

14 APRIL 2022, Thursday



DENR

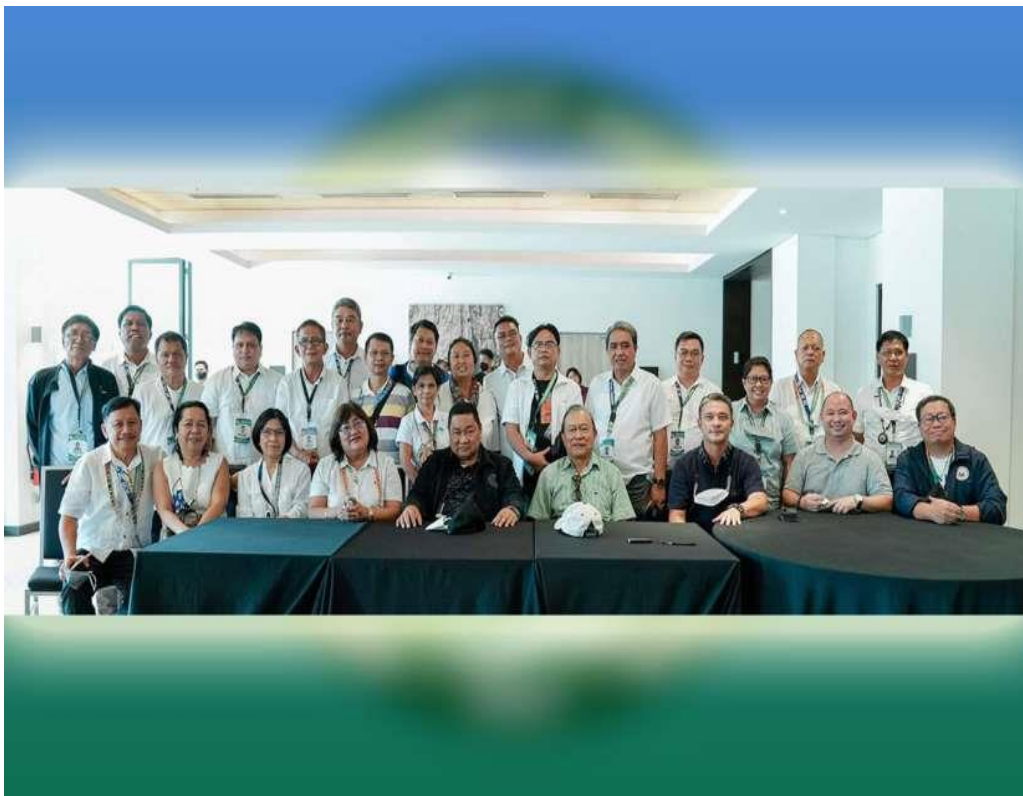
NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Sampulna Meets DENR-MIMAROPA Officials

[Wednesday, April 13, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (seated, center) convenes the DENR Region 4B Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan (MIMAROPA) provincial and community environment and [natural resources officers to discuss administrative and environmental concerns](#) in the region needing immediate attention. The top issues raised by the regional officials include land survey and processing of titles, housing project for victims of typhoon Yolanda, intensified forest protection, easement rules, and the implementation of environmental laws. Sampulna met with the officials during the celebration of World Water Day on April 2 in El Nido, Palawan. He was joined by Undersecretary for Field Operations- Luzon, Visayas and Environment Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna and Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (seated, 3rd and 2nd from right).



Penro Pampanga chief is new ARD for management services

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 13, 2022

- A A +

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando recently welcomed Laudemir Salac as its OIC assistant regional director for Management Services under Regional Special Order 2022-64 issued by Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr.

Salac replaced Director Arturo Fadriquela, who was promoted as the OIC regional executive director of DENR-Eastern Visayas, after serving Central Luzon for two years.

Salac is a forester and previously worked as the provincial chief of the DENR in Pampanga.

Meanwhile, forester Roger Encarnacion will now serve as the OIC chief of the DENR office in Pampanga.



Rescued python released back into wild in Sorsogon

By Connie Calipay April 13, 2022, 6:12 pm



BORN TO BE WILD. The reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*) that was turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol by a resident of Sorsogon City is shown in this undated photo. All wildlife in the Philippines is protected under Republic Act 9147, the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act". (Photo from DENR-Bicol's Facebook page)

LEGAZPI CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol (DENR-5) through the Sorsogon Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) has released a rescued reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*) back into its natural habitat in the vicinity of Bulusan Volcano Natural Park (BVNP) in Bulusan, Sorsogon.

"Ernesto J. Labasbas, a resident of Barangay Bibinchahan, noticed the snake in a nearby canal outside his property. Upon discovery, he immediately reported the same to the barangay officials for proper turnover," the DENR-5 said in a social media post on Wednesday.

DENR-Bicol said upon inspection of the rescued snake, PENRO-Sorsogon personnel promptly released it near the protected area.

The python weighs over a kilogram, with a length of over one meter.

Under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-09 entitled, "Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories", the reticulated python is considered as a threatened species.

All wildlife in the Philippines is protected under Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

DENR-Bicol urged the public to report the discovery and rescue of any wild animal and turn them over to proper authorities for proper handling and release to their natural habitat. *(With a report from Glydel Sarcia/PNA-OJT)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172185>



Sections of Pasig and Tullahan rivers now wider, deeper—SMC



[BYVG CABUAG](#)

APRIL 12, 2022



[Contributed photo](#)

San Miguel uses advanced and specialized equipment that include a weed harvester to remove floating garbage and watery hyacinths.

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on Tuesday said its initiative to clean up and rehabilitate the Tullahan and Pasig rivers and help mitigate flooding throughout Metro Manila has gained ground.

San Miguel President and CEO Ramon S. Ang said that after 22 months of cleaning up major segments of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system, and nine months of activities at key sections of the Pasig River, the company's most recent hydrographic surveys show significant improvements in both rivers' depths and carrying capacity.

Ang said the Tullahan River's depths at areas along the 10-kilometer stretch the company's cleanup teams have worked on, are now between three to five meters, compared to one to two meters previously.

This is due to the removal of silt and solid wastes from the river's depths, which restrict both the water's flow and capacity, contributing to increased flooding.

For the Pasig River, Ang said completed sections now measure five to six meters deep from the previous two to three meters.



Sections of Pasig and Tullahan rivers now wider, deeper—SMC

“Essentially, what we’ve accomplished is to remove the silt and wastes that have made these rivers shallow and increase their ability to receive water from upstream channels, particularly during heavy rain or typhoon season, which is when severe flooding in many areas in Metro Manila occur.”

Ang said that for the company’s Pasig River rehabilitation initiative, aside from continuing operations in Manila along the vicinities of Pandacan and Paco, activities are also now focused at the shallow Marikina River junction in Pasig City, the area where the Marikina and Pasig Rivers meet. Pasig river waters flowing into this area come from the Laguna Lake, via the Napindan floodgate.

“The Marikina River junction area is particularly critical as it acts like a bottleneck, restricting the flow of water flowing from the Marikina river. This causes the massive flooding we always see in upstream areas,” he said.

“Once we deepen these areas, water will flow more freely and there will be less cases of overflow in areas that typically experience them.”

To date, the combined total of silt and solid wastes removed from the Tullahan and Pasig Rivers stands at 1,221,206 metric tons (MT). Out of this total, 876,296 metric tons come from the Tullahan River, where Ang said teams on the ground estimate to hit the one million mark by June this year.

San Miguel has allotted a P1-billion budget for the program that was launched in 2020.

For the P2-billion Pasig rehabilitation effort, the company is currently extracting at least 3,000 MT per day to meet its new 75,000-MT per month goal. There are now two groups in operation in Manila and Pasig City. In March alone, these two groups removed 78,200 MT.

SMC is upping its daily extraction target to at least 5,000 MT per day in June as more equipment arrive. This is to meet its 125,000-MT per month goal and a total of three million metric tons in two years.



Bataan nagprotesta laban sa 2 coal plants

NAGPROTESTA nitong Martes, 12 Abril, ang mga residente sa lalawigan ng Bataan sa tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Quezon City laban sa operasyon ng dalawang coal plants sa bayan ng Limay.

Pasan ang malaking itim na krus na may nakasulat na “Kalbaryo ng Kalikasan,” inihambing ng mga taga-Bataan sa kalbaryo ni Hesus ang pasakit na sanhi ng polusyong dulot ng dalawang planta.

Ayon kay Chery Magracia ng Limay Concerned Citizens, perhuwisyong pamumuhay at kalusugan ang aniya’y hindi maayos na tambakan ng gabundok na abo.

“Hindi maayos ang kanilang tambakan ng ash, ito’y gabundok na. Ito’y malapit din sa mamamayan doon, malapit sa mga kabahayan. Malapit sa kabuhayan ng mga tao,” dagdag ni Magracia.

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng Health Care Without Harm-Asia, ang usok at mga kemikal na binubuga ng coal-fired power plants ay may malubhang epekto sa kalusugan ng tao, tulad ng sakit sa baga, utak at balat. (MICKA BAUTISTA)



From leptospirosis to dengue, the health risks created by improper waste disposal

April 13, 2022 | 12:02 am



PIXABAY

INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR — such as improper waste disposal — is exacerbating the effects of [climate change](#).

“Climate change is creating more severe weather events. Metro Manila can barely handle the heaviest rains, and we have areas that are naturally low-lying — from houses to streets, subdivisions, and even cities,” said Ricardo Noel R. Gervasio, supervising health program officer of the Health Promotion Bureau, in [an April 7 webinar organized by the World Health Organization-Philippines](#). “What more if we exacerbate the problem by illegally dumping garbage?”

There are 1,500 tons of garbage that are either dumped or burned illegally in Metro Manila alone, he added, [citing the Asian Development Bank’s Garbage Book](#).

“For context, a compact sedan — let’s say a Toyota Vios — weighs around one ton,” Mr. Gervasio told the webinar audience. “Imagine burning or dumping 1,500 Toyota Vioses everyday... and that’s just from illegal dumping.”

Garbage is the “number one cause” of flooding in Metro Manila as it blocks drainage, said former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Benjamin de Castro Abalos, Jr. in a June 2021 [news report](#).

Flooding can lead to waterborne diseases such as leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that people are susceptible to when they have to wade through contaminated water. It can also cause dengue outbreaks, as stagnant bodies of water become breeding grounds for [virus-carrying mosquitoes](#).



From leptospirosis to dengue, the health risks created by improper waste disposal

Practicing proper hygiene, including hand washing, becomes very important in the face of climate change, said Mr. Gervasio: “On the one hand, we have to warn people against drinking contaminated water during the rainy season. On the other hand, you have to remind people to conserve water for times when there isn’t enough to go around.”

Climate change touches all seven areas in the bureau’s Health Promotion Framework Strategy: diet and exercise; environmental health; vaccine and immunization; substance use; mental health; sexual and reproductive health; and violence and injury prevention.

Mr. Gervasio added that the upcoming elections will be key in implementing the national health roadmap: “Our votes count and can shape climate change resilience, the environmental impact our community has, and health in general.” — **Patricia B. Mirasol**



To curb inflation, accelerate climate change response

April 13, 2022

INFLATION is one of the hottest of hot-button political issues, and for good reason, as it affects everyone in a direct way. We have all watched as prices for most of the things we buy on a daily basis have crept upward over the past few weeks, and while some causes of this are obvious and acknowledged by economic policymakers — namely fuel prices affected by global factors — one other significant driver of inflation has seemed to escape notice.

According to recent research, the impacts of climate change have a profound effect on food prices here in the [Philippines](#), almost as large as the impact of fuel prices, if not more so. Thus, in order to control inflation, the government must accelerate its climate mitigation, adaptation and energy transition efforts on the agricultural and agribusiness sector.

The general situation of the climate in this part of the world is that average annual temperatures are now about 3 degrees Celsius higher than they were during the 1950-1980 period, and the temperature range — the difference between the average annual high and average annual low temperatures — has widened by about 2 C. Over the past several decades, average annual rainfall has gradually declined, but episodes of extreme rainfall or higher-than-average rainfall months have become more frequent. In other words, the climate is steadily becoming drier, but more volatile.

One of the recent analyses by [Oxford Economics](#) estimates that the increasing climate volatility has raised food producer prices in [Southeast Asia](#) by 6 percent over the past decade. On top of that, short-term price spikes follow nearly every calamity, and to all of this is added inflation from other factors, such as fuel prices.

Addressing the problem requires a multi-pronged approach, some of which is described in the various studies and some which can be inferred from their conclusions. The Oxford Economics analysis, for example, raises the issue of agricultural support from the government. Here in the Philippines, that is rather high, amounting to about 2.5 percent of GDP (gross domestic product), which is considered a good thing, but it is not efficiently used — if it were, nagging farm sector poverty and volatile food prices would not be economic norms for the country.

One recommendation along these lines is to improve the amount and efficient payout of crop insurance. Doing so would allow farmers to replace lost production more quickly and reduce inflation due to supply deficiencies caused by climate-related crop losses. The same study also recommends that the Philippines (along with other vulnerable countries in the region, particularly Indonesia) increase the share of government spending for social relief targeting the lowest economic bracket of the population, which is proportionally affected the most by food inflation. The Philippines currently spends about 0.5 percent less of its GDP on these efforts than comparable middle-income countries.

More direct action than those described above should focus on energy supply and demand for the agricultural sector because energy costs result in pass-through costs to consumers and consequently higher inflation, and of course, energy has a significant impact on the environment as well. On the demand side, energy demand can be reduced by improving farm productivity, reducing or eliminating the reliance on chemical fertilizers and improving farm-to-market connectivity to reduce transportation costs. On the supply side, transitioning from conventional sources of electricity to micro-grids and renewable sources — such as solar or biomass and other forms of



To curb inflation, accelerate climate change response

waste-to-energy — will provide more reliable and lower-cost energy and ease inflation pressure. Scaled-up systems can provide some or all of the energy demand for agricultural and food processing operations as well.

Other adaptation measures, albeit ones that would be considered more drastic, would involve adjusting agricultural output to the environment. This means opening up new areas for farming and diversifying the Filipino diet so that rice, an extremely climate-vulnerable staple, does not make up the biggest part of it.

All of these various actions will come at a cost, naturally, and might even result in short-term price spikes as the energy transition and other measures are being implemented. The results over the longer term, however, will more than make up for it, and even the short-term impact can be significantly minimized through efficient and properly targeted social support.



Going green and all in for a more sustainable future

[By Chris Ferareza](#)

April 13, 2022

AS early as 30 years ago, businesses had to make a tough choice: prioritize profit or save the planet. Focusing on environmental initiatives was expensive even back then. The costs for going green were steep and corporations saw little returns in such a scenario. This pushed them to question whether adopting environmentally friendly practices posed a win-win situation.

Today, embarking on sustainability initiatives is not just a choice but an imperative. Businesses must contribute to environmentally sound measures as part of their environmental, social and governance (ESG) programs if the goal of saving our ailing planet is to succeed. The responsibility cannot be borne by advocates and individuals alone; companies should also take up the advocacy.

Following the adoption of the [United Nations](#) 2030 Agenda on sustainable development goals (SDGs), several international agreements were inked to support achievement of these objectives. The cost is still not cheap.

The UN reported that developing countries needed to raise an estimated \$2.5 trillion per year to fill a growing SDG financial gap and achieve the 17 SDGs. This gap, according to an article by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was projected to further widen by \$1.7 trillion in 2020.

One of the offshoots of sustainability is rooted in the financial sector. As defined by the [European Commission](#), sustainable finance generally refers to the process of "taking due account of ESG considerations when making investment decisions in the financial sector, leading to increased longer-term investments into sustainable economic activities and projects."

The ability of sustainable finance to help spur economic growth cannot be disregarded. The European Commission suggests that aligning financial flows to support more climate resilient programs is one of the ways SDGs can be met.

Of course, business efforts to achieve sustainability are not enough. Coordinated actions between the government and the public sector are vital, with the former needing to continuously adopt legislation and policies geared toward environment restoration and incentivizing corporate initiatives toward climate resiliency.

In February, the [Department of Finance](#) (DoF) announced that it was set to offer "green bonds" or debt securities described as ESG sovereign bonds. Funds raised from the \$500-million offering would be used for climate change mitigation programs. The DoF also said that it was already in talks with various banks in preparation for the bond offer.

In line with this, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor [Benjamin Diokno](#) highlighted that the DoF had recently launched the country's first Sustainable Finance Framework, intended to facilitate and streamline effective strategies that could contribute to the "mainstreaming of sustainable finance." Funds raised would be used to boost sustainability projects and climate change initiatives to meet the UN SDGs as well as the Philippine Development and [Public Investment](#) plans.



Going green and all in for a more sustainable future

Banks and other financial institutions can use these "green instruments" to cater to clients' needs and, at the same time, contribute to sustainability. The BSP has said that financial institutions can help the country achieve the target of a 75-percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 by launching innovative sustainable finance instruments.

Keeping up with commitments to achieve sustainability objectives makes the future promising for the environment and climate change programs. It is also becoming apparent that going green presents growth opportunities for businesses.

It is not only big businesses that stand to benefit from sustainable financial initiatives. The environment will further be helped by extending these programs to micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs and businesses in industries greatly affected by the pandemic.

One of the major reasons that make businesses think twice about utilizing and selling eco-friendly products and materials is cost. Such items are more expensive than conventional ones, mainly due to the materials needed and the more difficult process used to make them. Nevertheless, as the demand goes up and production efficiencies are achieved, it may not take long before these become more affordable.

Ultimately, companies engaged in sustainable projects and activities can benefit from financial sustainability in more ways than one, including seeing an uptick in profit. The BSP itself has said that "companies can obtain funding at potentially reduced competitive costs" and take advantage of incentives the government may provide once they embark on such green initiatives.

Making sound investment decisions means a careful balancing of corporate interests and the benefits to the environment. The reason is simple: no one lives in a vacuum. If we tend to think our actions only affect our future, it's time for a rethink. While being environmentally friendly requires additional effort and, in some cases, dents profits, environmental degradation and threats to the ecosystem always far outweigh extra business costs. Going green and all in for a more sustainable future is the way to go.

'Misguided': Asia Pacific energy leaders think emissions are falling at a time of record global warming

Most believe that emissions have dropped since 2005 — when they have grown by 50 per cent, according to a survey conducted at the recently-concluded Asia Pacific Energy Week. The findings reveal "a major gap between perception and reality".



A coal-fired power plant. Asian utilities account for 23 per cent of the world's total emissions.

Image: Shutterstock

By [Robin Hicks](#)

6 minute read April 13, 2022

A survey of energy executives in Asia Pacific has revealed a curious level of optimism in how the energy transition is progressing in the region, though that confidence might have been misplaced.

The study of 470 executives — mostly expert and key decision-makers across the energy sector — at Asia Pacific Energy Week in March found that most delegates believe that greenhouse emissions have fallen since 2005, by about 29 per cent on average.

Emissions have [actually increased](#) by about 50 per cent between 2005 and 2020, with the biggest increases in carbon pollution coming from Asian countries, primarily China and India.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/misguided-asia-pacific-energy-leaders-think-emissions-are-falling-at-a-time-of-record-global-warming/>



Migratory birds, 'potential source' of bird flu



Contributed photo

April 12, 2022
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MIGRATORY birds are a potential source of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Davao is advising poultry business owners to implement bio-security measures to prevent the entry of virus in the region.

“Dito sa Region 11 (Davao Region), may identified tayo na critical areas for the migratory birds and part sila ng areas na sinu-surveillance natin sa pakikipagtulungan ng ating local government units (Here in Region 11, we have identified critical areas for the migratory birds. They are part of areas under surveillance with the help of local government units),” said Dr. Armie Capuyan, head of Plant Pest and Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance Section of DA-Davao.

She said that since they cannot control where migratory birds will perch, they are urging farmers to institute biosecurity measures to prevent migratory birds from coming in contact with their poultry or farm animals.

“It is the farmers responsibility na ikulong ang kanilang mga ibon and possible mag-implement ng bird proofing gaya ng paglagay ng mga nets para hindi makapasok ang ibang mga birds sa kanilang mga farms (It is the farmers responsibility to contain their birds and if possible implement bird proofing like installing nets so other birds cannot enter their farms),” Capuyan said.



Migratory birds, 'potential source' of bird flu

She is sounding this call to farmers living near coastal areas where migratory birds converge and also those in the farms as wild birds would flock to eat at animal feeds scattered in the farm.

Capuyan added that Avian Influenza can also be transmitted to hogs, thus the need to institute biosecurity measures in the farms.

No Local Case

Currently, there is no local case of Avian Flu.

The case recorded in Magsaysay town in Davao del Sur came from a grazing flock of ducks, which originated from a nearby province which is part of Soccsksargen.

“Yung farmer po nanggaling sa Region 12 (Soccsksargen), resident siya ng President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, ang business nya po ay grazing ducks. Traveling ducks sila transient sila from one place to another, pumupunta sila sa areas na may harvest ng palay (The farmer came from Region 12, he is a resident of President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat. His business is grazing ducks. These are traveling ducks, transient from one place to another they go to areas where there are rice harvests),” Capuyan said.

The ducks entered the region in February of this year and during that time, DA-Davao had received reports of an avian influenza case in Soccsksargen.

The DA-Davao immediately checked on the borders of the region and with the help of the LGU identified duck farmers who had entered Davao Region.

“May na-identify sila so gi quarantine po natin yung mga farmers no movement at the same time prinary natin sila for test sa avian influenza (They identified farmers so we quarantined them no movement at the same time we prioritized them for tests on avian influenzas),” Capuyan said.

The flock, where ducks were found positive of avian influenza, was depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease to local birds. (PIA)

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Balanga City, Baliwag are best performing LGUs in Manila Bay

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

rehab project —DILG

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Central Luzon commended Balanga City, Bataan and the town of Baliwag, Bulacan for being the best performers in the regional city and municipal categories of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

"Balanga City, Bataan and the municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan reigned

as the regional winners for city and municipal category for the 2021 LGU Compliance Assessment. Each LGU (local government unit) was awarded with a plaque of recognition and ₱300,000," the DILG Central Luzon said.

The commendation was made through the Manila Bay Clean-up Rehabilitation and Preservation Program in the conduct of the recent Manila Bayani Awards and Incentives.

In the said ceremony, the local government units (LGUs) were recognized for their undeniable efforts in the area of environmental management and exemplary performance that made them stand out among the rest.

"Barangay Lote Pto. Rivas, Balanga City, Bataan and Barangay Pinagbarilan, Baliwag, Bulacan bagged the Top Performing Barangay for the Barangay Environmental Compliance Audit

(BECA) while Balanga City, Bataan was hailed as the Top Performing LGU for the Fisheries Compliance Audit. The aforementioned LGUs received ₱150,000 each and a plaque of recognition," it added.

The 2022 iterations of the advocacy for significant rehabilitation of the Manila Bay as part of the ongoing implementation of the mandamus will be conducted starting this month.



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P70-B Samurais fund green bids

Following a successful US dollar transaction, the Republic has once again exhibited investor appetite for Philippine financial instruments

BY RAADEE SAUSA

The Philippines successfully returned to the Samurai market with its 70.1 billion Japanese yen (P28.7 billion) offering of multi-tranche five-year, seven-year, 10-year, and 20-year sustainability bonds that carried an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) label the head of the Department of Finance (DoF) said.

“Following a successful US dollar transaction, the Republic has once again exhibited investor appetite for Philippine financial instruments despite the current market volatilities with its successful issuance of the sovereign’s first-ever ESG Samurai bonds,” Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said.

“This is testament to the international

appreciation of, and confidence in, the government’s strong commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives and to deepening its domestic sustainable finance market,” he added.

Moreover, this is the first ever Asean sustainability bond transaction issued by the Republic in the Samurai bond market, and follows the previous successful issuance of a 25-year sustainability bond last March 2022 in the dollar market.

Benchmark set

The government achieved a benchmark for the transaction despite having the five-year issue as the shortest tenor and the tighter pricing compared to secondary levels.

The country also utilized demand in the long-end by issuing its first 20-year

note in the Samurai market.

The issuance was upsized following strong investor support, Dominguez said.

“The successful bond offer underscored the continued support of the international investor community for the strategic sustainability objectives of the Duterte administration, particularly its efforts to mobilize capital from ESG-conscious investors to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and climate-resilient economy,” he added.

For his part, Undersecretary Mark Dennis Joven said, “this maiden issuance of sustainability bonds in the Japanese market shows the ever-growing investor confidence in the Philippines and its commitment to advance green and social initiatives, even amidst compounding market uncertainties. The transaction also marks the first long-tenor Samurai offering of the Republic.”



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'Samurai bonds reflect PHL commitment to Paris pact'

By BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS [@BNicolasBM](#)

THE Philippine government's landmark issuance of its first-ever green Samurai bonds showed strong investor confidence in the country's commitment to climate change initiatives, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said.

Last Monday, the Philippines borrowed 70.1 billion yen (around P29.1 billion or \$600 million) through its maiden issuance of four-tranche green Samurai bonds, marking its successful return to the Japanese market.

The pricing for its 5-year, 7-year, 10-year and 20-year Sustainability Samurai Bonds came just less than a month after it borrowed \$1 billion through its maiden green dollar bond issuance with a 25-year tenor. So far this year, the government raised around \$1.6 billion from its green bond issuances so far to the offshore debt market.

"Following a successful US Dollar transaction, the Republic has

once again exhibited investor appetite for Philippine financial instruments despite the current market volatilities with its successful issuance of the sovereign's first-ever ESG [Environmental, Social and Governance] Samurai bonds. This is testament to the international appreciation of and confidence in, the government's strong commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives and to deepening its domestic sustainable finance market," Dominguez was quoted in a statement as saying.

Separately, the finance chief also told reporters the back-to-back successful green bond issuances provided another financing platform as

well as captured a new investor base that will help the country in pursuing its climate change initiatives.

Asked if this will be the new normal for the Philippine government to borrow green bonds instead of the usual ordinary debt instruments, Dominguez said: "However, our financing strategy will remain opportunistic to tap cost-efficient structures to meet the requirements of our priority endeavors, particularly climate-related projects."

As its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, the Philippines has committed to a projected greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent from 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport and energy despite being among the countries with the smallest carbon footprints. Of the 75 percent, 72.29 percent is "conditional" or contingent upon the support of climate finance, technologies and capacity development, which shall be provided by developed countries, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement, while the remaining 2.71 percent is "unconditional" or shall be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

Finance Undersecretary Mark Dennis YC Joven, who heads the

Department of Finance's International Finance Group, also pointed out that the transaction also marks the government's first long-tenor Samurai offering.

In a bid to utilize demand for longer tenors, the government issued its first 20-year note in the Samurai market.

For her part, National Treasurer Rosalia V. De Leon said the deal also comes at a time of rising geopolitical tensions and market volatility.

"Amid market volatility and rising geopolitical tensions, this landmark Samurai transaction has demonstrated the Republic's ability to price tighter than current secondary levels and extend the maturity to the long-end of the curve. The upsized transaction supported by new investors from Japanese regional banks and life insurance companies highlights the Republic's strong credit profile in the global capital markets," De Leon said.

SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. and Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co., Ltd acted as Lead Managers for this deal.

In March last year, the Philippine government raised \$55 billion (\$500 million or about P24.2 billion) in its sale of 3-year zero-coupon Samurai bonds.



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MAYNILAD WATERLab INAUGURATED: West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. recently held the formal inauguration of its newly expanded water laboratory, called WATERLab, located inside the La Mesa Compound in Quezon City. The event was led by Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez (4th from left). With him are (from left) Maynilad chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado, Department of Health–Environmental and Occupational Health Center head Dr. Wency Blas, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Leonor Cleofas, DOH-MMCHD chief local health support division medical officer Dr. Amelia Medina, MWSS Regulatory Office chief regulator lawyer Patrick Lester Ty, Department of Trade and Industry–Philippine Accreditation Bureau Laboratory Accreditation division chief Michelle Esteban, and Maynilad Quality, Sustainability and Resiliency head Roel Espiritu.

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Metro Manila kept at Alert Level 1 until end of April

(Philstar.com)

- April 13, 2022 - 10:21am



Catholic devotees wave their palm fronds as a church layman blesses palms during Palm Sunday celebrations at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto church in San Jose del Monte town, Bulacan province, north of Manila on April 10, 2022.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila will remain under Alert Level 1, the lowest coronavirus alert level, until April 30, Malacañang announced Wednesday.

The following areas provinces, highly urbanized cities, independent component cities, and municipalities will be under Alert Level 1 from April 16 to 30:

- Cordillera Administrative Region: Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Mountain Province, and Kalinga
- Ilocos region: Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan
- Cagayan Valley: Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela, and Quirino
- Central Luzon: Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales
- CALABARZON: Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Lucena City, and Rizal



Metro Manila kept at Alert Level 1 until end of April

- MIMAROPA: Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon, and Oriental Mindoro
- Bicol region: Catanduanes, Naga City, and Albay
- Western Visayas: Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo City
- Central Visayas: Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, and Siquijor
- Eastern Visayas: Biliran, Eastern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, and Tacloban City
- Zamboanga Peninsula: Zamboanga City
- Northern Mindanao: Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and Iligan City
- Davao region: Davao City
- CARAGA: Butuan City and Surigao del Sur

The following component cities and municipalities will be also under the lowest COVID-19 alert level during the same period:

- Cagayan Valley: Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya
- Bicol region: Basud, Camarines Norte
- Western Visayas: Anini-y, Antique; New Lucena, Iloilo; Tubungan, Iloilo; and City of Victorias, Negros Occidental
- Eastern Visayas: Sevilla, Bohol
- Northern Mindanao: Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental
- Soccsksargen: Tantaran, South Cotabato

Under Alert Level 1, all business establishments may operate and all activities may be done at full on-site and venue capacity.



Metro Manila kept at Alert Level 1 until end of April

Meanwhile, the following provinces, HUCs, and ICCs will be placed under Alert Level 2:

- Cordillera Administrative Region: Benguet and Ifugao
- Cagayan Valley: Nueva Vizcaya
- CALABARZON: Quezon Province
- MIMAROPA: Occidental Mindoro and Palawan
- Bicol region: Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon
- Western Visayas: Antique, Negros Occidental, and Iloilo Province
- Central Visayas: Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental
- Eastern Visayas: Leyte, Northern Samar and Western Samar
- Zamboanga Peninsula: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga Sibugay
- Northern Mindanao: Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental
- Davao region: Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, and Davao Occidental
- Soccsksargen: General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, and South Cotabato
- CARAGA: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte
- Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao: Basilan, Cotabato City, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi

The Philippines has reported over 3.68 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, with 59,778 deaths. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/04/13/2174285/metro-manila-kept-alert-level-1-until-end-april/amp/>



More than half of PH now under Alert Level 1: Palace

By Azer Parrocha April 13, 2022, 11:28 am



(PNA photo by Rico Borja)

MANILA – More than half of the Philippines' total cities and municipalities, including Metro Manila, are now under the lowest Alert Level 1 status from April 16 to 30 as Covid-19 cases in the country remain low, Malacañang said Wednesday.

In a press statement, acting presidential spokesperson and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved the recommendation on Tuesday.

Andanar said the following provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), independent component cities (ICCs) and municipalities will also be under Alert Level 1 from April 16 until the end of the month:

For Luzon: Cordillera Administrative Region: Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Mountain Province, and Kalinga; Region 1: Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan; Region 2: Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela, and Quirino; Region 3: Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales; Region 4-A: Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Lucena City, and Rizal; Region 4-B: Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon, and Oriental Mindoro; and Region 5: Catanduanes, Naga City, and Albay.

For the Visayas: Region 6: Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo City; Region 7: Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, and Siquijor; and Region 8: Biliran, Eastern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, and Tacloban City.

For Mindanao: Region 9: Zamboanga City; Region 10: Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and Iligan City; Region 11: Davao City; and Caraga: Butuan City and Surigao del Sur.



More than half of PH now under Alert Level 1: Palace

The following component cities and municipalities will also be placed under Alert Level 1 from April 16, to April 30.

For Luzon: Region 2: Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya; and Region 5: Basud, Camarines Norte.

For the Visayas: Region 6: Anini-y, Antique; New Lucena, Iloilo; Tubungan, Iloilo; and City of Victorias, Negros Occidental; and Region 7: Sevilla, Bohol.

For Mindanao: Region 10: Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental; and Region 12: Tantaran, South Cotabato.

In total, 54 percent or 887 of 1,634 total cities and municipalities are under Alert Level 1.

Meanwhile, the following HUCs, and ICCs will be placed under Alert Level 2 from April 16 to 30 without prejudice to their respective component cities and municipalities:

For Luzon: Cordillera Administrative Region: Benguet and Ifugao; Region 2: Nueva Vizcaya; Region 4-A: Quezon Province; Region 4-B: Occidental Mindoro and Palawan; and Region 5: Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon.

For the Visayas: Region 6: Antique, Negros Occidental, and Iloilo Province; Region 7: Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental; and Region 8: Leyte, Northern Samar and Western Samar.

For Mindanao: Region 9: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga Sibugay; Region 10: Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental; Region 11: Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, and Davao Occidental; Region 12: General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, and South Cotabato; Caraga: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte; and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao: Basilan, Cotabato City, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi.

The Philippines recorded 1,906 new Covid-19 cases from April 4 to 10, which is 29 percent lower than the data registered the week prior, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

In its weekly bulletin released Monday, the DOH said the latest tally indicates an average of 272 new infections per day during the covered period

More than 66 million people in the country, or 74.05 percent of the government's target population, have been vaccinated against Covid-19 while 12.4 million people have taken their booster shots. (PNA)



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa higit 501.21 milyon

By Angellic Jordan April 13, 2022 - 05:39 PM



Reuters photo

Pumalo na sa 501.21 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 501,215,485 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 82,133,342 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 43,038,016 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 30,183,929 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 27,163,629 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

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

- Germany - 22,936,514
- United Kingdom - 21,679,280
- Russia - 18,030,579
- South Korea - 15,830,644
- Italy - 15,404,809
- Turkey - 14,972,502
- Spain - 11,662,214
- Vietnam - 10,272,964

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 6,210,094 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 451,425,844 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/?p=312877#ixzz7QNaiu4kj>

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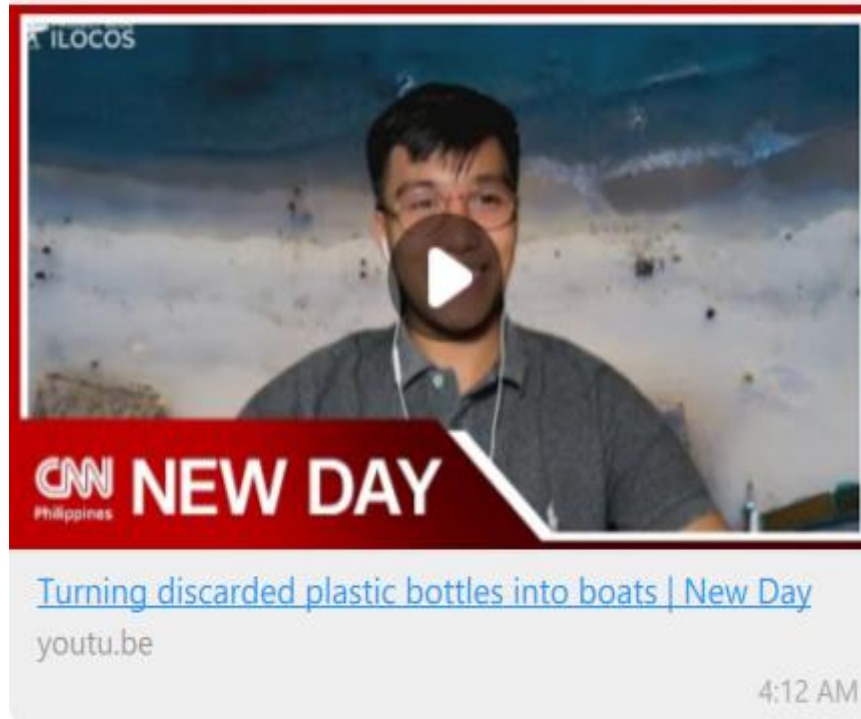
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If you think discarded plastic bottles can no longer be used well think again.
There's a group out there that's turning these bottles into boats.
'Project Blue Ilocos' is a youth-led, non-profit organization that aims to raise awareness and provide

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