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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

The Republic and Manila Bay



[ROSES AND THORNS](#) - [Pia Roces Morato](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 9, 2020 - 12:00am

In 2019, the DENR under the leadership of Secretary Roy Cimatu launched what was dubbed as the “Battle for Manila Bay” which brought together more than 5,000 participants including other agencies tasked by the Supreme Court to clean up and rehabilitate a bay known around the world for its beautiful sunset. This battle, as Secretary Roy described it, is one to be won not with force or arms but with the firm resolve to bring the bay back to life. The former Armed Forces chief, together with other agencies and the Republic Defenders, committed themselves to this rehabilitation project which, at present, has set the record straight in proving that community effort always wins.

The Republic Defenders, a nonprofit volunteer organization of both private and public individuals that supports government programs and projects to eradicate corruption, fight illegal drugs and criminality and promote good governance, patriotism and women empowerment, has been active in the said endeavor where change and love for country are at the helm of the mission, to secure the nation and protect the people.

The Battle for Manila Bay was my very first project as a member of the Republic Defenders and it was here that I learned even more how being a woman, coupled with my skills as a soldier, had value in nation building; moreover, taking part in the relentless vision of our President for change and ensuring a comfortable life for all. I recalled how in 2016, the Republic Defenders did their part in the hopes of unifying a nation amid the issue of the burial of the late president Ferdinand Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Ever since President Duterte took his oath of office, unity, forgiveness and peace remain to be the driving force of this organization bringing together Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The most recent accomplishment by this administration, under Secretary Cimatu on the Manila Bay, should by now be crystal clear, that moving forward as a nation is all about putting first the best interest of our people. Perhaps for others beautifying a bay in the middle of a pandemic may not be, in their eyes, suitable; however, one must not fail to see the logic, more so the heart, behind a project where the intention is to simply provide Filipinos with a dignified place they can proudly call their own and enjoy the luxury that it brings while taking part in the responsibility to also preserve.

This right here is what love for country is all about. This is the new “Filipinism” as president Marcos once said in his address, where we Filipinos must not be afraid of innovation in our social, economic, political and cultural life. The Manila Bay represents each and every one of us and each and every one of us is an important player in the Republic, whether it be big or small.

COVID-19, the invisible enemy as President Duterte said at the 75th UN General Assembly, is the biggest test the world and the United Nations has ever faced since WW II. How we address this crisis will define our future. The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project is certainly defining the future of the Philippines as it not only copes but thrives during a pandemic. It is a symbol of hope as well as a reminder of our commitment as a people towards a greater nation.



The Republic and Manila Bay

A 91 percent trust rating is certainly and once again, a pivotal moment under our present leadership and it must be noted that one of the issues which brought about this outcome happens to be the Manila Bay project. Therefore, whether anybody likes it or not, this administration is taking bigger steps toward a more formidable republic. Once and for all, it is time we cross the border. One step at a time.



MANILA WATER “ADOPT-AN-ESTERO”, SUSUPORTAHAN NG DENR AT LGUs



October 9, 2020 @ 12:15 AM 4 hours ago

PINANGUNAHAN ng Manila Water ang Adopt-an-Estero Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Ceremonial Signing sa pakikipagtulungan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), kasama ang iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaan (LGUs) na kinabibilangan ng mga lungsod ng Quezon, San Juan at Mandaluyong, upang maisakatuparan ang clean-up o paglilinis ng San Juan River at ng mga estero at tributaries nito.

Layon rin ng programa na mapagtibay ang bawat pangako ng partner-agencies upang masolusyunan ang problema sa kapaligiran lalong-lalo ang paglilinis ng mga ilog at iba pang dinadaluyan ng tubig.

Kasama rin sa ginanap na MOA signing ang paglagda sa updated usufruct agreement sa pagitan ng DENR at Manila Water para sa pagsasaayos at pag-upgrade ng East Avenue Sewage Treatment Plant sa lungsod ng Quezon.

Saklaw sa pag-upgrade ang retrofitting ng pasilidad alinsunod sa DENR AO 2016-o8 na pasado sa itinakdang pamantayan para sa biological nutrient removal sa treated effluent, pati na rin ang pagpapalawak ng sewerage network nito.

Matatandaan na noong Enero 2020, ibinahagi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na isa sa layunin ng kagawaran ay linisin ang San Juan River na siya namang tinugunan ng Manila Water sa pamamagitan ng pagtataguyod ng programang Adopt-an-Estero na may kaakibat na mga technical at social solutions upang malinis ang mga estero at mga daluyan ng tubig.

Samantala, nangako naman ang mga LGU na susuportahan ang mga programang nakapaloob dito, kasama na ang desludging services o pagpapasipsip ng poso negro sa mga kabahayan; donasyon at pagbibigay ng cleaning materials at tools para sa pagsasagawa ng clean-up drive; pakikilahok sa mga kampanya para sa impormasyon, edukasyon at komunikasyon (IEC) at iba pang mga inisyatibo sa ilalim ng programang Adopt-an-Estero.



MANILA WATER “ADOPT-AN-ESTERO”, SUSUPPORTAHAN NG DENR AT LGUs

Si DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon ang kumatawan kay Sec. Roy Cimatu sa naturang ceremonial signing at nagpahayag ng pasasalamat sa Manila Water at sa iba pang katuwang sa proyekto para sa hindi matatawarang suporta ng mga ito sa implementasyon ng iba’t ibang programang pangkalikasan.

Kapwa nagbigay rin sina Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte at San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora ng kanilang buong suporta para sa nasabing programa kasabay ang pagkilala sa Manila Water sa pagsisikap nitong higit pang mapalawak ang serbisyo sa tubig at alkantarilya sa kanilang mga lungsod.

Binigyang-diin naman ng Pangulo at CEO ng Manila Water na si Jose Rene Almendras na bilang suporta sa mandato at programang imprastruktura ng ating pamahalaan, magtatayo pa ng karagdagang sewage treatment facilities at palalawakin pa ang sewer network sa East Zone bilang bahagi ng overall wastewater roadmap ng Manila Water.

Dagdag pa ni Almendras, pinatutunayan lamang nito na matatag ang pangako at layunin ng Manila Water na makapagbigay ng malaking kontribusyon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at mga daluyan ng tubig.

Ani Almendras, ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakataon para sa Manila Water na magsagawa nang sabay na physical at virtual memorandum signing upang matugunan ang matagal nang suliranan hinggil sa tinaguriang walo sa pinakamaruruming creek o estero sa Metro Manila, kabilang na ang Maytunas at Ermitanyo Creek, pati na rin ang Buhangin at Buayang Bato Creek.



Kabilang sa MOA signing sina Manila Water President at CEO Jose Rene Almendras, kasama sina DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat, MWSS-RO Chief Regulator Patrick Ty, Mandaluyong City Administrator Ernesto Victorino at Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo Basilio.

Ang Manila Water ay ang pribadong konsesyunaryo ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System para sa East Zone na nagseserbisyo sa higit pitong milyong residente sa silangang bahagi ng Metro Manila at lalawigan ng Rizal.



2nd cease & desist order to be issued vs. mining firm



CEASE AND DESIST. Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia will issue a second cease-and-desist order against Alcoy-based Philippine Mining Services Corp. (PMSC) after its mining operations allegedly affected Alcoy's coral bed. / SunStar file

October 8, 2020

CEBU Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia is set to issue another cease and desist order (CDO) against the Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC) after its dolomite mining operations are said to have affected much of the coral bed in Alcoy town.

Garcia said the transportation of mined dolomite through the PMSC's conveyor belt in Brgy. Pugalo, Alcoy had damaged the barangay's coral bed.

In the aerial survey conducted by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), it was found out that there is heavy siltation in the waters near the port due to the transportation of dolomite from the PMSC's conveyor belt.

In a meeting with environment officials and PMSC representatives on Oct. 2, 2020, Garcia invoked the general welfare clause of the Local Government Code as the basis to issue a CDO against the mining company.

Aside from the CDO, the Province is also planning to file a tax claim against the PMSC before local courts due to allegations that the mining firms have not paid taxes to the Province.

Under Section 124 of Ordinance No. 2008-10, it is stated that companies are required to pay a tax of 10 percent of local fair market value per cubic meter of quarry resources under the jurisdiction of the Cebu Province.

It's been reported that the PMSC sells crushed dolomite, as well as sand and gravel.

Under the Province's Tax Revenue Code, companies doing business in the Province must secure a governor's permit, which the PMSC has not done.



2nd cease & desist order to be issued vs. mining firm

Because of this, Garcia tasked the Provincial Treasurer's Office to compute the total taxes, surcharges and interests that the PMSC has failed to pay.

Antonio Castillo Jr. of Penro has informed the PMSC on the matter.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be investigating further the coral damage caused by the dolomite mining.

In September, Garcia issued a CDO against the PMSC and its partner firm Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC), to prevent them from extracting, processing and transporting dolomite from Alcoy.

This, after environment officials disclosed that artificial sand used to develop the Manila Bay was sourced from dolomite mined from Brgy. Pugalo.

Following allegations that the mining operations conducted by PMSC and DMC have degraded the coral bed in Alcoy, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered both firms to stop their operations while an investigation on their operations is still ongoing. (ANV / CBQ)



Privatization of government mining assets ‘long overdue’

October 9, 2020 | 12:31 am



A worker looks at an open pit mine in Albay province in this Feb. 5, 2007 file photo. — REUTERS/ROMEO RANOCO/FILE PHOTO

By **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**, *Reporter*

THE GOVERNMENT’S plan to privatize some of its mining assets is long overdue, and will provide a huge boost to the mining industry amid the pandemic, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said.

“It’s about time that the government should look deeper into reviving the mining industry, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea of selling or privatizing the government’s legacy mining assets should have been done a long time ago,” COMP Executive Director Ronald S. Recidoro told *BusinessWorld* via mobile phone message.

While productivity of these old mines will not be as good as new ones, Mr. Recidoro said it would “address the environmental issues posed by the abandoned mines such as erosion, while companies will be able to unlock the value of these mines.”

He said the government-owned mining assets still have value that can be tapped once operations resume, unlike new mining projects that would have to undergo a long application process.

“If you want to have immediate returns or revenue, you may want to consider reviving the old mining projects. It will be less costly to rehabilitate old mining sites than to approve new mining projects because the winning bidders of the existing state-owned assets will not have to conduct too much exploration work,” Mr. Recidoro said.

However, Mr. Recidoro said the government should address other issues before the mining industry can be fully revived, such as the current moratorium on new mining projects under Executive Order 79, the ban on open-pit mining, and the ongoing suspension of mines by the late Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez.

Meanwhile, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the privatization of state mining assets will go through a process but will take less time than securing a new permit.

“There is still a process after a winning bid is awarded but it is not as tedious as a new applicant,” Mr. Moncano said in a mobile phone message.



Privatization of government mining assets ‘long overdue’

Mr. Moncano said the country’s mining sector’s full potential has not been maximized, but would need the support of both the executive and legislative department.

Currently, House Bill No. 6135 that provides a fiscal regime for the mining industry has hurdled the House Committee on Ways and Means while the counterpart measure Senate Bill No. 313 is still awaiting committee approval.

Mr. Moncano said the MGB’s Land Geological Survey Division has estimated that the value of the country’s metallic and non-metallic mineral resources, including sand and gravel, are worth \$7 trillion.

The current contribution of the mining industry to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) is less than 1%. He said this contribution can be bigger once mining policies are improved.

“There had been mining operations in the past that left their mining sites unrestored and unrehabilitated when major problems occurred like tailings spill, global recession, or major drop in mineral commodity prices,” Mr. Moncano said.

“These idle mining assets have values in several billions that need serious investors that are willing to comply also with our country’s law,” he added.

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III on Wednesday said the government wants to revive the mining industry to generate revenues and create jobs.

He said he has asked the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) to proceed with the plan to privatize Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp. and Basay Mining Corp., among others, after reviewing all of the government’s existing mining assets, to look for additional revenue sources.



PCCI supports revival of mining

posted October 08, 2020 at 10:25 pm

by [Othel V. Campos](#)

The country's largest business group on Thursday expressed its support for the revival of the mining sector to help in economic recovery.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Benedicto Yujuico said the government should have a good plan on the full reopening of the mining sector as what the Department of Finance announced Wednesday during the first day of the 2020 Philippine Business Conference.

"COVID-19 has made over 4.5 million Filipinos unemployed. The plan to revive the mining industry is very laudable essentially because the sincere desire of our government to create and provide jobs especially those in the rural areas," Yujuico said.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez on Wednesday called for the opening of the mining industry and announced the completion of the review of mining assets held by the government through the Privatization Management Office.

Topics: [Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) , [PCCI](#) , [mining sector](#)



Tour guides sa Mt. 387, nagbebenta na ng seedlings bilang pantawid-buhay

By [Christian Ryan Sta. Ana](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- October 9, 2020 - 12:00am

NUEVA ECIJA, Philippines — Dahil sa nararanasang pandemya, nagbebenta na ng mga seedlings ang mga mag-aaral at residente na nagsisilbing mga tour guides bilang pantawid-buhay matapos na hindi na pinapayagang pumasok ang mga turista sa pamosong Mount 387 sa lalawigang ito.

Nabatid na malaking tulong para sa mga residente at mag-aaral ng Barangay Puncan, Carranglan ang P200 kada seedling ng punong kahoy na kanilang naibebenta para pantawid ng kanilang buhay sa gitna ng nararanasang COVID-19 pandemic.

Ito ngayon ang pinagkakakitaan ng mga miyembro ng Kalinga sa Kalikasan ng Puncan (KAPUNCAN) na nawalan ng kita makaraang hindi payagan ang mga turista na dumayo sa ipinagmamalaki nilang Mount 387 sa Brgy. Puncan, Carranglan.

Ayon kay Roy Manuzon, pangulo ng KAPUNCAN, dahil bawal ang pag-akyat sa bundok at pagpunta ng mga turista sa kanilang lugar, marami ang nawalan ng hanapbuhay lalo na ang mga nagga-guide ng mga turista. Nasa 15 estudyante rin aniya na nagsisilbing tourist guide sa bundok na nawalan ng kita sa lockdown ang tinutulungan nilang makapag-aral ngayon.

Ang samahang KAPUNCAN ay isang non-governmental organization (NGO), na pinahihintulutan ng DENR para magsagawa ng reforestation at forest protection activities at maging ang environmental laws enforcement sa buong Mt. 387.

Ang Mt. 387 na kilala rin sa tawag na “Batong Amat” ay itinuturing na Chocolate Hills of the North.



Polarization is destroying our environment faster than we can save it



By [Gab Mejia](#)
October 9, 2020

LAST week, I had the privilege of being part of a TED group discussion on the ever-looming issue of climate change in our country. Corporate trailblazers, nongovernment organizations executives, youth leaders, volunteers, government consultants, academics and environmentalists all put together in one virtual conducive space with the goal of creating an open discussion on the different realities we face on the climate crisis coming from such diverse backgrounds.

We all had different points and insights to share, sometimes disagreeing to some extent on the conflicting ideologies between the ambitions of each representative — profit over planet, socialism over communism, liberalism versus capitalism, and even the inconvenient irony of choosing between the survival of today versus survival of the future — when in reality those are just two points of the same line. But what struck me most in the many hours of this long discussion wasn't really the content of what we were going to say, but how each one had the open mind to listen to what others would say. It was an ideal situation, corporates were listening to climate scientists, youth leaders sharing their struggles on the threats of bureaucracy of worldly NGOs, and government consultants opening up about the complications of development projects affecting the lives of environmentalists determined to protect these undisturbed lands. Each conversation leading to a possible solution, and each solution leading to a possible reality — a possible utopia. Yet the glaring truth that this space is more the exception than the norm. How, as much as we can dream of such open and productive spaces in solving our world's most complex issues, the growing polarization of our population has left us dumbfounded.



I recall reading an article from a political science journal on how media, especially in the plethora of platforms of the internet, have widened the gap of the polarizing political ideologies of many democratic states. How many of us are consuming different information every single day, that we



Polarization is destroying our environment faster than we can save it

unintentionally tend to reshape it as facts, or worse, turn it into our reality. How we are being individually placed in our own echo chambers that highly depend on our ideologies of the world through our avid personal use of social media. And having lived such an experience with the turnout of congruent world-changing events, from the election of President Donald Trump in the United States, to the Philippine presidential election in 2016, to the victory of President Bolsonaro in Brazil in the year 2018 — it made us realize the gravity of the situation as proven by the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal. We were unaware, but now we know better.

However, we don't even have to look beyond as far as Brazil and the US. We can see it right on our shores. How the rising polarization of our state due to our being in echo chambers through our addictive use of social media — as the Facebook capital of the world — has skewed the way the majority of us perceive the crushed dolomite rocks in Manila Bay as something that is beautiful rather than utterly destructive to the environment. That when you see the photos of people forcing their way just to see this diminutive beautification project during a pandemic of a highly contagious virus, you realize that most of these people would not even be in the platforms of awareness and bubbles of privilege we share in knowing the true evil that hides underneath this "white sand." A pleasant walk for them can be another vote for a fascist regime. And honestly, who can blame them? For most times I wonder, that maybe we have not done our part as well in reaching out further than the thousands of retweets and reshares we get on such platforms of privilege and awareness — to think we have already made a significant impact, when in truth we have made only a small dent on the complexity of our environmental and existential issues.

Protecting our climate and environment means we have to bridge this widening gap of an already polarized population. The spaces of openness and constructive criticism that our democracy has unfastened in solving our existential issues is rapidly degrading — sinking as fast as the seawater that rises, washing away the artificial sand we have placed in our bay. For when we talk about the environment, we have to talk with people, and we can only do so if we learn to listen.

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La Niña, inaasahang magpapataas ng water level sa mga dam

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- October 9, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Umaasa ang pamunuan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na magpapataas ng water level sa mga dam sa bansa ang dalang ulan ng La Niña phenomenon sa bansa.

Ayon kay Dr. Sevilla David Jr. ng NWRB, oras na magdala ng mga pag-ulan na dulot ng La Niña, babalik na sa normal ang water level sa mga dam lalo na sa Angat na nagsusuplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Wala naman anyang nararanasang kakula-ngan ng suplay ng tubig sa MM sa ngayon pero dahil sa lumalaking populasyon at tumataas na demand sa tubig, maaaring kulangin ang suplay kung walang magaganap na mga pag-ulan sa watershed sa mga dam sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Sevilla na sa ngayon ay may dalawang taon pa bago matapos ang mga infrastructure projects na maaaring pagkukunan ng tubig para sa Metro Manila.

Sa ngayon anya ang ilang inaasahang pagkukunan ng tubig bukod sa Angat dam ay ang tubig mula sa Project Laguna Lake, Marikina River at Subang sa Quezon para sa dalawang taon o short term at medium term o 5 years naman sa Kaliwa dam.

Ang mga proyektong ito anya ang mga madaragdag ng suplay ng tubig na kailangan sa lumalaking populasyon sa NCR at karatig lalawigan.

Anyang bago matapos ang taong 2020 ay dapat na nasa 212 meters ang water level sa Angat dam para matugunan ang pangangailangan sa tubig ng lumalaking populasyon sa Metro Manila, mga karatig lalawigan. Ang ibang dam naman ang magsusuplay ng tubig sa irigasyon.



ADB: ‘Build, Build, Build’ to create green jobs



By [Anna Leah E. Gonzales](#)

October 9, 2020

Several programs of the government, including “Build, Build, Build,” are expected to create investment opportunities and green jobs in the country, according to a new book from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The book, titled *Green Finance Strategies for Post-Covid-19 Economic Recovery in Southeast Asia*, calls on policymakers in the region to use green and innovative financing approaches to help catalyze the estimated \$3.1 trillion in investments required for climate-adjusted infrastructure in the region by 2030. The ADB said these investments would be critical to the region’s recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The book said the Philippines’ green program and other existing projects in the region were relevant to build for a post-coronavirus green recovery. “This [green program] aims to provide P2.5 billion in assistance to make 145 cities more livable and sustainable. As part of “Build, Build, Build,” the national infrastructure development program of the Government of the Philippines, this can be a vital component of green recovery packages targeting both green livability, as well as investments in urban areas through scaling up projects, such as EDSA Greenways, that aim to provide nonmotorized alternative for commuter travel,” the ADB said.



A second Fall of Bataan



By [Rene Saguisag](#)
October 9, 2020

Mabini, the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism, has long been engaged in the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant story. The Grand Old Man, Sen. Lorenzo “Tanny” M. Tañada, led the charge against the plan to commission it. Joker Arroyo and I were privileged to be sounded out to assist him in the probe ordered by Marcos in response to a letter written by our Mabini chairman on the basis of a report by Jake Almeda Lopez following the 1979 Three Mile Island incident.

Media may have just reignited the flame of controversy (overshadowed by the speakership issue). I chaired the Cabinet committee on it in 1986, which role I continued as chairman of the Senate committee on the subject. Senator Tanny led and intensified the inquiry into the Three Mile Island incident in 1979, triggered by that letter from patriot Jake. Tanny wrote to Macoy who created the Puno commish, which led to the finding of many defects.

It was claimed that this issue had been resolved and there was talk of commissioning the plant. Hence, this letter of Senator Tanny of June 18, 1985 on the Bayan letterhead.

“Dear Mr. President,

“In the name of 54 million Filipinos yet unborn [now doubled], we appeal to you to rescind your decision to allow the licensing and operation of the Bataan Nuclear Processing Plant.

“To allow this plant to operate is to condemn a vast number of our countrymen to a slow but certain death, or, at the very least, to a life that has been scarred and disfigured by the invisible enemy, radiation.

“Worse yet, we shall be sealing the fate of future generations of Filipinos, a countless number of whom shall die in their mother’s womb. Or, surviving, shall belong to an army of living dead – deformed and dehumanized.

“We, and least of all you, do not wish this holocaust to come to pass in our beloved land.

“In the name of humanity, then, we are calling on you to save our country, our brother and sister Filipinos, and our children from this tragedy.

“Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada

“Chairman, Bayan”

(The letter was signed by many other signatories, joined by members of Mabini of which Tanny was also honorary chairman; Tanda, Filipino for old, which we would use fondly behind his back.)



A second Fall of Bataan

What do we know about how the people in the area feel? Have they been heard? Or only “the energy department which has sought a P92.3 billion budget for repairs of the nuclear plant,” as reported in the media last Monday.

Do we tempt a second Fall of Bataan? Before approving last Monday the budget for energy amounting to nearly P92.3 billion, with few foolish questions on Bataan being asked. Who in the administration would be its Ting Paterno, asking why we were paying for one plant for the price of two? Now, of four or five?

Our honorary chairman Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada, the gold standard, is gone.

Our 1985 regular chairman, replacing orig Bobbit Sanchez was Ed Araullo (+), and vice, Jun Factoran.

The trustees as of June 1985 were Ed Abaya, Fely Aquino, Joker Arroyo (+), Jojo Binay, Boyet Fernandez, Hessi Malillin, Sal Panelo, Rene Saguisag and Bobbit Sanchez (+), original chairman who was in the Batasan with Tito Guingona and Nene Pimentel (+), Tony Rosales (the elder), Arno Sanidad, Dodo Sarmiento and Jun Untalan (+), with Donna Zapa as secretary.

I like to fancy that all are still with me on the issue as memorialized in our Occasional Issue No. 45 of June 1985 on the Bataan Nuclear Plant (The Early Years of the Controversy — 1977-78).

Let us see what Sal Panelo has to say today on the issue that wouldn't go away. A definitive decision is called for as mothballing it is costing us millions annually. Minister Ting Paterno boldly asked: Why are we paying for one plant for the price of two (or more)? We are entitled to answers. Is there a response, not ridicule or petulance, given Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima? Is there a response to the nagging question of disposing of nuke waste?



Families in Lake Sebu flee due to landslides, ground cracks

By Allen Estabillo October 8, 2020, 2:53 pm



DAMAGED. Photo shows the damaged portion of a road in Sitio Tuburan, Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato due to the expanding ground tension cracks and occurrence of landslides in the first week of October. The South Cotabato Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office reported on Thursday (Oct. 8, 2020) that some 30 families have evacuated to safer grounds. *(Photo grabbed from the Facebook post of PDRRMO head Rolly Doane Aquino)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – At least 30 families in a remote village in Lake Sebu town, South Cotabato province have evacuated due to landslides and presence of major ground tension cracks on Wednesday.

Rolly Doane Aquino, head of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), said Thursday they found the tension cracks in portions of communities in Sitio Tuburan, Barangay Ned.

He said the ground cracks mainly expanded and triggered landslides in the area due to heavy rains in the past several days.

Aquino, who inspected the site on Wednesday, said it affected residential areas, a school, farmlands and portions of the road leading to the village.

“We advised the affected residents to remain in the evacuation center to ensure their safety,” he said in the provincial government’s radio program over Radyo Milenyong in Koronadal City.

He said a team from the PDRRMO will return to the area Thursday to deliver food and other relief assistance to the evacuees on orders from Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr.

Citing an initial assessment from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Region 12, Aquino said the landslides and emergence of tension cracks were caused by the saturation of the area’s top soil.

He said the site has confirmed coal deposits and its presence prevents the inner portion of the soil to absorb the rainwater.

The accumulation of significant volumes of water brought by heavy rains eventually softened the top soil and caused it to erode, he said.



Families in Lake Sebu flee due to landslides, ground cracks

MGB-12 and the provincial government initially monitored in 2016 the emergence of tension cracks in the area and four other sitios of Barangay Ned.

Several landslides were monitored in the affected areas in August last year following several days of heavy rains.

This prompted the MGB-12 to recommend the re-routing of roads and immediate relocation of residents in portions of the five sitios – Eldolog, Tuburan, Polosubong, Kiantay and Tawan Dagat.

The agency urged the concerned local government units to declare the areas directly affected by the tension cracks and landslides as “no build zones” and “no settlement areas,” noting that “landslides have recurrence periods so the affected sites could be affected by similar occurrences in the future.” (*PNA*)



Iloilo's wildlife, conservation park opens to public

By Perla Lena October 8, 2020, 5:08 pm



BREEDING TIME. Endangered Visayan spotted deer inside the Mari-it Wildlife and Conservation Park in Barangay Jayubo in Lambunao, Iloilo. Dr. JB Ian Bullo, veterinarian of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) that manages the park, said it is breeding time for some animals inside the park so areas that are open to guests are limited. (PNA photo by PGLena)

ILOILO CITY – Visitors are advised to take extra caution while at the Mari-it Wildlife and Conservation Park in Lambunao, Iloilo town which is now open to the public.

Dr. JB Ian Bullo, veterinarian of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) in Barangay Jayubo where the park is located, said that this period happens to be a breeding season for some animals inside the park.

“Since it is breeding season, the areas to be visited are limited; they can no longer go beyond the deer (area),” he said in an interview.

Deer breeds from October to November. It is also the breeding season until January for the Visayan writhed hornbill or the “talarak” and the Visayan warty pig.

“When they visit, we make sure that they won’t create too much noise,” he added.

Nonetheless, he said that visitors are manageable because there are not much since the area is far from the town proper.

Mari-it (enchanted) is the first conservation, breeding, and rescue park in Panay Island. It is situated in a 1,000-hectare lot within the 3,000-hectare campus of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) in Barangay Jayubo, some 16 kilometers away from the town center of Lambunao.

It currently hosts 15 Visayan writhed hornbills, considered as the world’s second most critically endangered hornbill, and endangered Visayan tarictic hornbill; 20 endangered Visayan spotted deer; 11 critically endangered Visayan warty pigs; five vulnerable Visayan leopard cats; and two cloud rats, among others.

He said that it is prohibited to approach the deer, leopard cats, and monkeys because they are aggressive while breeding.

Jennifer Osorio, Lambunao tourism officer, in an interview Thursday, said that guests should observe protocols such as wearing of face masks, face shields, washing of hands, and logging in and out for contact tracing.



Iloilo's wildlife, conservation park opens to public

"The maximum number of guests is only 30 at a time," she said.

Osorio said that most of the guests are also from Lambunao or if not from schools that are into educational tour.

Meanwhile, she said that the pandemic has allowed animals to rest. While the number of guests is controlled, the animals could still be stressed if they are exposed to noise or anything that is new to them, she added.

"It's rejuvenating time," she said.

The wildlife and conservation park is being promoted as an eco-tourism site. Apart from the endangered species, it also hosts rich flora and fauna. (*PNA*)



Hand-fed butandings in Oslob ‘significantly scarred’ — study

Published October 8, 2020, 5:52 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Lack of management intervention on tourism activities, such as hand-feeding, has led to increased injuries on endangered whale sharks or “butanding” in Oslob, Cebu, according to a study by marine experts.

Published this week in the journal *Aquatic Conservation, Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, the study was conducted by the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE) from 2012 to 2015. It showed the impact of tourism activities on individual whale sharks in Oslob, Cebu.

In a statement on Thursday, Oct. 8, the LAMAVE researchers presented their findings as seen from photographic images of 152 individual whale sharks taken over a period of 34 months (March 2012 – January 2015).

“The team used photo-identification to monitor individual whale sharks’ presence and movement, and gathered data on the presence, size, type, and location of scars on the whole body of these gigantic animals as well as the accumulation of these scars over time,” they explained.

The LAMAVE team compared scarring patterns on whale sharks in Oslob from those in Ningaloo in Australia, the Seychelles, and Mozambique, areas where a prohibition on feeding whale sharks is enforced.

Individual whale sharks observed in Barangay Tan-Awan, where butanding are hand-fed daily as part of tourist interactions, showed “significantly higher number of injury and scars than whale sharks in other non-provisioned or non-fed tourism sites in Australia, Mozambique, and the Seychelles.”

Hand feeding of whale sharks has been a tourism practice in Oslob to lure these large fish near boats that ferry tourists.

The study found that whale sharks in Oslob were “significantly more scarred [sic] than any other studied population: 95 percent of all whale sharks in Oslob had scars on their body, with abrasion being the most common type of scar.”

LAMAVE categorized the scars as “nicks and abrasions,” most likely due to close contact with ropes and small boats in tourism activity areas.

Meanwhile, 28 percent of whale sharks had lacerations, a figure significantly higher than in Ningaloo (Western Australia) and Mozambique, LAMAVE pointed out.

“These were caused by boat propellers of different sizes and could be facilitated both from the habituation to boats caused by the practice of hand-feeding the whale sharks, as well as the increased traffic of motorized vessels in the surroundings of the provisioning area,” the study found.



Hand-fed butandings in Oslob ‘significantly scarred’ — study

It further noted that whale sharks that were observed more frequently in the interaction area showed a significantly higher rate of scarring compared to individual sharks that were seen less frequently in the area.

“These regular visitors to Oslob accumulated scars over the observation period and suggest a direct causal link between the exposure to the tourism activities in Barangay Tan-Awan and scarring rates,” LAMAVE said.

It explained that scars and wounds, even if non-lethal, may pose serious risks to the endangered species, as these increase physiological stress, facilitate disease contraction from pathogens like virus and bacteria, and decrease overall health.

The study underscored the urgent need to implement proper management interventions to guarantee that tourism activities do not harm whale sharks.

Under Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, maltreating and/or inflicting injuries on threatened wildlife is prohibited.

The law is reinforced by a joint memorandum circular by the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which prohibits acts in dedicated interactions sites that would hinder an animals’ health, including injury and distress.

LAMAVE said that the Philippines, as a signatory-country to the United Nations Environment Programme Convention on Migratory Species, should ensure the strict regulation and monitoring of whale shark tourism interaction activities.

It appealed to the DOT, DENR, DA, and DILG to urgently intervene to ensure the sustainable management of tourism activities in the municipality of Oslob, as well as in other regions, “to ensure the long term balance between the socio-economic benefit of the local communities, the conservation of the marine environment, and preservation of endangered protected species like the whale sharks.”



Pod stranded in San Andres Sea, 9 dolphins die

Published October 8, 2020, 3:42 PM

by [manilabulletin_admin](#)

By Jinky Tabor

SAN ANDRES, Catanduanes – Nine from a group of dolphins died after they were stranded at the seawaters off Brgy. Bon-ot here yesterday.



(Photo via Jinky Tabor)

In an interview with the Manila Bulletin, fisherman Romeo Del Rosario said they first saw a group of Dolphins swimming towards the seashore early morning yesterday and counted 30 heads but Brgy. Chairman Gaspar Santelices said residents saw more dolphins at around 10 a.m. giving an approximate of more or less 70 head counts of the sightings.

Residents and local government unit personnel, along with the Philippine Coast Guard, assisted the dolphins in getting back to the sea but some of the dolphins were able to swim towards the mangrove area near the boundary of Barangay Yocti and Bon-ot.

Nine were found dead by the search and rescue team at the mangrove area.

Sanday Solero from the fisheries department of the San Andres local government said the pod was chasing a group of tamban for food until they reached the shallow part of the sea. “They might have been stressed,” Solera added.

Authorities found cuts on the bodies of the dolphins but none was found to be the cause of death. They also did not have anything inside their bellies that might have caused their deaths. The dolphins were buried in the seashore of Bon-ot.



Melon-headed whales found dead in Catanduanes

By Connie Calipay October 8, 2020, 5:02 pm



DEAD MELON-HEADED WHALES. Residents of Barangay Bonot in San Andres, Catanduanes discover dead melon-headed whales on the shore on Thursday (Oct.8, 2020). The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Bicol said the marine mammals could have been victims of blast fishing. *(Photo courtesy of BFAR-Bicol)*

LEGAZPI CITY – At least nine melon-headed whales were found dead on Thursday morning on the shore of Barangay Bonot, San Andres town in Catanduanes province, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Bicol said.

Nonie Enolva, the BFAR-Bicol spokesperson, said the dead mammals were part of the 70 melon-headed whales being monitored by the agency for mass stranding as a result of blast fishing.

“Mass stranding happens when these animals are found close to shallow waters and at risk (of) becoming stranded,” she said in a phone interview.

Enolva said melon-headed whales maintain an upright position to breathe and because of the blasting, they could have lost balance and coordination in swimming.

“Since they are experiencing trauma, they need to go to the shoreline to breathe,” she added.

Enolva said based on the initial report, the whales' behavior showed that they suffered from acoustic trauma. “The behavior that they are showing, inaangat ang ulo sa surface (they put up their head on the surface).”

A BFAR personnel who responded to the report on the dead whales said the wounds of the mammals have to be examined to establish their cause of death.

Enolva added that a broken middle ear could be proof that the whales were victims of blast fishing.

As of posting, BFAR is still waiting for a trained veterinarian to do the necropsy on the dead whales.

Some of the dead mammals measured 2.75 meters while the others were smaller, Enolva said. *(PNA)*



TINGNAN | Grupo ng dolphins, namataan sa karagatang sakop ng barangay Bon-ot, San Andres kahapon, Oktubre 7.

Sa panayam ng Radyo Pilipinas kay Punong Barangay Gaspar Santelices, laking gulat umano ng kanilang mga residente nang makakita ng aabot sa halos 70 na dolphins sa kanilang lugar bandang alas-10 ng umaga.

Subalit, malungkot nitong ibinalita na ngayong umaga ay apat na dito ang namamatay. Paniniwala aniya nila, hindi angkop ang lugar na iyon sa mga dolphins lalo na't nakakapunta ang mga ito sa kanilang mangrove area.

Sa ngayon ay nagtulong-tulong na aniya ang kaniyang mga residente na sagipin ang iba pang dolphins na napadpad sa delikadong bahagi ng mangrove area ng Bon-ot bago pa madagdagan ang bilang ng mga namamatay.

Mark Del Rosario





P90-K na halaga ng Bougainvillea plants sa Kidapawan City ninakaw

By [Bombo Garry Fuerzas](#)

-October 9, 2020 | 2:18 AM

CENTRAL MINDANAO-Ninakaw ng mga hindi kilalang suspek ang nagkakahalaga na P90,000.00 bougainvillea plants sa Barangay Magsaysay, Kidapawan City.

Nadiskubre na lang ng pamilya Lipang na ninakaw ang kanilang mamahaling tanim na bulaklak.

Umaabot sa 14 na mga bougainvillea plants nito ang ninakaw ng mga hindi pa kilalang kawatan.

Ilan sa mga ninakaw na Bougainvillea plants ay nagkakahalaga ng P10-K hanggang 20-K.

Hiling naman ng pamilya Lipang sa mga residente ng Kidapawan City at North Cotabato na kung sakaling may magbebenta ng nakaw na Bougainvillea plants ay ipagbigay agad sa pulisya.

Sa ngayon ay nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon ng Kidapawan City PNP sa mga ninakaw na bulaklak.



Flatten the fear info drive: Group pushes for evidence-based policymaking

posted October 08, 2020 at 10:03 pm
by [Manila Standard Digital](#)

The Concerned Doctors and Citizens of the Philippines, a group of professionals and experts from the medical, health, business, financial, and research industries, is mounting an information campaign called “Flatten the Fear.”

According to CDC PH, it is not enough that government agencies are only focused on “flattening the curve” – a now-familiar catch-all phrase referring to managing the COVID-19 infection rate so as not to overwhelm medical treatment facilities throughout the country.

“We agree that it’s important to contain COVID-19 infections,” said Dr. Iggy Agbayani, an orthopedic surgeon.

“However, it is also important to manage the level of fear that people are experiencing in many communities throughout the country. By spreading the right medical information, we can flatten the fear and help end the lockdown.”

According to economist Nonoy Oplas, fear and panic have already led to many cases of dangerous, irrational behavior toward health workers who faced discrimination, and patients and recoverees who were evicted by lessors or had their houses forcibly searched by barangay officials.

Dr. Homer Lim, a geriatrician and integrative doctor, said with the medical knowledge accumulated over the past six months, the country’s primary tool against the virus ought to be a national protocol for the prophylaxis (preventive) and early treatment of COVID-19 that reduces hospitalizations and saves lives.

Members of CDC PH have sought a meeting with the medical advisers of the Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

Lim said CDC PH can provide medical studies that show the effectiveness of zinc, vitamin D₃, and vitamin C as part of an early treatment regimen that includes azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ).

According to CDC PH, there have been hundreds of patients who have benefited from HCQ treatments.

These recoveries include about 400 high-risk COVID-19 patients who were treated by Dr. Jerry Jurado, a Filipino doctor in New Jersey, USA, who used HCQ, azithromycin and zinc.

Here in the Philippines, during the height of the pandemic, Dr. Lim treated over 100 COVID-19 patients using the same protocols with great success.

CDC PH also cited a Newsweek article, “The Key to Defeating COVID-19 Already Exists. We Need to Start Using It,” written by Harvey Risch, a professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, that points to seven studies, all published after May 2020, reporting on the efficacy of HCQ.



Flatten the fear info drive: Group pushes for evidence-based policymaking

According to CDC PH, by strengthening the preventive and early-treatment protocols of the national health system, government leaders will no longer need to choose between saving the economy or saving precious Filipino lives.

“With the good health of both our economy and our people assured, we will truly begin to heal as one,” CDC PH said.



Transmission of COVID-19 cases increasing in several areas in PH, analysts say

Rose Carmelle Lacuata, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Oct 09 2020 12:11 AM



Commuters walk to Quezon Avenue in Quezon City and the nearest EDSA Busway station to catch their ride to Manila and Monumento (in Caloocan City) on Thursday, after MMDA traffic enforcers stopped and instructed bus drivers headed to Montalban (in Rizal) and Fairview (in Quezon City) to take a right turn on the National Printing Office Road in Quezon City. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - A group of academics monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines said the transmission rate of the disease is increasing in at least 17 areas despite a decreasing trend in the daily number of cases.

The OCTA Research Group, composed of academics from the University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas, in its October 6 report, said the National Capital Region (NCR) remains as the major epicenter of the pandemic in the country.

This, despite the daily number of new cases in NCR decreasing to fewer than 1,000.

The group also said the positivity rate in NCR has decreased to 8 percent, which is still above the World Health Organizations (WHO) ideal rate of 5 percent.

Aside from NCR, the following are considered as high risk areas:

- Batangas
- Benguet (including Baguio City)
- Cavite
- Davao del Sur (including Davao City)
- Iloilo (Including Iloilo City)
- Laguna
- Misamis Oriental (including Cagayan de Oro)



Transmission of COVID-19 cases increasing in several areas in PH, analysts say

- Negros Occidental (including Bacolod)
- Nueva Ecija
- Quezon
- Pangasinan (including Dagupan)
- Rizal
- South Cotabato (including General Santos)
- Surigao del Sur
- Western Samar
- Zamboanga del Sur (including Zamboanga City)

High risk areas are those with more than 1 percent daily attack rate per 1,000, or those which the current attack rate is greater compared to the previous two weeks, or having a case load of more than 100 over the past two weeks.

The group said that though the situation in NCR has improved, both the national and local governments must still strictly monitor and enforce compliance with minimum health standards.

The government should also intensify its efforts at testing, tracing and isolation to reverse the increase of transmission in high risk areas.

Reverting to a stricter quarantine classification for high risk areas, as well as those areas with limited hospital capacity and increasing number of new cases, may also be considered, the OCTA Research Group added.

As of Thursday, the Philippines has a total of 331,869 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 6,069 deaths, 274,318 recoveries and 51,482 active cases.

The group estimates that COVID-19 cases in the Philippines will reach 380,000 to 410,000 by the end of October.

Read More: [OCTA Research Group COVID-19 coronavirus COVID-19 cases in the Philippines COVID-19 recoveries coronavirus patients COVID-19 recovered patients in Philippines](#)



WHO reports record one-day rise in global coronavirus cases, up over 338,000

Published October 9, 2020 1:38am

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a record one-day increase in global coronavirus cases on Thursday, with the total rising by 338,779 in 24 hours.

Deaths rose by 5,514 to a total of 1.05 million.

India reported 78,524 new cases, followed by Brazil at 41,906 and the United States with 38,904 new infections.

The previous WHO record for new cases was 330,340 on Oct. 2. The agency reported a record 12,393 deaths on April 17. -- **Reuters**



Bilang ng nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo nadagdagan pa ng mahigit 6,000

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo October 08, 2020 - 11:04 AM



Umabot na sa 1,060,443 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, pinakamaraming bilang ng nasawi sa US na umabot na sa 216,784.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 148,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Ang death toll sa India ay mahigit 105,000 na.

Habang ang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 82,700.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 27.4 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 7.9 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

Narito ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa iba't ibang ng mga bansa:

USA – 216,784

Brazil – 148,304

India – 105,554

Mexico – 82,726

UK – 42,515

Italy – 36,061

France – 32,445

Peru – 33,009

Spain – 32,562

Iran – 27,658

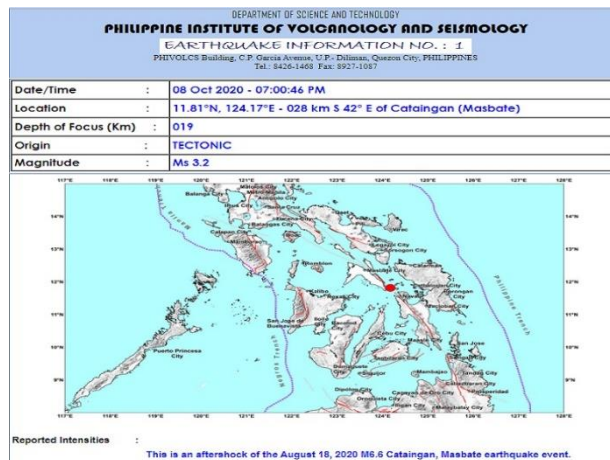
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Cataingan, Masbate niyanig ng magnitude 3.2 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales October 08, 2020 - 07:32 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.2 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Masbate.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 28 kilometers southeast ng bayan ng Cataingan, alas-7:00 gabi ng Huwebes (October 8).

May lalim na 19 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng mga pagyanig.

Wala namang naitalang pagkasira ng mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks bunsod ng pagyanig.

Ang pagyanig ay aftershock ng magnitude 6.6 na lindol sa lugar noong August 18.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/268627/cataingan-masbate-niyanig-ng-magnitude-3-2-na-lindol-3#ixzz6ajck7LFg>

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Disasters, failure of governance are top risks to business

October 9, 2020 | 12:32 am



The Philippines is visited by an average of 20 typhoons every year. — PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

NATURAL CATASTROPHES and failure of national governance dominate the concerns for business executives in the Philippines this year, according to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) "Regional Risks for Doing Business 2020" report.

In the survey conducted between January to July, business leaders were presented with a list of 30 risk issues and were asked to pick five they believe to be of most concern for doing business in their respective countries within the next 10 years.

In the Philippines, natural catastrophes topped the list with 54.5% of the country's respondents including it in their list of five highest perceived risks in doing business — the second-highest response rate for this issue out of 130 countries, only behind Japan's 75.3%. This is also way above the global and East Asia and Pacific (EAP) averages of 15.8% and 39.4%, respectively.

The Philippines is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons.

Other top perceived risk issues in the Philippines include failure of national governance (51.1%, 10th overall); spread of infectious diseases (51.1%, 18th); failure of critical infrastructure (40.9%, sixth); and extreme weather events (35.2%, eighth).

Key issues among Filipino business leaders differed from those at the global level, which had "unemployment or underemployment" as the top concern with 34.5% compared with the country's 19.3% (100th overall).

Besides jobs, top global concerns include the spread of infectious diseases (32%), fiscal crises (26.5%), cyber attacks (26.1%), and profound social instability (26.1%).

For the EAP region, concerns on the spread of infectious diseases ranked highest at 47.9%, followed by asset bubbles (40.6%), natural catastrophes (39.4%), interstate conflicts (35.2%), and cyber attacks (29.6%).

Sought for comments, University of the Asia and the Pacific Economist Victor A. Abola said that the risks raised by Filipino business leaders are valid, adding that the public and private sectors should work together to address those risks.



Disasters, failure of governance are top risks to business

“We need to spend more to minimize negative effects of calamities (but more is being done since Yolanda and now COVID-19), but failure of national governance is clearly a strong message,” Mr. Abola told BusinessWorld in an e-mail.

“However, more than NG (National Government), I think the problem is in the LGUs (local government units) whose officials do not have the national interest at heart,” he said.

The survey, which had about 12,000 respondents, was conducted by the WEF in partnership with US-based professional services firm Marsh & McLennan, Swiss-based Zurich Insurance Group, and South Korean conglomerate SK Group. — **Ana Olivia A. Tirona**



Help our artisans and weavers by supporting rural livelihoods – Filipino designers

By Climate Change Commission (CCC) Published on October 8, 2020

MANILA, Oct. 8 — Filipino fashion designers and entrepreneurs urged the public to patronize and support our innovating weaving and textile industry in this time of pandemic during the 20th episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways.”

This episode is the second part of the topic “Weaving Resilience: Reviving Indigenous Textiles and Crafts” which highlighted collaborative efforts in utilizing local textiles from the rural weavers and promoted appreciation of indigenous weaving textiles from various regions in the Philippines.

The online conversation hosted by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda featured designers and brand owners including Lenora Luisa Cabili of Filip+Inna; Marga Nograles of Kaayo Modern Mindanao; Nina Corpuz-Rodriguez of Nina Inabel; Looie Lobregat of Linea Etnika; Susan Marie Liao of Designs by Marie; Jor-el Espina; and Elsie Standen of Allena.

Legarda discussed the significance of reviving the production of Piña Seda, a handwoven fabric made of silk and pineapple fibers, and other traditional textiles.

“The strengthening of the local tropical fabrics industry is attuned to our advocacy of promoting sustainable development and preserving our rich heritage. With our efforts, we are able to help the local tropical fabric industry, we are able to help our rural artisans, and we are able to provide rural livelihoods,” said Legarda.

Ms. Cabili shared the beginnings and products of Filip+Inna, and how they collaborate with different artisans around the country to banner their excellent craftsmanship. She also stressed the exquisite characteristics of piña.

“One of the beauties of the piña is that it is taken from its purest form. The way it is extracted, stripped, dried, knotted, and weaved is an amazing process that I don't see in other textiles around the world,” said Cabili.

Ms. Nograles shared the story behind Kaayo Modern Mindanao and its partnership with the Indigenous Weaving Communities of Mindanao.

“People asked me what 'Kaayo' is. I would summarize it into three points: First, 'Kaayo' means kindness or goodness in Bisaya. We wanted everyone to be inspired by kindness. Next, 'Kaayo' is a curated collection of different Mindanaoan stories. So basically, we are a platform to present the treasures of my hometown [Davao]. And lastly, Kaayo Modern Mindanao is about coming together of everyone, of all Mindanaoans. Our brand celebrates collaboration and empowering other people to come together to bring the brand to life,” said Nograles.

Ms. Corpuz-Rodriguez shared how Nina Inabel helped the local weavers, dressmakers, and farmers in Ilocos, and how the brand promoted the many use of the Inabel fabric.



Help our artisans and weavers by supporting rural livelihoods – Filipino designers

“As an Ilocana, I'm familiar with the fabric "Inabel." It is used all over the household - from curtains to blankets, and even uniforms and medals. But we showed everyone that the traditional fabric, "Inabel," ay hindi lang ginagamit sa bahay, kundi pang fashion din,” said Corpuz-Rodriguez.

Ms. Lobregat shared how she was inspired by their local cultural heritage to create products that make weaves mainstream and celebrate the stories of the hands and parts that make them – through Linea Etnika.

“Linea Etnika really embraces slow fashion. Things are purposely made to last. I know that Linea Etnika is a small company but I'd like to believe that we have a very big heart and strong conviction to make this happen. We go for zero waste, and we upcycled and repurposed some of our products,” said Lobregat.

Mr. Espina shared the background of his brand and how fascinated he was with the colorful handwoven fabrics of Iloilo, Aklan, and Antique.

“The designers and entrepreneurs are here to revive and give respect to these fabrics. We are free to create new things, we are free to do and work on different colors and patterns, but we have to respect the crafts of our ancestors so that our tradition will be preserved and continue,” said Espina.

Ms. Liao shared the inspiration behind Designs by Marie, which came from their family's love for arts, culture, and heritage that made them create a sustainable brand, especially in helping the artisans of Antique.

“It is a sustainable brand that has a tribute to our beloved province of Antique. We merge tradition with fashion. We aim to empower more Antiqueño artisans and continuously support their livelihood,” said Liao.

Ms. Standen shared Allena's advocacy of protecting and preserving the past tradition which should be enjoyed and passed on as a legacy to the future generations.

“As a brand with responsibility, we know that consumers nowadays are getting smarter, so being "traceable" means we can answer their questions such "who made our clothes?," "what is it made of?," and "is it relevant that it can be passed on to their daughters?". Traceability, for us, has different ingredients: the people, the raw materials, and the research and development that comes with it,” said Standen.

As a textile art, culture, and heritage advocate, Legarda showed her extensive collection of local garments and Filipino knitwear made by the invited guest designers, in support of the rural artisans, weavers, and livelihoods.

“While this is about fashion, we talked about rural livelihoods, Philippine innovation and design. What we discussed is connecting businesses and enterprises in the cities to the mountains and the farmlands, and the need to connect artisans, livelihoods and weavers to the market,” Legarda concluded.



Help our artisans and weavers by supporting rural livelihoods – Filipino designers

This three-part episode emphasizes the role of the traditional weaving industry in preserving our cultural heritage and local craftsmanship. The last part, which will focus on promoting traditional arts and crafts will air on October 8th.

The upcoming episode will feature founders of social and community-based enterprises including Karl Lozano of Sesotunawa; John Francia and Trish Lim of Woven crafts; and Nida Danao of Silnag.

Episode 21 will also show video clips of local artisans including weavers Angelina and Sammy Buhle from Hingyon, Ifugao; Teofilo Garcia, a Casque maker and Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan from San Quintin, Abra; Eduardo Mutuc, a Metalsmith and Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan from Apalit, Pampanga; and Magdalena Gamayo, a Textile weaver and Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan from Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, Stories for a Better Normal aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a 'better normal' can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines, and the Mother Earth Foundation (CCC)



EDITORIAL - Best island in Asia

(The Freeman)

- October 9, 2020 - 12:00am



As mentioned in an earlier editorial, the few pieces of good news we get every once in a while are always worth sharing and glossing over. And the latest good news we got was that Cebu was judged by an international lifestyle magazine as the top island in Asia for 2020.

According to the 2020 Readers' Choice Awards of Condé Nast Traveler, which features destination guides and other travel spots around the world, Cebu tops a list of five Asian islands. It bested Sri Lanka, Koh Phi Phi, Palawan, and Siargao Island.

Boracay, which is touted as having the best beaches in the Philippines, was not even in the list in sixth place.

"So the names in this year's edition are the ones that brought you comfort, that you still connected with long afterward, that got you through the months without travel. These are the enduring gems that can withstand the test of time and the vicissitudes of circumstances. So while it is always an honor to be on this list, in this strangest of years it is a special honor, indeed," Condé Nast Traveler read.

Those who made the choices picked Cebu not just because of the tourist attractions we have like our waterfalls and beaches, but also because of our culture and history.

It is already good that our country has three of the five islands in the list. That that Cebu placed on top of this list only gives us even more satisfaction.

Now the challenge is to keep our place on top. And it is a challenge that becomes harder because of the ongoing pandemic and the protocols we have to observe.

While tourism is largely still on hold, places here and there are slowly reopening, but with strict rules and regulations governing tourists.

And it should stay that way for now. We should still discourage huge crowds. We should still say no to the frivolous partying we are famous for. Some businesses should still be discouraged from opening. No, not just yet.

Let us remember that if we normalize too quickly we face the possibility of again seeing a spike in COVID-19 infections. And if we again slide into more stringent quarantine restrictions we can say goodbye to this particular distinction. Although in such a scenario that would be the least of our worries.



DFA chief Locsin: Sabah is ours and we want it

Published October 8, 2020 7:05pm
By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Thursday stood firm on his position that Sabah belongs to the Philippines as he faced the Senate for the agency's 2021 budget.

During the hearing on the Department of Foreign Affairs' proposed P21.96 billion budget, Locsin was asked about the administration's foreign policy regarding Sabah which is both being claimed by the Philippines and Malaysia.

He said there are ongoing political movements in Sabah and in nearby areas and added that "we may have to adjust to that but for now it's ours and we want it."

Locsin reiterated that the Sabah issue has been put in the backburner during the Aquino administration but he has now made his position clear.

"That incident on just a casual mention of what's our claim, I think I slapped them back hard enough for them to realize to be careful... People will start taking on a realistic view that we are not a country to be ignored," he said.

Locsin's Twitter post asserting the country's ownership of Sabah last July prompted the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to [summon the Philippine ambassador](#) to Malaysia.

In turn, Locsin replied that he is also [summoning the Malaysian ambassador](#) in the country.

During the same Senate hearing, Senator Richard Gordon asked about the DFA's action on reports that Filipinos are being maltreated in Sabah.

He said he already gave instructions to the Philippine Ambassador in Kuala Lumpur.

"I instructed my diplomats not to be comfortable with the host country... The more you are disliked, then probably the better the job you're doing. For as long as our people are maltreated in any country then I expect my diplomats to be real jerks in that host country," Locsin said.

Gordon agreed with the DFA chief's tough stance.

"We can have our self-respect as a nation as we are assertive and not afraid to say our views and are not afraid to protect our people when they are being mistreated anywhere in the world including that part of the Philippines called Sabah," the senator said.

Sabah, located on the island of Borneo just south of Mindanao, has long been the subject of a territorial dispute between the Philippines and Malaysia.

The heirs of the Sultan of Sulu claim that the original Filipino sultan controlled the territory for centuries.

It was in 1963, however, that the United Nations recognized Sabah as part of Malaysia.—AOL, GMA News

Budgets of 38 agencies: ‘Aprub without thinking’



[GOTCHA - Jarius Bondoc](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 9, 2020 - 12:00am

Without benefit of open debate, majority congressmen have passed the 2021 budgets of 38 state agencies. It was on say-so of a kingpin “desperately clinging to power.” They just blindly obeyed. “Aprub without thinking,” as Filipinos deprecate such antic.

Among the budgets unquestioningly approved were of 15 executive departments, each with dozens of attached corporations and offices. As well, of 112 state universities and colleges. In all, the government bodies number in the hundreds.

Leading the unstudied departments were health and social welfare (complete list below). Earlier their allocations and programs were rated unresponsive to prolonged pandemic in 2021. For one, funding for all types of vaccines was only P2.5 billion, when P60 billion is needed for COVID-19 alone. There was also no appropriation for “ayuda” for 18 million poor families.

Also glossed over were funds for public works and transportation. Public works is where congressmen’s pork barrels are inserted with impunity although illegal. Transportation has been reported as excessive and inapt. Yet those departments are supposed to lead the government’s infra-works to jumpstart the dormant economy.

Those budgets rashly were approved on second reading Tuesday. It was not on the House of Reps agenda. Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano railroaded it, then abruptly suspended sessions for a month. By dispersing the congressmen to their provinces, he aimed to avert the scheduled turnover [on Oct. 14](#) of his post to Rep. Lord Allan Velasco.

Cayetano won the day. But Filipinos will waste P4.5 trillion, the entire national expenditure program for 2021. That amount will come from taxes, license fees and other exactions. Also from government debts for the people to repay. Filipinos must cough up the P4.5 trillion for programs and procurements, sight unseen.

The majority congressmen were unaware that they would be okaying anything last Tuesday. They were only told by party whips to attend in person or by video-conference, and mimic Cayetano’s actions on the floor.

Then unfolded the script. Taking the mike, Cayetano lambasted Velasco and allies, and minority and opposition members. At the end of which, he moved to advance the budget’s approval on second reading by two days. Minions seconded. Objectors were muted. The ayes bayed in viva voce. No more discussions on the 38 agencies’ funds. Overridden was the gentleman’s agreement for Cayetano to turn over the Speakership to Velasco [on Oct. 14](#).

Budgets of 38 agencies: ‘Aprub without thinking’

Cayetano steamrolled another motion to adjourn right there and then. Advanced by 11 days was the start of the All Saints’/All Souls’ break [on Oct. 17](#). Again a rush of seconding, muting and baying.

In minutes it was over. Quashed was a scheduled third reading [on Oct. 15](#). Session will resume [Nov. 16](#). Only then will congressmen approve the third reading. With the House on recess, Velasco cannot properly be installed.

Cayetano and clique must have been inspired from on high. After the stage show Cayetano knelt on the chamber floor and bowed; his deputies and committee chairmen surrounded him in hallelujah.

Cayetano has a month to consolidate his forces. He formed a small “committee” to receive congressmen’s budget amendments “for later release.” FLR is the new term for multibillion-peso illegal insertions to benefit congressmen’s pet projects. The small committee consists of Cayetano loyalists expert in pork barrels.

In all, seven constitutional provisions and 16 congressional rules were broken for and by Cayetano. Foremost were Filipinos’ right to representation, especially in the use of their money. No proper plenary deliberations were held to justify every peso and centavo of the P4.5-trillion budget.

* * *

List of Agencies that were not subjected to Plenary Debates:

1. Dept. of Health
2. Dept. of Social Welfare and Development
3. Dept. of Public Works and Highways
4. Dept. of Transportation
5. Dept. of Budget and Management
6. Dept. of Tourism
7. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
8. Dept. of Education
9. Dept. of Finance/Bureau of Internal Revenue
10. Dept. of the Interior and Local Government
11. Dept. of Agrarian Reform
12. Dept. of Energy
13. Dept. of Information and Communications Technology
14. Dept. of Foreign Affairs
15. Presidential Communications Operations Office



Budgets of 38 agencies: ‘Aprub without thinking’

16. Commission on Elections
17. Commission on Audit
18. Civil Service Commission
19. Commission on Higher Education
20. Commission on Human Rights
21. Human Rights Violations Victims’ Memorial Commission
22. Office of the Vice President
23. Career Service Executive Board
24. Budgetary Support to Government Corporations Development Academy of the Philippines
25. 112 State Universities and Colleges
26. National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
27. National Security Council
28. Movie and Television Review and Classification Board
29. Film Development Council of the Philippines
30. Optical Media Board
31. Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
32. Climate Change Commission
33. Philippine Sports Commission
34. Commission on Filipinos Overseas
35. Mindanao Development Authority
36. Philippine Space Agency
37. Anti-Red Tape Authority
38. Congress of the Philippines

* * *



8888 hotline exceeded target calls received by 269% but abandoned over 792K callers

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lala](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellaluINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:32 AM October 09, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The government's 8888 hotline intended for complaints on government services have exceeded its target for calls attended by 269 percent, but did not mention that it abandoned over 792,000 calls, the Commission on Audit (COA) pointed out on Thursday.

In its performance audit of the Office of the President (OP) for 2019, COA noted that the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center expected to attend to 240,000 calls in the previous years, but actually managed to answer 646,658 complaints.

This meant that they exceeded their targets by 269.44 percent. But COA said that over 792,685 calls were either abandoned while in queue, or did not make it from interactive voice response (IVRs) to actual responding individuals or call takers (CTs).

"The figure does not include the 792,685 calls abandoned in queue and those processed only in IVR that did not push through speaking with the CT," COA said in their report.

"These complaints and requests were duly forwarded by the Center to the concerned agency and a 2nd endorsements were made to those which did not respond after the lapse of 72 hours," it added.

Furthermore, COA also stressed that the Complaint Center has yet to operate other channels where citizens could voice out their concerns over government services and alleged red-tape practices.

There are five channels that should have been utilized, including the 8888 hotline. But it seems that only the hotline was operational, while other forms of messaging — short message services or text messages, electronic mailing, website messages, and social media accounts — are non-existent.

This shortcoming, COA said, makes it falsely appear that the Center has been overly effective in carrying out its mandate.

"With 646,658 processed calls and referrals, including follow-ups thereto, it would seem that the Center is effective in eradicating red tape/corruption in the government," COA said.

"However, it could have been more effective, if the other communication channels, provided for under Section 5(a) of EO No. 6, were operationalized to receive complaints and requests," it stressed.

In response, the Center claimed that other forms of messaging are being rolled out, with the text services starting its partial operations.



8888 hotline exceeded target calls received by 269% but abandoned over 792K callers

The 8888 hotline is one of two key hotlines initiated under President Rodrigo Duterte's term, the other being the 911 emergency rescue hotline. The 8888 hotline is part of the administration's drive against corruption and red-tape allegations within the bureaucracy, allowing affected citizens to report complaints realtime.

However, the complaint hotlines have also received complaints, from accessibility issues to unresponsive lines.

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Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1345454/8888-hotline-exceeded-target-calls-received-by-269-but-abandoned-over-792000-callers#ixzz6aIn7VKPt>

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Gov't expects economic rebound in 2021, 2022

Published October 8, 2020, 7:35 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



The government is closely watching developments on two fronts in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. One is the number of infections and deaths, the direct impact of the coronavirus on the people. The other is the economic impact of the pandemic — the big losses in national development and on the people's livelihood.

In the first area, the Department of Health last Sunday reported 3,190 new cases since its last report two months ago, for a new total of 322,497 cases nationwide. The good news is that there were 18,065 newly recorded recoveries.

Metro Manila accounted for 37 percent of the new cases; Calabarzon (Region 4-A) had 21 percent; and Central Luzon (Region 3) had 11 percent — more than two thirds of the national total. This should explain to Metro Manilans why their region remains under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) lockdown. There were 100 new deaths— 57 in September and 16 so far in October — to raise the national death total to 5,776.

Evidently, there are still many people exposing themselves to infection, especially in Metro Manila, Calabarzon, and Central Luzon, by ignoring the basic protocols of wearing face masks, maintaining the proper distance from other persons, and frequent washing of hands.

Even as the infections and deaths continue, the country's economic planners have drawn up plans for the country's economic recovery from the depths to which it has fallen since the lockdowns began in March.

The COVID-19 crisis has already plunged the country into recession with the closure of nearly all business enterprises as people were told to stay home. But the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) has drawn up several short-term strategies to meet the problem, including acceleration of government spending, particularly under the Bayanihan 2 Act in the rest of this year, and the Build, Build, Build program which is constructing roads and bridges, employing thousands, and stimulating economic activity.

The DBCC acknowledges that the country faces such difficulties as the ongoing disruptions in business activity and in people's livelihood and spending, the fall in the remittances of overseas Filipino workers and in Foreign Direct Investments, and world economic developments such as the slowdown in world trade.



Gov't expects economic rebound in 2021, 2022

Still, considering all these factors both positive and negative, the DBCC expects the national economy to start recovering in 2021. The national economy is expected to contract further this year, 2020, by 5.5 percent, but it should rebound with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) up by 6.5 percent in 2021 and 7.5 percent in 2022.

We welcome this highly positive outlook, arising from the projects that the government is now undertaking and the plans that it is preparing for the coming year and the next. We especially welcome the expected benefits that will surely reach down to our people who have suffered so much in this pandemic but can look forward to much better times in the next two years.



Tuna value worldwide decreasing, industry must plan ahead — new report

posted October 08, 2020 at 10:10 pm

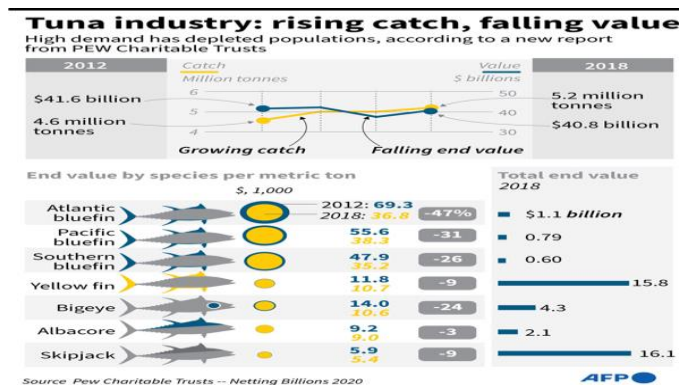
by [AFP](#)

By Marlowe Hood

Paris, France—Tuna is holding steady as a \$40 billion-a-year business, but commercial fisheries worldwide are hauling in bigger catches of dwindling value, threatening the long-term survival of some species, according to a new report.

“Fisheries caught 500,000 more metric tons in 2018 than in 2012, but were paid \$500 million less in dock value,” study co-author Grantly Galland, an officer with The Pew Charitable Trusts’ international fisheries group, told AFP.

Unless governments that regulate the industry through regional management bodies adopt long-term strategies, everything from supermarket tuna to \$100-a-portion sashimi could wind up in short supply, the report warned.



Crashing populations of skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin and bluefin would also jeopardize livelihoods and disrupt ecosystems in which the top-level predators play a critical role.

Only a long-term, science-based approach, the report suggests, can keep revenue high without depleting stocks past the threshold of sustainability.

The new assessment pulls together global data—total catch, along with value from dock to diner table—for the seven main species of tuna found in the world’s oceans.

Skipjack, a staple of supermarket tuna, accounted for 58 percent of all tuna landed in 2018 by weight, and 40 percent of value at the final point of sale.

The three million tons harvested that year was 20 percent more than in 2012.

But it ultimately only brought in only six percent more in sales.



Tuna value worldwide decreasing, industry must plan ahead — new report

Yellowfin—the second most important tuna species, both by total weight and revenue—saw a similar pattern, with a 15-percent increase in catch from 2012 to 2018, but only a two percent hike in earnings.

For Atlantic bluefin tuna—25 times more valuable by weight than skipjack, and especially prized by connoisseurs in Japan—the gap grew even larger, with catches increasing over that six-year period by 200 percent, but total revenue up only 22 percent.

The same gleaming, fatty bluefin fish that fetched nearly \$70,000 a ton in 2012 sold for only half that in 2018.

“The tuna business is incredibly valuable,” said Amanda Nickson, who directs Pew’s international fisheries work.

“But now we can conclusively see that catching more fish does not necessarily result in greater economic value.”

‘Maximum sustainable yield’

Bigeye tuna catches declined from 2012 to 2018 by 20 percent, but end value sales went down even more.

Commercial tuna fleets are overseen by RFMOs, or regional fisheries management organizations, that solicit assessments from scientific committees on fish stock and, when they are needed, advice on quota levels.

But historically, RFMOs have tended to ignore this advice, setting quotas above what scientists have deemed the maximum sustainable yield.

Only after stocks of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin fell so low as to trigger a vote in 2010 under a UN treaty on whether to restrict trade did the relevant RFMO, afraid it would lose control of their \$2-billion industry, take decisive action.

In less than a decade, stock levels improved significantly.

This time RFMOs should get out ahead of the problem, if only out of self-interest, the report said.

“Implementing a modernized fisheries management system, known as harvest strategies, would eliminate an ineffective cycle of managers prioritizing short-term profits over the long-term value,” Nickson said.

It would also ensure more economic security for the millions of people who rely on the tuna industry for jobs and food, she added.

The world’s top tuna fishing nations are Indonesia, which landed more than 550,000 tons in 2018, followed by Japan (370,000 tons) and five nations that caught around 300,000 tons each: Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Spain, Ecuador and South Korea.

The United States is in eighth place, with about 240,000 tons.

Topics: [Tuna](#) , [Yellowfin tuna](#) , [bluefin tuna](#) , [Bigeye tuna](#) , [Skipjack](#)



Prince William launches ‘most prestigious’ environment prize



By [THE MANILA TIMES](#)

October 8, 2020

LONDON: Britain’s Prince William on Thursday launched the “most prestigious” environmental prize of all time, aimed at turning “pessimism into optimism” by rewarding innovative solutions to the planet’s biggest problems.

The Earthshot Prize will present five £1 million (\$1.3-million, 1.1-million-euro) awards each year for the next 10 years, to “incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next ten years,” said his office in London.

Kensington Palace described it as the “most prestigious global environment prize in history” and said it was inspired by US president John F. Kennedy’s “Moonshot” project in the 1960s.

“We need to find solutions to be able to live our lives and enjoy our lives and not feel guilty and bad about some of the things we do,” the prince, who is second in line to the throne, told BBC Radio 4 in an interview aired Thursday.

“That ultimately has to change, because I also worry from a mental health point of view, the anxiety and the worry that many of these younger generations are going to have.”

He said he hopes the prize will “galvanize and bring together the best minds, the best possible solutions, to fixing and tackling some of the world’s greatest environmental challenges.”

“The next 10 years are a critical decade for change. Time is of the essence, which is why we believe that this very ambitious global prize is the only way forward.”

The project is centered around five “simple but ambitious” aims to be met by 2030: “protect and restore nature,” “clean our air,” “revive our oceans,” “build a waste-free world,” and “fix our climate.”



In this file photo taken on July 16, 2020, Britain’s Prince William, Duke of Cambridge socially distances as he speaks with service users during a visit to the Garden House of the Light Project in Peterborough. Britain’s Prince William on Thursday launched the “most prestigious” environmental prize of all time, aimed at turning “pessimism into optimism” by rewarding innovative solutions to the planet’s biggest problems. (Photo by Kirsty Wigglesworth / POOL / AFP)



Prince William launches ‘most prestigious’ environment prize

The prize is supported by a coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses with the winners to be announced each year at a ceremony in a different city around the globe, starting with London in 2021.

Prizes can be awarded to individuals or teams, whether they be scientists, activists, economists, governments, business leaders and even countries.

“The Earthshot Prize aims to turn the current pessimism surrounding environmental issues into optimism that we can rise to the biggest challenges of our time,” said the palace.

“But the Prize is about much more than awarding achievement — it is a decade of action to... inspire people all over the world to work together to repair the planet.”

William praised his father Prince Charles’s for his long-running environmental campaigning, joking to the BBC: “I regularly wonder what my father’s banging on about. I’m sure every son thinks the same.

“But... he’s talked about this for a long time and long before people sort of cottoned on to climate change.

“So I’ve always listened to and learnt and believed in what he was saying.” AFP



Prince William launches ‘environmental prize’

posted October 08, 2020 at 07:35 pm

by [AFP](#)

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Topics: [Prince William](#) , [John F. Kennedy](#) , [Moonshot](#) , [environment](#)

How can renewables overcome their human rights problems?

The clean energy sector's poor human rights performance places its legitimacy at risk. Jessie Cato of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre sheds light on how the industry can avoid labour abuse, land grabs and other violations.



By [Tim Ha](#)

Thursday 8 October 2020

Renewables are essential in the fight against global warming. But does the switch to clean energy have to come at the expense of the most vulnerable?

Research has shown that renewable energy companies are [falling short on efforts](#) to safeguard workers and communities in their supply chains. From sourcing of raw materials to the sites where power generation facilities are built, the industry has been found to be riddled with exploitation.

In 2018, 17 people lost their lives defending their lands against hydropower projects, for instance. When it comes to attacks on human rights activists, the violation of Indigenous people's rights and child labour, the sector is in fact [the third-worst in the world](#), behind only the mining and agribusiness industries.