

17 APRIL 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR Housing Project Awardees

Saturday, April 16, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (3rd from left) awards to Cristobal S. Valdez, Jr. of the DENR Personnel Division, the Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) for the land he purchased in Tanza, Cavite under the DENR Project H.O.P.E. (Harmony of People and the Environment), the agency's housing project. Eight other employees were recipients of land titles for properties located in Barangay Bagtas in Tanza, Cavite, and Barangay Sampaloc IV and Windward Hills Subdivision in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Looking on are DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh and Undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, Local Government Units Concerns and Attached Agencies Benito Antonio T. De Leon (3rd and 4th from right). The awarding of the TCTs was held on April 4 at the **DENR** Central office after the flag raising ceremony.



Sampulna Welcomes Back DENR Warriors to Home Court

Saturday, April 16, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (holding basketball) welcomes back the DENR Environmental Warriors, the basketball team of the Department, to the Central Office after a two-year break due to the coronavirus pandemic. The team is the defending champion of the UNTV Cup after winning against the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2020. [DENR](#) Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs and Warriors head coach Atty. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. and Legal Affairs Service Director and assistant coach Atty. Norlito A. Eneran (right and left of Sampulna) said they hope to clinch the title again this year as the league continues. The UNTV Cup is an annual charity basketball league joined by government agencies. It was temporarily discontinued in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic.



Hataw D'yaryo ng Bayan

April 13 at 3:02 PM · 🌐



Bataan nagprotesta
laban sa 2 coal plants

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

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

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

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

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



3

2 Shares



DOH bans single-use plastics in Ilocos facilities

[Shiela Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star April 17, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Single-use plastics are now prohibited in all facilities of the Department of Health (DOH) in Ilocos region.

The DOH said its regional and provincial offices, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and DOH-attached agencies, such as the National Nutrition Council and Philippine Institute of Traditional Alternative Health Care in Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan and La Union are covered by the ban.

DOH regional director Paula Paz Sydiongco noted that single-use plastics do not decompose and only become fragments that pollute the environment for years.

“These kinds of plastics are not biodegradable and when they are shred into tiny pieces they end up in canals, rivers, farmland and eventually into the sea,” Sydiongco said in a statement.

The most common single-use plastic products are drinking straws, cups, drinking bottles, drink stirrers, spoons, forks, knives and thin-filmed sando bags.

Sydiongco encouraged residents and local government units to adopt a similar ban to minimize pollution.

She said the ban would also reduce the demand for plastic production, which is contributing to global climate change.

“We encourage residents to be responsible in using plastic products to reduce all kinds of marine pollution. Proper disposal and management of plastic waste must be done accordingly,” Sydiongco said.



Climate change: Key UN finding widely misinterpreted

By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent

Published 22 hours ago



MARIO TAMA

A key finding in the latest IPCC climate report has been widely misinterpreted, according to scientists involved in the study.

In the document, researchers wrote that greenhouse gases are projected to peak "at the latest before 2025".

This implies that carbon could increase for another three years and the world could still avoid dangerous warming.

But scientists say that's incorrect and that emissions need to fall immediately.

The IPCC's **most recent report** focused on how to limit or curtail emissions of the gases that are the root cause of warming.

In their summary for policymakers, the scientists said it was still possible to avoid the most dangerous levels of warming by keeping the rise in global temperatures under 1.5C this century.

This will take a herculean effort, with carbon emissions needing to shrink by 43% by the end of this decade to stay under this threshold of danger.



GETTY IMAGES

Fires in Colorado have forced evacuations

But before they fall, emissions need to reach a peak - and it's in the text explaining this idea that the report becomes confusing.

"Global greenhouse gases are projected to peak between 2020 and at the latest by 2025, in global modelled pathways that limit warming to 1.5C," the summary states.

Most media outlets including the BBC concluded that meant emissions could rise until 2025 and the world could still stay under 1.5C.

"When you read the text as it's laid out, it does give the impression that you've got to 2025 which I think is a very unfortunate outcome," said Glen Peters, from the Centre for International Climate Research in Oslo, and an IPCC lead author.

"It's an unfortunate choice of wording. That is, unfortunately, going to potentially have some rather negative consequences."

So what went wrong?

It's partly because the climate models that scientists use to project temperatures work in five-year blocs, so 2025 follows 2020 for example, without reference to the years in between.

"Because models work on 5-year increments, we can't derive statements with higher precision," said Dr Joeri Rogelj, from Imperial College London, and an IPCC lead author.

"But when you look at the scientific data supporting this headline, it becomes immediately clear that any scenario in line with 1.5C drops emissions from 2020 to 2025. Even for scenarios that limit warm



GETTY IMAGES

Coping with the aftermath of deadly floods in South Africa

Another issue was timing.

Covid delayed the mitigation report by about a year but the information used came from models that projected peaking, by and large, in 2020.

"The headline statement couldn't say emissions should have peaked already, as governments and scientists need to agree on messaging that is scientifically accurate without being policy prescriptive," said Dr Edward Byers, an IPCC contributing author from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

This led to a lengthy debate during the two-week long approval session between the scientists and government officials over the exact words to use.



"There were many discussions about whether words such as "now" or "immediately" can be used," said Dr Byers.

"Some parties or people had concerns that that this would soon be out of date. And if the report was read in the future then "immediately" doesn't mean anything."



GETTY IMAGES

A dried out reservoir in Chile where drought has forced the government to take emergency measures

"I don't personally agree with that so I think 'immediately' would have been the best word to use."

A major challenge in communicating complex messages about climate change is that the more simplified media reports of these events often have more influence than the science itself.

This worries observers who argue that giving countries the impression that emissions can continue to grow until 2025 would be a disaster for the world.

"We definitely don't have the luxury of letting emissions grow for yet another three years," said Kaisa Kosonen from Greenpeace.

"We have eight years to nearly halve global emissions. That's an enormous task, but still doable, as the IPCC has just reminded us - but if people now start chasing emissions peak by 2025 as some kind of benchmark, we don't have a chance."

Follow Matt on Twitter [@mattmcgrathbbc](https://twitter.com/mattmcgrathbbc)



Global warming: even cacti can't take the heat

Agence France-Presse / 09:16 AM April 16, 2022



A bee works to collect nectar from a flowering cholla cactus in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, which is threatened by climate change, on March 23, 2022 near Borrego Springs, California. A 2021 UC Irvine study found that native vegetation declined close to 40 percent from 1984 to 2017 in California's Colorado Desert region which includes the park. (Getty Images via AFP)

PARIS, France – Sixty percent of cactus species will wind up in less hospitable climates over the coming decades as [global warming](#) sets in, according to new research challenging the long-held assumption the iconic desert plants will thrive with more heat.

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*.

Some 1,500 species of cacti spread across the Americas live in varying climates, ranging from sea-level deserts to the high Andes mountains, from bone-dry ecosystems to humid tropical forests.

Biodiversity hotspots rich in species and numbers include central Mexico and the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.

To test the notion that cacti will benefit from a warmer and more drought-prone world, researchers led by Michiel Pilet from the University of Arizona examined data on more than 400 species and ran models projecting how they would fare at mid-century and beyond under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.

The findings “paint a more pessimistic future,” according to the study, published Thursday.

Currently, the main threat to cacti is expanding agriculture, along with land degradation, biodiversity loss and harvesting for various uses.

Even without climate change, cacti “is one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet,” with more than 30 percent classified as at risk of extinction, the authors note.

Under a moderate emissions scenario in line with current policies, global warming will soon be a significant threat as well.

“Our results suggest that climate change will become a primary driver of cactus extinction risk, with 60 to 90 percent of species assessed negatively impacted” by global warming, the researchers reported.



Within four or five decades, some 25 percent of cacti species could experience unfamiliar climates over a quarter of their current range.

Earlier studies have shown impaired photosynthesis — the process by which plants use sunlight to make foods from CO₂ and water — with only two degrees Celsius of global warming.

Earth's average surface temperature, including oceans, is already 1.1C warmer than preindustrial times, and about 1.7C warmer over land only.

gsg



Global warming hostile even to cacti

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss, and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*

Published 1 hour ago on April 17, 2022 05:45 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



Photo Courtesy : AFP

PARIS, France (AFP) — Sixty percent of cactus species will wind up in less hospitable climates over the coming decades as global warming sets in, according to new research challenging the long-held assumption the iconic desert plants will thrive with more heat.

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss, and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*.

Some 1,500 species of cacti spread across the Americas live in varying climates, ranging from sea-level deserts to the high Andes mountains, from bone-dry ecosystems to humid tropical forests.

Biodiversity hotspots rich in species and numbers include central Mexico and the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.

To test the notion that cacti will benefit from a warmer and more drought-prone world, researchers led by Michiel Pilet from the University of Arizona examined data on more than 400 species and ran models projecting how they would fare at mid-century and beyond under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.

The findings “paint a more pessimistic future,” according to the study, published Thursday.

Currently, the main threat to cacti is expanding agriculture, along with land degradation, biodiversity loss, and harvesting for various uses.

Even without climate change, cacti “is one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet,” with more than 30 percent classified as at risk of extinction, the authors note.

Under a moderate emissions scenario in line with current policies, global warming will soon be a significant threat as well.

“Our results suggest that climate change will become a primary driver of cactus extinction risk, with 60 to 90 percent of species assessed negatively impacted” by global warming, the researchers reported.



Within four or five decades, some 25 percent of cacti species could experience unfamiliar climates over a quarter of their current range.

Earlier studies have shown impaired photosynthesis — the process by which plants use sunlight to make foods from CO₂ and water — with only two degrees Celsius of global warming.



Blue Bond Incubator to help AsPac oceans

[Louella Desiderio](#) - The Philippine Star April 17, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has started the world's first Blue Bond Incubator which will support Asia Pacific economies to address climate change by boosting ocean-related projects.

Supported by ADB's Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund, the Blue Bond Incubator is critical in helping the region combat climate change impacts and protect livelihoods of millions of people.

This is part of ADB's Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies that aims to catalyze sustainable investments in the region by committing to invest and provide technical assistance of at least \$5 billion by 2024.

This also builds on ADB's first blue bond issuance in September of last year.

Blue bond proceeds will finance projects that enhance ocean health through ecosystem restoration, natural resources management, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, reduction of coastal pollution, circular economy, marine renewable energy, and green ports and shipping.

These investments are also seen supporting sustainable economic growth and jobs for the people.

ADB Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department director general Bruno Carrasco said ocean-based climate mitigation and resilience are key to climate change action.

ADB director general for the Pacific Leah Gutierrez, for her part, said ocean investments are key to building resilient communities and economies and the ADB Blue Bond Incubator will grow the blue economies at scale.

Work under the incubator will develop a standardized global guidance for the issuance of blue bonds, in collaboration with the International Capital Markets Association, the International Finance Corp. United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and United Nations Global Compact.



Search at rescue sa mga natabunan, tuloy

Published 1 hour ago on April 17, 2022 05:40 AM

By [Sebastian Navarro](#)



Nagpatuloy pa rin ang search at retrieval operations sa Baybay City para hanapin pa ang mga natabunan ng landslide sa lugar nitong Biyernes Santo.

Nasa ika-apat na araw na noong Biyernes ang paghahanap ng mga katawan ng mga natabunan mula nang maganap ang landslide nitong Linggo.

Ayon sa Retrieval Cluster Team Leader sa Brgy. Kantagnos na si SSupt Rodrigo Almaden Jr., nakuha nila ang lahat ng visible cadaver o ang mga bangkay na hindi na kailangang hukayin.

Pero malaking hamon ang paghahanap ng mga bangkay dahil maliban sa kailangan nilang kalkalin ang mga debris, halos lahat ng bahay ay natabunan pa ng makapal na putik mula sa gumuhong bundok.

Dahil umulan Huwebes ng gabi, mas lumambot pa ang lupa, bagay na mas nagpapahirap sa paghahanap ng bangkay.

Nagtulong-tulong na ang PNP, Philippine Army at Coast Guard sa search and retrieval operations. Dumating na rin mula sa Mindanao ang Surigao CDRMO.

Gumami na sila ng K-9 unit para mapabilis ang paghahanap ng mga bangkay.

Dahil limang araw na mula nang maganap ang trahedyang nangangamoy na ang lugar. Pero ayon sa retrieval team, hirap sila dahil maliban sa mga natabunang tao, may mga hayop din na natabunan.

“Isa rin yan sa magpapahirap sa amin dahil how we wish merong differentiation ng namatay na tao at namatay na hayop. Same ang amoy,” ani Almaden.

Bagamat maliit na ang posibilidad na may makukuha pang buhay na residente sa landslide area, gumamit pa rin ang Army ng life detector.

Dagdag ni Almaden, kung mahihirapan na ang retrieval team sa paghahanap ng mga bangkay sa loob ng dalawa o tatlong araw, maaaring itigil na nila ang paghahanap.

Ngunit, aniya, isinasaalang-alang pa rin nila ang damdamin ng mga namatayan na gustong makita ang bangkay ng kanilang mga kaanak kaya ginagawa nila ang lahat para makahukay pa ng mga bangkay.

17 APRIL 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR boosts trade, production of wood charcoal

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) that marks a wide-ranging step to make the production and trade of wood charcoal sustainable and environmentally friendly while continuing to support the livelihood of Filipinos.

In a statement on Saturday, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said the AO responds to the urgent need for improved governance on wood-based fuel.

"It is seen to bring the wood char-

coal sector into the formal economy and arrest degradation of forest lands due to illegal cutting of trees to supply increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas and electricity," he said.

Under the directive, a charcoal producer is required to secure a Wood Charcoal Production Permit (WCPP) which has a three-year effectivity, renewable for the same period. The renewal application should be filed 60 days prior to the WCPP expiration.

The AO, however, limits the sources of the raw materials, "except all mangrove species," to forest lands covered with DENR-issued cutting permits; tree plantations covered with DENR-issued tenurial instruments; Socialized and Industrial Forest Management Agreements; ancestral lands covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title with DENR-issued cutting permits; wood processing plants with DENR permits; private tree plantations covered by Certificate of Tree Plantation Ownership and Private Tree Planta-

tion Registration; private/titled lands with valid DENR-issued cutting permits; and private yard wastes.

A key feature of the measure is to encourage interested wood charcoal production applicants and holders of tenure and/or wood raw materials and its derivatives to source their wood charcoal raw materials only from planted trees for fuelwood production; harvesting wastes (e.g. tops and branches); pruning and derivatives; processing wastes (e.g. wood wastes/trimmings from wood processing plants); and all other ac-

cumulated raw materials waste and residues generated.

The AO also requires traders or middlemen engaged in the selling of wood charcoal to secure a Wood Charcoal Transport Permit, which will only be effective per shipment from point to point and shall be accompanied by the original copies of the permit and Official Receipt/Sales Receipts/Acknowledgement Receipts.

However, the movement of wood charcoal within municipalities/cities "shall not be required of WCTP."

EIRENE JAIREE GOMEZ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

ISSUES

The Manila Times

32
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

15 APR 2022

DATE

PAGE

Govt to boost protection of marine ecosystem

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

A JOINT memorandum circular between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and two other state agencies is expected to strengthen the establishment of marine protected area networks (MPANs), restore damaged coastal ecosystems, and enrich coral reefs and marine habitats.

This policy mandates collaboration between the DENR, Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in improving the coastal and marine environment through cooperation.

"The eventual approval of the joint [DA-DENR-DILG] policy guidelines on the establishment and management of marine protected areas networks (MPANs) will be valuable in biodiversity conservation efforts," Dr. Vincent Hilomen, SMARTSeas PH national project manager, said.

The JMC ensures that biodiversity conservation is given priority equally along with economic de-

velopment.

"There will be a value for a government policy that places conservation as equally important to development and progress. Many of the degraded coastal and marine habitats resulted from the relentless push for development and progress with little afterthought of the higher costs to the environment," said Hilomen.

A joint effort of DENR, DA and DILG will help the government hurdle the difficulties of putting up MPAs and MPANs amid coastal residents' usual opposition against these.

MPAN is a collection of individual MPAs or reserves operating

cooperatively and synergistically under SMARTSeas.

"One of the greatest challenges that we are experiencing in establishing MPANs is still the acceptance of the community. There are several instances where the communities resist to set aside a portion of their waters for protection purposes because they think that access to their fishing areas will be limited," said Hilomen.

It is imperative that government capacitates its MPA/MPAN workforce to empower them in harnessing cooperation from communities in establishing the protected areas and networks.

"A thorough discussion of the benefits from protection and consultation with the community from the onset is a must. The involvement of the community in protection is critical," Hilomen added.

The DENR's SMARTSeas PH project, or Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines, is funded under a \$28.53-million co-financing scheme between government and

the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It also received a GEF grant of \$8 million.

The SMARTSeas PH has so far capacitated at least 70 key DENR regional and field staff through online distance learning.

This is the first-ever of its kind capacity building activity in the DENR. The increased competencies included identification and approaches to resolving threats to the marine environment.

The establishment of three MPANs led to the development of nearly 90 management bodies of MPAs and MPANs that have demonstrated increased competencies for management effectiveness.

SMARTSeas has also developed a better monitoring and evaluation system for MPAs and MPANs, which provided an important guide to monitor management progress across the country. Protection of coastal ecosystems under the MPA includes patrolling, surveillance of habitats, conduct of direct activities and repair of signages, other facilities, gears and equipment.



DOH bans single-use plastics in Ilocos facilities

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

Single-use plastics are now prohibited in all facilities of the Department of Health (DOH) in Ilocos region.

The DOH said its regional and provincial offices, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and DOH-attached agencies, such as the National Nutrition Council and Philippine Institute of Traditional Alternative Health Care in Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan and La Union are covered by the ban.

DOH regional director Paula Paz Sydiongco noted that single-use plastics do not decompose and only become fragments that pollute the environment for years.

"These kinds of plastics are not biodegradable and when they are shred into tiny pieces they end up in canals, rivers, farmland and eventually into the sea," Sydiongco said in a statement.

The most common single-use plastic products are drinking straws, cups, drinking bottles, drink stirrers, spoons, forks, knives and thin-film sando bags.

Sydiongco encouraged residents and local government units to adopt a similar ban to minimize pollution.

She said the ban would also reduce the demand for plastic production, which is contributing to global climate change.

"We encourage residents to be responsible in using plastic products to reduce all kinds of marine pollution. Proper disposal and management of plastic waste must be done accordingly," Sydiongco said.



TITLE

PAGE

DATE

Honda's recycling project aims to lessen land, water pollution

The "Bantay Baterya" and "Bantay Langis" projects have placed Honda Cars Philippines Inc. in the list of corporations committed to reducing man's footprint in this part of the Earth.

Both recycling projects aim to help lessen land and water pollution through the proper disposal of haz-

ardous lead-acid batteries and used oils. Bantay Baterya started in 2006 and is programmed to go on until 2026, while Bantay Langis started in 2017 and will be an ongoing project until 2022.

The project is implemented with the assistance of HCPI suppliers and leaders. It is integrated in the environmental management system (EMS)

program in order to consistently improve the company's environmental footprint.

On Oct. 8, 2021, HCPI turned over an additional 20,000 kgs of used batteries and 2,569 items of used oils for recycling under both projects. Overall, together with HCPI suppliers

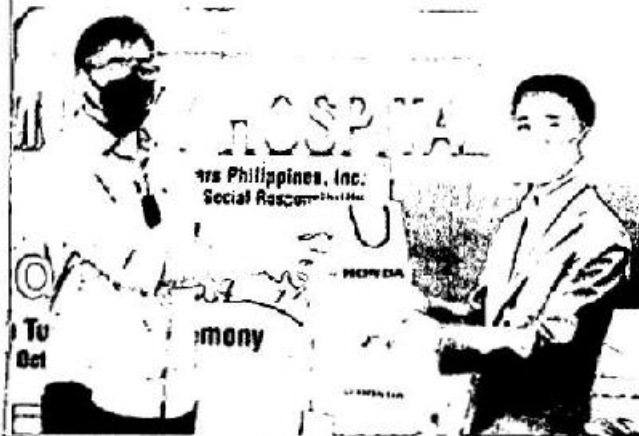
and dealers and associates, batteries recycled now count at 7,028 pieces equivalent to P1,820,453 since the beginning of the partnership in 2006.

Bantay Langis, since October 2017, has collected and recycled a total of 16,104 liters of used oils.

Aside from conserving resources, landfill space and energy, as well as avoiding further land and water contamination, the program also has generated funds from the recycling of hazardous wastes. The funds are used in supporting various environmental projects of Bantay Kalikasan such as the protection and preservation of La Mesa Watershed and the maintenance of La Mesa Eco Park.

HCPI's partners in these initiatives are the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Oriental-Motolite Marketing Corporation, and Genetron International Marketing.

Two other CSR programs of HCPI that have been recognized with awards are on road safety and the mobility as-



assistance extended to medical frontliners during the pandemic.

Now on its 18th year, the Teen Smart program that started in 2004 aims to develop the youth's consciousness on road safety. It provides interactive seminar-workshops to all public senior high school students in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. These workshops which started in 2019 cover practical road safety topics such as traffic rules and regulations, messages from vehicles, road users physical/mental conditions, characteristics of vehicles,

anticipation of traffic and environment conditions.

HCPI was among the first companies to recognize the medical frontliners' problem of transportation, implementing the "Assistance to medical frontliners project" which started in March 2020. The CSR program came in the form of Honda cars used to service medical health workers from the hospitals to their homes. HCPI lent out 15 cars to medical frontliners working in hospitals in Santa Rosa, Laguna. (Pinky Concha Colmenares)



TITLE

PAGE

DATE

Revisiting a critical watershed—and hoping it stays safe

The good news is, Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal, is open to ecotourists again—the bad news is that its protected status is still under threat

By Alya B. Honasan
@Inq_Lifestyle

The heavens conspired to give us a beautiful day on April 7, when I headed out with some friends to revisit the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal, now open to tourists again—and to experience the privilege of being accompanied by two bona-fide earth angels, sisters Ann and Billie Dumaliang.

Two days before, strong rains had drenched the area, and it was still drizzling the day before. Then sunshine came through the occasionally overcast skies that morning as we drove the 47 kilometers out of the city to this 400-hectare green haven that is more important to our survival than many Filipinos realize.

The Dumaliang sisters, trustees of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, also wanted us to see the remaining blooms of the beautiful JC's Vine (*Strongylodon juangonzalezii*), an endemic species documented in only four sites in Philippines, most abundantly in Masungi, and which blooms just once a year.

It's quite a vision in gradations of lilac and blue—"one of the most unique flora inside Masungi's limestone forest," states the Masungi Facebook page, and a "symbol of hope for the conservation of our threatened landscape."

The vine was discovered only in 2015 by botanists Analee S. Hadsall, Michelle D.R. Alejado, Ariel R. Larona and Ivy Amor F. Lambio, and is one of some 400 species of flora and fauna that call this place home.

This is, after all, a truly remarkable ecosystem, home to karst limestone cliffs estimated to be as ancient as 60 million years old.

"If you're going to be a dork about it, these Paleocene Epoch rocks can give you an insight on what will happen to marine organisms, given the current state of climate change," says Ann. "It's a unique landscape, so it shapes a very different kind of life."

It was the girls' dad, engineer and contractor-turned-advocate Ben Dumaliang, who made Masungi his personal project some 20 years ago, and who has since led the replanting of some 40,000 native trees in once denuded areas.

Since 2015, Masungi has been open to controlled numbers of ecotourists who pay to take three-hour hikes through what could be one of the greenest spots city slickers will ever lay their eyes on. The air is undeniably different, and the views spectacular.

Spider's web

When I first visited in 2017, we did a three-hour Discovery Trail hike through some of the now famed attractions, like the thrilling Duyan bridge and the exhilarating Sapot, where you stand atop limestone rocks on a veritable spider's web.

This time, we did an abbreviated walk where we revisited Sapot, climbed our way up rope ladders and bridges like the Sawa, peered encountered medicinal

plants, as annotated by our guide Jackie, as well as Ann and Billie.

Most touching for me was a spot where a rusty, circular chainsaw from the early days of illegal logging in the area is mounted to perfectly frame a view of Haring Bato, the mountain peak that is Masungi's logo. Nearby, a stump is all that is left of a large old dungon hardwood tree, a sobering reminder of the indiscriminate logging that once happened here—and which could happen again, so please read on.

We trekked through a part of the Legacy Trail, normally a four-to-six-hour hike, where visitors can see the areas being replanted in the Masungi Geopark Project, the 2,700-ha, internationally recognized conservation and reforestation initiative that Masungi launched with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), under then secretary and late environmental advocate Gina Lopez, in 2017.

The Dumaliangs are aiming to get the project included in the list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) Global Geoparks, which are defined by the Unesco website as "single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development." The Philippines has yet to have an entry on this list.



TITLE: Revisiting a critical watershed - and
hoping it stay safe

PAGE 2

The reward: lunch at Amihan, the site atop the project, where Benguet pines (!!!) have been replanted, and hung with floating huts and a huge, wonderful hammock for a quick nap. It's hard to describe the beauty of the experience, really, from the sound and feel of the wind that rocks you like a baby, to the view of the treetops.

Global recognition

Masungi has won much global recognition from renowned organizations such as the National Geographic Society, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Ann, who holds the title of Masungi Georeserve project manager, is actually a National Geographic Explorer, and was a regional finalist for the Young Champions of the Earth of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2020.

Billie is the foundation's advocacy officer, and in 2021, these Ateneo management graduates received the Changing Your Mind Travel Award from Vanity Fair magazine. In fact, on April 20 to 22, both Ann and Billie will be guest speakers at the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) 21st Global Summit in Manila, alongside company chief executive officers and government ministers; Masungi has been a finalist for the WTTC's Tourism for Tomorrow Award in the past.

Obviously, then, these two petite mavericks know a lot more than others who seem keen on appropriating Masungi for purposes other than the noble.

The Georeserve was proposed as a Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary a year after the National Integrated Protected Area Systems (Nipas) Act of 1992 (Republic Act 7536, now upgraded into the Expanded Nipas Act of 2018, Republic Act 11038) was declared. DENR Administrative Order no. 33, signed 10 May 1993 by then Environment Secretary Angel Alcala, further declared the area a "strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary" and deemed quarrying, mining and land speculation illegal in the area.

On Nov. 24, 2011, Presidential Proclamation (PP) No. 296, signed by President Benigno S. Aquino III, no less, declared the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Antipolo and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay, Rizal, a protected area, pursuant to the Nipas Act.

In short, there is no shortage of laws covering Masungi, but that hasn't helped much. Last July 24, 2021, two Masungi forest rangers were shot at in a reforestation area. The two survived the murder attempt, but the legal action is on-going.

Also last year, then Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu himself took down barbed wire fences put up by illegal encroachers within the protected area, and unequivocally stated that there would be no mining in the area. The Dumaliangs had, in fact, been in regular discussions with Cimatu up until the latter's resignation from his post in February this year.

This left many issues in limbo—including Cimatu's declared but as yet unimplemented cancellation of some mineral production sharing agreements, which would effectively open the declared protected area to quarrying and mining. Quarrying activities would, put quite simply, mean that several mountains in the area would be leveled.

Mountain resorts

Meanwhile, the Dumaliangs hold a copy of a signed letter dated Jan. 24, 2022 from the DENR regional director—a response to a query the girls sent—that, indeed, two "ecotourism" mountain resorts have actually been allowed to operate within the protected area by no less than the Protected Area Management Board, in December 2021—long after PP 296 and the Nipas Act became law.

Some sectors are alleged-



Jackie, Masungi Georeserve guide, shares information on the flora and fauna.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

81
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

17 APR 2022

DATE

NOTE: Revisiting a critical water shed—and hoping it stay safe. PAGE 3



Climbing down the "Sawa" on the Discovery Trail —ALYA B. HONASAN

ly pushing for the cancellation of the Georeserve Project endorsed by the DENR in 2017. In other words, let's kick out the protection and reforestation efforts, and build resorts, houses and subdivisions instead.

You, dear reader, can decide if that makes sense, considering how compromised watersheds can spell disaster in the lowlands (read: flooding and landslides in Antipolo, Cainta, Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City—shall we go on?). On the drive to the Legacy Trail, we spotted several large resorts and private residences with cement walls.

"The watershed is the closest critical watershed to Marikina, affecting people even in other cities," says Billie. "Whatever happens here will affect downstream communities. It's an integral part of our daily life. Our latest studies say that only 11 percent of forest cover is left. That's why we can't be surprised that it floods. We know that this must be done, as citizens and residents."

The Dumaliangs are aware that it is pointless to work for any action during election time, when life grinds to a halt as Filipinos obsess over politics, and until a new president takes over. "We just want to preempt any possible cancellation or

downgrading of the project area," Billie says.

The Dumaliangs are hoping to enlist the support of proactive lowland mayors like Marikina's Marcy Teodoro and Pasig's Vico Sotto in their campaign—but again, that might have to wait until after May 9.

For now, Masungi's advocates must help ensure that nothing anomalous is snuck under the radar while public officials are distracted. We must hope as well that the next administration's environment secretary will have the true benefit of the environment and natural resources at heart.

It was heartening to note that another group led by actress Yassi Pressman was also in Masungi that day; they gamely posed with a banner asking people to #SaveMasungi, and vowed to help spread the word. The best way to support a protected area is to come visit the place—and see for yourself exactly what Filipinos stand to lose. In the meantime, you can relish the beauty of Masungi and hope that all can remain well in paradise. masungigeoreserve.com

Visit

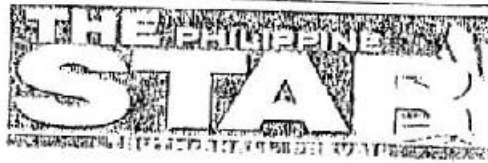
masungigeoreserve.com



The rare JC's Vine, which blooms only once a year



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



B-3
PAGE

DIFFER
LOWER

PAGE
STORY

RANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CAROON

17 APR 2022

PAGE

DATE

URC makes push toward 100% clean energy use

By IRIS GONZALES

Gokongwei-owned food firm Universal Robina Corp. (URC) is stepping up its initiatives toward green energy with the goal of using 100 percent renewable energy within the decade, its president Irwin Lee said.

These initiatives are in support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action), which seeks to combat climate change and address its impact.

URC's Agro-Industrial Group (AIG) and the Sugar and Renewables Group (SURE) have been utilizing agricultural and food waste, and other organic materials

as a renewable energy source.

Since 2015, AIG has been generating over 600 megawatts a year at its poultry farm in Naic, Cavite, and pig farm in San Miguel, Bulacan, using biogas.

SURE likewise kept the biogas program in place when it took over the assets of Roxas Holdings Inc. in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental in 2020.

"These efforts are part of URC's overall push towards reaching its 'net zero' goal by 2050, by sourcing its energy needs from power producers that use renewable sources," said Lee.

AIG's poultry farm in Naic provides more than enough chicken dung to power a 270

kilovolt ampere (Kva) generator.

Similarly, the pig farm in Bulacan powers 2 x 500 Kva generator from its biogas output.

Animal waste is conveyed, collected and stored into covered anaerobic tanks, URC said.

It is in these tanks where digestion of organic matter begins – microbes feed on organic matter, such as protein, carbohydrates and lipids, to produce biogas. During the digestion process, solids are then exhumed and used as soil enrichers or fertilizers.

For SURE, biogas has displaced up to 40 percent of its solid fuel needs in its La Carlota Distillery. Biomass mainly powers its boilers.

In 2021, a total of 871,000 Giga Joule (GJ) of energy was produced from the utilization of biomass.

URC signed an agreement with MPower/Vantage, Bacman, and First Gen to supply at least 18 of its facilities in Luzon and two more in the Visayas with geothermal, solar and hydro energy.

These include factories in Pasig, Laguna, Cavite, Pampanga, Antipolo and Bulacan, as well as facilities in Cebu and Negros Occidental.

Aside from producing renewable energy, URC's Branded Consumer Foods (BCF) Group also started sourcing its energy needs from power producers that use renewable sources.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

B-3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

17 APR 2022

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

Global warming: Even cacti can't take the heat
PARIS—Sixty percent of cactus species will wind up in less hospitable climates over the coming decades as global warming sets in, according to new research challenging the long-held assumption the desert plants will thrive with more heat. By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*. Some 1,500 species of cacti spread across the Americas live in varying climes, ranging from sea-level deserts to the high Andes mountains, from bone-dry ecosystems to humid tropical forests. Biodiversity hotspots rich in species and numbers include central Mexico and the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. Researchers from the University of Arizona found "a more pessimistic future" for cacti. —AFP



Global warming: Even cacti can't take the heat

PARIS (AFP) — Sixty percent of cactus species will wind up in less hospitable climates over the coming decades as global warming sets in, according to new research challenging the long-held assumption the iconic desert plants will thrive with more heat.

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*.



CACTUS (Pexels)

Some 1,500 species of cacti spread across the Americas live in varying climates, ranging from sea-level deserts to the high Andes mountains, from bone-dry ecosystems to humid tropical forests.

Biodiversity hotspots rich in species and numbers include central Mexico and the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.

To test the notion that cacti will benefit from a warmer and more drought-prone world, researchers led by Michiel Pillel from the University of Arizona examined data on more than

400 species and ran models projecting how they would fare at mid-century and beyond under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. The findings "paint a more pessimistic future," according to the study, published Thursday.

Currently, the main threat to cacti is expanding agriculture, along with land degradation, biodiversity loss and harvesting for various uses.

Even without climate change, cacti "is one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet," with more than 30 percent classified as at risk of extinction, the authors note.

Under a moderate emissions scenario in line with current policies, global warming will soon be a significant threat as well.

"Our results suggest that climate change will become a primary driver of cactus extinction risk, with 60 to 90 percent of species assessed negatively impacted" by global warming, the researchers reported.

Within four or five decades, some 25 percent of cacti species could experience unfamiliar climates over a quarter of their current range.

Earlier studies have shown impaired photosynthesis — the process by which plants use sunlight to make foods from CO₂ and water — with only two degrees Celsius of global warming.

Earth's average surface temperature, including oceans, is already 1.1C warmer than preindustrial times, and about 1.7C warmer over land only.



Global warming hostile even to cacti

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss, and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*

PARIS, France (AFP) — Sixty percent of cactus species will wind up in less hospitable climates over the coming decades as global warming sets in, according to new research challenging the long-held assumption the iconic desert plants will thrive with more heat.

By 2070, up to 90 percent could be threatened with extinction due to climate change, habitat loss, and other stressors, triple the current percentage, scientists reported in *Nature Plants*.

Some 1,500 species of cacti spread across the Americas live in varying climes, ranging from sea-level deserts to the high Andes mountains, from bone-dry ecosystems to humid tropical forests.

Biodiversity hotspots rich in species and numbers include central Mexico and the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.

To test the notion that cacti will benefit from a warmer and more drought-prone world, researchers led by Michiel Pilet from the University of Arizona examined data on more than 400 species and ran models projecting how they would fare at mid-century and beyond under different greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.

The findings "paint a more

pessimistic future," according to the study, published Thursday.

Currently, the main threat to cacti is expanding agriculture, along with land degradation, biodiversity loss, and harvesting for various uses.

Even without climate change, cacti "is one of the most endangered groups of organisms on the planet," with more than 30 percent classified as at risk of extinction, the authors note.

Under a moderate emissions scenario in line with current policies, global warming will soon be a significant threat as well.

"Our results suggest that climate change will become a primary driver of cactus extinction risk, with 60 to 90 percent of species assessed negatively impacted" by global warming, the researchers reported.

Within four or five decades, some 25 percent of cacti species could experience unfamiliar climates over a quarter of their current range.

Earlier studies have shown impaired photosynthesis — the process by which plants use sunlight to make foods from CO2 and water — with only two degrees Celsius of global warming.



Respect law, IP rights, gov tells dam operator

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Gov. Carlos Padilla has appealed to the new operator of the \$675-million California Energy (CE) Casecnan Multi-Purpose Project (CMPP) to observe the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) in favor of the Bugkalots there or face social problems not only now but forever.

In a Provincial Development Council (PDC) committee meeting, Padilla had to contend with claims by the state holding firm Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) that the Regalian doctrine prevails over water ownership in the Casecnan area, which means it belongs to the state.

A combined irrigation and power generation project located at Sitio Pauan, Barangay Villarica, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, the CMPP has two 26-kilometer run-off weirs and intake structures constructed along the Casecnan and Taan Rivers located in Pelaway, Alfonso Castañeda town.

CMPP's 20-year build-operate-transfer scheme between the CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc. (Cecwec) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) that kicked off in 2001 officially ceased on Dec. 11, 2021.

In 1994, Cecwec, a unit of the United States-based CalEnergy group of companies, started developing the project.

Psalm and NIA assumed control of the CMPP at 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively, and on Dec. 11, 2021, both took over to operate the 165-megawatt CMPP through a designated third-party operator that won the public bidding for the CMPP's operation and maintenance.

Psalm designated the Korean Soosan ENS Co. Ltd. as CMPP operator after it passed the post-qualification process.

In October last year, it declared Soosan as the lowest bidder for a one-year Operation and Maintenance Service Contract for the CMPP.

Padilla believes the water rights belong to the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) owner, the Bugkalot tribe under the IPRA law, and thus the Bugkalots have the right to claim what is due them under the law.

"Since the water rights belong to the CADT owner, the Bugkalots have all the rights over the Casecnan water and thus are entitled to the benefits provided by the IPRA law," the governor said.

CADT refers to a title formally recognizing the rights of possession and ownership of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples over their ancestral domains identified and delineated under Republic Act 8371.

During the PDC committee meeting on April 8, 2022, Psalm maintained its position that the IPRA law or the conduct of a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) does not apply when it took over control of the CMPP designating a Korean company to operate it.

Psalm's lawyer Ivan Zamora reiterated the former's position that if the CMPP project itself predates the IPRA law, the provision of the IPRA does not apply in Casecnan and so does the conduct of FPIC.

In response to Zamora, Padilla warned Psalm that the Bugkalots are the people of Nueva Vizcaya and that he has the opportunity to confer with them.

"Whether you win legally or not, but as long as you do not satisfy the people, I tell you, we will have a problem not only now but forever. I mean I am telling you this frankly as governor because I have the opportunity to deal with these people," he told Psalm.

Padilla added that he knows very well the Bugkalot culture and that once upon a time these were the headhunters of the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

"I do not want that heads will roll in the Casecnan area simply because this issue is not resolved," he said, appealing to the government, Psalm and others involved in the renewed operation of CMPP to review the provisions of the IPRA law of which he was one of the authors during his time as congressman.

The Bugkalots are loyal allies and supporters of the national government, even in the fight against terrorism and subversion, they were very steadfast and so as governor, what I am afraid of is that we might alienate their support and shift their loyalty to another, Padilla said.

"If we can reason out together without going to the court, then we can come up with a win-win solution to maintain tranquility and peace in the area, sustain and maintain the support of the Bugkalots who since time immemorial have been very loyal to the national government," he added.

Padilla noted that Casecnan is a high ground that cannot be controlled by the communist New People's Army simply because of the Bugkalots presence there.

"We should not surrender that high ground. We want the area to remain peaceful and that Psalm or government can operate in the area and do so without violating the law," he said.

While recognizing Psalm's position, Padilla reiterated a Supreme Court decision that the Casecnan area is governed by the IPRA law.

"The Regalian (doctrine) is not the one that is involved here but the provisions of the IPRA law as it has been rendered by the Supreme Court in its decision," he said, adding the law identifies what are those that belong to a tribe in so far as their CADT right or their ancestral domain is concerned.

Padilla said he is not insisting on legalities and is hoping that the government may be able to reconsider its position without going to court.

"Government should set an example (because) it was the one [that] approved the IPRA law. It is clear and does not distinguish whether you are a government, a private corporation, or not. There are provisions of the law that have to be observed and one of them is in so far as things that belong to the tribe people," he added.

On the other hand, Zamora explained that Psalm's position is not prejudicial and does not intend to prejudice any IP group.

"We are just looking out for the correct implementation of the constitutional prerogative or Regalian doctrine. On the other hand, we are also looking at Psalm's vested interest," he said.

Padilla, however, said, after all, there is a CADT agreement and that agreement is in place and has not been assailed and therefore the provision of the CADT should be also observed.

He added that if Psalms believe that provisions of the CADT are unlawful, then the burden belongs to them, not the Bugkalots.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Track Size 100

The Manila Times

A-6
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

75 APR 2022

DATE

TITLE: Respect law, IP rights, gov

PAGE 2

tells dam operator

"About royalty which is being asked by the Bugkalot, whether it is Psalm or Soosan, I agree it should not be an issue [with the provincial government]. It should be an issue between the Bugkalots and the company," Padilla said.

But he added, whether the Bugkalots can collect a royalty or a fee, the provisions of the IPRA law are also very clear as spelled out in Section 3 wherein a requirement is the conduct of FPIC.

"FPIC applies to everybody, including the government, whether their contention is royalty or not, the fact that you (Psalm) are inside their territory, then the FPIC must be observed," the governor said.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



We must start cleaning up our coasts

A FEW days ago, I joined a small group of De La Salle University students and shared thoughts on the state of our coastal communities and the challenges they face under a changing climate. The topic is very timely as we march toward the observance of Earth Day on April 22nd.

One of the questions asked was whether coastal clean-up programs or drives were effective or not. After a deep pause, I started by saying that the ocean is an essential part of our lives and that 70 percent of the earth is covered by water.

The ocean plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change. The ocean, considered one of the biggest natural carbon sinks, absorbs around 50 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by the burning of fossil fuels. To illustrate, the "oceans absorbed the weight of 2.6 billion Volkswagen Beetle cars in carbon on average each year" over 1994-2007, a 2019 World Economic Forum article stated, citing a *Seattle Times* interview with Richard Feely, a scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, following the release of a landmark study.

The ocean is under threat and a big part of the problem is pollution. It is real. Wastes such as plastics, chemical runoffs, crude oil and more are dumped, pumped, spilled and leaked into water bodies. Some are even washed out with our laundry. According to Conservation International, 8 million metric tons of plastic are dumped



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

into the ocean each year. That is about 17.6 billion pounds, the equivalent of nearly 57,000 blue whales, every single year. By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

The Philippines accounts over a third (36 percent) of the global plastic waste emitted to the ocean. Seven of the top 10 emitting rivers come from the Philippines: Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan, Pampanga, Libmanan, Rio Grande de Mindanao and Agno. Plastic pollution is dominant where the local waste management practices are poor and where there are large amounts of mismanaged waste that can enter rivers and the ocean. Both of these are evident in our major cities.

We know how dangerous plastic is. It can be broken into smaller pieces — microplastic — by sun exposure and wave action, after which it can find its way into the food chain. When it eventually degrades — 400 years for most plastic — the process releases chemicals that further contaminate the sea.

Knowing that marine pollution is a problem is the first step in taking action to create a cleaner, more sustainable planet. The next step is taking action. Two critical actions are needed — start cleaning up our coasts and stop throwing garbage into

the ocean. Doing coastal clean-ups as a means to reduce pollution is one of the many ways to protect the ocean.

It is a great way to get people involved. A coastal cleanup is an outdoor activity where students, the youth, government workers, private sector employees and concerned citizens — a community-based action, in short — that can be done regularly to clear garbage and debris for a cleaner and healthier world. We pick up and collect trash to make coastal areas more pleasant places for everyone. Cleaning the coasts improves the ecosystem by ensuring that none of the trash kills marine life.

While coastal cleanups alone can't solve the problem of ocean trash, they certainly help. They have a big impact on nature. For most of us, a cleanup is the only time that we witness firsthand the effects of marine pollution. By participating, we see the impacts of our trash and are more likely to think about the products we use, and how we use them, what we throw away and its implications for the environment.

A coastal cleanup is also an opportunity to gather new data about the state of coastal areas and the types of trash that pollute them. During the cleanup, volunteers fill out data cards to record what they find. This helps in identifying the most harmful items and in finding ways to stop them from entering the ocean.

A coastal cleanup is an urgent expression of giving back. The ocean provides more benefits

than we can imagine. It is just proper that we take care of the ocean so that it continues to take care of us. Next month as we celebrate the Month of the Ocean and during the International Coastal Clean-up Day in September, we must continue the work to clean up the coasts.

A coastal cleanup promotes waste reduction, recycling and reuse, and creates public awareness of waste management and environmental concerns aside from helping reduce greenhouse gases, fight climate change and improve the quality of the environment. It impresses on the mind the need to secure the well-being of future generations.

A coastal clean-up can create an international media focus, thereby raising the awareness of governments, industries and communities about local environmental issues, particularly waste minimization, recycling and waste management.

As we celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 22nd, let us seize the time to preserve, and protect our health, families and livelihoods. Together as stewards, we must invest in the planet by protecting the ocean. We can start by cleaning up our coasts.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a non-resident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. You can email him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @WiggyFederigan.



Arroyo's committee addressing RE issues

THE House Committee on Energy has worked on two measures aimed at addressing the impact of climate change and promoting the use of clean energy in the Philippines.

Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Macapagal Arroyo of the second district of Pampanga said House Bill (HB) 9544 proposes to create the Philippine Renewable Energy Corp., while the committee exercises its legislative oversight function on Republic Act (RA) 9513, or the "Renewable Energy Act of 2008," to make its provisions attuned to the needs of the country.

Arroyo's committee on energy is one of the largest in the House of Representatives with 65 members including a chairman and nine vice chairpersons.

The committee has general and exclusive jurisdiction over all matters relating to the exploration, development, exploitation, utilization or conservation of energy resources; entities involved in power generation, transmission and distribution; and supply of all forms of energy and energy fuels.

"These measures aim to assure adequate supply of electricity with the use of renewable energy resources, which would reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels and mitigate the impact of climate change on our environment and economy," said Arroyo.

The congressman also co-chairs the Joint Congressional Energy Commission that looks into the implementation of several landmark laws such as RA 9513.

Arroyo said the committee works to enact measures to ensure stable, affordable and reliable supply of clean electricity to sustain the growth of the economy and reduce the country's carbon dioxide emissions.

He said this is possible by encouraging the development of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, biomass, among others.

"This is why the committee pushed for the approval of HB 9544 to create the Philippine Renewable Energy Corp. — a state-run company that would undertake electrification projects through the development of renewable energy sources in underserved, unserved and missionary areas," Arroyo said.

On July 22, 2021, the Energy Committee held its initial deliberation and on Aug. 3 and 9, 2021, the bill and two technical deliberations — the substitute bill and the committee report — were considered and approved on Sept. 7, 2021.

Adapting to present changes

Meanwhile, the Joint Congressional Energy Commission, which is co-chaired by Arroyo with Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, looked into the major provisions of Renewable Energy Act of 2008, including the renewable portfolio standards or renewable power sources, feed-in-tariff or FIT system, renewable energy market, green energy option and net-metering for renewable energy.

"The purpose of the legislative oversight function is to fine-tune or make adjustments to make RA 9513, which was passed more than a decade ago, adapt to present challenges and situations. This would ensure that we have a viable, vibrant and sustainable renewable energy market," Arroyo said, adding that RA 9513 is one of the nine laws that were the subject of legislative oversight function of the House Committee on Energy in the 18th Congress.

Arroyo said the review of RA 9513 and the approval of HB 9544 are in line with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change mitigation that even countries with low greenhouse gas emission contributions, such as the Philippines, should also focus on cleaner sources of energy.

The IPCC report is a regular assessment released by the panel every six to seven years based on the work of thousands of scientists from all over the world. Previous reports concluded that climate change is caused by human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels.

Arroyo said the report shows that while carbon emissions declined in 2020 at the start of the pandemic, this bounced back to pre-pandemic levels since then.

"We need extraordinary cuts in the use of fossil fuels to meet our emissions targets, and that entails a dramatic shift toward sustainable renewable energy. The recent push to increase production of oil, gas and coal and backtrack on climate measures because of the crisis in Ukraine — and even to delay net-zero — is short-sighted folly," the IPCC said in its "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change" report.

"Besides being detrimental to the environment, fossil fuels have further burdened Filipinos with high gas prices and power outages," the report stated.

"Shifting to renewable energy is a win-win situation for the Philippines as we will finally be free from costly fossil fuel power plants," Arroyo said, agreeing with the IPCC report. **LEANDER C. DOMINGO**



3 listed firms obtain gender equality citations

SEC enjoined corporations to ensure gender diversity in their boardroom

Regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recognized Boulevard Holdings Inc. (BHI), National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines and Monde Nissin Corporation as the three publicly listed companies with the most number of female directors in its board, during the 2022 GAD Awards held via Zoom on 31 March 2022.

SEC enjoined corporations to ensure gender diversity in their boardroom, as it recognized publicly listed corporations (PLC) with the greatest number of woman directors.

2022 is an opportunity for the Philippine corporate sector to revitalize its leadership roles.

As the country celebrated National Women's Month in March, the Commission cited BHI Holdings Inc., National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines, and Monde Nissin

Corporation as the Top Three PLC with Most Women Directors.

The Commission recognized the three PLC during the 2022 Gender and Development Awards. The awarding ceremony was held virtually on 31 March under the theme, "Recognizing the Role of Women in the Corporate World."

"2022 is an opportunity for the Philippine corporate sector to revitalize its leadership roles through gender diversity," SEC chairperson Emilio Aquino said in his opening remarks for the event.

Governance feather

"This recognition marks not only the corporate governance breakthrough achieved by PLC today, but the ardent hope that these gender and development achievements will continue in the years-to-come. The SEC is confident that this event will inspire PLC to continue their initiatives despite the difficulties and complications brought about by the pandemic.



Energy security vote

“Once the country makes the choice to fully commit to the global climate change regime and forego coal, any non-nuclear path forward will only increase generation costs.”

Runaway leader in the presidential surveys Bongbong Marcos is highly anticipated in the business sector, since he has the most immediate solution to the perennial problem of electricity shortage and high-power bills through the nuclear option in his platform.

Joseph Somsel, a degreed nuclear engineer with an MBA and extensive experience in nuclear power design, construction, economics and operations, wrote that the Philippines has “limited low-cost energy resources and currently suffers competitively against its neighbors because of that.”

The country has made a conditional assent to the net zero carbon emission at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year, but it sought more time beyond the set 2030 deadline in attaining the goal.

Somsel noted that once the country makes the choice to fully commit to the global climate change regime and forego coal, “any non-nuclear path forward will only increase generation costs.”

The nuclear technology expert explained that if voters, through their elected leaders, demand stable or lower electricity costs, and new coal is off the table, only nuclear power offers hope.

He ranged the bets in the presidential polls on their energy security agenda.

The leading ticket of Bongbong, “son of the former president and builder of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP),” and Sara Duterte is running on the premise of pulling down high electricity prices and strongly hinting at exercising the nuclear power option.

Bongbong campaigned explicitly on bringing Bataan online when he ran for vice president in 2016, Somsel recalled.

He then reviewed the positions of the other candidates who fell short of a strong commitment to solve the country’s energy problem.

“Vice President Leni Robredo has not addressed nuclear so far, but she is generally of the mold of President Cory Aquino, who led the ouster of Marcos Sr., succeeded him as president, and halted operations at Bataan. She is not expected to be supportive of nuclear and may decide to vocally attack it,” the expert indicated.

“Remember, we cannot have laws that bear on — whether favorably or not — to a segment of society.”



REF: Energy Security Note

PAGE 2

After the successful EDSA Revolt 1 in 1986, among Cory's first actions were the abolition of the Ministry of Energy and the mothballing of the BNPP, which was then on test runs, ready to supply 600 megawatts of electricity, which is the equivalent of two top-of-the-line coal plants.

“
Vice President Lent Robredo has not addressed nuclear so far, but she is generally of the mold of President Cory Aquino, who led the ouster of Marcos Sr., succeeded him as president, and halted operations at Bataan.

He noted that Senator Manny Pacquiao, “the retired prizefighter has already publicly attacked the Duterte administration for failing to do more to lower electricity bills.”

“A problem is that he is running as listed candidate of the regional PROMDI party that has historically called both for civilian nuclear power and for nuclear weapons. If elected, Pacquiao would likely find it impossible to do both, no matter the perceived strategic necessity of the latter,” Somsel wrote.

There was no mention of the other candidates apparently since they don't have a clear energy plan.

History is indeed a cold-blooded judge since the much-derided BNPP is now considered the biggest missed opportunity of the nation, which would have started the era of stable and low-cost energy way back when most of the country's now developed neighbors were just contemplating nuclear power.

Administrations after Cory refused to consider the nuclear energy option because of the stigma given to it.

Pragmatism not false promises would be the way to go at this time to ensure that the country remains progressive.



From farming to fishing Central Luzon groups push for reforms

VOTE

By Inquirer Central Luzon
@InqNational

(Second of a series)

Situated between Metro Manila and northern Luzon, Central Luzon is blessed with verdant farmlands and natural harbors. It is composed of seven provinces, 12 cities and 118 municipalities.

From the tip of the Bataan peninsula to the west, and the rolling Caraballo Mountains to the east, it is the longest contiguous area of lowlands, and is known as the "Central Plains" of Luzon. The region produces a third of the country's total rice production.

Occupying the biggest land area in Central Luzon and dubbed the "rice granary" of the country, the province of Nueva Ecija is host to 196,390 hectares of farmland dedicated to crops like rice, onion and garlic.

But just like the farmers in northern Luzon, those in Nueva Ecija are hoping that the next administration will work to end smuggling and importation of agricultural products as they appeal for more support from the government to cut the production costs.

"What's in store for us, farmers, if they get elected?" asked Mario dela Cruz, a farmer leader and chair of a dairy cooperative in Bongabon town.

Dela Cruz said the surging prices of farm inputs, particularly fertilizers, soared from P900 to P2,500 in just a few years, while the prices of palay (unhusked rice) dropped to an average of P14 a kilo last harvest season.

Territorial rights

Bishop Sofronio Bancud of the Diocese of Cabanatuan also expressed dismay over the unabated smuggling of agricultural products, which he said was the handiwork of unscrupulous people.

In the Catholic-run Radio Veritas, the prelate was recently quoted as saying: "Once for all, let's hold accountable those who are involved in smuggling, as well as in the many other crimes that are perpetuated by those in power."

He particularly called on party list groups, which supposedly represent farmers, fishermen and other marginalized sectors, to hear and act on the needs of their constituencies.

In Zambales province, where majority of its 515,724 registered voters rely heavily on fishing, agriculture and tourism, residents said candidates must present platforms that would protect biodiversity and safeguard national sovereignty.

Bobby Roldan, a fisherman from Masinloc town and vice chair of fisherfolk group Pamalakaya in Luzon, said they would support local candidates who would vow to assert territorial and sovereign rights over the disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea.

Roldan said candidates in Central Luzon should "present categorical platforms in support of the Filipino fishers who are adversely affected by the Chinese aggression in the West Philippine Sea."

"This is the most opportune period for our sector to challenge candidates to stand in favor of our collective aspiration to wrest back control of our territorial seas," he said.

Zambales fishermen have long been sailing to Scarborough Shoal, locally known as Panatag or Bajo de Masinloc, as it serves as their traditional fishing ground. The shoal is situated inside the country's 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone.

Some fishermen in this province have stopped fishing at the shoal since they experienced harassment from the Chinese Coast Guard and due to the depletion of marine resources there.

China, which has sweeping claims in nearly all of the West Philippine Sea, seized control of the shoal in 2012, prompting the country to seek United Nations' arbitration. In 2016, the UN arbitral tribunal invalidated China's sweeping claims, but China continues to ignore the ruling.

Nuke plant

In Bataan, a peninsula with 566,479 registered voters, several groups are still waging a campaign against nuclear power as a source of energy despite the pronouncement of the provincial government that it would oppose the reopening of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

Edlyn Rosales, 41, a mother of two and a leader of the fisherfolk group Pangisda Bataan, said rehabilitating the BNPP would not contribute to real industrialization.

"We should fight against



TITLE: From Farming to Fishing Central Luzon PAGE 2

Groups push for reforms

nuclear power not only in Bataan but also in other parts of the country. In this kind of project, only the capitalist will gain financially to the detriment of the environment," Rosales said.

Francisco Honra, secretary general of Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement, said residents should realize the danger that operating the BNPP poses.

And although Bataan is a picture of progress and prosperity, much is still to be desired in terms of environmental care following the reported denudation of forest and illegal cutting of trees.

Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos said candidates must also focus their platforms on illegal drugs, online gambling and illegal logging.

"Bataan is blessed with land, [sea] and rivers. With these, we have rice, seafood and root-crops. So we have to be thankful to God," Santos said.

Pandemic recovery

In Pampanga, candidates seeking local elective positions should present programs on how the province and its 2.437 million people (as of 2020 Census) could recover from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Jesus Nicdao, president of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PamCham), said the province's recovery would depend on the rehabilitation of the hardest-hit sector—the micro, small and medium enterprises, specifically the mi-

crobusinesses that were forced to shut down during the pandemic.

In a statement, Nicdao said PamCham agreed to partner with the provincial government on "assistance programs that will restore, reintegrate and readapt the microbusinesses to the new normal way of doing business."

Rene Romero, private sector representative in the Regional Development Council, said winning candidates should monitor the infrastructure projects started under the "Build, Build, Build" program and regular programs of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Local officials should help members of the indigenous clans of Aeta lobby with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to get their certificates of ancestral domain title (CADT) and have a representative in legislative councils, according to Ric Guiao, a tribal leader in Porac town.

Gelacio Angeles, a farmer from Bacolor town, said candidates should address issues of e-sabong operation, delay in the release of subsidy to farmers and fisherfolk on the heels of fuel price hikes, and smuggling of agricultural products.

Jobs, infra projects

In Bulacan, businessmen are expecting candidates to sustain infrastructure progress in the province, which will host the P735-billion "airport city" that is expected to generate jobs for residents.

Victor Mendoza, head of the

Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said local officials must prepare residents by developing skills and competencies for job opportunities that would be available as a result of these projects.

"The capabilities of people in handling different businesses and tourism facilities must be upgraded to match these macro developments. Foreign tourists are expected to come to the province because of the international project," Mendoza said.

But he said measures to protect the environment must also be put in place to ensure sustainability while local tourism in Bulacan is thriving.

In Aurora province, access to medical facilities remains one of the main concerns among its residents. When Aurora experienced a surge of COVID-19 cases in September 2021, all hospital beds and quarantine and isolation facilities in the province were full and could no longer accommodate other patients who tested positive for the viral disease.

The province had only 311 active COVID-19 cases at that time, which was significantly fewer than active cases in other Central Luzon provinces.

There are only four hospitals in Aurora, all government-owned, located in the capital Baler and the towns of Casiguran, Maria Aurora and Dingalan. The most accessible private hospital is located in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija.

IP rights

Ancestral domain rights of indigenous peoples (IP) of Tarlac province remains one of the unsolved concerns among the thousands of Aeta.

In 2018, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority started developing the 9,450-ha New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac, which straddles the ancestral domain of Aeta.

Since the construction of buildings and facilities started there, including the sports complex used for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games, Aeta families who had been living in the area all their lives have been displaced.

While the Aeta's right to live undisturbed in the hills and mountains covered by their CADT is protected by Republic Act No. 8371 (Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997), the development of New Clark City is pursuant to Republic Act No. 7227, or the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992.

—REPORTS FROM ARMAND GALANG, JOANNA ROSE AGLIBOT, GREG REFRACCION, TONETTE OREJAS, CARMELA RIVES-ESTROPE AND JUN MALIG INQ.



Plant health summit boosts food security

The IPPC-Secretariat also sets up a global pest outbreak alert and a response system so that states can prepare for and respond to emerging pests in their territories

The world's plant protection body met recently, aiming to set new plant health standards to both safeguard human well-being and preserve food security, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Plant pests and diseases cause food crop losses of up to 40 percent, according to FAO estimates.

And the damage they cause to agriculture and food production exacerbates world hunger and threatens rural livelihoods.

In her opening remarks to the 16th session of what's formally known as the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol highlighted "crucial opportunities ahead" to raise the profile of plant health issues.

Without plant production, there will be no food for humans or feed for animals.

The Commission is the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), an intergovernmental treaty signed by over 180 countries to coordinate the prevention and control of plant pests.

Celebrating plants

The senior official pointed out that the first celebration of the International Day of Plant Health will be held on 12 May, and the first International Plant Health Conference will be hosted by the United Kingdom in September.

Bechdol thanked Finland for its leadership in implementing the International Year of Plant Health, which came to a close in July 2021, and Zambia for championing the declaration of the annual International Day, which the General Assembly decided on



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FAO

PLANT pests and diseases cause food crop losses of up to 40 percent, according to FAO estimates.

last week.

Moreover, she said that last year, increased cooperation with the Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbe-Pacifique resulted in a memorandum of understanding "that will trigger the development of advocacy materials and e-learning courses for use by phytosanitary practitioners around the world."

Health and trade standards

With a total of 184 parties to the IPPC, the Commission is the only global or UN entity mandated to set standards for protecting plants and their products across borders, while also facilitating safe and efficient conditions for trading plants worldwide.

The IPPC Secretariat also sets up a global pest outbreak alert and a response system so that states can prepare for and respond to emerging pests in their territories.

And the Secretariat is currently working on adopting IPPC standards to help nations design best practices in plant health and safe trade.

"The current challenges we are witnessing today leave us with no option but to join our efforts and show full commitment toward the mitigation of the effects of the risks by adopting the IPPC standards and applying them at country and regional levels," CPM chairperson Lucien Kouame Konan said.

Positive ripple effects

The safe trade of healthy plants and their products across borders form the basis of a robust food value chain and is a key component in the fight against world hunger.

"Without plant production, there will be no food for humans or feed for animals," IPPC Secretary Osama El-Lissy reminded.

He underscored the Convention's "essential role" in providing knowledge and policies to safely move "billions of plants and plant products across borders," adding that this also supports the Sustainable Development Goals.



Oil spill nanganganib sa lumubog na barko

BINABANTAYAN ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang posibleng oil spill sa isang motor vessel na kalahating nakalubog noong Abril 10 sa Consuelo Port, Camotes, Cebu.

Ayon sa PCG, nasa loob pa ng MV Mika Mari ang 5,400 litro ng automotive diesel.

Nabatid na ang MV Mika Mari ay hinampas ng malalaking alon at malakas na hangin dala ng bagyong Agaton habang nakaistambay sa naturang daungan dahilang para lumubog ang kalahating parte nito.

Nakalabas naman agad ng barko ang 14 tripulante nang mangyari ang insidente.

Iniinspeksiyon ngayon ng mga tauhan ng PCG Central Vizayas ang nadiskaril na barko hinggil sa posibilidad na tumagas ang karga nitong diesel.

Wala naman natutal na nasawi sa vessel na pag-aari ng Jomalia Shipping Lines nang ito ay lumubog. (Juliet de Loza-Cudla)



Editoryal

Paulit-ulit na trahedyang

ANG nangyaring landslides sa isang village sa Baybay, Leyte noong Martes na ikinamatay nang maraming residente ay walang ipinagkaiba sa nangyari sa Bgy. Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte noong Pebrero 2006 na ikinamatay ng 1,500 katao. Gumuho rin ang bundok sa Guinsaugon at inilibing ang mga residenteng nasa paanan ng bundok. Ang walang tigil na pag-ulan ang sinasabing dahilan ng pagguho ng bundok sa Guinsaugon.

Ang nangyari sa Guinsaugon ay nangyari na naman sa Bgy. Bunga Baybay. Nagkaroon ng landslides dahil sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Agaton. Walang tigil na pag-ulan ang nagpahina sa bundok kaya nagkaroon ng landslides at inilibing ang mga residente ng Bgy. Bunga. Ayon sa report, bukod sa putik, malalaking bato ang nanggaling sa bundok. Marami pa sa mga residente ang hinahanap na hinihinalang nabaon na sa putik. Ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), 27 pa ang hinahanap sa Bgy. Bunga, lima sa Bgy. Can-Ipa at isa sa Bgy. Gudalaue, pawang sa bayan ng Baybay. Ayon pa sa NDRRMC, umakyat na sa 167 ang namalay sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Agaton. Nanalasa ang bagyo sa Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Central Visayas at Davao region. Pinakamarami ang namatay sa Samar at Leyte, Eastern Visayas na umabot sa 151. Umabot naman sa 562,548 pamilya ang apektado ng bagyo. Nasa 209,162 katao ang nasa 959 evacuation centers.

Mauulit pa ang trahedyang hangga't walang batas na nagbabawal sa mga lugar na posibleng gumuho ang lupa sa panahon ng bagyo. Noon ay may panukalang ipagbawal ang pagtira sa mga pampang, ng ilog, sapa at mga estero pero pawang panukala ang lahat. Kapag may nangyari nang trahedyang saka magpapakitang gilad ang mga mambabatas para lumikha kuno ng batas. Paglipas ng trahedyang, tahimik na uli.

Silipin din naman ang illegal logging, illegal mining o quarrying na sanhi ng pagguho ng lupa. Malaki ang koneksiyon ng mga nabanggit sa pagguho o pagkawasak ng mga bundok.

17 APRIL 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



35,000 COVID-19 active cases posibleng pumalo sa araw ng halalan

[Ludy Bermudo](#) - Pang-masa April 17, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Posibleng pumalo sa 35,000 aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 ang maitala sa araw ng eleksyon sa Mayo 9, dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng pagsunod sa minimum public health standards (MPHS),

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), sa naging pagtaya ng mga eksperto sa epidemiologic modelling, ang bansa ay maaaring nagkaroon ng mababang bilang ng mga kaso mula Marso hanggang Abril subalit dahil sa pagbaba naman ng pagsunod sa MPHS ay maaari na itong magbago.

Ang mga rate ng pagsunod sa panahong ito ay tinatayang nasa 7 porsiyento sa buong bansa, at -12 porsiyento sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Batay sa modelong Susceptible-Exposed-Infectious-Recovered with Vaccination and Reinfection (SVEIR) na ginamit ng sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics (sTWG DA) at ang Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-temporal Epidemiological Modeler for Early Detection of Diseases (FASSSTER) Team, ang pagbaba sa MPHS compliance ay magiging dahilan sa pagtaas ng mga bilang ng aktibong kaso ng COVID-19

Ayon sa DOH, inaasahang ang pagbaba ng 20 porsiyento sa pagsunod sa MPHA sa national level ay posibleng humantong sa humigit-kumulang 34,788 aktibong kaso sa kalagitnaan ng Mayo. Dito, mahigit 564 ang nasa malubhang kondisyon habang 267 ang kritikal.

Sa kabilang banda, kung nasa 30-porsiyento na pagbaba sa MPHS compliance, maaring maitaas pa ang mga kaso hanggang 300,000 sa parehong panahon. Batay sa datos ng DOH nitong Abril 12, may 131 aktibong kaso ng COVID-19.



New wave shows Covid 'far from over'

He said the summit was 'a critical reminder that the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over. We're seeing 1.5 million new cases each day. Large outbreaks are spreading in Asia'

Published 4 hours ago on April 17, 2022 03:28 AM

By [TDI](#) [@tribunephil](#)



A vaccination team goes door-to-door in a working-class neighborhood of Puerto Inirida, Colombia, to offer Covid-19 vaccinations. / Photograph courtesy of PAHO

Governments and pharmaceutical companies need to work together in a better way, to deliver vaccines "to every person, everywhere" — not simply in the wealthiest nations, the United Nations (UN) chief said this weekend.

Secretary-General António Guterres was addressing the GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations) COVAX (Covid Vaccine Alliance) international vaccine equity initiative's Advance Market Commitment Summit 2022, which saw world leaders commit \$4.8 billion to help lower-income nations boost vaccination rates and secure better access for new vaccine procurements.

The GAVI Vaccine Alliance hosted the summit alongside G7 president, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia (which holds the presidency of the G20 industrialized nations forum), and African Union chair, Senegal.

Raise your game

Guterres said, in order to reach the billions who have so far not received vaccine shots, countries needed to fulfil and accelerate dose-sharing and donation commitments to COVAX with better quality of supply.

"And it means having strong national vaccine delivery systems at the ready, including efforts to counter disinformation and get vaccines into arms. I also call on countries to commit new funding for the ACT-Accelerator and COVAX this year."

He said the summit was "a critical reminder that the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over. We're seeing 1.5 million new cases each day. Large outbreaks are spreading in Asia," he continued, together with "a new wave sweeping across Europe."

And some countries are reporting their highest death rates since the start of the pandemic.

He said the spread of Omicron — now surging in the form of the BA2 variant in many parts of the world — was "a startling reminder of how quickly Covid-19 can mutate and spread, especially in the absence of high vaccination coverage."



A third of the planet is still lacking even one dose, and yet, some high-income countries are preparing for their second booster doses, the UN chief said.

‘Brutal indictment’

“This is a brutal indictment of our deeply unequal world. It’s also a prime breeding ground for new variants, more deaths, and increased human and economic misery.”

“The next variant is not a question of ‘if’. It’s a question of ‘when.’”

We are far from our target of every country reaching 70 percent vaccination coverage by the middle of this year, he stressed, and with new variants emerging roughly every four months, “time is of the essence.”

Guterres said there was plenty of global supply of vaccines, with 1.5 billion doses per month being manufactured, and the “remarkable” procurement, shipment and delivery system of the COVAX Facility and its Advance Market Commitment mechanism had managed to deliver 1.2 billion doses so far to countries in need.

“This proves that progress is possible. But the window is closing fast. And we need to help all countries prepare for future pandemics by multiplying the number of countries able to locally produce tests, vaccines and treatments,” he said.

17 APRIL 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ0_9ARQ-7U

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

MATINDING BASURA AT AMOY SA MANILA BAY, MAY ISANG TATAY DIGONG NA UMAKSYON!

7,553 views • Apr 16, 2022



341



DISLIKE



SHARE



CLIP



SAVE



engr. berto

195K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach

#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQKGKPhTX0E&ab_channel=MizJuly

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY HINDI KINAYA PINALAKOL NA!BIYAYA NG MANILA BAYWALK! Miz July

1,228 views • Apr 16, 2022



92



DISLIKE



SHARE



CLIP



SAVE



Miz July

70.3K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update, April 16,2022

maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

[#SaveManilaBay](#)

SHOW MORE



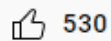
Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRRU1EbWRi0>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

MANILA BAYWALK TRASH BOOM TIBA-TIBA PALA SA BIYAYA!

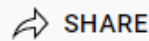
17,861 views • Apr 16, 2022



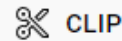
530



DISLIKE



SHARE



engr. berto

195K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach

#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1HK-aHNYcI&ab_channel=KUYARONSTV

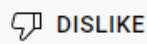
MANILA

MALA-BORACAY NGA MANILA BAY DOLOMITE BEACH

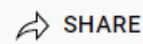
2,985 views • Apr 16, 2022



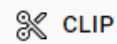
137



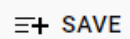
DISLIKE



SHARE



CLIP



SAVE



KUYARONS TV

100K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

dolomite beach manila bay

#manilabay

#manilabayupdate

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDfEqPqrvMc>

#manilabay #4k

GRABE! CRYSTAL CLEAR TUBIG SA MANILA BAY | UPDATE APRIL 16, 2022 [4K]

4,849 views • Apr 16, 2022

142

DISLIKE

SHARE

THANKS

SAVE

...



BTV Pinas

74K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay

#4k

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBXca_1Hn7Q&ab_channel=MizJuly

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY ANO ITONG PINAG KAGULUHAN! Miz July

19,203 views • Streamed live 20 hours ago



653



DISLIKE



SHARE



CLIP



SAVE



Miz July

70.3K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

SHOW MORE