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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Boracay Island's recognized as one of 'World's Greatest Places' of 2022

by  [Village Connect](#) about 10 hours ago



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrates the inclusion of Boracay Island in the Time Magazine's 50 World's Greatest Places of 2022.

DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. said the recognition from the award-winning publication is a testament to the success of the Boracay Island rehabilitation under the Duterte administration.

"We are very happy and honored that the authoritative Time Magazine included the Philippines' island paradise, Boracay Island, in its prestigious list and dubbed it as a 'paradise reborn.' This shows that the work we have done has borne fruit. Thanks to the political will of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte," Adobo said.

Time Magazine's July 25-August 1 issue compiled 50 "top spots to visit this year" from all over the world. The nominations came from the American news magazine's network of correspondents and contributors.

"As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence," read the Time feature article on the 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in 2022.



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Former President Duterte on May 8, 2018 issued Executive Order (EO) No. 53, creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to *"formulate, implement, and oversee policies, as well as strictly enforce national laws and local ordinances, to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of the Boracay Island."*

Duterte extended the term of the BIATF through EO 115 in 2020 and EO 147 in 2021 to continue the rehabilitation initiatives until June 30, 2022.

Adobo, who was the former BIATF secretariat head, also attributed the success of the Boracay rehabilitation to the leadership of former DENR Secretary and BIATF chair Roy A. Cimatu, and co-chairs former Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and former Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Former DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna succeeded Cimatu after the latter's resignation in February 2022.

Adobo also thanked the active participation of BIATF member-agencies: Department of Justice, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor and Employment, and Department of Trade and Industry.



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He also acknowledged the contribution of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Philippine National Police, and other partner-stakeholders.

Adobo said that the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, the implementing arm of the BIATF; the provincial government of Aklan, municipal government of Malay; and the residents of Boracay Island also contributed to the tourist destination's recent recognition.

On June 16, 2022, the BIATF successfully held a culminating activity for the turnover of the Boracay Rehabilitation Program to the local governments of Aklan and Malay.

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/boracay-islands-recognized-as-one-of-worlds-greatest-places-of-2022/9957>



DOT lauds Boracay's inclusion in TIME's 50 World's Greatest Places of 2022

Published on: July 15, 2022

Updated as of July 15, 2022 1:49 pm

By DOT



The Department of Tourism (DOT) hails the inclusion of Boracay Island among TIME's 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in 2022.

“The DOT affirms its pride and honor as Boracay Island once again proved its allure as a tourist haven. Such recognition will surely help us attain our goal of regaining our position in the global market,” Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco said.

“Surely, the Philippines has a multitude of sites and tourism activities that we could offer to the world. And, in addition to natural resources, we look forward as well to developing and promoting the talents of our people and the products that have potential for national and global marketability,” she added.

Boracay Island joins other world-famous destinations and natural wonders on the list, including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Seoul in Korea, and Doha in Qatar, among others.

In 2018, a six-month closure of the island was imposed by the previous administration to make way for rehabilitation and redevelopment initiatives.

“Then the pandemic struck, and the Philippines closed its borders, halting even domestic tourism to Boracay. It took a severe toll on the local economy, but the silver lining was that this 4-sq.-mi. speck in the Visayas island chain had proper time to truly recover. As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence. Locals report the return of flora and fauna, like sea turtles, and hospitality has come back just as spectacularly,” wrote Charlie Campbell of TIME.

“Through collaboration between the DOT central and regional offices, relevant national government agencies, the local government units, and the private sector, we will exert all efforts to put in the limelight not only the country's premier tourist destinations like Boracay, but also



DOT lauds Boracay's inclusion in TIME's 50 World's Greatest Places of 2022

other places of interest in the country which may not have been given equal focus and attention in the past," _ Secretary Frasco said.

In coming up with its list of 50 World's Greatest Places for 2022, TIME solicited nominations from its international network of correspondents and contributors, putting focus on places "those offering new and exciting experiences." (DOT)



DENR-EMB to install 268 trash traps in 'most polluted' rivers

Published on: July 15, 2022

Updated as of July 15, 2022 9:13 am

By Alaine Allanigue



A trash trap being installed along Estero de Kabulusan in Old Antipolo Street, Barangay 356, Manila City. (PIA-NCR file photo)

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) will install 268 trash traps in tributaries leading to Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan, and Pampanga Rivers, determined to be among the "*most polluted*" rivers and major contributors to Manila Bay, the agency said, Thursday.

This project is in support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) in accordance with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-10 as the national marine litter framework plan with an overarching goal of "*Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040.*"

EMB Director, Engr. William P. Cuñado, said the project aims to improve waste collection and disposal within the tributaries which can help reduce flooding during rainy season.

"We are working closely with the local government units, seeking their suggestions from procurement to installation, to ensure that these trash traps are installed in strategic locations and maximized for the benefit of the LGU and the communities residing in these waterbodies," Cuñado said.

Cuñado added that the entire activities and strategies provided in the NPOA-ML are included in the top priorities of the DENR-EMB. NPOA-ML was developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management.



DENR-EMB to install 268 trash traps in 'most polluted' rivers

“We need to control the additional leakage of waste into our water bodies. For this year, EMB will augment the existing activities of the DENR related to the implementation of NPOA-ML,” Cuñado added.

A Memorandum of Agreement and a Deed of Donation (DOD) will be entered between the EMB Regional Office and the recipient LGUs. Under the MOA, procurement items such as brand-new trash traps, manually operated waste lifter, plastic boat, and tools/materials for operation will be distributed to the four identified rivers between the bureau and the local government units (LGUs) concerned.

“The LGUs will be monitoring the trash traps installed in their jurisdiction. Also, they will handle the collection, hauling and proper disposal of wastes from the trash traps, and the maintenance and operation of the equipment. And there will be Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for operators. Engagement of collection and disposal services through the LGUs will also be included to ensure that the collected waste will be properly disposed,” Cuñado said.

For the beneficiaries, a survey will be conducted by the contractor and to be approved by the EMB Regional Office for suitable sites to install the trash traps. The beneficiaries/recipients for this project are selected LGUs that have jurisdiction of area where the trash traps are installed.

The components of this project include: site survey and assessment; trash trap per linear meter; manually operated waste lifter; plastic boat; tools/materials for operation, and hauling/disposal.

For this project, over P100 million will be allocated for EMB-National Capital Region, and P152.4 million will be allotted for Region 3 (Central Luzon). For more information, you may visit www.emb.gov.ph. (**PIA-NCR**)



DENR Search for Mx. Tagis Kalikasan 2022

[Friday, July 15, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Winners of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** Mx. Tagis Kalikasan, an all-gender search for stewards of the environment, are named as the agency culminates its celebration of the Philippine Environment Month and Pride Month on June 29, 2022. Jammie Vanessa Saplagio (center) won as Mx. Tagis Kalikasan while Ma. Victoria Somera (fourth from left) and Sandy Lloyd Orlanda (right) were named 1st and 2nd runners-up. The contest was spearheaded by the DENR Gender and Development (GAD) Office in cooperation with the Human Resource Development Service, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, Administrative Service, Knowledge and Information Systems Service, and [DENR Employees' Union](#). With the theme “Ano man ang kasarian, may lakas ipagtanggol ang kalikasan,” the search recognized the ability of all contestants, regardless of gender, to speak up and use their talents to spread awareness on the environment, especially on the prevailing climate crisis.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-search-for-mx-tagis-kalikasan-2022/>



Manila receives award for recycling election paraphernalia

Published on: July 15, 2022

By Susan De Leon



CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA) --The City of Manila, through the Department of Public Services (DPS), was recognized for the "Best Practices on Upcycling" by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DPS Officer-in-Charge Kenneth Amurao received the award during the Solid Waste Management Summit at Manila Hotel on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

The said award was bestowed upon the City of Manila for its efforts to convert used election paraphernalia into usable items such as fans, eco bags, and fertilizers through the "Tarpaulin mo, Ireresiklo ko!" project.



Manila receives award for recycling election paraphernalia

Aside from the said project, DPS has also provided livelihood upcycling projects wherein straws, plastic wrappers, used magazines, papers, and such are turned into usable goods. (MPIO/PIA-NCR)



DENR cites Las Piñas for good solid waste management

Published July 15, 2022, 7:19 PM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) cited the Las Pinas City government for its implementation of sanitation and environmental programs.

The city government received a certificate of recognition for its commitment in the implementation of the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Management Act of 2000.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar said the city was also given a plaque of recognition for best practices in composting operation.

Aguilar said that the recognitions, signed by EMB-National Capital Region (NCR) regional director Atty. Michael Drake P. Matias, were awarded to the city during the solid waste management summit held at the Manila Hotel on July 14.

She said the awards only showed that the City Environment and Natural Resource Office (CENRO) team is working hard to keep the city environment clean and healthy

The mayor thanked the DENR-EMB for the citations, as well as the city residents for their continued support in all the activities and programs of the city government in making Las Las Piñas clean and green.

Aguilar also vowed that her administration will continue to promote sanitation and environmental programs.



Las Piñas LGU, tumanggap ng pagkilala dahil sa husay sa composting operation

Published on: July 15, 2022

Updated as of July 15, 2022 3:28 pm

By Alaine Allanigue



LUNGSOD QUEZON, (PIA) -- Tumanggap ng pagkilala ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Las Piñas mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) National Capital Region (NCR).

Sa idinaos na Environmental Summit and Exhibit 2022 "*Strengthening Waste Management for a Healthier Environment*" sa The Manila Hotel, 1 Rizal Park, Ermita Manila nitong Hulyo 14, 2022, natanggap ng local na pamahalaan ang Certificate of Recognition at Plaque of Recognition dahil sa Best Practices on Composting Operation na isinasagawa sa lungsod.

Ayon sa pahayag mula sa lokal na pamahalaan, ang pagkilalan ay patunay na po ito na sa pamamagitan ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ay solidong nakatuon sa implementasyon ng Republic Act 9003 o mas kilala sa tawag na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2002, at sa hindi matatawarang mga hakbang sa pagbibigay at pagpapanatili ng malinis at malusog na kapaligiran sa mga nasasakupang lugar.

Dagdag pa ng LGU higit pa nitong pagbutihin ang pagtataguyod ng mga programang pangkalinisan at pangkalikasan na makatutulong sa pagsisiguro sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng mga Las Piñeros.



Las Piñas LGU, tumanggap ng pagkilala dahil sa husay sa composting operation

Lubos din ang pasasalamatang Pamahalaang Lokal ng Las Piñas sa DENR sa ipinagkaloob na parangal gayundin sa kanilang mga kababayan na walang sawang sumusuporta at patuloy na pakikipagkaisa sa mga aktibidad at programa ng lungsod. *(LP/PIA-NCR)*

Carmona recognized for exemplary upcycling, crafts production

Published on: July 15, 2022
By Ruel Francisco



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A lauds the Carmona Municipal Government for exemplary practices in Upcycling and Crafts Production in accordance with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Mayor Dhalia Loyola stated in her official Facebook page on July 14 that the recognition is “the result of the collaboration of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Carmona United Women’s Association, Inc., Persons with Disability Affairs Office, Disability Shoulder Movement for the Future, Inc. (4K), and Reciclar De Carmona.”

Ecological Solid Waste Management refers to the systematic administration of activities that provide for segregation at source, segregated transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste, and all other waste management activities which do not harm the environment.

Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Officer Rommel Peneyra was also recognized as a Hall of Famer for his continuous dedication to a healthy and clean environment.

Mayor Loyola thanked all the department heads and their respective staff for their hard work and perseverance in achieving this honor. (Ruel Francisco/with reports from Mayor Dhalia Loyola FB Page)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/15/carmona-recognized-for-exemplary-upcycling-crafts-production>



DENR recognizes Region 2 partners



By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

July 16, 2022



The Divisoria HS Ilagan, Isabela was awarded the most eco-friendly school by the DENR on June 30, 2022.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TUGUEGARAO CITY: More than 100 environmental partners during the culminating activity of the Philippine Environment Month in June 2022 were recognized for their partnership with the government in its environmental programs.

Among these partners, the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) in Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)) led by [Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan](#) said five entities were awarded in the [Environment Management Bureau](#) (EMB) programs.

Bambalan said the [Divisoria High School](#) in Santiago City was recognized for having its institution sustained as the most eco-friendly school in the [Philippines](#) since 2017.

Also, the [Isabela Biomass Energy Corp.](#) in Alicia town and the [Cagayan Biomass Energy Corp.](#) in Burgos town, both in Isabela province, were commended for converting wastes into energy projects and for being compliant with environmental laws, rules and regulations.

She said the local government unit (LGU) of Luna town, also in Isabela province, was recognized as being the first to install and operate a continuous real-time air ambient monitoring program of the EMB, while the City Government of Santiago in Isabela was also awarded for its support in environmental protection and conservation.



DENR recognizes Region 2 partners

Bambalan said the EMB gave appreciation to the [British FCF Minerals Corp.](#) in Runruno village in Quezon town, and [Australian Didipio Mine](#) in Kasibu, both in Nueva Vizcaya province, for donating bamboo propagules during the simultaneous nationwide tree-planting activity conducted within the water quality management areas of the region.

Bambalan said the Didipio Mine was awarded for its assistance in the conduct of emergency preparedness and response, fire fighting, and first aid application training in June this year. Also awarded were some of the mine firm's personnel.

The Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) led by Region 2 Director [Mario Ancheta](#) has also commended the Didipio Mine, FCF Minerals, and [Dinapigue Mining Corp.](#)

Ancheta said each of these mining companies was able to attain millions of safe man-hours without lost time accidents from Feb. 17, 2017 to May 2022.

He said these significant milestones of mining companies in the Philippines are recognized globally as a key indicator of a company's safety performance in the industry.

Ancheta said the Didipio Mine, FCF Minerals, and the [Dinapigue Mining Corp.](#) have been also recognized for their continued implementation of programs in environmental protection, social development, and health and safety.

Meanwhile, Bambalan expressed thanks to FCF Minerals for the establishment of the three-hectare regional arboretum in Aritao town in Nueva Vizcaya as a result of their collaboration.

She explained that the partnership targets the replenishment of trees cut covered with permits.

"The replenishment includes comprehensive site development of denuded forest lands including an additional 190 hectares of agroforestry and tree plantations out from this initiative alone," Bambalan said.

She said direct partners of the DENR were also recognized for their strong involvement and commitment to achieving strengthened environmental law enforcement and intensified forest protection and anti-illegal logging campaigns.

These were implementers of forest protection and law enforcement in the different provincial and community environment and natural resources offices, uniformed personnel, local government chief executives and officials, academe, and civil society organizations in the region, Bambalan explained.

"They are our strengths as we work with them hand in hand not only in enforcing forest protection and environmental laws but also in implementing development programs in forest and watershed, protected area and biodiversity, coastal and marine ecosystems, handog titulo (land title distribution), and [Cagayan River](#) restoration," she said.



DENR recognizes Region 2 partners

The awardees were recognized with plaques and certificates to partners and stakeholders witnessed by Region 2 officials of government agencies and provincial environment and natural resources officers in Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.



Agusan Norte to plant more mangroves for disaster protection

By Alexander Lopez July 15, 2022, 5:49 pm



MANGROVE PLANTING. Volunteers plant some 300 mangroves during the observance of National Disaster Resilience Month on July 14, 2022 in the coastal area of Barangay Calibunan, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte, The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Tubay in the province is pushing for more the establishment of more mangroves in coastal communities this year. *(Photo courtesy of CENRO-Tubay)*

BUTUAN CITY – Agusan del Norte's four coastal areas will be turned into a mangrove haven to act as natural protection against disasters.

This was according to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Tubay, Agusan del Norte (CENRO-Tubay), as it underscored the mangroves play a significant role in reducing the loss of lives and damage to properties from disasters such as storms and cyclones.

“Mangroves reduce the impacts of waves, storm surges, and high winds, hence, making our coastal communities resilient to natural disasters,”

In a statement Friday CENRO-Tubay.

The agency said the mangrove forests will be established in its area of coverage in the coastal towns of Santiago, Jabonga, and Kitcharao, and Cabadbaran City.

On Thursday, CENRO-Tubay led the planting of some 300 mangrove seedlings in the coastal area of Purok 6, Barangay Calibunan in Cabadbaran City.



Agusan Norte to plant more mangroves for disaster protection

The activity, led by CENRO-Tubay chief Nelson Caranzo, was joined by 45 participants from the local government units, line agencies, and the private sector.

“The activity was also in line with the observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) as indicated under Executive Order No. 29, series of 2017 (EO29-17),” the CENRO-Tubay said.

The EO, signed by former President Rodrigo R. Duterte on June 28, 2017 renamed the National Disaster Consciousness Month to NDRM. It is observed in July to highlight disaster resilience and sustainable development of communities. (*PNA*)



Group urges new DENR chief to stop reclamation projects

[REYNALDO G. NAVALES](#)

July 15, 2022

THE Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) fishers group has the incoming environment secretary to stop reclamation projects especially in Manila Bay which is undergoing rehabilitation program.

PAMALAKAYA released the statement in response to the announcement that Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga will become the new secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“Incoming DENR secretary Yulo-Loyzaga should stop all the ongoing reclamation projects across the country, especially in Manila Bay. She must adhere to the mandate of her department to protect and preserve Manila Bay for the benefit of the people. Reclamation has long been proven to be destructive both to marine biodiversity and livelihood of fisherfolks,” PAMALAKAYA spokesperson Ronnel Arambulo said.

The fishers’ group said DENR is head of the government’s Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

PAMALAKAYA also cited the 2008 Supreme Court mandamus to “clean-up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay”.

“Being the head agency of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program, the DENR should be the first and firm to oppose any destructive activities, including reclamation,” Arambulo said.

PAMALAKAYA criticized DENR for giving go-signal to reclamation projects that allegedly contributed to the degradation and destruction of Manila Bay’s resources such as mangroves, seagrasses, and aquaculture.

The group claimed DENR issued environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) to the 320-hectare reclamation project in Bacoor City, Cavite, and the land reclamation of Silvertides Holdings Corp., a contractor of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) for the construction of its 2,500-hectare Bulacan Aerotropolis project.

“Environment secretary Yulo-Loyzaga could opt to the complicity of the DENR to massive destruction of marine resources through reclamation and earn the ire of the people or she could stand alongside the fisherfolks and champions of the environment in genuinely protecting marine biodiversity against all forms of destructive projects,” Arambulo said.

PAMALAKAYA recorded around 50 reclamation projects in Manila Bay that cover more than 30,000 hectares of fishing grounds, mangrove areas, and aquaculture.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934922/pampang/local-news/group-urges-new-dnr-chief-to-stop-reclamation-projects>



PCCI welcomes DOE, DENR appointees

By [Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star)

- July 16, 2022 - 12:00am



In a statement yesterday, the PCCI welcomed the appointments of Raphael Lotilla and Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as chiefs of the energy and environment departments, respectively, amid the various challenges facing the country's power and environment sector.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) welcomed the appointment of the secretaries of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), saying it trusts the competence of the appointed officials.

In a statement yesterday, the PCCI welcomed the appointments of Raphael Lotilla and Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as chiefs of the energy and environment departments, respectively, amid the various challenges facing the country's power and environment sector.

PCCI president George Barcelon described the two officials as the right persons to lead their respective agencies.

"We welcome and congratulate the newly named Cabinet secretaries on their well-deserved appointments. We trust that with their competence, vast experiences and expertise, both will deliver and perform well in serving the people and our country," Barcelon said.



PCCI welcomes DOE, DENR appointees

PCCI said the country's energy sector faces a looming crisis in fuel and power supply and this has been contributing to the uneasiness of the business sector in forecasting energy costs in their operations.

"We have vast mineral resources including nickel, gold, copper, iron ore and forest within our shores. Exploring and making full use of these resources can bring in much needed foreign earnings to cover high energy and essential commodity imports," Barcelon said, citing the DOE and the DENR's important roles in the process.

He noted that the PCCI, through its energy and environment committees, has crafted recommendations for short- to medium- and long-term plans to help the government address issues in the energy and environment sectors.

"The chamber has been actively meeting to come up with proposals on how to balance a stable economy and healthy environment as we make full use of our mineral resources," Barcelon added.

The group earlier urged the new administration to define its agenda on energy supply security and affordable power cost, as an assurance of a reasonably priced and steady power supply capable of meeting production needs is vital in attracting investments in heavy industries.

Meanwhile, the United Sugar Producers Federation has backed the temporary appointment of Sugar Regulatory Administration deputy administrator Ignacio Santillana as officer-in-charge of the agency. – **Danessa Rivera**



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EXPLAINER: Mayor Rama opposes water rates hike decided by MCWD board, which ruling party Barug filled. But it's LWUA that OK's increase, not mayor or City Council. Mike, councilors may insist only on public hearing and pricing based on law.



SunStar File

[PACHICO A. SEARES](#)

July 15, 2022

WHAT RAMA, MCWD JUST DID. In separate but almost simultaneous announcements this week:

[] MCWD or Metropolitan Cebu Water District, through its board chairman Jose "Joey" Daluz III, said it will increase water rates by 60 percent in July next year, 2023, and another 10 percent in the succeeding year 2024, or a total of 70 percent.

[] Mayor Michael Rama of Cebu City, whose residents comprise more than 75 percent of MCWD consumers, opposed the move, asking it to reconsider and review its plans, calling the surge in price "unreasonable" to a public "still reeling from the crises" of pandemic and typhoons.

Last June 17, MCWD already leaked out the rates hike plan. John Macabinta of the water district's corporate planning department said it was "about to submit" the requirements to LWUA. (He wasn't too optimistic then on the margin of increase: he said they'd "likely get only P2 per cubic meter." In the unwrapped proposal, which was presented like an already done deal, the increase is reportedly "almost P10" per cbm.)



EXPLAINER: Mayor Rama opposes water rates hike decided by MCWD board, which ruling party Barug filled. But it's LWUA that OK's increase, not mayor or City Council. Mike, councilors may insist only on public hearing and pricing based on law.

MCWD STRUCTURE. At first glance, the clash between the MCWD board's move and the mayor's reaction would seem odd, given that the board members had been appointed by Rama's predecessor and party-mate Edgardo Labella and were expected to cooperate with ruling Barug's policies.

MCWD's structure and allocation of power though won't encourage public perception of a board under the thumb of the appointing mayor. LWUA or Local Water Utilities Administration, through its board, approves appointment of MCWD directors, filling of vacancies in the board, and increase or reduction of rates.

LWUA'S AUTHORITY. A LWUA primer is specific about this: new water rates shall be implemented "only after they are presented in a public hearing and after review and approval by LWUA."

Councilor Jocelyn Pesquera confirmed to Explainer Friday, July 15, that the rates don't require approval from the Sanggunian. At the same time, former councilor Alvin Dizon, a vigorous and sober voice in past City Councils, said LWUA is "the final arbiter," but it "doesn't prevent the Sanggunian from coming up with a collective stand" on the question of rates. Dizon remembered that because of the absence of a public hearing, he opposed in 2015, during his second term, a water rate increase purportedly to fund a P4 billion pipeline expansion. (That increase apparently pushed through as MCWD now says the water district's last increase was in 2015 or seven years ago.)

MAYOR'S STANCE IN 2014. Occupying a highly political office and attuned to populist moves, Mayor Rama was expected to assume the stance of protecting the city's populace against "excessive burden."

The posture must be expected. It's not much different from what he took in May 2014 when MCWD proposed a mere 12 percent increase.

The MCWD manager then, Amando Paredes, asked that the City Council to cancel its scheduled public hearing as the water district would just hold a one-time "information dissemination" on the proposal. Rama, then on his second term as mayor (2010-2013; 2013-2016), supported the Sanggunian's rejection of the MCWD request, saying the increase must be explained in a confrontation with the public through its elected representatives.



EXPLAINER: Mayor Rama opposes water rates hike decided by MCWD board, which ruling party Barug filled. But it's LWUA that OK's increase, not mayor or City Council. Mike, councilors may insist only on public hearing and pricing based on law.

RAMA'S POSITION NOW. Mayor Rama has called the 2023-2024 increase "abrupt and "unreasonable." By abrupt, he must see as sudden and unexpected the first increase after seven years of no increase. By unreasonable, he must see the increase only from the viewpoint of the suffering consumers, not from the lens of MCWD directors who understandably take the side of the company they're managing.

Rama opposes the MCWD move. Yet at the same time, he suggests a "staggered" implementation, extending the span by another year, from 2023 to 2025, which indicates he accepts the inevitability of the increase but he just wants less pain for consumer, which he thinks can be helped by explaining the increase at a public hearing.

Mayor Mike wants to spare his "constituents of any added unreasonable," he said, "especially in these trying times."

AMOUNT, PURPOSE OF INCREASE. From the current P15.20 per cubic meter for the first 10 cubic meters consumed, the water rate will go up to P25.05, per cm or an increase of P9.85 per cm, starting July 2023.

MCWD said it has decided on the increase mainly to cover the cost of operations in the past years, having spent, it said, P14.1 billion "to sustain and upgrade operations since 2015." It claimed it has been "absorbing" the increase in operational expenses and cost of buying water.

The same primer says a water district's water rate is determined by these factors: "cost of systems expansion operation and maintenance cost." More lengthily: "cost of systems expansion, operation and maintenance cost, number of connections, debt service needs, 10% reserves, and operating efficiency."

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MCWD SERVICE, topped by alleged inadequate supply to existing consumers, most probably will occupy any public hearing on the proposal to increase rates.

Gripes of MCWD clients are mostly valid, but will they persuade decision makers to reject the proposed increase? MCWD might toss back the argument that its service could be inadequate because of low rates and deficient revenue and thus it wouldn't have enough resources to boost water supply. Circular and unproductive, yet that kind of talk is often heard in public discussions on the local water crisis and may crop up again at any new public hearing.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1935032/cebu/local-news/explainer-mayor-rama-opposes-water-rates-hike-decided-by-mcwd-board-which-ruling-party-barug-filled-but-its-lwua-that-oks-increase-not-mayor-or-city-council-mike-councilors-may-insist-only-on-public-hearing-and-pricing-based-on-law>



Saksi Ngayon

48 (na) minuto · 🌐

TINGNAN | Pinakawalan ang isang Philippine Serpent Eagle noong Hulyo 11, 2022. ng Local Government Unit ng Danglas, Abra sa pamamagitan ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office at DENR CENRO Bangued

Ang Philippine Serpent Eagle ay nahuli ng isang residente ng Brgy. Nagparan at ibinalik ito sa munisipyo para sa pagpapalaya.

PHOTOS: Munisipyo ng Danglas/FB

#PhilippineEagles



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/pfbidottUzcVgYb4XwzVRgpqJXm1Cvh6sEAmj7FeivZS42ELbdDonApowc5yVoxVnkEZUAI/?app=fbl>



DavOr Gov. reiterates strict enforcement of mining rules near Mt. Hamiguitan



DAVOR PIO PHOTO

July 15, 2022

GOVERNOR Corazon Malanyaon strongly reiterated her position in enforcing strict regulations of all mining activities in the province of Davao Oriental.

Earlier today, during the Mining Industry Briefing with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) at the Provincial Capitol, Malanyaon asserted the Provincial Government's authority as an independent Local Government Unit over the mining operations in the province.

During the briefing, Malanyaon checked the inventory of all existing mining tenements in the province and the status of mining operations and permits granted by the MGB.

"Davao Oriental has never made mining a priority," she said.

However, as sustainable mining is part of the national policy, it has compelled the province to assert its rights over taxes and revenue generated from it, which some mining companies have failed to comply with.

"If there are no taxes and our province is being exploited, among benepisyo sa aming mga tao? (What is the benefit to our people). I am just here to protect the interest of my people and my province," Malanyaon said.

In the Governor's Inaugural Address, she specifically stated her policy on Revenue Generation.



DavOr Gov. reiterates strict enforcement of mining rules near Mt. Hamiguitan

“We will intensify the collection of real property taxes. We will undertake all measures possible to collect every centavo of the extraction and permit fees on sand and gravel, aggregates, stones, and ores sourced everywhere in the province, and which tax collection will be shared with the barangays, municipalities/city. These are the only two major sources of revenue for the province; thus, extensive collection should be enforced,” said the Governor.

For the province to fully enforce mining regulations, Malanyaon appointed Brigadier General Leopoldo Imbang, Jr. (Ret.), who is tasked with enforcing mining regulations and environmental laws in the province.

Brig. Gen. Imbang served as the Commander of the 28th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army, and later became the Deputy Commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

“I requested General Imbang to help me see to it that everything that is due the provincial government will be given to us, especially concerning extraction and mining fees,” she said. While he would enforce the regulatory function of the Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), Environment Planner Dolores Valdesco, ENRO Officer, will take charge of environmental protection, preservation, and conservation concerns.

Aside from the strict enforcement of mining laws, Malanyaon also emphasized her stand not to allow mining operations within the vicinity of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, Mindanao’s only Unesco World Heritage Site. She objected to any plan to expand the mining operations near Mount Hamiguitan.

“This early, they [mining operators] should be warned that there should be no encroachment in the protected areas of Mount Hamiguitan,” said Malanyaon, noting the province’s painstaking efforts to have it inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014 and its agreement with the Unesco to “protect the area from any intruder.”

MGB Regional Director Atty. Jasper Alberto Lascano assured the Governor that there are currently no mining activities near Mount Hamiguitan. He said the only area where there is active mining is in Banaybanay town, operated by the Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation-Arc Nickel Resources, which has just resumed operations following the lifting of the cease-and-desist order after the company complied with the required and "costly" corrective measures.

Lascano further assured the Governor that the agency will fully support the province’s stand and will make every effort to ensure that the province’s environment and its people’s interests are protected. **DAVOR PIO**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934997/davao/local-news/davor-gov-reiterates-strict-enforcement-of-mining-rules-near-mt-hamiguitan>



Guv eyes tourism promotion, climate change resilience



THANK YOU, TON. Pampanga Governor Dennis G. Pineda presents an SP resolution to three term 2nd District Board Member and now Guagua Mayor Anthony Joseph 'Ton-Ton' Torres, for his legislative contribution to the provincial board for 9 years, given during the 11th inaugural session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan at the Capitol. (Chris Navarro)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

July 15, 2022

GOVERNOR Dennis “Delta” Pineda on Monday said that he plans to put more investment in the province’s tourism and climate resilience programs.

The governor is looking at boosting Pampanga’s food and heritage tourism as well as ecotourism to attract more tourists and investments into key areas of the province. The program will include planning and careful assessment of tour packages for tourists who plan to visit Pampanga.

“Tutulong po tayo sa pag-improve ng packaging ng ating mga food products. At tutulong din po tayo sa preservation at promotion ng mga cultural at heritage properties gaya ng simbahan, historical structures at landmarks,” Pineda said.

Pineda also assured that the province will continue the training for disaster preparedness among communities, schools, barangays, district hospitals, and the private sector. The current administration is also committing to constructing disaster-resilient infrastructures and the purchase of more response equipment and vehicles for quick and efficient disaster response.



Guv eyes tourism promotion, climate change resilience

The governor said that they are looking at using solar technology for Capitol buildings. Pineda added that mangrove planting and solid waste management programs like the creation of material recovery facilities will continue under his administration.



Sachet prices likely to go up due to proposed tax on single-use plastics

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jul 15 2022 06:04 PM

Proposed tax on single-use plastics seen as 'indirect' tax on poor: group

MANILA - Imposing taxes on single-use plastics is seen as "indirectly taxing the poor" since it could increase the costs of products sold in sachets, which are usually purchased by those in the lower economic class, a group said Friday.

Plastics are mainly used for packaging of products such as shampoo, instant noodles, and food items in sachets, Philippine Plastics Industry Association Inc. president Aaron Lao said.

Goods in sachets packaging usually offer single-serve quantities, which are also cheaper than full-sized packs.

"Prices of bread will increase because of packaging, sachets will also be affected. It's an indirect taxing of the poor," Lao said.

Prices of basic goods may also spike further if the proposal to impose taxes on single-use plastics pushes through, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association president Steven Cua said.

It could increase operating costs and lead to price increases amid the already elevated inflation that's burdening Filipinos.

He warned added costs would eventually be passed on to consumers.

"Pasan din ng tao 'yan (the people will shoulder that)," Cua said.

Even environmentalists are not too eager to back the measure.

There should be more stringent laws to limit the production of plastics, said Ecowaste Coalition campaigner Coleen Salamat.

She urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to veto the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, which would lapse into law by the end of the month.

The bill seeks to make manufacturing firms responsible for collecting and recycling plastic waste that they produce. She said there must also be added sanctions on manufacturers who fail to comply.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has been pushing for the proposed tax on single-use plastic, not only to fight climate change but to generate more funds.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/07/15/22/sachet-prices-likely-to-rise-due-to-proposed-tax-on-single-use-plastics?fbclid=IwAR2SxuWqXkod_5oEhEnNAFwtQEZwoVlJ-DGNvHlc72piKNLgSbzviq9fSA



[Environmentalists seek veto of EPR measure](#)

JUL 15, 2022, 3:34 PM



Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

As expected the solutions to plastic pollution proposed by the legislature would be half-baked and in favor of the producers of plastics (some of whom are legislators themselves) So the proposed extended producer responsibility—which calls for incineration of plastics—could lapse into law this July unless vetoed by President Marcos Jr.

Unless vetoed by President Marcos Jr., the extended producer responsibility (EPR) on waste management, which environmentalists said would not fully address the plastic pollution problem of the country, would lapse into law this July.

The Ecowaste Coalition, which calls for a plastics-free Philippines warned that the bill fails to control plastic pollution and promotes false solutions like incineration.



Environmentalists seek veto of EPR measure

“Actually, it’s a very welcoming approach from our legislators that they finally acknowledge the role of the producers and companies. But the version of this EPR is not really consistent with the principles of EPR, which is to make polluters pay,” said Coleen Salamat, plastic solutions campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.

EPR, as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is a policy approach in which producers are given a significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products, Business World reported.

But EPR, according to global movement Break Free from Plastic, is a policy principle that extends the responsibility of producers over the entire life cycle of items.

Groups stressed that the proposed EPR scheme is limited to downstream interventions such as recovery and offsetting and encourages thermal treatments such as incineration and pyrolysis or the process of chemically decomposing materials at elevated temperatures without oxygen.

The proposed law mandates large enterprises to establish EPR programs for the plastic packaging of their products. It sets targets for recovery of plastic product footprint generation: 20 percent for end-2023, 40 percent for 2024, 50 percent for 2025, 60 percent for 2026, 70 percent for 2027, and 80 percent for 2028, and every year thereafter.

Obligated enterprises that fail to comply with the measure can be fined at most P20 million and a suspension of business permit until the law’s requirement is met.

“When the very companies who are supposed to be the target of this law are the ones calling for its passage, and civil society organizations are the ones calling for a pause, I think it will give everyone a reason to doubt whether the EPR bill that is currently being considered is really meant to address the problems of plastic pollution or is it meant to provide businesses a way to continue with business as usual,” said Froilan Gaité, executive director of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Asia Pacific.

Contribution to climate crisis

Greenpeace zero waste campaigner Marian Ledesma pointed out that plastic production and thermal treatment are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Plastics generate planet-warming gases at every phase of their life cycle.

“The president must veto this bill because it can affect the government’s climate goals and worsen the situation of affected communities in the Philippines,” Ledesma said.

“If the government is really serious in its climate commitments and its aim to protect Filipinos, the EPR bill should be first vetoed and then be revisited in the 19th Congress to fix the issues that have been identified,” she added.

Waste burning is hazardous

Dr. Glenn Roy Paraso, executive director of Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo, Manila, also said that waste burning poses hazardous impacts on human health. For example, waste incinerators produce pollutants such as mercury emissions, and dioxins and furans that contaminate soil, air, and water sources.



Environmentalists seek veto of EPR measure

BFFP project coordinator for corporate accountability Miko Aliño recommended that a strong EPR scheme should have the following: 1) Timebound targets for adopting reuse or adopting refill and recycled content; 2) Eco-modulation of EPR fees anchored on waste hierarchy that prioritizes waste prevention; 3)

Inclusion of informal waste sector; 4) Increased transparency and accountability and 5) Wider policy approach focusing on waste prevention and sustainable product design.

“EPR is not a silver bullet so it should be supplemented by other measures,” Aliño said.

In his inaugural speech, Marcos stressed that the Philippines must play its part in addressing plastic pollution. How he plans to do that remains unclear.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/environmentalists-seek-veto-of-epr-measure?fbclid=IwAR2ze4PXXborsl-vtOrSouDwPYBRi92R264E-hTwEBzaUxz54DrevMmZTcE>



'Polluter-friendly': Green groups demand Philippine president Marcos to scrap EPR bill

The Extended Producers' Responsibility Bill has been criticised for its vague wording. This could leave the door open for waste incineration, a process that harms the environment, say environmentalists.

A volunteer goes through plastic waste in an ocean clean-up campaign in the Philippines in 2017, where most of the plastics were composed of Nestlé product packaging. Image: Hannah Fernandez/ Eco-Business

By [Hannah Alcosoba Fernandez](#)

4 minute read July 15, 2022

Conservation groups in the Philippines are calling on president Ferdinand Marcos, Jr to reject a bill which gives producers responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.

The Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) Bill, set to lapse into law within the month, will be the first amendment of the country's [Solid Waste Management Act](#) in two decades. It signals a move by the state to make companies accountable for their role in the country's chronic plastic waste issue.

While the bill is a "meaningful step" to address the plastic crisis, the mechanisms in the bill can add to the climate emergency, said Marian Ledesma, zero waste campaigner for watchdog Greenpeace, in a [virtual briefing](#) of a coalition of green groups on Thursday.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/polluter-friendly-green-groups-demand-philippine-president-marcos-to-scrap-epr-bill/>



Peña: Plastic tax

[ROX PEÑA](#)

July 15, 2022

PLASTIC pollution is a global problem. Plastic is non-biodegradable and thus stays in the environment for a very long time. Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. They get entangled with discarded fishing gears or starved to death when they eat plastic which they mistake for food.

According to a World Bank report, the Philippines is the third largest contributor of marine plastic with an estimated 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic entering the ocean every year. President Bong Bong Marcos, in his inaugural speech, acknowledged this problem and made a commitment to address it.

Recycling is not enough to address plastic pollution. Some countries resort to drastic measures by banning single-use plastics. We don't have a plastic ban law. Some LGU's however have ordinances which ban or regulate the use of single-use plastic, particularly plastic bags.

Another approach to curb plastic pollution is to impose tax on single use plastics. In December last year, House Bill 9171 which seeks to impose a PHP20 per kilo levy on single-use plastic bags used in supermarkets, malls, shops, stores, sales outlets, and other establishments was approved on third and final reading. There was no approved Senate version so it did not become a law.

Recently however, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno announced during a press conference with other members of the economic team of PBBM that they will impose a tax on single-use plastic. However, the primary purpose of the move is to boost revenues. The environmental aspect seems to be secondary.

There are no details yet on what specific products will be taxed. Single-use plastic may include mineral water and soda bottles, forks, spoons, coffee cups and drink containers, sachets, food containers and fast food packaging and of course, plastic bags. I believe imposing a tax on most of these items will only add burden to the consumers and will not significantly reduce plastic waste. People will continue to patronize mineral water, soda and products in sachets.

The excise tax will have a big impact on plastic bags. According to a 2018 study in the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, a five-cent tax (P 2.80) on disposable bags reduced disposable bag usage by 40 percentage points.

Ireland introduced a EUR 0.15 (approx P 8.00) plastic bag levy in 2002. The tax, levied on consumers, applies to bags made wholly or partly of plastic, sold at any sales outlet. This led to an immediate 90% reduction in the use of plastic bags.



Peña: Plastic tax

In Denmark, a plastic bag tax was introduced as early as 1994 to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags and to prevent waste production. The introduction of the tax halved the consumption from around 800 million bags to 400 million bags, which amounts to around 80 bags per person annually.

Let's see if this proposed tax on single-use plastic will achieve its purpose.



Eastern Samar DENR employees held for illegal logging

By [Miriam Desacada](#) (The Philippine Star)

- July 16, 2022 - 12:00am

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines — Two employees of the city environment and natural resources office (CENRO) of Borongan City were arrested for illegal logging in Sitio Da-o, Barangay 07 in Giporlos, Eastern Samar on Wednesday.

The Giporlos police said Mahnel Ferreras, 41, and Leo Agaro, 42, failed to present the necessary documents to transport 110 pieces of lumber in two trucks.

The three companions of the suspects managed to escape. The trucks, which contained the cut logs, were seized.

Charges for violation of the Revised Forestry Code are being readied against the arrested suspects



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

Environmental defenders are putting their lives on the line amid land grabbing and other illegal development activities.



A ranger at Masungi Georeserve, a crucial ecosystem close to Manila. (Photo: Jack Board)



[Jack Board](#)

[@JackBoardCNA](#)

10 Jul 2022 06:01AM(Updated: 10 Jul 2022 08:01AM)

MANILA: Under the misty canopies and alongside the meandering rivers of the Sierra Madre, the Dumagat people have always had simple dreams.

The mountain range has been the tribe's provider and its protector. Life here has deep roots in the land, where prosperity is borne only by the riches of the forest and waterways of the Dumagat's ancestral domain.

"We only wish we can eat every day and live right," explains Danny Escaraga, a tribal leader from Quezon.

Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

“This is where we first gained awareness of our culture and tradition through nature. Everything that we have come from the Sierra Madre.”

The Sierra Madre is the backbone of the island of Luzon, stretching more than 540 km from north to south. It is a priceless patch of biodiversity, a diverse habitat of ancient forests and animals found nowhere else on the planet.

The range that looms at the edges of the Manila horizon has historically shielded millions of urban dwellers from the very worst weather generated in the Pacific Ocean. Its forests have absorbed rain from countless typhoons, preventing flooding in the city.

It is also a dangerous frontier, a collision point between those who would protect the land and environment and those who wish to develop or exploit it.



The Sierra Madre is the longest mountain range in the Philippines. (Photo: Jack Board)

Over time, the Sierra Madre has been pillaged of its defensive assets. In the face of ever worsening impacts of climate change, the potential demise of this natural shield poses great risks.

“It's crucial, not just for Metro Manila, but all of Luzon,” said Tony La Viña, an environmental policy expert and executive director of the Manila Observatory

“We're having problems because people take it for granted that this will always be there and you don't have to do anything.



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

“They don't realise that when they deforest it, when the mountains are actually literally cut down to size for quarrying purposes, then the protection disappears,” he said.

It is estimated that the Philippines has lost about 90 per cent of its original forest cover since the days of early Spanish colonisation. Deforestation has continued despite bans on logging and attempts to quell illegal forest activities.



These misty mountains are host to crucial watersheds. (Photo: Jack Board)

Recent efforts to restore the country's forested areas through the Enhanced National Greening Program, which continued under the Duterte administration, have been mixed.

While billions of seedlings have been planted during the programme, survival rates for young trees have been low and successful reforestation has simply offset continued deforestation in other areas.

Throughout the Sierra Madre range, deforestation rates picked up again between 2016 and 2018 after declining for the five years prior to that, researchers found.

Officials with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conceded that particularly in remote areas, they struggle to curtail the intruding and illicit influences that affect the Sierra Madre region.

“Actually the enforcement and protection of the park is really a challenge to us,” said Gwendolyn Cabataña Bambalan, the DENR director of Region 2, which covers the northern sections of the

Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

Sierra Madre.

“It’s really very important for us because it is the home of carbon sequestering and serves as a natural barrier to any calamities that might affect us,” she said.

The mountain range is host to multiple critical watersheds. Water that falls upcountry flows all the way down the Pasig River, Marikina River and then out to Manila Bay.

It is exactly that water that the Philippine government wants to harness, as a solution to the capital’s drinking water woes. But, the Dumagat people will be standing in the way.



Danny Escaraga says his people have been put in danger and their traditions threatened by development activities in the Sierra Madre. (Photo: Jack Board)

CONCRETE IN THE JUNGLE

The first time Danny Escaraga stepped away from his people’s forest realm and into the bustling capital city, he recalls being struck by the scale of man’s intervention, the tall buildings and busy roads.

“When I saw Manila, I thought, ‘so there really are places like this’,” he said.

“Where I’m from there are rivers without bridges. In Manila, there is a bridge even without a river. It made me realise that there really are places in the world and in this country that are so different from where I’m from.”

Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

Soon, he fears, the concrete of the cityscape he once looked at in amazement, will be constructed in his people's own patch.

With support and funding from the Chinese government, the Kaliwa Dam project promises to provide 600 million litres of raw water from the Sierra Madre to a fast growing metropolis every single day.

It is a controversial idea that was meant to be a flagship project of the Duterte Administration but has now fallen into the hands of the new government led by President Bongbong Marcos. The dam has been delayed several times and while some construction has begun around the project site, it is far from certain to be completed.



The nomadic Dumagat tribe have already faced relocation pressures in their area. (Photo: Jack Board)

It falls within an Environmentally Critical Area, and if it proceeds, will see the flooding of old growth forest areas and displace thousands of people.

For opponents of the project, it has become symbolic of the continued degradation of a precious ecosystem.

“These are the types of projects that plague the critical watersheds across the Philippines, not only the watersheds relevant to Metro Manila,” said Leon Dulce, the national coordinator of Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment.



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

“It’s part of that economic paradigm where the damages in cost to the environment are always externalised. They’re never part of the equation.

“So the damages are borne by the frontline communities. And that is why the most motivated to stop these projects are the defenders in these grassroots communities,” he said.

The area around the dam site has become heavily patrolled - there is palpable tension among local indigenous peoples. The recent arrest of a high-profile activist has put the community on a conflict footing on an environmental frontline.



Forests play a crucial role in absorbing heavy rainfall and preventing downriver flooding. (Photo: Jack Board)

“We are opposing the project not because we are not denying anyone of water, but because we don’t want the environment to suffer,” said Dumagat tribal leader, Jualito Tina.

“We are protecting our lives when we protect our native land. The younger generations will suffer should we fail to take care of the environment.

“There would be no problem if it would really resolve Metro Manila’s water supply issue, but is there no other way? It would be an answer to one problem in the city, but there would be consequences and sacrifices,” he said.



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?

Climate change and development pressures have already made an impression on the landscape around the municipality of General Nakar in Quezon, where Dumagat tribe members reside.

Standing in the way of further possible environmental damage, however, is a precarious game, here and throughout the entire country.

DEFENDING THE LAND

Wedged between the Sierra Madre range and metropolitan Manila, the Masungi Georeserve is a critical piece in the wider ecological system.

Age-old pinnacle limestone karsts emerge dramatically throughout the 430-ha protected area. From their heights, the skyline of metro Manila emerges encircled by its daily haze.

Masungi is a rare type of project - a private enterprise that has taken custody of land critical for the public good. The georeserve has become a popular tourist destination and small groups of city escapists scramble on rope walkways and pose for selfies overlooking a dense rainforest reserve.

There is pride in the voice of Ann Dumaliang as she recalls how this land used to be when she and her sister would play here, while their engineer father envisioned its fate.

“In the 1990s when I was around like six or eight years old, and our dad would bring us here, and I’d usually be playing in dried grass and goat poop to be honest,” she said.

She added: “What’s very noticeable then was just the scorching heat of the sun at your back because there were very few trees in the area. And it’s nice to really grow old with a place and see how it’s evolved through time.

“From a barren landscape like that, it’s really evolved into this lush greenery that we are now protecting.”



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?



The Masungi Georeserve opened to visitors in 2015. (Photo: Jack Board)

But Dumaliang, a conservationist and geotourism advocate who co-manages the park with her sister, is frustrated and exhausted by the constant struggle to manage Masungi's boundaries.

Land grabbing is rife around the green fringes, water is being diverted and trees are being cleared to build resorts or houses. Masungi rangers - many of whom are indigenous peoples - are the ones putting themselves in harm's way to prevent these activities.

"When people talk about development aggression, that's basically how it first manifests - people grabbing land that they are not supposed to take for themselves," she said.

"And we're not talking about ordinary people taking land because they are landless. We're talking about syndicates, businesses, who have made a profit out of selling land and occupying land.

"It's also been so violent in the last year. It's so exhausting. It's so tiring."



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?



Masungi rangers face the frequent risk of violence from intruders to the park area. (Photo: Jack Board)

In July last year, Kuhkan Maas was one of two rangers shot in the head and neck and almost killed while defending a patch of adjacent land, where there are ongoing disputes with resort operators and companies looking to develop a large-scale quarry.

His main role is to help plant trees and restore the 2,700 ha piece of land as part of an agreement with the national government in 2017. But he also has to contend with intruders.

“I think our jobs as rangers are important. It is a very difficult job. We get a lot of hate, he said.

“If there are no rangers, trespassers will be able to occupy the area. We caught so many violators who cut trees, burn wood, install structures for the resorts down below.

“I now have a child. I want my child to be like me. That when he grows up, he will see the work I have done. He will see the trees I have planted.”

These are the types of risks that had the Philippines ranked the third most deadly country in the world for land and environment defenders in 2020. It had the worst record in Southeast Asia for eight consecutive years.



Sierra Madre range has been protecting Manila from the forces of nature, but how long can it continue?



The skyline of Manila is within sight of the Masungi Georeserve. (Photo: Jack Board)

Source: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/sustainability/philippines-sierra-madre-typhoons-manila-flooding-climate-change-masungi-2793996?fbclid=IwAR1gCTcXqJkU7HRWVBpSEndQFTXjTtqWGqOJNUGJVeTpSMcZgJN8DTCrQII>



Meet an emerging young climate activist



By [Ludwig Federigan](#)

July 16, 2022

ONE fine Sunday afternoon, I sat down with [Brian Jason de los Santos](#) for an afternoon chat. Brian has been very active in serving a number of youth-led organizations and is now putting all of his energy to climate activism.

Brian got involved in climate action in 2021 under my tutelage. Impressed on how he progressed in his climate action commitment, I invited Brian to join the [Young Environmental Forum](#) as deputy executive director.

A lot of young people know that the Young Environmental Forum is a nonprofit, nongovernment and volunteer-based organization whose mission is "to educate our young people on our common future under climate change and to engage them to live and promote sustainable lifestyles." As deputy executive director, Brian assists in project development, fundraising and corporate partnerships, and project implementation.

The Young Environmental Forum, at present, is heavily involved — in partnership with various youth- and student-led organizations — in conducting environmental education and climate literacy projects among young Filipinos. With over 200 seminars and workshops conducted on topics about the environment, climate change, sustainability and leadership, it has reached over 50,000 people, most representing the youth of today.

In almost a year of active involvement in climate action, especially in awareness-raising, Brian has seen and witnessed the importance of imparting climate science, the negative impacts of climate change on people and communities, and also how young people can respond and help address the climate crisis.

Brian is from Masbate, some 17 hours south of Manila via roll-on roll-off bus or an hour by airplane. It is one of the poorest provinces in the country. His hometown, Placer, has a 33.12-percent poverty incidence. Placer is one of the five towns along the [Asid Gulf](#), which lies south of the narrow coastal plain of the province. The Asid Gulf is the eighth largest in the country and is a major fishing ground covering an area of 619 hectares. Subsistence fishing and farming are the main economic activities in Placer.

During an online course that Brian recently attended at Cornell University, he submitted a community engagement plan entitled "Community-based Coastal Resource Management Plan for Placer, Masbate" as a means to offer poverty alleviation and livelihood in the community. The plan intends to address unsustainable fishing and the use of destructive fishing practices in coastal communities.

Growing up in Masbate, one of the provinces where the Communist Party of the [Philippines](#)-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) has persisted, Brian witnessed several horror situations committed by



Meet an emerging young climate activist

the CPP-NPA against the Masbateños. Poverty is one of the reasons that have driven some to rebel against the government. We know that poverty will be exacerbated by climate change.

Also for two years, Brian was an intern at the offices of former senators [Juan Edgardo Angara](#) and [Francis Pangilinan](#). As a policy and political affairs intern, he attended committee hearings, provided a summary of agreements, conducted research, collected data and proposed interventions and strategies.

Another notable experience Brian recently had was his direct involvement with the [Office of the Presidential Adviser](#) on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity. He was selected as one of the core writers of the Philippine [National Action](#) on Youth, Peace and Security. They drafted a 2022-2028 plan that would institutionalize efforts on preventing, countering and transforming violent extremism among the youth. Brian recently joined and was the only Filipino in the Asia Youth Advocacy Team of the United Network of [Young Peacebuilders](#).

His courses on conflict resolution and peace studies in political science continue to resonate with Brian and he has no doubt that embracing conflict resolution will enable him to address uncertainties among the youth. Armed with the learning-to-action principle, Brian knows he can make a difference.

We have seen the relationship between peace and security and climate change. The effects of climate change are felt globally in extreme weather, increasing temperature and changing rainfall. Climate security underlines that climate change can undermine peace and increase levels of violence by affecting the drivers of conflict. Brian believes that, in addressing peace and security and climate change together, poverty must be taken into account as a root cause and driver.

As a youth leader, Brian is always guided by this: "I think beyond the present, I think beyond oneself, and I value the life of others." While he feels that work for climate advocacy and action are daunting, he will continue to focus his time and energy on three key areas:

Awareness-raising. Brian will endeavor to raise awareness on the ever-increasing threats of climate change and how people, especially the young, can adapt. Aside from strengthening the public campaign to keep fossil fuels in the ground and switch to renewable energy, some of the adaptation measures he will pursue are anchored on nature-based solutions, which include forest restoration through continued tree-planting activities and monitoring, mangrove restoration to protect coastal communities from seawater intrusion and storm surges, and the installation of solar facilities on rooftops, among others.

He also believes that appropriate actions are necessary to address the climate crisis aside from awareness-raising. Climate adaptation solutions must be shared, articulated and acted upon. The ultimate objective, he said, is to influence and mobilize more young people to act on the climate crisis.



Meet an emerging young climate activist

Engage policy-makers and decision-makers. There is no doubt that engaging policy-makers and decision-makers in both government and the private sector is necessary and strategic. Brian's involvement in drafting the Philippine [National Action Plan](#) on Youth, Peace and Security is a manifestation of engaging policy-makers and decision-makers. If he can do it in this area, he is confident he can do the same for climate action. With his prior advocacy work on regulating single-use plastics at the municipal level, he will endeavor to push this measure in the present administration.

Another legislative measure that he believes should be given priority is the passage of a rainwater harvesting law. We must require every commercial, industrial and residential building to install a rainwater harvesting system that will conserve water, which may be used to address supply shortages as well as mitigate flooding problems in many parts of our country.

Continuous dialogue. The number of young people in the Philippines is growing and their voices must be heard. Through the youth organizations that he is involved with, Brian will endeavor to maximize the reach and depth of other young people and know and understand their needs. He plans to take every opportunity to share with the youth the opportunities everyone can gain in embracing climate action measures with families and friends and in their communities.



This supercharged tree might help fight climate change



By [Matt McFarland](#), CNN Business
Updated 1654 GMT (0054 HKT) July 15, 2022



Part of the issue with catastrophic [climate change](#) is that, by some measures, an incredible amount of damage is already done. Even if all the coal-fired power plants were magically turned into wind and solar overnight, and all our cars were electric, all the greenhouse gases that we pumped into our atmosphere for 200 years would still be there.

Trees could, theoretically, help fix that. As they grow, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and, long story short, turn it into wood. But many trees only grow a foot or less per year. To not just halt climate change, but actually reverse it, someone would have to invent a tree that can grow much, much faster.

Living Carbon, a San Francisco-based company, says it's done exactly that.

The startup says it's genetically modified hybrid poplar trees to grow faster so they'll absorb more carbon dioxide and help minimize the damage of climate change. Carbon dioxide has grown



This supercharged tree might help fight climate change

rapidly in the atmosphere since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, leading to extreme climate effects.

The startup says it edits the genes of the trees to speed up photosynthesis, the process that plants use to make food from carbon dioxide and water. This enables the trees to grow faster with the extra energy, according to the company.

In one case, a tree it modified accumulated 53% more mass during five months of growth, according to a report Living Carbon published earlier this year. Living Carbon says this translates to about 27% more carbon being captured. The findings are a proof-of-concept, so they will need to be proven to hold up over the long term of a tree's life, and at a scale large enough to have a significant impact on the climate.

Living Carbon plans to plant about 4 million trees by 2023, and it has already done test plantings on abandoned mine lands. Living Carbon says if it doubles its existing acreage of planted trees every year, by 2030 it will have removed 604 million metric tons of carbon. That's 1.66% of global emissions in a typical year, according to Living Carbon.

The startup, which was founded in 2019 and has raised \$15 million, plans to generate revenue from sapling sales and carbon credits it receives for its gene-edited trees.

Living Carbon's cofounders, Maddie Hall and Patrick Mellor, view gene-edited trees as a way not only capture carbon but also restore damaged land. Hall previously worked as an investor focused on climate change and biotechnology. She met Mellor at the Foresight Institute, a non-profit focused on technology, which he was involved with as he focused on climate stabilization.

"About 75% of land worldwide has been degraded due to human activity," Hall told CNN Business. "How do we develop species that would be able to actually capture carbon on those pieces of land? You need biotechnology to do that."

Brazil saw record [Amazon deforestation](#) in the first half of 2022. In the US, the Midwest [has seen](#) 150 years of deforestation that impacted forests built over 8,000 years since the Glaciers retreated.

"What took millennia to accumulate took less than two centuries to remove," the university scientists, who were funded by the National Science Foundation, [wrote in a study](#) this month.

Another potential benefit of gene-edited trees is that their roots will grow faster, which could help to more quickly address soil erosion in deforested areas.

Living Carbon is among the startups trying to leverage "synthetic biology," in which humans program cells like they have long programmed computer chips and software to complete tasks.

Living Carbon says it chose to work first with hybrid poplar trees because its genome was already sequenced and they're grown in academic and research contexts. Hybrid poplars seemed to be a quicker way to demonstrate their idea could work. They say they're also working with Loblolly pine trees.



This supercharged tree might help fight climate change

But using trees to capture carbon isn't a cure all. Eventually, trees die and their carbon is [released](#) as they decompose.

Living Carbon says it's focusing more than half of its research on slowing biomass decomposition to account for this, and its seedlings can also be harvested for durable wood products, which delays decomposition.

Kent H. Redford, a conservationist and consultant who wrote a book, "Strange Natures," about synthetic biology, told CNN Business that modifying trees has potential, but that much remains unknown. There are reasonable concerns, including whether genetically modified trees could become unwelcome, invasive species. Conservationists should engage technology creators to see if there are ways their ideas can work socially and economically, he said.

He added that conservationists are failing at preserving biodiversity, so they must be open to considering new tools, while also avoiding hyperbole.

"They're here and they'll stay," Redford said of tools like synthetic biology. "We must talk to the public without turning it into a litany of either 'this is the world's best solution,' or this is the world's worst idea.' "

Eyes on Temasek-backed carbon emitters as the investment company works towards net zero

Singapore state investment firm Temasek announced that it has accelerated investments towards sustainability solutions and raised its internal carbon price. But green groups remain concerned about the company's continued support for carbon-intensive sectors.



Panellists at Temasek Review 2022. Image: Temasek

By [Kate Yeo](#)

5 minute read July 15, 2022

“Sustainability is at the core of everything we do,” stressed Singapore-owned investment firm Temasek throughout its 2022 financial review, which took place on Tuesday.

The company has achieved carbon neutrality for the third year running, it announced in a presentation made by Lim Ming Pey, managing director of the Strategy office. The last four years saw a marked decrease in overall carbon intensity — from 49.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_{2e}) per employee in 2018 to 7.4 tCO_{2e} in 2022.

The bulk of this drop was attributed to Covid-related restrictions, which led to a sharp decline in indirect emission sources such as business travel and employee commute, said Temasek. While the company expects to see an upward trend in these emissions as the world opens up for travel again, it said it would continue to scrutinise the need for business travel closely, and leverage technology such as teleconferencing.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/eyes-on-temasek-backed-carbon-emitters-as-the-investment-company-works-towards-net-zero/>



Manila Water completes rehab of Liwasan ng Kagitingan at Kalikasan

Published on: July 15, 2022
By Susan De Leon



CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA) – The Manila Water completes the rehabilitation of the Liwasan ng Kagitingan at Kalikasan-Taguig North Sewage Treatment Plant (LKK-Taguig North STP) Recreational Park.

The make-over, which began in 2021, includes the restoration works of its landscaping and park vegetation, construction of a nature park and lagoon, installation of a pavilion fountain pump, and irrigation works.

The rehabilitation also involves the construction of the new COVID-19 Memorial Wall that honors heroes of the pandemic.

While serving as an ideal recreation area for the surrounding communities, the main function of the facility is to treat used water collected from residents in the cities of Taguig and Makati at the sewage treatment plant, built right under the park.



Manila Water completes rehab of Liwasan ng Kagitingan at Kalikasan

The resulting discharge is considered “Class C” effluent which according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is safe for recreational water activities and marine life.

Located beside the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the LKK-Taguig North STP Recreational Park was constructed in 2015, in close coordination with the Department of National Defense. (Manila Water/PIA-NCR)



Dredging ops sa Marikina City, patuloy

Published on: July 14, 2022

Updated as of July 15, 2022 9:00 am

By Jimmyley Guzman



Photos courtesy of Marikina PIO

LUNGSOD QUEZON, (PIA) -- Patuloy ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Marikina sa pagsasagawa ng dredging operation sa mga daluyan ng tubig sa siyudad.

Tagubilin ni Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro, higit na mahalaga ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan ang puspusang paglilinis sa mga daluyan ng tubig upang maiwasan ang pag-apaw ng mga ito na posibleng maging sanhi ng ma pagbaha.



Dredging ops sa Marikina City, patuloy

Para sa pamahalaang lungsod, mas episyenteng nagagawa ang isang importanteng proyekto o serbisyo kapag mayroong sariling kagamitan o equipment ang Marikina tulad ng tuloy-tuloy na paglilinis sa mga daluyan ng tubig.

Ayon kay Mayor Marcy, bukod sa mahalaga ang may sariling kagamitan, importante rin ang functionality o gamit ng isang kasangkapan upang masulit ang serbisyo nito.

Halimbawa na rito ang mga sariling long-arm backhoe at dump truck ng pamahalaang lungsod na bukod sa ginagamit sa tuluy-tuloy na pagpapalalim at pagpapalapad ng Marikina River, nagagamit din ang mga ito sa paglilinis sa mas maliliit na daluyan ng tubig tulad ng creek na nasa Lilac Bridge sa Brgy. Concepcion Dos, dahil may kakayahan ang mga kagamitang ito na pumasok sa mas maliit na kalsada kung kinakailangan. (*Marikina City/PIA-NCR*)



Pagbuo ng Sierra Madre Development Authority inihain sa Kamara



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/CongFidelNograles/

July 15, 2022 @ 8:00 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Kasunod ng pangako ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos na prayoridad sa kanyang administrasyon ang pagtutok sa isyu ng climate change, isang panukala ang inihain kahapon sa House of Representatives na nagsusulong ng pagbuo ng isang government body na mangangasiwa sa pangangalaga ng 500km Sierra Madre Mountain Range sa hangarin na rin na maiwasan na ang pagbaha sa Luzon.

Sa ilalim ng House Bill 1972 ay bubuo ng Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) na syang magbabalangkas ng programa para sa conservation, improvement, exploration, development at maintenance ng Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Ayon kay Rizal Rep Fidel Nograles, may akda ng panukala, na ang SMDA din ang syang mangunguna sa kampanya laban sa illegal logging sa lugar at magpopromote ng reforestation.

Iginiit ng solon na malaki ang pangangailangan na mapangalagaan ang Sierra Madre Region lalo at nandito ang 68 Protected Areas na kinabibilangan ng national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves at protected landscapes at seascapes.

“The onset of the rainy season should serve as a stark warning for us in Congress that climate change is not an issue that will go away. We need to confront it head-on and seek to craft legislation that would comprehensively address the myriad issues surrounding it,” ani Nograles.

Aminado si Nograles na ang buong Rizal Province ang syang unang apektado kapag nasira ang Sierra Madre kaya naman isinusulong nito ang panukala.



Pagbuo ng Sierra Madre Development Authority inihain sa Kamara

“I hope that with Pres. Bongbong Marcos vowing to prioritize climate change, the House leadership will follow and place this issue at the top of our legislative agenda. The effects of climate change sweep far and wide and affect all sectors of society and governance, so we cannot simply turn a blind eye,” pagtatapos pa ni Nograles. **Gail Mendoza**



Gov't urged to allocate fund to address bird flu threat

By RICHA NORIEGA, GMA News

Published July 15, 2022 7:31pm

The Egg Council of the Philippines (ECP) urged Friday the national government to allocate funds to address the threat of bird flu and egg supply shortage.

ECP chairman and Agap-partylist Representative Nicanor Briones said the government must immediately release funds to address the spread of bird flu.

"Ang una nating gawin pondohan ng ating pamahalaan huwag nilang gawin 'yung ginawa sa African Swine Fever (ASF). Gusto nilang matigil eh hindi naman naglabas ng pondo para mabayaran 'yung tinatamaan ng ASF," Briones said in an interview with GMA's Balitanghali.

(The government must allocate funds first and should not repeat what happened when there was ASF. They want to stop the spread of ASF, but they did not release funds to pay the affected hog raisers.)

"Walang nagdedeklara kumalat nang kumalat natakot ang maraming magbababoy hindi nagdagdag, hindi nagrepopulate kaya patuloy tayong nawalan ng baboy. Eh huwag nilang gawin sa bird flu, ngayon pa lang pondohan na nila at bayaran ng P150 kada ulo ng manok 'yung tatamaan," he added.

(When the ASF spread, producers got scared and did not repopulate which led to the shortage of hogs. They must not do that now amid bird flu, they must provide funds and give P150 per chicken affected by the bird flu.)

He said they requested the government to pay those affected by bird flu in order for them to voluntarily surrender, conduct tests, and avoid the spread of bird flu.

"Ang ating request kung pwede magbayad ng P150 kada manok na tatamaan ng bird flu para kusa silang magsurrender, kusa sila magpatest at nang hindi kumalat," he said.

(Our request is for them to pay poultry raisers P150 per chicken affected by the bird flu for them to surrender, voluntarily conduct tests, and prevent spread of the disease.)

Meanwhile, Briones said the country is also experiencing egg supply shortage due to the losses experienced from May 2021 to June 2022.

"Ngayon mayroon tayong kakulangan dahil sa naranasanang kalugihan mula May 2021 hanggang June 2022, 14 months. First time sa history ng aming pag-iitlog ay nalugi nang napakalaki ang ating mag-iitlog kaya marami ang tumigil, binenta na 'yung farm, nagbawas kaya ngayon ay mayroon tayong kakulangan kaya mabilis na tumataas ang presyo [ng itlog]," he said.



Gov't urged to allocate fund to address bird flu threat

(Now we have a shortage due to the losses experienced from May 2021 to June 2022, 14 months. For the first time in the history of producing eggs, we lost so much that some have stopped selling, others sold their farms, so now we have a shortage that resulted to increase in the price of eggs.

He earlier said the price of eggs is expected to hit [P10 up to P15 per piece](#) amid supply shortage and threat of bird flu.

He said that the threat of bird flu is also the concern of egg producers.

In March, the Department of Agriculture temporarily [suspended the transportation](#) of both poultry and non-poultry live birds from mainland Luzon to the rest of the country in light of the bird flu outbreak in Bulacan and Pampanga.

The agency also issued a memorandum circular regulating the movement of ducks, quails, chickens, and other poultry commodities in affected areas, particularly those coming from within the one-kilometer quarantine area.—AOL, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/838307/gov-t-urged-to-allocate-fund-to-address-bird-flu-threat/story/?fbclid=IwARiDpC57hO8yOkeSCuw4nkQ5f8jVNUWQKFNJIJbIubWv2VSnja xGj3M-5eU>



Mosquito repellent, puwedeng gawin sa bahay ngayon mataas ang dengue cases

Hulyo 15, 2022 6:35pm GMT+08:00
SINULAT NI: JAMIL SANTOS

Ngayong dumadami na naman ang kaso ng nakamamatay na dengue, alamin kung papaano gumawa sa bahay ng panglaban o pangtaboy sa lamok na nagdadala ng dengue virus.

Mula Enero 1 hanggang Hunyo 25 ngayong 2022, nakapagtala na ng mahigit 60,000 na kaso ng dengue sa bansa, o katumbas ng 90% na pagtaas kumpara sa kaparehong panahon noong nakaraang taon.

Sa kuwentong "Dapat Alam Mo" ni Nico Waje, sinabi ng "Queen of Reviews" na si Althea Morales, na gabi-gabi silang nagpapaligsahan ng kaniyang nobyo sa pagpatay ng mga lamok. Hanggang sa nagpasiya silang gumawa na ng mosquito repellent.

Ang ginawa nilang mosquito repellent ay ginamitan lang nila ng tanglad o lemon grass at oregano. Nag-spray si Althea sa iba't ibang parte ng kanilang bahay kaya naging paminsan-minsan na lang ang mga bumibisitang lamok.

Nakatipid din sina Althea sa naturang repellent, na nag-iiwan din ng mabangong amoy na parang nasa spa.

Pero effective ba talaga ang tanglad at oregano na pangtaboy ng lamok?

Ayon kay Dr. Razel Nikka Hao, Director IV ng Disease and Prevention Control Bureau ng Department of Health, na may repellent na carvacrol at linalool ang oregano. Habang ang tanglad naman ay may larvicidal o pamatay ng mga maliliit na itlog ng lamok.

Gayunman, hindi pa raw ganoong klaro o kabigat ang mga ebidensya tungkol sa mga nasabing kemikal. Mayroon ding ineendorsong mga produkto ang Food and Drug Administration na napatunayan nang epektibo laban sa mga lamok.

Panoorin sa video ng "Dapat Alam Mo!" upang malaman kung paano ang paggawa ng mosquito repellent gamit ang oregano at tanglad. --FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/838302/mosquito-repellent-puwedeng-gawin-sa-bahay-ngayon-mataas-ang-dengue-cases/story/?fbclid=IwARiQp9Amma4Pm-uBegUbjTjFfmMwoIfhniAdNccFZ4PR5cZo65SHro3iSQE>

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Boracay listed in Time's 'World's Greatest Places of 2022'

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE inclusion of Boracay Island in Time Magazine's "50 World's Greatest Places of 2022" is a testament to the success of the Boracay Island rehabilitation under the Duterte administration.

This was stressed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. as he is happy to express his gratitude for the award-winning publication's recognition.

"We are very happy and honored that the authoritative Time Magazine included the Philippines' island paradise, Boracay Island, in its prestigious list and dubbed it a 'paradise reborn.' This shows that the work we have done has borne fruit. Thanks to the political will of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte," Adobo said.

Time Magazine's July 25-

August 1 issue compiled 50 "top spots to visit this year" from all over the world. The nominations came from the American news magazine's network of correspondents and contributors.

"As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence," read the Time feature article on the 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in 2022.

On May 8, 2018, former President Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 53, creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to "formulate, implement, and oversee policies, as well as strictly enforce national laws and local ordinances, to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of the Boracay Island."

Duterte extended the

term of the BIATF through EO 115 in 2020 and EO 147 in 2021 to continue the rehabilitation initiatives until June 30, 2022.

Adobo, who was the former BIATF secretariat head, also attributed the success of the Boracay rehabilitation to the leadership of former DENR Secretary and BIATF Chair Roy A. Cimatu and co-chaired by former Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and former Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Former DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna succeeded Cimatu after the latter's resignation in February 2022.

Adobo also thanked the active participation of BIATF member agencies; Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Social Welfare and Development

(DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

He also acknowledged the contribution of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other partner stakeholders.

Adobo said that the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, the implementing arm of the BIATF; the provincial government of Aklan, the municipal government of Malay; and the residents of Boracay Island also contributed to the tourist destination's recent recognition.

On June 16, 2022, the BIATF successfully held a culminating activity for the Boracay Rehabilitation Program turnover to the Aklan and Malay local governments.



268 trash traps to be installed in tributaries

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

AT least 268 trash traps will be installed in tributaries leading to Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan, and Pampanga Rivers in order to improve waste collection and disposal within the said tributaries, which can help reduce flooding during the rainy season.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Director Engr. William P. Cuñado disclosed that the rivers are determined to be among the "most polluted rivers" and major contributors to Manila Bay.

Cuñado said that the project is in support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduc-

tion, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) in accordance with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-10 as the national marine litter framework plan with an overarching goal of "Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040".

"We are working closely with the local government units (LGUs), seeking their suggestions from procurement to installation, to ensure that these trash traps are installed in strategic locations and maximized for the benefit of the LGU and the communities residing in these water bodies," Cuñado said.

Cuñado added that the entire activities and strategies provided in the NPOA-ML are included in the top priorities of the DENR-EMB. The NPOA-ML was

developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of our country in resource and waste management.

"We need to control the additional leakage of waste into our water bodies. For this year, EMB will augment the existing activities of the DENR related to the implementation of NPOA-ML," Cuñado explained.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and a Deed of Donation (DOD) will be entered between the EMB Regional Office and the recipient LGUs for the procurement of items such as brand-new trash traps, manually operated waste lifters, plastic boats, and tools/materials for operation will be distributed to the four identified rivers between the bureau and the LGUs concerned.



PCCI lauds choice of Lotilla, Loyzaga

THE Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has welcomed the appointments of Raphael Lotilla and Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as the secretaries of the Energy and Environment departments, respectively.

George Barcelon, president of PCCI, lauded President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. for appointing Lotilla and Loyzaga, describing them as the right people to lead their respective agencies.

"We welcome and congratulate the newly named Cabinet secretaries on their well-deserved appointments," Barcelon said. "We trust that with their competence, vast experiences and expertise, both will deliver and perform well in serving the people and our country."

There are various challenges facing the country's power and environment sectors with a looming crisis in fuel and power supply, and climate

change. These have been contributing to the uneasiness of the business sector.

"We have vast mineral resources including minerals such as nickel, gold, copper, iron ore and forest within our shores.

Exploring and making full use of these resources can bring in much-needed foreign earnings to cover high energy and essential commodity imports" Barcelon said.

He also noted that PCCI, through its Energy and Environment Committee, has crafted recommendations for the short, medium and long term to help the government address issues in the energy and environment sectors.

"The chamber has been actively meeting to come up with proposals on how to balance a stable economy and healthy environment as we make full use of our mineral resources," Barcelon added.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



PCCI lauds latest PBBM Cabinet appointments

By ANDREA SAN JUAN

THE Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has lauded the appointments of energy and environment secretaries, amid the various challenges the country's facing on power and environment sectors.

PCCI, in a news statement issued on Friday, welcomed the appointments of Raphael "Popo" Lotilla and Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as chiefs of the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), respectively.

"We welcome and congratulate the newly-named Cabinet secretaries on their well-deserved appointments. We trust that with their competence, vast experiences, and expertise, both will deliver and perform well in serving the people and our country," said PCCI President George T. Barcelon.

The country's energy sector is currently facing a looming crisis in fuel and power supply and this has affected the business sector in forecasting energy cost in their operations.

The PCCI chief noted that the country can utilize its abundant resources to compensate for the high energy and commodity imports.

"We have vast mineral resources including minerals such as nickel, gold, copper, iron ore and forest within our shores. Exploring and making full use of these resources can bring in much needed foreign earnings to cover high energy and essential commodity imports," said Barcelon as he highlighted the energy and environment departments' important roles.

Barcelon stressed that the PCCI, through its Energy and Environment Committee, has crafted recommendations for short to medium and long-term plans to help the government address issues in the energy and environment sectors.

"The Chamber has been actively meeting to come up with proposals on how to balance a stable economy and healthy environment as we make full use of our mineral resources," added Barcelon.

On Monday, PCCI urged the government to expedite the exploration of indigenous resources. Barcelon lamented the lack of aggressiveness in oil and near-field exploration, even as the Malampaya gas field is expected to run dry by 2027.

In a separate statement issued on Monday, the PCCI chief raised the urgency of prospecting and developing the country's indigenous oil and natural gas resources as domestic supply dwindles and prices at the international market skyrocket.

Citing the experience of the Philippines' neighboring countries, the PCCI chief noted that they were able to develop domestic fuel resources by drilling more wells. Hence, Barcelon said, the country needs to expedite petroleum exploration.

For his part, Carlos Ramon Aboltiz, chairman of PCCI's Industry Committee, suggested starting with near-field exploration for natural gas around SC-38 (Malampaya), potentially with a quick win since the platform and pipeline are already in the vicinity.

In relation to the development of liquefied natural gas (LNG), Frank Carbon, PCCI's Director for Energy and Power said introducing LNG in the country's energy and power generation mix will contribute to its diversity and help the country better deal with upheavals in supply and demand and reduce risks of being overly dependent on a single type of fuel like coal.

Meanwhile, Jose Alejandro, Chairman of the Energy and Power Committee, underscored the importance of security of supply and affordability of power, noting that these are engines of growth. Alejandro suggested the creation of a team that will focus mainly on examining price stability to drive competitiveness in the country.



Biz group hails DoE, DENR appointments

BY RAFFY AYENG
@tribunephil_raf

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) yesterday lauded the appointments of Raphael Lotilla to the Department of Energy (DoE), and Toni Yulo-Loyzaga at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), saying they were well-deserved.

In a statement, George Barcelon, PCCI president, said the appointments of Lotilla and Yulo-Loyzaga were laudable amid various challenges facing the country's power and environment sector.

"We welcome and congratulate the newly named cabinet secretaries on their well-deserved appointments. We trust that with their competence, vast experiences, and expertise, both will deliver and perform well in serving the people and our country," Barcelon said.

He stressed that the country's energy sector faces a looming crisis in fuel and power supply, and this has been contributing to the uneasiness of the business sector in forecasting energy costs in their

operations.

"We have vast mineral resources including minerals such as nickel, gold, copper, iron ore, and forest within our shores. Exploring and making full use of these resources can bring in much-needed foreign earnings to cover high energy and essential commodity imports" Barcelon said, citing the DoE and the DENR's important roles in the process.

He noted that the PCCI, through its Energy and Environment Committee, has crafted recommendations for short to medium and long-term plans to help the government address issues in the energy and environment sectors.

"The chamber has been actively meeting to come up with proposals on how to balance a stable economy and healthy environment as we make full use of our mineral resources," Barcelon added.

As some groups questioned the installment of Lotilla for the DoE post, the Department of Justice said his appointment was lawful despite serving as an independent director of Aboitiz Power Corporation and

Ace Enexor.

According to Aboitiz Power, Lotilla has resigned from his post as an independent director of Aboitiz Power Corp., effective 11 July.

Atty. Mico Clavano, who works with the Office of Justice Secretary Crispin Remulla, maintained that "The position of the department is that the appointment should be valid given that an independent director does not fall within those prohibited by the DoE Act of 1992."

Further, he insisted that the novel concept of an "independent director" was not contemplated by Republic Act (RA) 7638, otherwise known as the Department of Energy Act of 1992.

Section 8 of RA 7638 states that "no officer, external auditor, accountant, or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two years from his retirement, resignation, or separation therefrom."



PH WINS PLATINUM-LEVEL BLUE PARK AWARD FOR APO REEF NATURAL PARK

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





PH seen as major geothermal market

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

THE Philippines is expected to become the world's fourth-largest market for total installed geothermal power capacity by 2031, an international research group said.

In a report by Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research, a unit of Fitch Group, the Philippines was cited as the one of the research's geothermal power sector outperformers, which is forecast to be fourth-largest markets in terms of installed geothermal capacity globally by 2031, following the United States in third spot.

The research identified two outperforming geothermal power investment destinations — the US

and the Philippines — and one key market to watch over the coming years is Ethiopia.

Fitch Solutions said that the Philippines selection for the research was due to the Philippines having 1,928 megawatts (MW) of installed geothermal capacity, making up a large share of its total renewables output (annual average of over 60 percent over the next decade). This, also because the Philippine government has reclassified geothermal as a mineral

resource and allows 100-percent foreign investment into geothermal projects, it added.

"The Philippines will also be one of the world's largest markets for total installed geothermal power capacity. We estimate that the market currently has the world's third-largest installed geothermal capacity. Over our 10-year forecast period, geothermal power will be the dominant source of non-hydropower renewable electricity output in the Philippines, accounting for an annual average share of 64 percent of total renewable power generation," Fitch Solutions said.

However, it was quite fearful of the future growth prospects of geothermal power capacity in the Philippines, given that most of

the market's proven reserves have been commercialized while the unproven potential reserves of just under 2.4 gigawatts are in more inaccessible areas. According to Fitch Solutions, only 217-MW of geothermal capacity is expected to come online in the market over the next decade.

"By 2025, we forecast that Turkey will overtake the Philippines for total installed geothermal capacity, though it [Philippines] will still be the world's fourth-largest geothermal market," it said.

Because of this, Fitch Solutions emphasized that geothermal exploration is on the rise.

The Philippine government launched new exploration surveys and signed around 10 contracts with companies look-

ing to drill exploratory wells in June 2018. Additionally, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation received approval from the Department of Energy (DoE) to carry out a grid impact study for its proposed 120-MW geothermal power project in the country, in Pasil, Kalinga. The Kalinga geothermal project and Mount Malinao geothermal project were awarded the certification of energy project of national significance by the Energy Investment Coordinating Council, which entitles them to a faster approval process. These are the first two renewable projects to be granted energy projects of national significance.

Fitch Solutions also cited DoE's reclassification of geo-

thermal as a mineral resource, which now allows for 100-percent foreign investment into geothermal projects, in a bid to attract more foreign investors into the sector. Five of these developments were launched under a third open and competitive selection process, of which bids were received from Energy Development, Philippine Geothermal Production and MASE Power.

The Philippines is one of the world's top producers of geothermal power as it is located along the Ring of Fire zone of Pacific volcanoes. It currently has seven geothermal fields that supply about 12 percent of the nation's energy, with a long-term plan to nearly double capacity by 2040.



AboitizPower to build binary geothermal plant

ABOITIZ Power Corp. (AboitizPower) is growing its renewable energy (RE) portfolio with plans to build a binary geothermal plant in Tiwi, Albay province, according to the company's corporate branding and communication (CBC) unit.

Janelle Jacinto, AboitizPower CBC chief, said the company's subsidiary, AP Renewables Inc. (APRI), is set to construct a binary geothermal power plant that will utilize excess heat from spent brine at the Tiwi geothermal facility, the country's first geothermal power plant.

Geothermal energy is generated from the heat of the earth and is tapped by drilling holes to make steam escape from geothermal reservoirs. Residual heat from the hot brine from the geothermal production process that is otherwise discarded is harvested to produce electricity through the binary geothermal power plant.

Jeffrey Estrella, APRI president and chief operating officer, explained that the concept of recov-

ering heat from geothermal brine and converting it into electricity is a novel solution that increases the productivity from the Tiwi geothermal facility.

Estrella said this project is meant to recycle the by-product and turn it into productive energy in the form of electricity, through the addition of a binary plant.

"We are always keen on investing in improvements and technical innovations that extend the useful life and improve the



■ The Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant of Aboitiz Power Corp. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

output of our renewable energy assets," he said.

Emmanuel Rubio, AboitizPower president and chief executive officer, said the expansion of the company's Cleanergy portfolio is not solely hinged on acquisitions or the construction of big-ticket projects.

Rubio noted that as a testament to this, AboitizPower and the Aboitiz Group will "seek ways to optimize available resources."

The Tiwi binary plant, which is expected to generate an additional 17 megawatts gross capacity of clean and renewable energy for the grid, will be built from the ground up with a new binary plant system,

pipes and transmission line.

APRI has signed an agreement with its steam provider for the supply of brine that will fuel the binary facility whose construction is targeted for completion at the end of 2023, she added.

"We are determined to further grow our Cleanergy portfolio in the next 10 years and will pursue every reasonable opportunity to do so," Rubio said.

Jacinto said AboitizPower's geothermal, hydro and solar facilities across the Philippines compose Cleanergy, which is the company's clean and renewable energy brand.

In 2009, AboitizPower acquired the Tiwi-MakBan geothermal

plants and invested in the rehabilitation of the facilities to improve performance and extend their operating life.

Jacinto said the project took on its first debt financing in 2016, following a successful revamp, with the backing of the Asian Development Bank through the issuance of the first Climate Bond in Asia and the Pacific.

AboitizPower envisions a 50:50 balance between its renewable and thermal portfolios by 2030, further growing its Cleanergy capacity along the way to help build the country's RE market and contribute to the global RE goals.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Phl remains among world's top geothermal producers

By **RICHMOND MERCURIO**

The Philippines is expected to remain among the world's largest markets for total installed geothermal power capacity over the next decade, but its position of being the third biggest could slip with limited capacity seen coming online.

In a report, Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research has identified the Philippines and the US as geothermal power sector outperformers, or those geothermal power markets that have a significant capacity base installed, and/or will register substantial growth in capacity over a 10-year forecast period.

Fitch Solutions is forecasting the US and the Philippines to be the third and fourth largest markets, respectively, in terms of installed geothermal capacity globally by 2031.

The Philippines' market is currently estimated to have the world's third largest installed geothermal capacity at 1,928 megawatts (MW).

Fitch Solutions said that over its 10-year forecast period, geothermal power will be the dominant source of non-hydropower renewable electricity output in the Philippines, accounting for an annual average share of 64 percent of total renewable power generation.

"However, we remain bearish

on the future growth prospects of geothermal power capacity in the Philippines, given that most of the market's proven reserves have been commercialized while the unproven potential reserves of just under 2.4 GW are in more inaccessible areas," it said.

Over the next decade, Fitch Solutions' forecast is that only 217 MW of geothermal capacity will come online in the Philippine market, bringing installed capacity to 2,145 MW by 2031.

By 2025, it sees Turkey overtaking the Philippines for total installed geothermal capacity, making the country the world's fourth largest geothermal market.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

07-16-22

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DOTr supports green transport push

By EMMIE V. ABADILLA

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) pledged to support green transport projects and electric vehicles throughout the country as sustainable alternatives for the Filipino riding public.

DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista made the commitment Thursday, July 14, during the launch of the first mall-based free charging stations for electric vehicles at Megaworld Lifestyle Malls.

The national development plan for the electric vehicle industry is a big push for the promotion of electric vehicles in the country, he underscored.

For this reason, the DOTr will assist in the advancement of the Republic Act 11697, the Development of Electric Vehicle Industry in the Philippines.

The Megaworld Lifestyle Malls' charging stations e-mobility initiative is the country's first mall-based charging stations for electric bikes, scooters, vehicles, and public utility vehicles located at Uptown Bonifacio in BGC, Taguig City.

The free charging of electric automobiles is in partnership with DOTr, Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

With the upcoming implementa-



Department of Transportation secretary Jaime Bautista and Megaworld Lifestyle Malls head Graham Coates test the newly-installed e-vehicle charging stations at Uptown Bonifacio July 14, 2022. The Megaworld-owned lifestyle mall is rolling out the first mall-based EV charging stations for e-scooters, e-bikes, e-trikes and e-PUVs, which the public can use for free. (photo by ali vicoy)

tion of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, the DOTr and Megaworld partnership will continue to push for the expansion of electric vehicle usage in the country, the transport chief noted.

Furthermore, the DOTr will ensure that transport policies and projects are dovetailed on the preservation of the environment, Bautista assured.

Everything should comply with international environment standards to alleviate the impact of transportation

on the environment.

Bautista likewise cited former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) which improved transportation efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.

"The Department of Transportation launched programs to improve transportation efficiency and reduce emissions and pollutants from the public transportation sector," he reiterated.



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Green transport projects to continue - DOTr

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) vowed to continue to promote green transport projects and electric vehicles throughout the country.

DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista made the assurance during the Megaworld Lifestyle Malls' launching of the first mall-based free charging stations for electric vehicles.

Bautista ensured that its transport policies and projects are dovetailed on the preservation of the environment and compliant with international environment standards towards alleviating the impact of transportation on the environment.

He added that the DOTr will support and assist in the advancement of the Republic Act 11697 or the Development of Electric Vehicle Industry in the Philippines to provide sustainable transport alternatives to Filipinos.

The Megaworld Lifestyle Malls' charging stations e-mobility initiative is the country's first mall-based charging stations for electric bikes, scooters, vehicles, and public utility vehicles located at Uptown Bonifacio in BGC, Taguig City. Jun Legaspi



PH MUST ADOPT BETTER
DISASTER PREVENTION
MEASURES AMID
CATASTROPHIC CALAMITIES

EDITORIAL

Prepare for disasters

AS a favorite "sparring partner" of typhoons, storms, floods and other natural disasters, the Philippines ought to implement climate change adaptation strategies and action plans.

Every year, destructive natural disasters claim the lives of many Filipinos, mostly poor farmers and fishers, and destroy billions of pesos worth of agricultural crops, like palay and corn.

Note that many places across the country, including the heavily-populated Metropolitan Manila (MM), are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate-related hazards.

Certainly, we share the view of many Filipinos that with the worsening of the problem of climate change, there's that need to make our infrastructure disaster-resilient.

Not only that. The government, through concerned offices and agencies, must ensure community preparedness whenever typhoons and storms and other natural hazards occur.

It may be useful, then, for village officials and employees, particularly members of the Barangay Health Workers (BHW), to regularly undergo training on first aid.

What is really saddening and disturbing is the fact that during floods and other national emergencies, public servants who are supposed to render service "disappear."

The situation is not helped any by the inability of government workers to help residents of far-flung communities during catastrophic floods because of lack of relief goods.

Of course, the people are in for more problems if concerned government authorities fail to address the problems of hoarding and overpricing of goods during emergencies.

Indeed, disaster preparedness training, in the view of many, is a must in impoverished Philippines, which is visited by an average of 20 typhoons and storms a year.



Editorial

Mga sumisira sa kalikasan, sampolan

SI Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga ang bagong skalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Kilala siyang climate change advocate. Dati siyang director ng Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. Si Loyzaga ang ikalawang babaing DENR secretary. Una ay si Gina Lopez na naging DENR chief sa termino ni President Rodrigo Duterte.

Sa pag-upo ni Loyzaga sa DENR, marami siyang kahabarapang pagsubok at ilan dito ay ang paglaban sa mga sumisira sa kapaligiran at likas na yaman. Kabilang dito ang mga salot na nag-ooperate ng illegal mining at quarrying; problema sa air, water at plastic pollution at kasama na rito ang hindi masolusyunang problema sa basura na nagdudulot ng pagbaha.

Haharapin niya ang walang patumanggang pag-sira sa kabundukan at watershed na malaking banta ngayon sa maraming bahagi ng bansa. Ang Masungi watershed sa Marikina ay unti-unting winasak ng



mga quarrying companies. Kapag hindi napigilan ang mga quarrying companies na ito na pag-aari umano ng mga pulitiko, babaha sa Metro Manila.

Inalis ng nakaraang administrasyon ang ban sa open-pit mining. Ngayon ay nakakatakot ang magiging itsura ng mga bundok na bubutasin. Ang pagbutas sa mga bundok ang dahilan ng landslide. Inililibing nang buhay ang mga taong nasa paanan ng bundok.

Ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa mundo na kilalang plastic polluter. Araw-araw, tone-toneladang plastic ang itinatapon sa mga estero at sapa at saka hahantong sa Manila Bay. Sinisira ng mga plastic na ito ang yamang-dagat at pinapatay ang mga balyena. Kinakain ng mga balyena ang plastic at iba pang basurang itinatapon sa dagat.

Sabi ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa kanyang inaugural address noong Hunyo 30, hindi tatalikuran ng kanyang administrasyon ang problema sa plastic pollution. Lilinisin ang mga plastic sa sapa, ilog at karagatan.

Nagbabala kamakailan ang coalition ng environmental groups na kung hindi gagawa ng paraan ang pamahalaan para mabawasan ang paggamit ng single-use plastic, aapaw ang may 59.7 bilyong sachets sa Metro Manila.

Mabigat ang mga kahaharapin ni Loyzaga bilang DENR chief. Naniniwala kami na kaya niya itong gampanan. Kailangang masolusyunan ang mga problemang may kaugnayan sa pagkasira ng kalikasan. Simulan na niya ito para mailigtas ang bansa. Sampolan ang mga salot sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.



MEDIUM RARE

JULLIE Y. DAZA

Eyes on the skies

And feet on the ground.

Two women made the news this week and they're heaven-and-earth apart in their orientations. Dr. Ma. Rosario Vergeire, named to head DOH as officer in charge, who has been a constant presence five, six days a week for the last two years on our screens updating us on the pandemic

and how to stay safe. Ma. Antonia (Toni) Yulo-Loyzaga, appointed secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, who will keep us posted on climate and weather, the air and the earth and what's beneath our feet, and how to defend our corner of the planet.

We "know" Dr. Vergeire by her voice and the slant of her daily messages and reminders. But Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga is a new face, a new name, a specialist who's been hiding her light under a bushel in a society where the spotlight is confined to shine on the highly visibles in entertainment and politics.

When I read the new secretary's brief c.v. that accompanied news of her appointment, the first image that sprung to mind was those windmills in Ilocos Norte that segued into paper pinwheels in BBM's TV ads during the election campaign. That message was portrayed as one of hope -- sunny skies with a gentle wind blow-

ing, a fresh energy allied with the power of technology.

As an advocate of science and research to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect communities from natural disasters, she's a good fit, a heavensent for DENR. Her experience working with international climate-watching societies and nine years as executive director of the Manila Observatory is invaluable and priceless. She holds a master's degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The Manila Observatory was founded by the Jesuits in 1865; to this day it continues to study air quality, regional climate and extreme events like typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, etc. Located at the Loyola campus of Ateneo de Manila, it owns a Japanese-donated telescope that amateur astronomers and climatologists-to-be will want to visit.

Under Secretary Loyzaga's watch, could the Manila Planetarium be coaxed to reopen after it was shut down by the pandemic two years ago? It's always good to keep ourselves grounded by occasionally looking up at the stars.



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

NOTICE OF LEASE ON PUBLIC LANDS

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

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

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

Trece Martires City, June 3, 2022.

JANUEL PERAS
OIC-PENR Officer

16 JULY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NCR Covid-19 cases remain on an uptrend; positivity rate at 13%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 15, 2022, 4:11 pm



MANILA – The number of coronavirus cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) remains on an uptrend, showing a steep increase in recent weeks.

In its Covid-19 situationer released Thursday night, the Department of Health said the NCR's weekly positivity rate or the percentage of those people tested who are actually infected with the virus, is 13 percent as of July 14.

The region's seven-day moving average in the current week (July 8 to 14) is 748 cases – higher by 29 percent from the previous week's (July 1 to 7) 582.

For the entire country, the weekly positivity rate is 10.6 percent.

About 12,254 new cases were logged, bringing the overall tally to 3,725,382 as of July 14.

The top five regions that recorded the highest number of cases are NCR with 5,234; Region 4-A (Calabarzon), with 2,710 cases; Central Luzon, 1,161; Western Visayas, 1,106; and Central Visayas, 522.

"Most areas show a sharp increase in cases, with NCR showing the steepest increase, now almost at 750 cases per day while Mindanao remains on a slow uptrend," the DOH said.

The healthcare utilization rates are also at low risk in all regions. The national severe and critical admissions remain less than 1 percent of the total hospital admissions.

As of July 13, the total Covid-19 bed utilization remains at low risk at a 23 percent utilization rate.



NCR Covid-19 cases remain on an uptrend; positivity rate at 13%

Available beds slightly increased by 476 beds or 2 percent while admissions also increased by 567 beds or 10 percent from last week.

The national intensive care unit (ICU) bed utilization remains at low risk at 17 percent.

Available ICU beds increased by 165 or 6 percent while admissions also increased by 54 or 12 percent compared to the previous week.

Of the total 7,629 Covid-19 hospital admissions, only 651 or 8.53 percent are severe and critical.

Meantime, Covid-19 deaths are on a continued decline from January which averages about one death per day starting May 2022.

No deaths were logged from July 1 to 14, 2022.

A total of 71,203,134 individuals or 91.17 percent of the target population are already fully vaccinated while 15,468,421 have received their first booster dose. **(PNA)**

16 JULY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE




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