as among the major risks to the global economy and that the "business-as-usual" approach could affect food security, particularly in income-poor countries, who, ironically are the most dependent on biodiversity as natural assets.

The Ethical Finance ASEAN Summit 2022 was a virtual event co-hosted by the Global Ethical Finance Initiative (GEFI) and the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), which gathered experts on sustainable and responsible finance in and around the ASEAN to discuss the various megatrends in the region, including climate change and biodiversity loss that affect the regional economy.



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Tan Sri Azman Hashim, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), recognised the financial sector's "enormous influence on the outcome of climate action" and urged the accelerated pace of adoption of responsible banking practices in the region.

"Nature loss and biodiversity risks represent a financial risk because everything is largely linked with nature—from harvesting or extraction to processing, to the end of the supply chain," said Dr Lim. "Recognising this dependency, it is high time to put nature and biodiversity at the core of our sectoral development and business planning and consider nature as an integral part of managing business risks and strengthening accountabilities."

Engaging all sectors in conservation

As a region rich in biodiversity, the ASEAN is poised to harness such resources as a nature-based solution. One of the nature-based solutions being taken up and promoted by the ACB is the expansion of and effective management of protected areas and expanding the network of remarkable protected areas known as ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP).

However, the sustainable management of these critical areas has always been hindered by a considerable financing gap, according to Amiel Sarne, AHP Programme Coordinator of the ACB, who also joined the Summit's fireside chat. He lamented that despite existing financing mechanisms and increase in government financial support, the massive funding gap remains unabridged.

In 2020, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)—the region's guiding principle in resilience building in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and long-term economic recovery.

An integral component of the ACRF is accelerating actions to mainstream biodiversity considerations into relevant national plans, sectors and cross-sectoral issues, such as climate change. The ACB, with its mandate to facilitate cooperation in mainstreaming biodiversity across pillars and sectors, has been working with the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and development partners in integrating biodiversity concerns into development processes, by engaging key sectors such as health, agriculture, tourism, education, in addition to the business and finance sector.

"Scaling up these ongoing mainstreaming efforts needs more cross-sectoral, cross-pillar collaboration," said Sarne. "Establishing more dialogues among various stakeholders would gain more support for biodiversity, particularly in harmonising and operationalising policies on the ground."

The framework encourages the finance sector to rethink supply and value chains and ensure a workable balance between people, planet, and profit. Lim emphasised that an essential part of this paradigm shift is knowing and appreciating the worth of what we are protecting, or losing. "Given that nature underpins economic and business activities, the creation of a nature-positive economic sector that values the interlinkages of nature and ecosystem services is of utmost importance."



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Merging nature and finance is crucial to meet biodiversity targets

Working on scaling up and broadening natural capital accounting is integral in the efforts to mainstream biodiversity considerations into development processes, most especially at this juncture when the ASEAN Member States are working together in operationalising the ACRF and the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. (ACB)



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Diokno open to carbon tax



By Mayvelin U. Caraballo

July 8, 2022

FINANCE Secretary <u>Benjamin Diokno</u> is open to the idea of imposing a carbon tax in the country.

"Carbon tax too, if feasible," Diokno told reporters when asked if he would consider imposing a carbon tax as another approach to address climate challenges in the Philippines.

This comes after the Finance chief said the Marcos administration would carry on the Duterte administration's climate change initiatives.

"As you know, the Philippines is probably one of the most vulnerable with respect to climate change. And so, it's in our own interest that the movement toward climate change should be supported," he stressed.

"At the same time, on the tax side, I think we should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution. For example, a tax on single-use plastic is worth considering."

The <u>Department of Finance</u>, under the leadership of former Finance secretary <u>Carlos Dominguez</u> <u>3rd</u>, has suggested a fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan that included the adoption of a carbon tax as one of the measures.

Further research is being done on the taxation of carbon emissions which, if approved, would go into effect by 2025.

In a discussion paper released in December 2018 by the <u>Philippines Institute</u> for Development Studies, it was said that the rise in carbon consumption taxes was a result of growing concerns about climate change brought on by anthropogenic carbon emissions.

Simply put, authors of the paper "Assessment of Train's Coal and Petroleum Excise Taxes: Environmental Benefits and Impacts on Sectoral Employment and Household Welfare" explained the existence of such taxes that control the consumption or production of specific commodities is an admission of the existence of a specific kind of market failure.

They said the Philippines, like other nations, imposed a petroleum and coal tax in an effort to decrease reliance on fossil fuels and, ultimately, cut carbon emissions.

"Such type of tax policy reform is a bold step for a developing country like the Philippines as such types of regulatory taxes can counter growth policies due to the obvious increase in production costs of fossil fuel-heavy industries," the authors added.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/08/business/top-business/diokno-open-to-carbon-tax/1850167





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UN Ocean Conference concludes with small wins, but no substantial change

Civil society's calls for change rang loud and clear at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference last week. But from deep sea mining to plastic pollution, major roadblocks remain in protecting our oceans.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaking at the opening plenary of the Ocean Conference.

Image: Kate Yeo



By <u>Kate Yeo</u> 5 minute readJuly 7, 2022

As the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) came to a close last week, I found myself filled with a curious mix of disappointment and cautious optimism. I had arrived in Lisbon, Portugal as a youth delegate hopeful to see a firm global commitment to marine protection, but instead experienced a wave of contradiction.

The week-long conference, delayed since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, sought to secure solutions for Sustainable Development Goal 14, life below water. All 193 member states unanimously adopted a political declaration renewing their commitment to strengthen ocean protection.





UN Ocean Conference concludes with small wins, but no substantial change

"We are committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health of the ocean's ecosystems," read the <u>declaration</u>. Among other goals, member states agreed to strengthen data collection efforts, promote financing for nature-based solutions, as well as recognise the important role of indigenous knowledge.





Climate change is making flooding worse: 3 reasons the world is seeing more record-breaking deluges

byThe Associated Press and Frances Davenport, Colorado State University
July 7, 2022



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FILE – Workers gather along a section of flooded railway in Shangrao in central China's Jiangxi province on June 21, 2022. From the snowcapped peaks of Tibet to the tropical island of Hainan, China is sweltering under the worst heatwave in decades while rainfall hit records in June.

Heavy rain combined with melting snow can be a destructive combination.

In mid-June 2022, storms dumped up to 5 inches of rain over three days in the mountains in and around Yellowstone National Park, rapidly melting snowpack. As the rain and meltwater poured into creeks and then rivers, it became a flood that damaged roads, cabins and utilities and <u>forced more than 10,000 people to evacuate</u>.

The Yellowstone River shattered its previous record and reached its highest water levels recorded since monitoring began almost 100 years ago.

Although floods are a natural occurrence, human-caused climate change is <u>making severe flooding</u> <u>events like this more common</u>. I study how climate change affects hydrology and flooding. In mountainous regions, three effects of climate change in particular are creating higher flood risks: more intense precipitation, shifting snow and rain patterns and the effects of wildfires on the landscape.





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Climate change is making flooding worse: 3 reasons the world is seeing more record-breaking deluges



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An emergency vehicle blocks access to the flooded Windsor Bridge at Windsor on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia's largest city in a flood emergency that was impacting 50,000 people, officials said Tuesday. Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Warmer air leads to more intense precipitation

One effect of climate change is that a <u>warmer atmosphere creates more intense precipitation events</u>.

This occurs because warmer air can hold more moisture. The amount of water vapor that the atmosphere can contain increases by <u>about 7% for every 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit</u> (1 degree Celsius) of increase in atmospheric temperature.

Research has documented that this <u>increase in extreme precipitation is already occurring</u>, not only in regions like Yellowstone, but <u>around the globe</u>. The fact that the world has experienced multiple record flooding events in recent years – including catastrophic <u>flooding inAustralia</u>, <u>Western Europe</u> and <u>China</u> – is not a coincidence. Climate change is making record-breaking extreme precipitation more likely.

The latest <u>assessment report</u> published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows how this pattern will continue in the future as global temperatures continue to rise.





Climate change is making flooding worse: 3 reasons the world is seeing more record-breaking deluges



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FILE – A road ends where floodwaters washed away a house in Gardiner, Mont., on June 16, 2022. As cleanup from historic floods at Yellowstone National Park grinds on, climate experts and meteorologists say the gap between the destruction in the area and what was forecast underscores a troublesome trend tied to climate change: Modeling programs used to predict storms aren't keeping up with increasingly extreme weather. Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

More rain, less snow

In colder areas, especially mountainous or high-latitude regions, climate change affects flooding in additional ways.

In these regions, many of the largest historical <u>floods have been caused by snowmelt</u>. However, with warmer winters due to climate change, <u>less winter precipitation is falling as snow</u>, and more is falling as rain instead.

This shift from snow to rain can have dramatic implications for flooding. While snow typically melts slowly in the late spring or summer, rain creates runoff that flows to rivers more quickly. As a result, research has shown that <u>rain-caused floods can be much larger than snowmelt-only</u> floods, and that the shift from snow to rain increases overall flood risk.

The transition from snow to rain is already occurring, <u>including in places like Yellowstone</u>

<u>National Park</u>. Scientists have also found that <u>rain-caused floods are becoming more common</u>. In





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some locations, the changes in flood risk due to the shift from snow to rain could even be larger than the effect from increased precipitation intensity.

Changing patterns of rain on snow

When <u>rain falls on snow</u>, as happened in the recent flooding in Yellowstone, the combination of rain and snowmelt can lead to especially high runoff and flooding.

In some cases, rain-on-snow events occur while the ground is still partially frozen. Soil that is frozen or already saturated can't absorb additional water, so even more of the rain and snowmelt run off, contributing directly to flooding. This combination of rain, snowmelt and frozen soils was a primary driver of the Midwest flooding in March 2019 that caused over US\$12 billion in damage.

While rain-on-snow events are not a new phenomenon, climate change can shift when and where they occur. Under warmer conditions, <u>rain-on-snow events become more common at high elevations</u>, where they were previously rare. Because of the increases in rainfall intensity and warmer conditions that lead to rapid snowmelt, there is also the possibility of larger rain-on-snow events than these areas have experienced in the past.

In lower-elevation regions, rain-on-snow events may actually become less likely than they have been in the past because of the decrease in snow cover. These areas could still see worsening flood risk, though, because of the increase in heavy downpours.

Compounding effects of wildfire and flooding

Changes in flooding are not happening in isolation. Climate change is also exacerbating <u>wildfires</u>, creating another risk during rainstorms: mudslides.

Burned areas are more <u>susceptible to mudslides and debris flows during extreme rain</u>, both because of the lack of vegetation and changes to the soil caused by the fire. In 2018 in Southern California, heavy rain within the boundary of the <u>2017 Thomas Fire</u> caused <u>major mudslides</u> that destroyed over 100 homes and led to more than 20 deaths. Fire can change the soil in ways that allow <u>less rain to infiltrate into the soil</u>, so more rain ends up in streams and rivers, leading to worse flood conditions.

With the uptick in wildfires due to climate change, more and more areas are exposed to these risks. This combination of wildfires followed by extreme rain will also become <u>more frequent in a future with more warming</u>.





Climate change is making flooding worse: 3 reasons the world is seeing more record-breaking deluges

Global warming is creating complex changes in our environment, and there is a clear picture that it increases flood risk. As the Yellowstone area and other flood-damaged mountain communities rebuild, they will have to find ways to adapt for a riskier future.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: https://theconversation.com/climate-change-is-making-flooding-worse-3-reasons-the-world-is-seeing-more-record-breaking-deluges-185364.

Image credits: Error! Hyperlink reference not valid., Error! Hyperlink reference not valid., Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.





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Kanlaon, Bulusan showing signs of possible phreatic eruption —PHIVOLCS

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News Published July 7, 2022 2:59pm



Kanlaon and Bulusan Volcanoes are showing signs they will go through phreatic or stream-driven eruptions, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said on Thursday.

At the Laging Handa public briefing, PHIVOLCS officer-in-charge Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. said that what concerns the agency is the "tornillo type volcanic earthquakes" monitored around Kanlaon in past days.

"Noong mga nakaraang araw meron tayong na-record na tinatawag na tornillo type volcanic earthquake event. Ito po ay isang hugis turnilyo at ito po ang nagbibigay ng parang concern sa atin," he said.

(We have recorded a tornillo type volcanic earthquake. This is a screw-shaped pattern on a seismograph, which is a cause of concern.)

According to him, the tornillo volcanic earthquake event is usually followed by a phreatic or steam-driven explosion, adding that volcano is swollen.

Also, Solidum said PHIVOLCS is seeing possible phreatic or steam-driven explosions of Bulusan.

"Pareho po ng Bulkang Kanlaon, nakikita natin na posibleng magkaroon din ng steam-driven explosion ang Bulusan. At importante na pag-ingatan ito





Kanlaon, Bulusan showing signs of possible phreatic eruption — PHIVOLCS

(Like in Kanlaon Volcano, we are also seeing a possible stream-driven explosion in Bulusan. So it is important to be cautious.)

Solidum reminded concerned residents to avoid the four-kilometer permanent danger zone of the volcanoes.

In its 5 a.m. bulletin on Thursday, PHIVOLCS said <u>five volcanic earthquakes in Kanlaon</u> and <u>11 in Bulusan were recorded in the past 24 hours</u>. —LBG, GMA News



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La Niña to hit parts of PH until end-2022: PAGASA

By Lade Jean Kabagani July 7, 2022, 4:24 pm



(PNby Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

MANILA – La Niña phenomenon that will bring scattered rainfalls in several parts of the country is expected to last until the end of this year, an official of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said Thursday.

In an interview at the Laging Handa public briefing, PAGASA Administrator, Undersecretary Vicente Malano, said frequent rainfall will likely prevail in parts of Mindanao, Eastern Visayas, as well as Central and Eastern Luzon due to the La Niña episode.

In the last few days, Malano said the low pressure area (LPA) has brought rains in parts of the Zamboanga Peninsula and Northern Mindanao, especially in Cagayan de Oro City.

Scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are likewise expected to persist in parts of Eastern Visayas, Central Philippines, Bicol Region, Palawan, and Mindanao.

"Ito po ay sanhi po ng LPA na nakapaloob sa ITCZ (Intertropical Convergence Zone) at inaasahan po ito na patuloy po nating mararanasan habang nandito po iyong ating tinatawag na La Niña. Ang La Niña po ay inaasahan hanggang sa katapusan po nitong taon (This is because of the LPA inside the ITCZ and it is expected that we will continue to experience it in the presence of the so-called La Niña. And this La Niña phenomenon is expected until the end of this year)," Malano said.



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La Niña to hit parts of PH until end-2022: PAGASA

Light to moderate rains will most likely prevail in Visayas, Bicol Region, Palawan, and other parts of Eastern Mindanao, he added.

"Ayon po sa ating mga datos na nakikita po sa ngayon ay wala po tayong nakikitang mga sama ng panahon o bagyo sa susunod na tatlong araw (Based on our data we don't see a bad weather or storm instances so far, in the next three days)," Malano said.

However, Malano said the entry of a typhoon or tropical cyclone in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) is expected after three days.

"At ang characteristics po nitong dalawang bagyo na nakikita po natin ay kamukha po noong nakaraang dalawang bagyo na pumasok dito sa ating Philippine Area of Responsibility na itong sina Bagyong Caloy at Domeng kung saan na iyong si Bagyong Domeng ay papuntang norte at iyong isa (Bagyong Caloy) naman ay nanggagaling din po sa West Philippine Sea at pumunta po siya ng China area (And the characteristics of these two typhoons that we see are similar to the previous two typhoons that entered our Philippine Area of Responsibility, namely Typhoon Caloy and Domeng, where Typhoon Domeng is heading north and your other one came from the West Philippine Sea and went to the China area)," Malano said.

So far, four typhoons have entered the country's PAR this year.

Malano said about 14 more typhoons will enter the PAR before the end of the year.

"So, inaasahan po natin na nasa labing-isa hanggang sa labing-apat na bagyo pa ang puwedeng pumasok sa ating (So we are expecting that about 11 to 14 typhoons will possibly enter the) Philippine Area of Responsibility. At ang karaniwang bagyo po na tumatama sa ating kalupaan ay (Most likely typhoons will hit in lands) towards the end of the year at malalakas po iyong bagyo na atin pong nararanasan (and we will experience stronger typhoons) during the last quarter of the year," he added. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178454

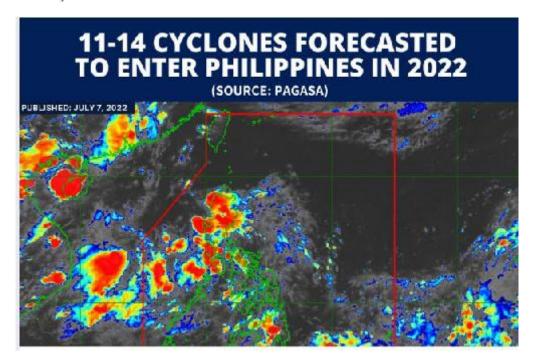




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11-14 tropical cyclones are expected to enter the Philippine Area of responsibility till the end of the year. The peak of the typhoon season is July through October, where nearly 70% of all typhoon develop, said PAGASA Thursday.



More tropical cylones are expected to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility on 2022. Two or three cyclones may possibly enter PAR in each month of July, August, September, and November. While, 2 to 4 cyclones are expected in October and 1 or 2 are expected in December. These expectations are brought by La Niña which will last until the end of the year, according to PAGASA.



Source:

















07-08-22 DATE

DENR cites ARNP for bagging Blue Park Award

By CORY MARTINEZ

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has lauded the conferment of the prestigious Blue Park Award to the Occidental Mindoro's Apo Reef Nat-ural Park (ARNP) for its exceptional marine wild-

exceptional marine wild-life donservation.

The ARNP, along with Indonesia's Raja Ampat Is-lands Marine Conservation Area and Colombia's Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park, was selected by an international druncil of marine conservation ex-perts, which was assembled by the United States-based non-government organizanon-government organization (NGO) Marine Conservation Institute.

DENR Officer-in-

DENR Officer-inCharge (OIC) Secretary
Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. said
that the award will inspire
the national government to
strengthen its initiatives to
conserve and protect marine protected areas in the
country.

"We are very happy for
this recognition bestowed
on the Apo Reef Natural
Park, which is a testament
to the hard work of our
people at the Protected
Area Management Office
and all the stakeholders
who have been with us in who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area. Adobo said. "This award is an impe-tus not only for our hard-

working men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation ef-

hattensal government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs, and collaboration with various stakeholders," Adobo added.

ARNP Protected Area Superintendent Krystal Villanada and Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria received the award on July 1 during the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Fortugal.

"As ARNP is now being acknowledged globally, we look forward to expanding our networks and collaborations with different organizations to ensure a sustainable ocean for the fu-

nizations to ensure a sus-tainable ocean for the fu-

ture generation," Villana-da said. The Blue Park Award

The filte Park Award recognizes outstanding efforts by the national government, non-profit organizations, marine protected area managers, and local communities to effectively protect marine acosystems.

"APMP is the accord

"ARNP is the second platinum-level, the highest possible recognition, Blue Park Award recipient in the

Park Award recipient in the Philippines next to Tubba-taha Reefs Natural Park, which was recognized in 2017," Villanada added. It joins a growing network of 24 awarded Blue Parks around the globe that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectivumess.















07=08-22

Mindoro's Apo Reef Natural Park bags intl'I marine conservation award

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Re-sources (DENR) hailed Occidental Mindoro's Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) for bagging the presti-gious Blue Park Award for exceptional marine wild-life conservation at the United Nations Ocean Con-

In commending Mindoro's ARNP, DENR Officer-in-Charge Secretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. said that the award will serve as an inspiration for the national government to strengthen its initiatives in conserving

and protecting marine areas in the country.

"We are very happy for this recognition bestowed on the Apo Reef Natural Park, which is a testament of the hardwork of our people at the Protected Area Management Office, and all the stakeholders who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area, "Adobo said.

The ARNP, along with Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area, and Colombia's

Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park, was selected by an international council of marine conseration experts, which was assembled by the United States-based non-government organization Marine

Conservation Institute.

"This award is an impetus not only for our hardworking men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs, and collaboration with various stakehold-

ers," he added...
ARNP Protected Area Superintendent Krystal Villanada and l'hilippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna Feria received the award on July 1.

ARNP is the second platinum-level, the highest possible recognition, Blue Park Award recipient in the Philippines next to Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, which was recognized in 2017."

It joins a growing network of 24 awarded Blue Parks around the globe that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectiveness.



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Explore the largest cave system in the Philippines

HE Philippines has over 3100 known caves. Featuring 12 chambers over its seven kilometer span, the Langur-Gobingob Cave in Samar is the king of them all. Discovered by Italian Guido Rossi in 1987, it was opened to the public in 1990.

Samar Island, overshadowed by more popular places like Palawan and Boracay, isn't usually considered a top tourist destination, owing to its long history as a hothed for insurgencies and a punching bag for typhoons. Though the Philippines third largest island exudes rugged beauty, its real value as an ecotourism destination lies beneath the earth.

Unique But Threatened Biodiversity

"SAMAR is unique because it is a karst landscape made primerily of limestone. Millions of years of weathering has created numerous caves and sinkholes on the island," explains Anson Tagtag, head of the Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division of the DENR, "Caves are special ecosystems which harbor highly-evolved fauna, most of which have adapted to darkness."

Birds, bats, spiders, snakes, crickets and even blind cave fish thrive inside the Langun-Gobingob Cave. The lack of light confines plants to entrances, but mushrooms and other types of fungicling to life as discreet denizens of the dark.

The speleothems or macks in caves are in a very real sense alive they just grow and move at timescales difficult for people to comprehend," explains Dr. Allan Gil Fernando, a professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences in UP Diliman. The constant dripping of water for instance leaves minute traces of minerals like calcite. Over time these traces pile up to form hanging stalactites and their inverted kin, stalagmites. It takes about a century for a stalactite or stalagmite to grow one inch."

"People used to enter the Langun-Gobingob Cave to break apart and mine stalagmites plus white calcite rocks for collectors," says Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Assistant Superintendent Eires Mate. Our guide Alvin confirms this. "Locals used to mine the cave for Taiwanese businessmen, who paid a paltry PHP7 for a kilogram of rock. Balinsasayao or swiftlet nests were plucked out too; to be shipped to Chinese markets."

The cave was finally declared a protected area in 1997. "Thank

God for legal protection. Mining was effectively stopped," says Eires. The Langun-Gobingob Cave is just one of many natural systems benefiting from the country's protected area system.

Responsible cave tourism

THE Langun-Gobingob Cave is part of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), one of YOPA's six highlighted parks, the others being the Bongsanglay Natural Park in Masbate, Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Matural Park in Negros Oriental, Mr. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental, and Mt. Timpoong Hiliok-Hibok Natural Monument in Camiguin.

The country's raves are now open for tourism, but visitors should know what not to do inside them. "Cave tourism should be well managed and there are cave do's and don'ts," says Buddy Acenas from the GAIA Exploration (Lab.

For its part, the Philippine government is doing what it can to promote responsible nourism. Our caves, mountains, beaches and other protected meas are now open for tourism. We invite both Filipinos and foreigners to come and visit, but to do so in an environmentally-responsible manner, adds DENK-BMB Director Natividad Bernardino.





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07-08-22

EPR Act on plastic waste disposal awaits Palace OK-Villar

HE Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Act, which mandates large coms to adopt and implement policies for the proper manage ment of plastic packaging wastes. is now with the Office of the President for approval.

Turvery happy also to announce that we have passed in both houses of Congress the Extended Producers Responsibility," said Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Respurces, and Climate Change, at the official launch of the Circular Explorer on Thursday.

senaror stressed, "We'll require, oblige companies to recycle the rolastic waste in response to the study of the University of Georgia in the United States."

Villar emphasized that the EPR act will be the "first step" to remove the Philippines from the list of the top countries that produce plastics that find their way into oceans.

The enrolled copy of the bill, which was passed by both houses of Congress, has been sent to

Villar said, "I'm glad to announce t is with the Office of the President already and if there will be no veto, it will lapse into law in 30 days.

wo months ago, Villar said the

bill would institutionalize EPR as a practical policy approach for efficient waste management.

She noted earlier that the proposed legislation focuses on waste reduction, recovery and recycling and the development of environment friendly products that advocates the Internationally accepted principle on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and producers' full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their products.

In relation to the circular economy, Holcim, in partnership with One Earth One Ocean launched on Thursday the Circular Explorer in Manila to be part of clearing coastal areas in the Philippines.

Holcim, a global leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions, emphasized that the Circular Explorer, a pioneering solar-powered catamaran, is designed to recover up to four tons of plastic waste per day to preserve vital marine ecosystems in a sustainable way.

On education initiatives, Holeim said the circular explorer could be an avenue "to empower students and local communities as change make ers to take action for people and the planet." Hence, as it takes a sciencedriven approach for more impact, the Circular Explorer has also forged a partnership with the University of

the Philippines Marine Institute to advance ocean research.

With built-in sensors and micro-plastic collectors on board, it will drive live data mapping along its journey to fuel the faculty's research programs," read the statement of Holcim.

For her part, Holcim Chief Sustainability and Innovation Officer Magali Anderson said, "With today's population and urbanization on the rise, Holcimis committed to improving living standards for all by building more with less."

"That's why we are driving circular construction as a global leader in material recycling to build a net-zero future that works for people and the planet," Anderson added.

The sustainability and innovation chief emphasized that the circular explorer is a platform to empower communities to shift gears toward circular living.

Meanwhile, CEO and President of Holcim Philippines Horia Adrian said that the Circular Explorer is a "symbol of Holcim's commitment to sustainability."

"Walkingthetalkacrossourbusiness, we recycled over 20 million tons of materials into alternative fuels and low emission raw mater als across our operations over the past 15 years," the chief of Holcing Philippines added.



BusinessMirror



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He highlighted that by 2024, they will become the first company in their sector in the Philippines to operate solar panels in their plants.

On scientific initiatives, Dr. Deo Onda, Deputy for Research, University of the Philippines MarineScienceInstitute, highlighted the need for science to help us understand the environmental challenges we are facing and to drive us with equitable and sustainable solutions.

"Scientific initiatives, such as the one supported by Holcim with its Circular Explorer, are a significant contribution to these endeavors. By advancing research together, we can help educate the public and support key decision makers with relevant data to take action," said Onda.

According to Holcim, the conveyor belt of the Circular Explorer is lowered into the water when cleaning starts, Plastic waste is then transported up to the boat for manual sorting. Thereafter, single sort split plastic is recycled for reuse in cooperation with local partners and converted into new products.

The remaining plastic that is unable to be recycled will be used as an alternative energy source, said Holcim. Andrea San Juan















PAGE



Editoryal

Problema sa air pollution

Dinanggit ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Ba kanyang talumpati noong inagurasyon ang problema sa plastic pollution kung saan ikatio ang Pilipinas sa plastic pollution kung saan ikatio ang Pilipinas sa plastic polluter. Sabi niya, lilinisin ang mga kalat. Hindi raw Ito babalewalain.

Dapat na pagtuunan din niya ang problema sa air pollution na muli na namang nagbabanta hindi iamang sa Metro Manila kundi sa mga kalapit na lungsod at bayan. Bahagyang bumaba ang lebel ng air pollution noong 2020 dahil napilay ang transportasyon sa pananalasa ng pandemya. Walang biyahe ang mga jeepney, bus at maski taxi na nagbubuga ng may lasong usok. Tigil din ang mga pabrika.

Subalit ngayon nagbalikan na sa kalye ang lahat ng sasakyan at balik operaeyon ang mga pabrika, balik din ang air pollution. Araw-araw nang nakalalanghap ng may lasong usok ang milyong residente sa Metro Manila.

Sa pag-aaral ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang mga sasakyan ang numero unong nagdudulot ng air pollution sa Metro Manila. Umano y 70-80 percent ng emissions ay galing sa mga tambutso ng sasakyan. Ang maruming usok na ito ang nalalanghap ng commuters.

Avon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang mga

sa mga tambutso ng sasakyan. Ang maruming usok na ito ang nalalanghap ng commuters.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang mga sakit na nakukuha dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lason ay allergles, acute respiratory imections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Ayon sa report, 120,000 Pilipino bawat taon ang namamatay dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lason. Ayon pa sa report, pangtatio ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Asia na maraming namamatay sa air pollution. Nangunguna ang China sunod ang Mongolia.

Wala pang itinatalaga si Marcos na DENR secretary. Malaking hamon para sa bagong secretary ang problema sa air pollution na nakaligtaan ng nakarang pamunuan.

Aming suhestiyon para masolusyunan ang air pol-

ang pamunuan.

Aming suhestiyon para masolusyunan ang air pollution, lahat nang mga luma at karag-karag na sasakyan ay ipagtsawal na sa kalye. Ang mga tumang sasakyan ay malakas kumunsumo ng gasolina at nagpo-produce nang nakasusulasok na usok. Ipagpatuloy ang
smoke belching campaign para masiguro na ang mga
sasakyang yumayaot ay hindi nagbubuga ng may
lasong usok. Ipatupad ang Clean Air Act of 1999.

Iligtas ang Metro Manila sa nakamamatay na air
pollution. Kaawaan ang mga susunod pang henerasyon na umaasang may malalanghap pa silang
sarlwang hangin.













Tax on single-use plastics pushed

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Finance is pushing for the slapping of duties on singleclimate change.

In a television interview, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the move toward climate financing should be supported.

"On our part on the tax side, I think we should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution," Diokno said.

"For example, tax on single-use plastic is worth considering," he said.

House Bill 9171 or the Excise Tax on Plastic Bags targets to slap a P20 per kilo tax on single-use plastic bags in supermarkets, malls, shops, stores, sales outlets, and other establishments.

The bill was approved in December last year but the Senate is still crafting its counterpart version.

The DOF earlier estimated that around P923 million in revenue could be generated should the measure be enacted into law.

Diokno emphasized that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable in terms of climate change.

And so it is in our own interest that the movement toward climate change should be supported," Diokno said.

"On the expenditure side, think some kind of a joint effort by the national government and local governments on green activities like cleanuse plastics amid worsening ing of the river, reforestation, developing mangroves. among others should be done," he said.

Plastic pollution remains one of the county's greatest waste problems and nongovernment organization BAN Toxics earlier called on the new administration to prioritize the plastic crisis.

We hope to see a concrete action plan tackling the plastic pollution issue followed by its strict implementation and monitoring,"

the group said. A recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed that developing economies in Asia are seen consuming and contributing most to global plastic waste in the decades

Global plastics consumption is expected to rise to 1.23 billion metric tons (MT) in 2060 from the 2019 level of 460 million MT if bold policies are not implemented.

About 60 percent of plastic waste entering the oceans comes from five Asian countries namely China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Philippines is also the world's third biggest plastic polluter,













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NEWS BRIEFS

More task forces for Manila Bay rehab seen

The 187 local governments in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon have been ordered by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to create their respective Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF). The MBTF will serve as a monitoring team responsible for the overall planning, and implementation of programs relative to the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2022-090. The memo circular was dated June 28 but was released only two days after, making it one of the last policies of former Interior Secretary Eduardo Año. The creation of the local government MBTF is pursuant to the 2008 Supreme Court order directing the DILG and 12 other government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and to restore and maintain its waters to a level fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation. -DEXTER



BusinessWorld





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Campaign launched against use of thermal paper in receipts

ENVIRONMENTAL organizations have written to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) calling for the use of thermal paper in receipts to be minimized, claiming that such material contains toxins that interfere with the workings of human hormones.

In a statement on Thursday, EcoWaste Coalition and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability said they sent a joint letter on July 5 to the DTI, highlighting to Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual and Trade Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo the "hidden hazards" posed by thermal paper.

"According to the results of a pioneering study by the groups, endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) such as Bisphenol A (BPA) and its chemical cousin Bisphenol S (BPS) have been detected in thermal paper receipts collected from business and government establishments in the country. EDCs are non-natural chemicals or mixtures of chemicals that interfere with the way the body's hormones work, causing adverse health effects," they said.

"Laboratory tests.. show that 32 of the 53 analyzed samples from the Philippines (60%) had BPA and 13 (25%) had BPS. The concentration range of BPA for the samples collected from Davao, Makati, Manila, Quezon City and Taguig was 0.92 to 1.86%, way above the European Union's limit of 0.02%. The concentration range for BPS was 0.61 to 1.12%," they added.

The two groups said that the study was done as part of the recently-completed eight-country EDC-Free Asia Project led by the Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health with support from the Korea Financial Industry Public Interest Foundation.

They said that cashiers, mostly women, who handle thermal paper receipts may have high exposure, which may lead to adverse effects.

"We express our concern about the plight of cashiers who touch and handle thermal paper receipts on a daily basis as this may result in high BPA/BPS exposure and cause negative health outcomes, especially for pregnant or nursing women, and women of childbearing age," they said.

They called for thermal paper to be phased out and to draft national regulations to that effect.

Asked to comment, Mr. Pascual told Business World via mobile phone that he has yet to evaluate the two groups' proposals.

However, Mr. Pascual said that he is pushing for the use of digital receipts in the broader context of digitizing business transactions.

- Revin Mikhael D. Ochave















DATE

ADB, UK put up fund for Asean green efforts

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the UK have inked a memorandum of understanding for a £107 million (around \$134 million) trust fund to support projects in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that promote environmental sustainability and climate-resilient development.

In a statement, the multilateral lender said the UK-ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF) Trust Fund would leverage UK and ADB funds to accelerate a pipeline of low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure projects and catalyze financing from public and private capital sources.

The fund will be part of the ASEAN Green Recovery Platform.

Launched at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP26, the ASEAN Green Recovery Platform seeks to help ASEAN countries accelerate the development of infrastructure to achieve a green recovery from the pandemic, by bringing together financing and development partners.

"We are facing a climate crisis and Southeast Asia needs rapid and innovative solutions to help countries raise financing to deliver their climate targets and ambitions," ADB president Masatsugu Asakawa said.

"This new fund will build on a longstanding UK-ADB part-



Asakawa

nership through an innovative revolving fund structure that will mobilize public and private funds and build a robust pipeline of climate projects in the region," Asakawa sakd

Increasing costs of climate change add to the region's existing investment needs for infrastructure amounting to \$210 billion per year.

"As a trusted partner to ASEAN, this UK financing delivered through the ADB is imperative to help deliver new honest and reliable green investment-creating jobs and putting UK expertise at the heart of tackling climate change," said UK Minister for Asia Amanda Milling.

She said this is also in line with the UK's commitments made at COP26 last year

The fund will leverage financial resources for the ACGF, an ADB-managed regional green financing vehicle, owned by the



Milling

ASEAN countries and ADB.

Launched in 2019, AGCF supports Southeast Asian governments in preparing and financing infrastructure projects that promote environmental sustainability and contribute to climate change goals.

50 far, ACGF has attracted \$2 billion in co-financing pledges and included five projects in its formal financing pipeline.

It has helped develop a longer

It has helped develop a longer pipeline of 29 green infrastructure projects and provided advisory support that enabled countries to tap capital markets through the issuance of over \$5.6 billion in green bonds.

The UK-ACGF Trust Fund will be building on these efforts and will be providing support to countries in the form of loans and technical assistance, including through regional initiatives such as the Blue SEA (Southeast Asia) Finance Hub based in Indonesia.















PAGE

Bultong puslit na kahoy, natisod

HALOS kalahating mil-yong pisong halaga ng ilegal na kahoy ang nakumpiska ng pulisya nang maralisod sa pam-pang ng Sumakbao Riv-sa sakon ng Broy Pisa er sakop ng Brgy Pias, Gen. linio, Nueva Ecija noong Miyerkoles. Sa ulat ni P/Lt. Col. Lory Tarrazona ng intel-lizance unit bearen.

ligence unir, katuwang ang General Pinio po-lice na nakakumpiska sa 127 pirasa ng kahoy

Nagawa umano ng ilang mga sangkot na kalalakihan sa llegal na

gawain na ipaanod sa malakas na agos ng ilog ang ihang mga kahoy ar naipuslit
Nuaresto sa operas-yon sina Ericson de Leon Bal na itinururong lider ng Illegal logging Group, 43, at Reynaldo Pascus Mendez, 47, kapwa taga General Iskapwa taga-General Tinio.

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Umabot umano sa
6,833.66 board feet ang
nakumpiskang kahoy
na nagkakahal agang
P410.019.00. (Jojo De
Guzman) Guzman)















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Foundation aims a million trees by '30 in seven watershed areas

GROWING 10 million trees by 2030 to protect and nurture the seven watersheds that supply potable water to Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan and Rizal is achievable.

This was the message of Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI) Chairman Emeritus Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco (Ret.) during the pledging session attended by stakeholders and partners of the Annual Million Tree Challenge (AMTC) recently.

Velasco, the former Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator and Chairman based his statement on the successful AMTC project launched in 2017 during his stint with the water agency. After five years, AMTC recorded over 5.2 million trees or at least a million trees annually planted in critical watersheds vital to potable water supply in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan.

Held at the Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MFTI) Nursery and Eco learning Center at the La Mesa Watershed last June 29, partners and stakeholders of the Annual Million Trees. Challenge committed to plant a total of 1,710,005 trees that will reforest a total of 3,278 hectares of land in different watersheds.

Angat watershed will be planted with 494,005 new trees that will reforest 671 hectares; Upper Marikina with 432,000 saplings that will benefit 691 hectares; and Ipo with 264,000 that will involve 660 hectares. The watersheds of La Mesa and Umiray will be the recipients of 220,000 and 25,000 saplings, and that will reforest 550 and 63 hectares, respectively. The remaining pledged saplings will be planted at the watershed of Kaliwa, in Manila Bay and other parts of the country.



The Manila Times









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Benguet town seeks lifting of mining ban

mocan, Benguet: The municipal government will take up with the new national leadership the possible lifting of the almost four year ban on pocket mining to help gradually and safely revive the heavily impacted local economy.

Mayor Bernard Waclin said he will meet with leaders of pocket miners in the municipality to solicit their support in strictly cooperating with the orgoing ban to allow incumbent provincial and municipal officials to be able to lobby with the new environment officials and even President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr to lift the temporary suspension of small-scale mining activities in the Cordillers Administrative Region.

Waclin said pocket mining has been a major source of livelihood for a large portion of the population in Itogon.

Wadin noted that the ban really affects the economic life of residents that has been aggravated by the lingering Covid-19 pandemic.

Waclin said the local government will consolidate various pocket-mining groups to reiterate a previous appeal for the immediate lifting of the temporary ban on small-scale mining issued by former Environment secretary Roy Cimatu in September 2018.

Cimatu ordered the ban after many pocket miners and their relatives who had sought refuge in an abandoned bunk house were killed in Barangay Ucab in a landslide caused by Typhoon "Ompang."

Itogon is one of the five first-class municipalities and one of the three first-class towns that rely heavily on the operation of large-scale mining companies.

Warfin expressed hope that the new national leadership of the country will heed the long-standing appeal of thousands of displaced pocket miners and their families for the resumption of small-scale mining activities.

Wacin commended the pocket miners for their continuous cooperation and understanding on the implementation of the ban, vowing to help them Jobby for its lifting.

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Business Insight











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DOF open to carbon tax

FINANCE Secretary Benjamin Diokno is open to the possibility of imposing carbon tax as one of the ways to address climate-related issues.

Diokno told reporters yesterday that carbon tax could be one of the measures that may be considered by the Marcos administration, "if feasible"

The previous administration's proposed fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan that was turned over to the current administration included a proposed carbon tax structure for implementation in 2025.

"The Philippines is probably one of the most vulnerable (countries) with respect to climate change and so it's in our own interest that the movement towards (addressing) climate change should be supported," Dioxno said in a recent interview with ANC.

"On our part, on the tax side, I think we should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution. For example, tax on single-use plastic, it is worth considering, and on the expenditure side, some kind of a joint effort by the national government and the local government on some green activities like cleaning of the river, reforestation, developing mangroves, I think that should be considered by the government," he added.

A report released by the Asian



DIOKNO

Development Bank (ADB) last Wednesday said a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Sourheast Asia could potentially create \$172 billion in investment opportunities yearly and produce more than 30 million jobs by 2030.

The ADB report, Implementing a Green Recovery in Southeast Asia, identified five areas that support a post-COVID-19 recovery through greener development – productive and regenerative agriculture, healthy and productive occans, sustainable urban development and transport models, circular economy models and renewable and efficient energy.

"While several countries in the

See DOF> Page AZ

DOF

region have begun to support a green recovery, more needs to be done. We must encourage additional green stimulus, design carbon pricing schemes, reduce dependence on fossil-fuel intensive power, and attract private sector investors to large-scale renewable energy, sustainable transport and clean urban projects," said Ramesh Subramaniam, ADB director general for Southeast Asia. - Angela Celis





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07-08-22

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INTRODUCED BY 2025?

PH LOOKING INTO CARBON TAX VIABILITY

By Bon O. de Vera @bendeveraINQ The Philippines is looking into imposing carbon taxes to fight climate change while raising financing for its adaptation and resiliency projects.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno told reporters that "if feasible," a carbon tax could also be among the measures the current administration would pursue to address climate issues, alongside the push for a levy on single-use plastics.

The fiscal consolidation plan turned over by the Duterte administration to President Marcos' economic team proposed to introduce a carbon tax in 2025.

The Department of Finance (DOF) had yet to determine how much revenues may be generated from a levy on harmful emissions. For next year, the DOF had proposed a P20 excise tax per kilo on single-use plastic bags, which was estimated to raise P1 billion per year.

In a report last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that imposing carbon taxes will be "progressive" for the Philippines as it will affect the rich who consume polluting oil and carbon products more than poorer households.

"Carbon taxes would be regressive in China, Indonesia and Mongolia, but it would be progressive in India, Kiribati, the Philippines and Myanmar," read the IMF working paper titled "The Distributional Impact of a Carbon Tax in Asia and the Pacific."

The IMF said the progressivity in taxing harmful emissions in the Philippines and three other countries was "because the tax would be paid disproportionately by the richest households."

In the Philippines, carbon taxes "would have the most effect on households in the third quintile, via higher prices, with less of an effect on the top and bottom quintiles," the IMF said, referring to income levels.

"The relative expenditure on gasoline and electricity is greater for richer households, which primarily drives the progressivity for consumers. This is mitigated by coal consumption being larger for poorer households," the IMF said two



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The Manila Times











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DIOKNO OPEN TO CARBON TAX

FINANCE Secretary Benjamin Diokno is open to the Idea of imposing a carbon tax in the country.

"Carbon tax too, if feasible," Diokno told reporters when asked if he would consider imposing a carbon tax as another approach to address climate challenges in the Philippines.

This comes after the Finance chief said the Marcos administration would carry on the Duterte administration's climate change initiatives.

"As you know, the Philippines is probably one of the most vulnerable with respect to climate change, And so, it's in our own interest that the movement toward climate change should be supported," he stressed.

"At the same time, on the tax side, I think we should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution. For example, a tax on single-use plastic is worth considering,"

The Department of Finance, under the leadership of former Finance secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd, has suggested a fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan that included the adoption of a carbon tax as one of the measures.

Further research is being done on the taxation of

carbon emissions which, if approved, would go into effect by 2025.

In a discussion paper released in December 2018 by the Philippines institute for Development Studies, it was said that the rise in carbon consumption taxes was a result of growing concerns about climate change brought on by anthropogenic carbon emissions.

Simply put, authors of the paper "Assessment of Train's Coal and Petroleum Excise Taxes: Environmental Benefits and Impacts on Sectoral Employment and Household Welfare" explained the existence of such taxes that control the consumption or production of specific commodities is an admission of the existence of a specific kind of market fallure.

They said the Philippines, like other nations, imposed a petroleum and coal tax in an effort to decrease reliance on fossil fuels and, ultimately, cut carbon emissions.

"Such type of tax policy reform is a bold step for a developing country like the Philippines as such types of regulatory taxes can counter growth policies due to the obvious increase in production costs of fossil fuel-heavy industries," the authors added.

MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO



Malaya Business Insight LOWER









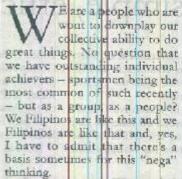




07-08-22

BANNER

Ahead of its time



But some lines we can surprise even ourselves.

Over the last few wooks, I've had to explain mining to fund managers, who basically are informed about mining in general but not about mining in the Phil-ippines in particular.

And since the world of global And since the world of grobal fund managers are inspired by ESG matters (Environment, Social and Corporate Governance) I've also had to read up on the latter, particularly its roots and how it intertwines with mining.

I've been pleasantly surprised by the experience.

by the experience.
"ESG," it can be argued, can trace its roots to 2005, when then UN Secretary General Kofi Anan



... we all van rest assured that while disasters may still bappen because nature is an unpredictable factor, an operator will never again be able to escape liability because they are now held to account even for operations they have already closed."

MAROON BLOODED

JOSE BAYANI BAYLON

challenged international financial institutions to incorporate environmental, social and corporate governance issues in their policies, programs and practices. It was a sign of a growing interest in and concern for not only the growing divide between north and south but also environment matters that were becoming cross border in impact.

So much so that by 2012 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution entitled "The Future

We Want' which, nor surprisingly, has a special section (section 227) on mining. It acknowledges the contribution that mining makes towards social and economic development, helping nations meet their international commitments to social and development programs. But section 227 also challenged nuning activities to maximize these economic benefits while addressing the environmental impact that mining brings.

When I explain this, I pause, and then inform my audience that the Philippine Mining Act (aka RA 7942) that was passed in 1995 + or 10 years before ESG was first "coined" and a full 15 years before the UNGA spoke of the future we want - already covered these concerns. In fact, I am told that when the Act was passed it was considered the most stringent mining act the world had ever seen - and one that has now become the basis for mining acts passed in other jurisdictions.

Imagine that. We had a law that was way ahead of its time.

It's still the law in force and effect and is the reason why responsible mining exists in the Philippines. Of course, it took a Marcopper mining disaster in the island of Marinduque to give birth to the Mining Acr but now we all can rest assured that while disasters may still happen because nature is an unpredictable factor, an operator will never again be able to escape liability because they are now held to account even for operations they have already closed

Take a bow, RA 7942.











Windmills beyond symbols

an Francisco-Since the beginning of the campaign, up until his inauguration speech, President Marcos Jr. has har-nessed the symbolic power of the windmills in his home province of Ilocos Norte, notwithstanding the fact that he had little (if

anything) to do with their construction.
"I built them," he emphatically said, casting himself as a builder in the mold of his fa-

ther, who he extolled in the same speech as someone who "built more and better roads."

The disingenuous ess notwithstanding, might be at least be encouraged to actually make clean energy a centerpiece of his administration? Baka naman panindigan n'ya? After all, he did acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis, and even took cognizance of the fact that "we are the third plagest plastics polluter in the world," vowing that "we will clean up."

If so, the windmills are a step in the right

direction.

A baby step, that is. The fact that the windmills in our country—whether the 20 units in Bangui, 50 in Burgos, or 27 in Pilillaremain "tourist destinations" speaks of how novel they remain in our country, whereas they are viewed as a regular part of the landscape elsewhere, an eye sore even, for instance, here in California, where just one

wind farm can have thousands of turbines.
Indeed, to put things in perspective, the United States has over 70,000 wind turbines and the United Kingdom has over 11,000, while our country-which is higger than the UK in terms of land area has less than 200. In terms of installed wind power capacity, ours (443 megawatts) is dwaffed by neighbors like Thai-land (15 gigawatts) and Vietnam (4 gigawatts), with the latter taking the lead in offshore wind farms in the region, even as it was behind us in terms of wind power just a few years ago.



GIDEON LASCO

Indeed, many countries are embracing wind power at a dramatic rate, spurred by the significant drop in the cost of generating wind power, with the technology and materials to make it now more efficient and affordable than ever. All these developments have made wind power one of the most cost-effective energy sources available today.

The increasing urgency of ending our dependence on fossil fuel is also creating a renewed impetus for the push for clean energy and a decarbonized economy, making wind power not just economically but politically sound. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released last April has called for more wind and solar power, projecting that these two sources combined can furnish one-third of the emission reductions needed to keep the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Finally, from an energy security perspective, the fact that wind power has no fuel costs makes it more stable and thus preferable to fossil fuel sources, in which the prices are often at the mercy of world political events, for instance, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Of course, there are challenges that prevent energy from being scaled in the Philippines; while our land area is larger than the UK, not all of the land is suitable for wind power, and typhoons and other calamities can also narrow viable sites-even as typhoon-proof wind turbines are now being developed. Notwithstanding these challenges, technical reports (for instance, a new wind energy road map released by the Department of Energy and the World Bank in April) estimate that the country has the potential to have 21 gigawatts of offshore wind power, on top of onshore projects.

If the new president is serious about windmills-not just as campaign props but as the solution that he himself held up in his inaugural speech-then he must take steps to create an enabling environment for renewable energy. This will entail streamlining the regulatory and bureaucratic processes, incentivizing investments, and investing in local industrial capacity to support renewables, building on the vision of Republic Act No. 9513 and the Renewable Energy Roadmap 2017-2040

It will also require appointing qualified individuals in the relevant government agencies, as well as supporting homegrown expertise-e.g., scientists and engineers-that we need to build and operate wind projects.

Finally, it will involve decisively and definitively saying no to coal-fired power plants and ending the dominance of fossil fuels in our country's energy fix.

If Mr. Marcos can make clean energy a priority of his administration, leading to windmills actually powering a significant proportion of our energy needs, then perhaps, he can finally, truthfully, say: "I built them.

glasco@inquirer.com.ph



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BANNER STORY

07-08-22

DATE



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND MATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Bangkal, Davao City Philippines, 2003

Telephone No. (682) 287-2685

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that the DEMR-CENRO at Bangkal, Davao City, will accept scaled or written bid not later than len of clock (10:00) AM on 18 AUG 2022, for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

Location
Description
Area
Appraised Value of Land

Existing Improvements
Applicant

: Sasa, Deven City
Lot 1 & 2 FLA-VB, AMD
39,206 square maters
Php 3,750.00 per square mater
or Php 147,022 500 00 for the whole tract
Php 13,422,000 00
: INSULAR OIL CORPORATION
Represented by: NIMFA B, MADANGLO
Under FL.A. NO. 112402 (E) 32

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the paraon offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centuri (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centuri (1%) of the value of the existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public lend 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, freadury warrant, certified check, cashier's chock or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed Special Power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit givery time his bid is relied to complete the three (3) month's cental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction and the survey of the land.

OIC CENE Officer







FAGE



PAGET



07-08-22



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Bangkat, Davao City Philippines, 5080
Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipragbibigay alam sa mada na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bangkal, Lungsod ng Dahaw ay tatanggap ng salyado o nakasukal na akik sa ika alas 10:00 ng umaga ngayong ika-18 ng AUG 2022 para paupahan ang isang sukal na lupang publiko na inilalarawan sa libaba nito.

Lugar Deskripsiyon Sukat Tasahan ng Lupa

Halaga ng nakatayang proyekto Aplikante

Sase, Davao City
Lot 1 & 2 FLA-V-8, AMD
30, 208 Metro Kwadrado
Php3, 750,00 kada metro kwadrado
o kabusang Php 147, 022,500,00
Phr15, 422,000,00
NSULAR OLL CORPORATION
Represented by: NIMFA B. MABANGLO
FL.A. NO. 112402 (E) 32

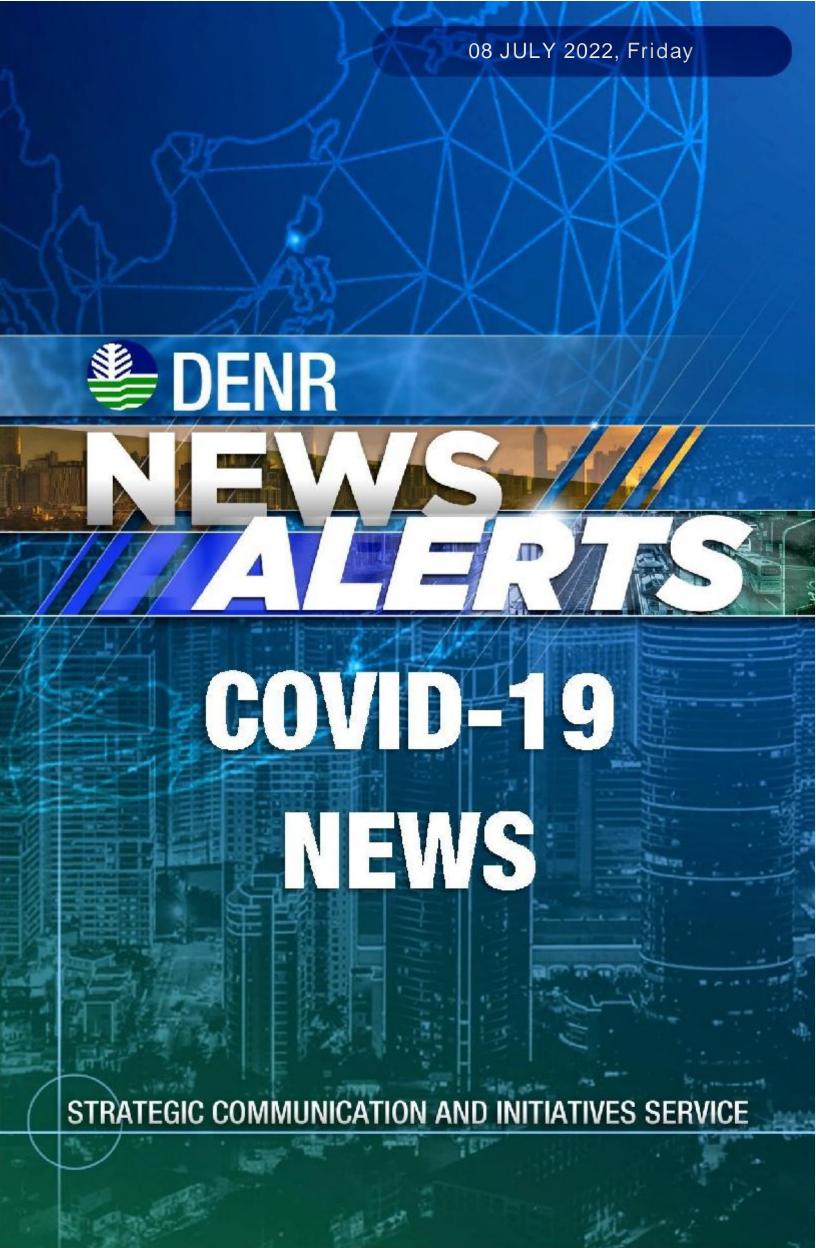
FLA. NO. 112402 (E) 32

Ang korapatan sar upahan ang sasabing lupa ay ibibligay sa tao o partido na makapagbibligay ng pinalasmalasa na upa sa sang taon na handi bababa sa tationg porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng nakasali sa isaagawang sabasta, italiangang sayo ay karapat-dapat na apikante at kaliangang bago magaimula ang subasta, italiangang sayo ay karapat-dapat na apikante at kaliangang bago magaimula ang subasta na nagarapat sa hadong buwang tipa. Ang deposito ay kaliangang papali, money order, cashiur's o manager's check, ang saya lamang tabanggapin. Ang isang tao na sakati sa subasta na nagrerepresente ng thang tao ay makakitasi lamang kung mayuriba siyang palibitutat na bibligay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahatalian malagdaer ng Nelevyo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali say magkakaroon ng dagdag na sepositid kapag ang kanyang akk ay itinatasa para makumpteto ang kabuuang taliang buwang upa. Ang tarapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang olok o sa tahat ng atok ay palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan.

Ang magwawag na akok na to kung hindi siya ang apitidante ay kroakaliangang tutumbasan ang kabayang nagugit sa pagpapatathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapagyikist ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Dabaw, Pilipines, ika-30 ng JUH 2022.

JUVY C. HOFE ENA OC. SENR Officer





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PH detects 97 more cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 7, 2022, 4:49 pm



MANILA – The country has detected 97 additional cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Thursday.

Earlier, about 43 BA.5 cases were detected which brought the total number of new infections to 140 for this week.

Of the total BA.5 tally, 99 cases were from Western Visayas; 21 from the National Capital Region (NCR); seven from Calabarzon; five from Ilocos Region; one each from Central Luzon; Bicol Region; Central Visayas; Eastern Visayas; Northern Mindanao; Mimaropa; and one returning overseas Filipino.

"Sixteen individuals are fully vaccinated, tatlo po ay hindi bakunado, habang kasalukuyang bineverify pa namin ang vaccination status ng 121 individuals (three are unvaccinated, while the vaccination statuses of the remaining 121 individuals are still being verified)," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media forum.

The DOH is still verifying the exposure and travel history of each of the infected individuals.

Thirteen cases presented mild symptoms, two individuals were asymptomatic and the symptoms of the remaining 125 are being verified.

Currently, 129 of the cases are tagged as recovered, four are still undergoing isolation while the outcomes of the remaining seven are still being verified.

"Based on our latest sequencing run, overall, there are 233 cases of BA.5 detected in our country," Vergeire said.

There were also 20 additional BA.2.12.1 cases - five were from the NCR, four each from Western Visayas and Calabarzon; two from the Cordillera Administrative Region; one from Region 1 (Central Luzon) and four were returning overseas Filipinos.





PH detects 97 more cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant

Nine of them are fully vaccinated, one is unvaccinated, and the vaccination status of the remaining 10 cases are still being verified. The DOH is also verifying their exposures and travel histories.

Seventeen out of the 20 cases are tagged as recovered and the outcomes of the three are being verified.

Meantime, about seven additional BA.4 cases were also detected earlier. Six of the cases were from Western Visayas and one was from the NCR.

Their exposure and travel histories are still unknown.

Five cases are fully vaccinated while the two are unvaccinated.

Moreover, three presented mild symptoms, three are asymptomatic, and the symptoms of the other case are still being verified.

All seven cases are now tagged as recovered.

To date, the country has logged a total of 70 BA.2.12.1 cases and 10 BA.4 cases. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178439





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Nearly 2,000 new COVID-19 cases bring PH active tally to over 11,000

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u> Published Jul 7, 2022 10:21:39 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 7) — The Department of Health (DOH) reported 1,936 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, pushing the country's active case tally to over 11,000.

Latest DOH data showed that the number of currently ill patients has climbed to 11,370 amid a continued increase in infections nationwide.

The last time the country's daily case count was around the 2,000-mark was in mid-February.

The department also confirmed three new fatalities due to the viral disease, bringing the death toll to 60,625. Meanwhile, 813 more recovered, with the total number of survivors now at over 3.64 million.

In a tweet, OCTA Research fellow Guido David said that Metro Manila was the top contributing region with 849 more virus-hit residents.

Among cities, Quezon City logged the highest daily rise with 163 infections. Manila came next with 119, followed by Makati with 115.

Among provinces, Cavite topped the list with 126 cases, followed by Iloilo with 112, and Laguna with 110.

More than 3.7 million COVID-19 infections have been confirmed in the country since the pandemic began.

Source: https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/7/PH-active-COVID-case-tally-11K.html





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OCTA: Metro Manila positivity rate at 9.8%, up in 14 other provinces

(Philstar.com) - July 7, 2022 - 11:09am



Children aged 12 to 17 receive their booster shot at Marikina Sports Complex on Monday, July 4, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's coronavirus surge continues with one out of ten COVID-19 tests now coming out positive, independent pandemic monitor OCTA Research said late Wednesday evening.

From July 2 and July 5, OCTA observed that the National Capital Region's positivity rate — which measures the percentage of tests that come out positive — rose to 9.8% from 8.3%. This percentage is almost double the recommended benchmark of 5% for re-opening economies set by the World Health Organizations.

This comes after the capital region tallied 553 new cases on Wednesday according to data from the Department of Health.

Coronavirus cases in Antique, Laguna, and Rizal continue to rise with those areas listing positivity rates of 20.6%, 17.3%, and 16.5%, respectively.

Batangas, Cavite, Iloilo, and Pampanga also registered positivity rates higher than 10%.

Among the 15 provinces that OCTA observed, only Cebu remains at low-risk levels having risen from 3.8% positivity rate to 3.9% from July 2 to July 5.

Per the health department's COVID-19 national situationer Tuesday night, Metro Manila also logged the highest weekly positivity rate of 9.3% as of July 3.

Days into his term, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has yet to name the next secretary of the Department of Health to lead the national government's pandemic response.





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OCTA: Metro Manila positivity rate at 9.8%, up in 14 other provinces

"Sustained case uptrend is observed in most regions with majority (91%) of provinces, HUCs (highly urbanized cities), and ICCs (independent component cities) showing case increases over the recent weeks," the DOH said earlier.

"Most areas show a sharp increase in cases with NCR showing the steepest increase, now exceeding 500 cases per day," it added.

Positivity rates as of July 5, 2022 in select PH provinces. NCR positivity rate went up from 8.3% to 9.8%. Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Iloilo, Antique, Pampanga had positivity rates higher than 10%. @dzbb @allangatus @dzrhnews @DZAR1026 @News5PH @NewsRmn @dwiz882 @ali_sotto_pic.twitter.com/qzr0WwIDSU

— Dr. Guido David (@iamguidodavid) July 6, 2022



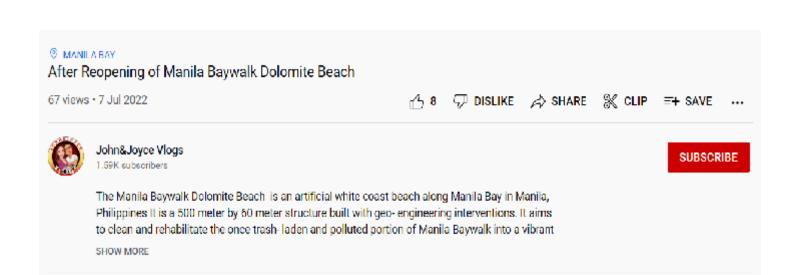




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Source: https://youtu.be/0GazfwJdnRQ







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Source: https://youtu.be/aqD8o3DbZYO



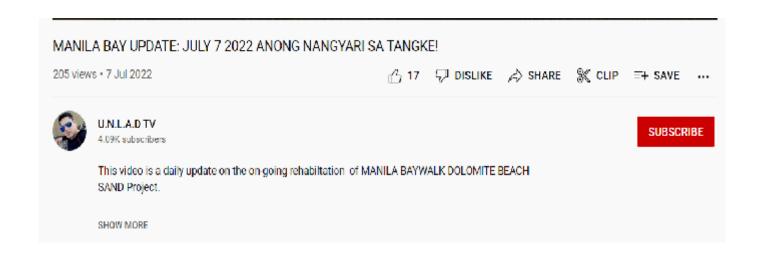




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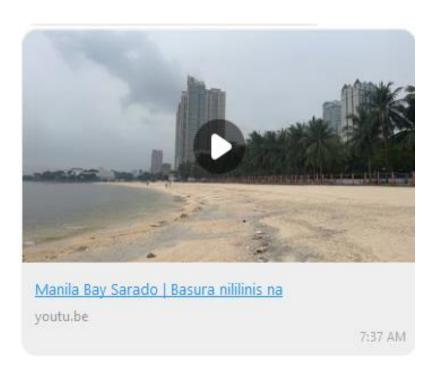
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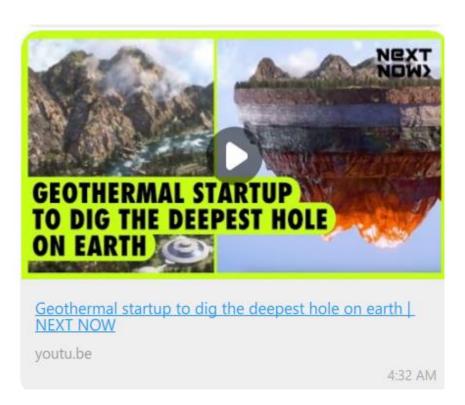
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