

19 JUNE 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



BEST TOWNS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

June 19, 2022



Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna (right), along with (from left) lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., former Environment secretary Roy Cimatu, Sen. Cynthia Villar and Palawan Third District Rep. Edward Hagedorn, hands the certificates of recognition to the city governments of Balanga, Bataan and Palayan, Nueva Ecija; municipalities of Sasmuan, Pampanga and Marilao, Bulacan; and the Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Provincial Government of Pampanga during DENR's Manila Bayani Awards on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Philippines state-controlled media - June 17 at 8:48 PM -

#UlatBayan | Rehabilitasyon ng Isla ng Boracay, 100% kumpleto, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

Pamamahala sa Boracay, ibinalik na ng Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force sa Malay local government



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Aboitiz turns over rehabilitated Boracay wetland park to gov't

The Balabag Wetland Park, formerly Wetland No. 4, is another testament to the successful wetland rehabilitation of Boracay Island

Published 4 hours ago on June 19, 2022 02:46 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



The newly rehabilitated Wetland No. 4 or Balabag Wetland Park in Boracay is now open to locals and tourists after Aboitiz Group turned over the project to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Balabag Wetland Park has been transformed into a linear urban park in partnership with key national government agencies led by the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, DENR Region VI and the Department of Tourism. | Photograph courtesy of aboitiz

The Aboitiz Group handed over the rehabilitated Wetland No. 4, now known as the Balabag Wetland Park, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during a turnover ceremony held on 16 June 2022.

As a testament to the Group's commitment to the preservation of biodiversity and environmental protection in the Boracay islands, the one-hectare lagoon area in Barangay Balabag has been transformed into a linear urban park in partnership with key national government agencies led by the DENR Region VI, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Department of Tourism (DoT).

The event was attended by DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, former DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores, Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista, DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr., EMB Executive Director Natividad Y. Bernardino, Department of the Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III, Department of Justice Assistant Secretary Margaret Castillo — Padilla, TIEZA COO Mark Lapid, Dir. Martin Jose V. Despi from the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group and various representatives from project partners.

Aboitiz Group president and Chief executive officer Sabin Aboitiz emphasized how central partnerships such as this are to the Aboitiz Group's Transformation journey.

"The Aboitiz Group's contribution to Boracay's rehabilitation is part of our commitment to co-create safe, empowered, and sustainable communities. As sustainability is a major part of our Great Transformation into the Philippines' first techglomerate, we will continue to do our part to uplift and bring focus to environmentally and socially impactful initiatives for all our stakeholders."



According to Aboitiz, they “are proud to have partnered with DENR, BMB, DPWH, TIEZA, DoT and the LGU of Boracay to build the Balabag Wetland Park, a space that we hope continues to promote education for the community on the protection, conservation, enhancement, and rehabilitation of Boracay’s natural ecosystems.”

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said, “The Balabag Wetland Park, formerly Wetland No. 4, is another testament to the successful wetland rehabilitation of Boracay Island. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Aboitiz Equity Ventures for being our partner in the rehabilitation and transformation of Wetland No. 4 into an urban linear park, which now serves as the center of the wetland ecotourism circuit of Boracay.”

Sampulna added, “May the Balabag Wetland Park serves as a success story as we capitalize on nature-based solutions such as wetland conservation and rehabilitation in our localities for a greener, more sustainable, and resilient approach to building back better.”

Director Natividad Bernardino, OIC Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, expressed deep appreciation for the rehabilitation project’s partnership.

“The DENR and the BIATF (Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force) are grateful to the Aboitiz Group for rehabilitating Wetland No. 4 under BMB’s ‘Adopt-A-Wetland’ program. From being a ‘waste receptacle,’ Wetland No. 4 has now been transformed into a lagoon with a linear park, attracting tourists and locals right in the middle of Boracay’s commercial area,” Dir. Bernardino said.



EDITORIAL - Sustaining Boracay's rehab

The Philippine Star June 19, 2022 | 12:00am



With two weeks left in its extended term, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force is formally signing off. Henceforth, maintaining the current state of the rehabilitated resort island will be up to the local government of Malay town.

The public can only hope that the local officials will be up to the task. Throughout the rehabilitation of the island, which included dismantling structures built too close to the water's edge in violation of coastal easement rules, national officials had openly lamented the lack of cooperation and resistance from local government executives, who were responsible for allowing the illegal construction in the first place. Rules on sewage and safe water systems were also ignored.

A beach easement of "25 plus five" meters is now being enforced along with a 12-meter road easement. Forestlands have been kept off-limits to commercial development. All beach establishments are required to have their individual sewerage treatment plants. Illegal settlers have been evicted from the wetlands. These rules should be sustained by those who will be taking charge of maintaining the sustainability of the island.

The rehabilitation of the world-famous island was initiated at great cost to the local economy. President Duterte, after seeing sewage seeping into the pristine waters on one part of the island, described Boracay as a cesspool and ordered it shut down to tourists for six months from April 2018 – the peak of the travel season – up to September. On May 18, 2018, he created the task force to oversee a massive rehabilitation of the island. The task force's term was extended on May 8 last year, until the end of the President's term on June 30.

There is an ongoing drainage improvement project, while the circumferential road is being upgraded. There are 10-year plans for solid waste and cave management. Boracay attained its international renown because of the island's pristine environment. But the island subsequently suffered from years of overdevelopment and environmental abuse.

The rehabilitation, which was initially costly to the local economy and livelihoods, has succeeded in reversing much of the damage. Those tasked to carry on from the task force are custodians of a national treasure and should be up to the challenge.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2022/06/19/2189335/editorial-sustaining-boracays-rehab>



2021 R.I.V.E.RS For Life Program Awardees Recognized

Saturday, June 18, 2022 Journal Online



Regional Executive Directors, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers and Community Environment and Natural Resources, and other key representatives of the winning DENR regional offices for the Recognizing Individuals/Institutions towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers (R.I.V.E.Rs) for Life Award of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) receive their plaques and prizes from Undersecretary for Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel T. Cuna (sixth from left) during the DENR 35th anniversary celebration at the DENR Central Office on June 10, 2022. The Panlibatuhan Creek of Region 10 was named 1st place winner; Apayao-Abulog River of the Cordillera Administrative Region, 2nd place; and Taguibo River of DENR Region 13, 3rd place. DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna lauded the winners for helping achieve the agency's mission and vision.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/2021-r-i-v-e-rs-for-life-program-awardees-recognized/>



Monkeypox: Another wake-up call?

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 19, 2022



Photos of African monkeys, courtesy of wildlife photographer and explorer Gregg Yan, who recently visited the region tagged as the “mother of mankind.”

The World Health Organization (WHO) has convened the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee over the spread of the monkeypox virus to 32 non-endemic countries.

The experts' meeting scheduled on June 23 aims to assess whether the continuing outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern, the highest level of global alert. This is the alert level was used for the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to grip communities in the Philippines.



According to the WHO, this year more than 1,600 confirmed cases and almost 1,500 suspected cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO across 39 countries, including seven countries where monkeypox has been detected for years, and 32 newly affected nations.

A total of 72 deaths have been reported from previously affected countries so far.

Monkeypox alert

The Philippines remains monkeypox free but health officials are on heightened alert and are monitoring the country's borders to prevent a possible outbreak from happening in the country.

The Department of Health (DOH) has issued public statements that Philippine hospitals are ready for monkeypox cases, and is working on the allocation of isolation facilities amid the threat of the virus.



DOH Field Implementation and Coordination Team and the One Hospital Command Center are working on the specific designation of isolation facilities as part of a contingency plan in case monkeypox is detected in people entering the country's borders.



What is monkeypox?

A zoonotic disease, or an infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans and vice versa, monkeypox is a viral disease that was first detected in monkeys.

It occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of central and west Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.

"The symptoms of monkeypox are similar to those in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe," according to the WHO.

Monkeypox is transmitted to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal, or with material contaminated with the virus, the WHO added.

It can also be transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials, such as beddings, towels, clothing or other objects.

Symptoms

According to the WHO, symptoms of the disease include rash with blisters on the face, hands, feet, body, eyes, mouth or genitals.

Those infected will also have fever, swollen lymph nodes, headaches, muscle and back aches, and suffer from low energy.

But the WHO also said most people recover fully without treatment. However, in some cases, people can get seriously ill.

Vulnerability to zoonotic diseases

The Philippines is known to be highly vulnerable to zoonosis because of the illegal wildlife trade. Hunting wild animals for food remains a practice in rural areas, particularly in the upland.

Monkeys are also being traded illegally in the Philippines. The country is both a source and end-consumer of native and exotic animals for various purposes, including the belief in the animals' medicinal effects to boost health or to promote longevity.

The illicit pet trade in the Philippines likewise remains rampant. Monkeys and other native or even exotic or non-native wild animals are the targets.

Worse, with the advent of high-tech gadgetry and Internet technology, illegal wildlife trade is done online via a click of a mouse on the computer or keypad of a smartphone.



Monkey farms

The Philippines is known to host privately owned and managed monkey farms to breed native long-tailed macaque. At least two monkey farms legally operate in the country and abide by international treaties of which the Philippines is a party.

The farms export the monkeys for scientific research but which animal rights activists strongly condemn as unethical treatment of animals.

Besides claims that it would allegedly add to the factors that contribute to species extinction in the wild, the operation of these wildlife farms is deemed a potential source of zoonotic diseases

Sought for comment about the safety of monkey farm operations in the country, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) told the BusinessMirror in an interview that, first and foremost, monkeypox can be transmitted from other animals other than monkeys to humans.

“It sometimes comes from rodents, rats, mice, squirrels. It doesn’t always come from monkeys,” Theresa Tenazas, chief of the Wildlife Resource Division of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) said.

According to Tenazas, the DENR-BMB had already issued an advisory about monkeypox to the various DENR satellite offices to help detect and prevent the spread of monkeypox.

Safety measures

“Even employees are fully equipped with safety gears. I know because I’ve been to a monkey farm. You can’t enter a monkey farm without gloves, a laboratory gown and even face mask,” Tenazas told the BusinessMirror via telephone on June 8.

She added that the concerned DENR-BMB and DENR regional or provincial offices strictly monitor the operation of monkey farms to ensure compliance with the law and prevent the threat or potential threat of zoonosis.

“Wildlife permittees and wildlife farm permittees are required to report quarterly to concerned DENR offices which are submitted to us [DENR-BMB office]. And we validate the reports,” said Tenazas.

The official maintained that the DENR is strict when it comes to allowing the importation of wild animals, the same way it is strict in allowing the export of wildlife animals and parts of their derivatives that are allowed under international treaties, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Serious threat

Jason Baker, senior vice president of Campaigns at the People’s Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), however, said monkeypox has happened with three-quarters of infectious diseases that have recently emerged in humans.

“Monkeypox virus—which also affects animals like squirrels, rats, and mice—can be contracted directly from infected animals, but can also be caught by eating or preparing the flesh of sick animals,” Baker said when the BusinessMirror asked him for a comment via email on June 8.

He adding that monkeypox, like severe acute respiratory syndrome, swine flu and Covid-19, jumped to humans from other species,

According to Baker, anywhere groups of animals are closely confined—as they are in primate laboratories, at animal markets, and on factory farms—monkeypox or other diseases can spread to humans.



As such, he said primate breeding and experimentation in the Philippines continue to pose infectious disease threats.

“Crowded conditions at labs and breeding facilities, as opposed to how monkeys live in the wild, enables disease transmission to occur much quicker,” he said.

Prevention better than cure

“It’s time we accepted that snatching animals from their natural homes, confining them to filthy cages in close proximity to each other, and killing and eating them will lead to more zoonotic diseases like monkeypox and Covid-19,” he said. “These diseases will also have unpredictable mutations and potentially deadly outcomes.”

He added: “Scientists were able to develop a vaccine to help protect against Covid-19, but next time they may not be able to.”

Baker said to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases, the best thing we can do is go vegan, or eat vegetables.

The government can take action to prevent the spread of monkeypox by cracking down on the keeping of exotic pets, banning experimentation on primates and encouraging the public to make kinder plant-based food choices.

Sought to weigh in on the issue, Asean Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said that while monkeypox is not as fatal and as transmissible as Covid, it can still be debilitating and could become fatal without proper and timely medical intervention.

“Appropriate quarantine measures should still be in place to keep out monkeypox from being introduced into the country, coming from both humans and animals known to be able to transmit the disease to humans, such as monkeys and rodents,” she told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on June 15.

Lim added: “We also should have in mind that there may be other pox viruses that can still come from nature so we need to keep those contained by keeping our wild species safe in their natural habitats.”



Buhayilog: How to revive Asia's rivers

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JUNE 19, 2022



#Buhayilog is a newly launched interactive map of Cavite's Imus River which shows the various natural elements, challenges and solutions needed by both the public and government allies to better understand how to manage Asia's rivers.

"We work all day to clean this river. Do you know that tomorrow, new trash will flow down from the uplands to again cover this riverbank with garbage?" said Junjun Brinola, a River Ranger from Imus in Cavite. "Our job never ends, but it's okay with us. At least we'll always have work."

Like his fellow rangers, Brinola spent years as a "basurero," or wastepicker, before finally landing a job as a government ranger. Now his 14-man team scours the Imus River and other waterways for garbage. But where does all the trash come from?



[Gregg Yan, Pemsea](#)

River Rangers from Imus haul sacks of newly-collected garbage in chest-deep waters. Though the work is ceaseless, regular river cleanups can help prevent garbage from flowing out to sea.

Project Aseano, an international initiative to combat river waste, commissioned several studies to trace the sources of plastic pollution in the Imus River in Cavite, a rapidly-growing province south of Manila in the Philippines, a news release said.

Among the contributors of plastic waste are Food Service Enterprises like restaurants, plus households, which generate enormous amounts of garbage, especially from disposable sandbags and sachets.

Understanding sachet culture

"Sachets have always been vilified, but they are socio-economic equalizers, allowing less-privileged people to taste and experience what wealthier people regularly consume," explained Marvi Aguilar, a researcher from De La Salle University Dasmariñas.



A 1.8-gram coffee sachet, for instance, costs as little as P6, compared to PP600 for a 300-gram jar of the same coffee. The cost difference makes it an obvious choice for minimum-wage earners.

Sachets are most commonly sold in sari-sari (variety) stores, the ubiquitous Filipino neighborhood stores which sell repacked goods ranging from rice to cigarettes.

“Sari-sari stores sell what regular people can easily afford from a day’s wage,” shared Amy Demetillo, a sari-sari store owner from Dasmariñas.

“Families can easily budget the available finances of their households because they buy only what they need, even if it’s just enough to cook a single meal,” Demetillo added.

Though they generate significant amounts of waste, sari-sari stores help improve the lives of common people, even becoming a lifeline for those who make next to nothing.

“Sachet culture is ingrained not just in the Philippines, but in many impoverished communities around the world, particularly in developing countries. We can’t just ban them, so a better solution might be to shift to biodegradable sachet packaging,” recommended Dr. Edwin Lineses of DLSU-Dasmariñas.

For used sachets, upcycling can be a solution.

“Here in Imus, we have a facility which turns used sachets into handy items like grocery bags, which are durable and waterproof,” said Nerea Defensor, Imus City Environment and Natural Resources Office eco-aid.

Another waste contributor is the Food Service Industry (FSI), whose kiosks and restaurants generate enormous amounts of garbage, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, where take-out deliveries became the norm.

Many establishments are doing their part to minimize in-store waste.

“We only give straws to our drive-through customers,” shares Lodde Navarro, who works for an international fast-food chain.

“Dine-in customers are given metal utensils, plus durable plastic plates and cups. We also ask those who order take-out meals if they really need disposable utensils. These small steps help reduce our contribution of plastic waste,” Navarro explained.

How plastic waste flows to sea

The journey of plastic waste—from factories to groceries, from households to dumpsites, and from rivers to coastlines—is complicated.

The Partnerships in Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea), which is implementing Project Aseano in the Philippines and Indonesia, is tackling plastic pollution through an integrated plastic-waste management approach, which combines the use of science to adjust policies, adopt suitable technologies and build local capacity to monitor and manage waste.

The Philippine component of the project centers on the Imus River Watershed, one of six river systems in Cavite, Pemsea said in the news release.

The Imus River begins in the uplands of Tagaytay and Silang, and passes through some of Cavite’s most densely populated hubs, including Dasmariñas, Imus, Kawit and Bacoor, before discharging its contents into Manila Bay.

Once productive, the river is dying a slow death from pollution and sedimentation.

“When we were young, we’d catch so many fish in this river,” recalled Noriel Gonzaga, a local official from the coastal municipality of Kawit.



“It’s sad that today’s kids can no longer dive and swim in a clean and clear river, the way we used to. The riverbanks are no longer made of sand, but mud. Most fish are gone, with plastic and rubber tires everywhere. I’m calling out to my fellow Caviteños. Please look at what’s become of our beloved river. I hope we can bring it back to life,” Gonzaga lamented.

To communicate river and waste management solutions in an educational but engaging manner, Project Aseano launched #BuhayiLog (Filipino for Life Beside a River), an interactive map of the Imus River, which shows the various natural elements, challenges and solutions needed by both the public and governments to better understand how to manage Asia’s rivers, Pemsea said.

The map creatively explains real-world challenges like sedimentation and pollution, highlights solutions like deploying trash booms and conducting regular river cleanups, and points readers to an array of downloadable studies from social scientists, economists and environmental analysts.

“There are so many practical solutions to address the global challenge of plastic waste,” said Pemsea Executive Director Aimee Gonzales.

“Solutions can range from empowering often-ignored players like ‘basureros’ and junkshops, to educating the next generation to be mindful of the waste they generate. Project Aseano is a repository for integrated plastic waste solutions, particularly for riverside communities.”

Project Aseano has been working closely with public- and private-sector allies to unlock the keys to reviving Asia’s rivers.

“Project Aseano can be a guide for other parts of the country to improve existing policies and ordinances on how to combat growing plastic pollution in our rivers,” noted Anabelle Cayabyab, Cavite Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources officer.

“The project’s studies can help various sectors enhance their sense of social responsibility and be partners in addressing plastic pollution in other major rivers and tributaries,” Cayabyab pointed out.

Image credits: [Pemsea](#), [Gregg Yan](#), [Pemsea](#)



Sectors unaffected by veto of South Cotabato anti-mining ban

[John Unson](#) - Philstar.com June 18, 2022 | 4:53pm



Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. had said many times over that no provincial ordinance can stop large-scale mining in South Cotabato.

Philstar.com / John Unson

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — The indigenous people in South Cotabato are not bothered by the veto by Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo of the provincial board's lifting of a province-wide open-pit mining ban.

Tamayo on June 3 vetoed the measure, but emphasized clearly that any such local ban cannot stop large-scale mining operations in South Cotabato with permits from the national government.

For South Cotabato's Blaan and T'boli communities wishing since the early 1990s to have the copper and coal deposits in their ancestral lands extracted, it was a strong "policy statement" from Tamayo.

Tamayo was re-elected to a second term last May 9, 2022, voted for overwhelmingly by pro-mining residents of South Cotabato province.

"Whether we like it or not, large-scale mining operations in the province will happen," Tamayo repeatedly announced early on to members of the local media in Hiligaynon vernacular.

Tampakan, one of the towns in South Cotabato, is said to have no less than US\$200 billion worth copper deposits, even touted as South East Asia's largest.

"Our governor has defined the delineation of jurisdiction between local government units and the national government over issuance of mining clearances," a Blaan tribal leader, Domingo Collado, told reporters Saturday

Collado is the indigenous people's mandatory representative to the local government unit of Tampakan.

Four lawyers, who asked not to be identified owing to the rabid, malicious attacks by anti-mining groups on social media on those in favor of large-scale extraction of copper in Tampakan, had separately said Tamayo's assertion is constitutional.

Residents of South Cotabato opposing the planned mining activities in the province have recklessly been using the social media to attack, insult and ridicule the IPs and non-IPs wanting to have the copper deposits in Tampakan mined.



“Even if the provincial anti-mining ordinance stays, there is nothing much they can do if the permit that would allow large-scale mining in the province would come from Malacañang and the central office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,” one of the four lawyers said Saturday.

Another source said the IPs in Tampakan had long issued a free and prior consent for copper mining activities in their municipality.

The National Commission on Indigenous People also issued last September 2020 a certification stating the imprimatur for copper mining activities in Tampakan from IPs in the municipality.

The influential Mindanao Business Council, an umbrella entity of big businesses across Mindanao, had earlier said it is in favor of having the copper deposits in Tampakan mined sooner than expected.



Negros gov't workers to study environment, green technology

By Nanette Guadalquiver June 18, 2022, 5:06 pm



BACOLOD CITY – The province of Negros Occidental is providing scholarships for 25 government employees, including teachers and other professionals, who will enroll in the Diploma in Environment and Green Technology Education (DEGTE).

The program is being offered as a collaboration between the provincial government and the Philippine Normal University (PNU) Visayas based in Cadiz City in northern Negros.

Karen Dinsay, head of the Negros Occidental Scholarship Program, said in an interview on Saturday afternoon the course is intended for environment work practitioners.

“This a new scholarship program, a pioneering offering under the administration of Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson. We aim to help enhance their knowledge of green technology. We encourage those qualified to enroll,” she added.

The 28-unit DEGTE program, which will be offered starting next semester, is designed to respond to the needs of professionals and practitioners for continuing professional development in Environment and Green Technology Education (EGTE) and aims to develop knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes towards environmental protection, conservation, and sustainability.

The course work covers the concepts, theories, and principles of Environmental Science, Human Systems and the Environment, and Education and Teaching.

In 2019, the PNU Visayas has been declared an EGTE Hub through the Board of Regents Resolution No. 2947.

Qualified to be DEGTE scholars are Filipino citizens and residents of Negros Occidental.

He or she must be a teacher or government employee working in the field of community engagement and public service in the province.

Lacson had earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with PNU Visayas executive director and provost Denmark Yonson, in the presence of Center for Environment and Green Technology Education director Meah Gonzaga, for the implementation of the DEGTE Scholarship Program in line with the observance of the 30th Provincial Environment Month this June. **(PNA)**



CBCP to establish pro-poor, environment ministries

By Ferdinand Patinio June 18, 2022, 8:14 pm



MANILA – The social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) will establish three advocacy ministries that will address the needs of the environment, poor, and vulnerable sectors.

Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) - Caritas Philippines national director, said the Good Governance Ministry or Good Governance Movement, Justice and Peace Ministry, and Ecology or Environmental Ministry will create programs that will help protect the environment, address the impact of climate change, address the needs of the poor, and push for a good government.

At the recent five-day NASSA General Assembly in General Santos City, 204 social action workers including priests, nuns and the laity, agreed that a huge sector of society needs help, care, and church guidance.

Caritas Philippines will focus on the good governance program so that the church can monitor the government's actions in enforcing laws and regulations.

"The accountability and monitoring program that we will do with the social action directors is important for the Philippines and the people," Bagaforo said in an interview over Church-run Radyo Veritas on Saturday.

He said the Ecology Ministry will deal with the dangers posed by open-pit mining, black sand mining, construction of coal-fired powered plants, illegal logging, and disregard for nature. **(PNA)**



Iloilo to sustain cleanup drive vs. dengue, flooding

By Perla Lena June 18, 2022, 4:41 pm



PREVENTION. The municipality of San Joaquin joins the Iloilo province-wide cleanup on Friday (June 17, 2022) aimed at addressing dengue and flooding. Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. wanted the cleanup drive sustained. (Photo courtesy of IPHO FB page)

ILOILO CITY – The provincial government here is looking forward to sustaining its provincewide cleanup campaign that aims not only to arrest increasing cases of dengue but also flooding.

The province on Friday kicked off its "Limpyo sa Hunyo 2022: Panglimpyo Para sa Dengue kag Baha" that gathered multisectoral participation down to the barangay level under Executive Order 271, series of 2022.

"The solution to dengue is simple but very effective. Can you imagine how easy the solution is, all you have to do is cleanup," said Governor Arthur Defensor Jr during the launching.

He said that daily the 4 o'clock habit must be practiced coupled with the 5S strategy.

5S is composed of the 4S strategy of the Department of Health to include search and destroy of mosquito-breeding places, self-protection, seeking early consultation, and saying yes to fogging when needed and the additional "S" implemented by the province, which is the observance of the safety and health protocols amid the health pandemic.

The cleanup also integrated the road clearing program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government focusing on cleaning waterways.

"Today's activity is not the final solution because this is a continuing activity," the governor said.

Data from the Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) showed that this year dengue cases from January 1 to June 11 already reached 460 with six deaths or an increase of 165.9 percent when compared with the 173 cases, including one death for the same period last year.

Among the province's 43 local government units, 27 towns and the component city of Passi recorded increasing cases and 13 have declining statistics.

The province in 2019 has declared a dengue outbreak with cases reaching 22,169, including 78 deaths.



Defensor on Friday also turned over PHP2 million worth of checks each to six of the initial 15 local government unit-beneficiaries for their disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The recipients are towns that are near major rivers or prone to flooding. **(PNA)**



Sako-sako ng basura nakolekta sa Mount Apo trail

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 16 2022 02:49 AM



Kuha ni Perla May Griffin

Inakyat ng mahigit 60 na porter at mountain guide ang Mount Apo Digos-Kapatagan trail noong nakaraang linggo at sako-sako ng basura ang nakita sa lugar.

Ayon kay Digos City tourism officer Perla May Griffin, umabot sa 20 sako ng basura ang nakolekta sa trail sa tatlong araw na pag-akyat sa Apo.

Isa sa mga patakarán sa pag-akyat sa pinakamataas na bundok sa bansa na kailangang dalhin ang kanilang basura sa pagbaba mula sa peak at campsite.

Pero maraming climber pa rin ang nag-iiwan ng mga basura.

Napansin din ng grupo na may ilang climbers ang nag-vandalize o sumulat sa ilang boulders sa ibabaw ng bundok.

Offseason sa Mount Apo simula Hunyo hanggang Agosto na kung saan ay ipinagbabawal ang climbing, maliban na lamang sa mga aktibidad na makakatutulong sa kalinisan ng trails at rehabilitasyon ng Apo.—**Ulat ni Hernel Tocmo**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/16/22/sako-sako-ng-basura-nakolekta-sa-mount-apo-trail?fbclid=IwAR0cyoWOt2et5b6s6NcOFMu99NfHMg6pLCedmYK_H8vCh42fYkgqEt04IbE



Tuguegarao City councilor recycles used tarpaulins into eco-bags

Published June 18, 2022, 11:36 AM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)



TUGUEGARAO Councilor-elect Tirso Vergara Mangada proudly shows one of his recycled eco-bags made by seamstress Rebecca Nozelada and her family. (Tirso Mangada FB)

Tuguegarao City Councilor-elect Tirso Vergara Mangada has recycled used election tarpaulins into eco-bags that will be given free to ambulant vendors in the city.

Mangada said he thought of recycling election tarpaulins one month after “Oplan: Baklas” of the Commission on Elections was conducted.

“Hindi natin sinayang ang pagkakataon na ma-convert ang mga tarpaulins into bags, irecycle, at gawing kapakipakinabang ang mga ito (We did waste the opportunity to recycle these tarpaulins into eco-bags),” he said.

Mangada said supporters gathered his tarpaulins.

Rebecca Nozaleda, a well-known seamstress from Annafunan West, Tuguegarao, together with her husband, made the eco-bags.

Their recipients are ambulant vendors in the city. “Ang mga recycled bags ay ipamimigay sa mga vendors sa ating siyudad ng Tuguegarao partikular na dito ang mga nagbebenta ng buko (coconut) juice upang sila ay may paglagyan ng kanilang mga gamit sa pagtitinda (These eco-bags will be given to vendors in the city, particularly buko (coconut) juice vendors, so they will have something to place their things in),” he said.

Mangada said more than 100 eco-bags were made and they will be distributed soon.

As a councilor, he said his priorities are helping the youth sector, provide jobs for fresh graduates, and financial assistance and educational scholarship programs.

“May mga kaibigan tayo na willing tumulong na makapagbigay ng trabaho at iyon ay samantalain natin para makatulong sa mga kakagraduate (We have friends who are willing to provide jobs and we are taking advantage of this to help fresh graduates).”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/18/tuguegarao-city-councilor-recycles-used-tarpaulins-into-eco-bags/>



Deep borehole disposal to get rid of nuclear waste

June 19, 2022

THE editorial of your paper on June 15, 2022 headlined "Keep nuclear waste out of WPS" states, "In our view, there could hardly be a worse idea for handling nuclear waste than this, and it is deeply disturbing that the head of the country's only nuclear agency would offer such an irresponsible solution."

First, thank you for bringing up the important issue of nuclear waste disposal to the fore, which is actually the [Achilles](#) heel of the nuclear industry that has been ignored and that has allowed thousands of tons of nuclear waste to be temporarily stored near nuclear plants. Nuclear waste can be safely stored, and the technology has been thoroughly vetted at the [IAEA](#). I actually agree with the editorial IF the proposed disposal method is the mined repository approach contemplated by many countries and in fact being implemented by the only country with a license disposal for nuclear spent fuel in [Finland](#).

What was missed in the interview is the method I suggested for disposal — that is DEEP BOREHOLE DISPOSAL, one of the methods of geologic disposal that is the current paradigm in safe disposal of nuclear waste. Unlike a mined repository approach, which would be unthinkable in such a small island country, the [Philippines](#) already has technology for deep borehole disposal because of our geothermal industry, which is No. 2 in the world. Our geothermal drilling technology allows us to reach a depth of more than 3 kilometers, which is way deeper than the 600 meter recommended for spent fuel disposal in a mined repository. The 600-meter depth comes from the fact that the Cigar [Lake uranium](#) deposit in [Canada](#) is located at such depth and cannot be "detected" geochemically at the surface, which makes the deposit isolated from human communities. Deep boreholes have a much smaller surface footprint, and can be "bended" laterally once it is kilometers beneath the seafloor, spreading the area for disposal.

Geologic disposal of nuclear waste requires engineered barriers to prevent its escape to the surface. The most important barrier is the use of bentonite. This clay mineral, aside from being impermeable, has a crystal structure that has negatively charged atomic layers, which can effectively trap positively charged uranium ions should these be diffused into the groundwater. Thus, a deep borehole of more than 1 kilometer plugged with bentonite satisfies the current requirements for isolating the nuclear waste from human population for at least 10,000 years until the radioactive isotopes in the waste become harmless.

The location of the boreholes in an isolated island is a further protection for the human population. In the Philippines, there are many isolated islands that can become the base of the deep borehole disposal. When I mentioned Pag-asa Island in the interview, it was to emphasize that people living on that island would be safe from the buried nuclear waste, and as I mentioned in the past, I am willing to live on such an island with the waste buried underneath it as long as it employs the engineered barriers. Perhaps the mention of Pag-asa was irresponsible because of the current geopolitics, but I stand by the method of deep borehole disposal of spent nuclear fuel, especially in the future for the Philippines. which will have only a small amount of waste as compared to the many countries now using nuclear power.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/19/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/deep-borehole-disposal-to-get-rid-of-nuclear-waste/1847850>



Green everything

By [Ben Kritz](#) June 19, 2022

MUCH of my attention over the past week has been directed toward the [Asia Clean Energy Forum](#) (ACEF) 2022, an annual conference put on by the [Asian Development Bank](#) (ADB) since 2006, and this year held online, as has become the way of things in our post-Covid world.

On a side note, I don't like that way of things, and I'm sure I do not need to get into a lengthy explanation about it, because I cannot recall ever hearing someone say they prefer to have meetings or attend events via Zoom (or Webex, or [Microsoft Teams](#), or whatever your preferred poison is) over having normal human interactions. I miss things like having to put on shoes and drinking endless cups of crappy conference room coffee, and I think having those things taken away from us makes us poorer communicators and less productive.



This June 6, 2022 file photo shows local tourists admiring the wind turbines in a wind farm in Pililla town's Halayhayin village in Rizal province. PNA PHOTO

Not to mention the rather steep emissions cost of videoconferencing, which is the equivalent of between 150 and 1,000 grams of carbon dioxide per connection per hour, which, in turn, is a rather unpleasantly ironic side effect to come from a conference about clean energy. But I digress.

This year's ACEF comprised more than a dozen sessions spread out over four days, covering a variety of topics ranging from technology, finance, policy and regulation, and social concerns. Many of those discussions were interesting and are worth revisiting at some point. What seemed to me to be the more important takeaway, however, was "the big message," spelled out to some degree by ADB President [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) and other luminary keynote speakers, and otherwise running as a clear thread through all the rest of the sector- and issue-specific discussions.

First, there is a sense of urgency to climate action that is much more intense than it has been up until now. Climate change has always been an urgent concern, but until now, it has always been characterized as something that needs to be addressed to prevent bad consequences for the world in a generation or two. Now, the prevailing understanding is that those consequences have already arrived, and that the worst-case scenarios are not 50 or 100 years in the future, but less than 10, and even that might be optimistic.

Second, because there is this urgency to make substantial progress quickly — within a window of perhaps three to five years — governments have to radically retool their policy and regulatory frameworks to accelerate the adoption of clean energy. That means for the [Philippines](#), for example, no more of this nonsense found in the "energy plan" at present that imposes an arbitrary proportion to clean and renewable energy — currently 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. Clean energy should be the default choice, and the sole focus of planning from here on out.



Also, other policies and regulatory habits that work against the fast development of innovative energy solutions need to be corrected. Familiar examples of these are policies intended to minimize disruption for the conventional energy sector such as limits on net metering and distributed energy systems, and the reluctance to allow expansive development of energy markets, and just plain bad habits such as the snail's pace applied to even the most basic tasks of the [Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (ERC).

Finally, one discussion that stood out in particular for me was the need for countries to rapidly scale up their research and manufacturing capabilities in clean energy, not just for the sake of the economy, but perhaps more importantly for energy security. Among renewable energy options, for instance, solar power is the most economical, easily deployed and versatile, yet the Philippines has very little capacity to provide its own components for it. That, in a sense, simply trades one energy vulnerability for another, from reliance on imported fossil fuels to imported solar components. It is a comparatively simple problem to correct — the main ingredients of a solar panel are silicon and copper, two things the Philippines has in more than adequate quantities — but it will take some firm intent to accomplish it.

Despite the sense that we really are on the brink of calamity, a perception that was not as widespread two or three years ago, there are reasons to be hopeful, if not exactly optimistic. None of the challenges or problems faced by the Philippines with respect to clean energy are insurmountable, and institutions such as ADB, the [World Bank](#) and other multilateral development banks have made vast amounts of financial resources available for the transition. The biggest problem, and the only one that might not be overcome, is in finding the political will, and in changing destructive preconceived notions that energy development must be market-driven and non-disruptive.

On a lighter and completely unrelated note, just to mark [Father's Day](#) with something a bit more cheerful, if you have thought that our sunsets have been particularly colorful in recent weeks, you're not mistaken. New research that was recently published about January's explosive eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano attributes the bright and unusually colorful sunrises and sunsets to the enormous amount of hydrogen sulfide thrown into the upper atmosphere by the volcano, which is now thought to be the largest eruption on Earth since the 1883 explosion of Indonesia's Krakatoa.

The effect is more pronounced in the southern hemisphere, but because we are relatively near the equator, we get to enjoy some of it here as well. Scientists are unsure how long it will last, as they initially underestimated the size of the eruption; the colorful skies may last a few more weeks, or they could persist for a couple of years.

In the interest of full disclosure, I mainly added this news because I like saying, "Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai." My previous favorite volcano name was "Popocatepetl" (the one not far from [Mexico City](#)), but that has now been bumped down the list. In my opinion, for a country that has no shortage of volcanoes — one is one too many, as far as I'm concerned — the Philippines really needs to step it up in the volcano-naming department.

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[Twitter](#): @benkritz



TINGNAN: Nakagawa ang Seaweed Research and Development Center ng Mindanao State University Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography ng bagong strain ng seaweeds na resistant sa sakit at climate change. | via Francis Magbanua

BASAHIN ang buong ulat: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/.../tawi-tawi-develops-disease...>

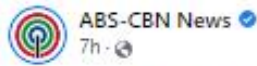


Sef Villaflor, J EM Mendoza and 16K others

311 Comments 4.2K Shares

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/abscbnNEWS/posts/pfbid0bmChmzyngTR5uGENnp16LqQXjHhyW7oPQmQMeeTjngUopBkwK4PhwZdvTv6Buz7bl>



Ibinahagi ng Marinduque Animal and Wildlife Rescue Emergency Response Team ang ilang larawan ng isang Marinduque brown deer o Philippine sambar na namataan ng mga residente sa kabundukan ng lalawigan.

Ayon sa MAWRERT, kahit ang naturang usa ay sanhi ng pinsala sa ilang taniman, bawal itong hulihin o saktan dahil vulnerable species ito at sa Pilipinas lang matatagpuan.

Ayon kay provincial veterinarian Dr. JM Victoria, may mga residenteng madalas manghuli nito sa loob ng Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary kaya kailangan aniya silang paalalahanan sa pangangalaga nito.

Nasagip din sa lalawigan ang 46 box turtle na ilegal sanang ibibiyaha pa-Baguio City Biyernes.

Sakay ng van ang mga pagong na pinagkasya sa isang sako. Personal umanong sinundo ng driver ang mga pagong mula sa nagtinda nito sa Barangay Murallon, Boac. Hinuli ang mga ito sa mga sapa at ilog sa bayan, ayon kay Victoria. Sa kabila nito, hindi kinasuhan ang driver ng van at pinagsabihan lang ito. (📍: Marinduque Provincial Veterinary Office) | via Jonathan Magistrado

BASAHEIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/WILDLIFE>



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Developing countries left 'disappointed' at climate talks

Agence France-Presse June 17, 2022 | 7:57am



Green groups ask world leaders to act with 'greater ambition and speed' on climate change

AFP / Jam Sta. Rosa

BONN, Germany — Developing countries voiced "disappointment" as climate talks in Germany ended Thursday with frustrations flaring over a lack of momentum on helping vulnerable nations cope with the impacts of warming.

With world attention drawn towards other challenges, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine and spiralling food, energy and economic crises, the technical discussions meant to lay the groundwork for key United Nations negotiations later this year were mired in disagreements.

Representatives of nearly 200 countries arrived in the city of Bonn buoyed by the ambition displayed six months ago during the UN COP26 negotiations in Glasgow, where countries rallied around the urgent threat of climate change.

"After that sense of emergency had been established, probably the expectations were very high," said Preeti Bhandari, senior climate adviser at the World Resources Institute.

But the meeting produced little tangible progress, even on the emissions-cutting ambitions that countries have agreed are needed to meet the Paris agreement goal of limiting warming to preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Finance is an ongoing sore point, with a promise of \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries adapt to a warming world still not met.

Another flashpoint at the talks has been the slow pace of work on "loss and damage", the accelerating onslaught of impacts already being felt by vulnerable countries, like floods, heatwaves and storms.

Developing nations want a specific funding "facility" to help poor countries least responsible for climate change to cope with its impacts.

But that call has been rejected by wealthy nations, particularly the European Union and United States, who have said funding can be channelled through a network of existing humanitarian, development and climate organisations.

As the Bonn talks wrapped up, developing countries lined up to convey their displeasure at the slow progress on loss and damage, which is now being dealt with as a rolling "dialogue" that will end in 2024 with no clear outcome emerging.



They want the issue to be on the agenda at the COP27 meeting in Sharm el-Sheik in November.

Pakistan's representative, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China major developing countries, said the group was "dissatisfied", while Zambia, speaking on behalf of Africa, said they were "concerned by the lack of progress".

"We are disappointed by the lack of substantive progress," said the representative of Antigua and Barbados speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

He said countries were still waiting for assurances that "the finance we need now will be delivered at speed, or any time by 2025".

'Hypocritical'

Wealthy nations are concerned about any suggestion of legal liability that would put them on the hook for billions, if not trillions.

The European Union told delegates it had "engaged constructively" and promised to continue.

But campaigners say the current system puts the economic burden on the shoulders of the most vulnerable.

Harjeet Singh, Senior Climate Impacts Adviser, at Climate Action Network International said the EU "consistently blocked" discussions around finance for loss and damage and accused the bloc of having a "hypocritical stance".

"If the EU wants to step up as a climate champion it needs to align with the most vulnerable in their fight for justice," he said.

Bhandari said work on cutting emissions could stall if countries do not give more weight to both adaptation and mitigation, adding that it would be up to political leaders to reignite the momentum in the run up to the UN meeting in Egypt.

Nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming since the mid-nineteenth century has been enough to unleash a torrent of disasters across the planet.

Alden Meyer, senior associate at E3G, said it has reached "boiling point" as impacts mount, adding that countries can also see the billions that the US and EU are mobilising for the Ukraine conflict.

"It's not a matter of the money's not there. It's a matter of priorities," he told AFP.

"And if you're saying climate is an existential crisis, and yet you're treating other things as much more important in terms of where you're putting your money, that doesn't go unnoticed."

19 JUNE 2022, SUNDAY



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FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOOD

PANGASINAN SCHOOL'S MANGROVE PROJECT MAKES IT AMONG 'WORLD'S BEST'

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

From just a small project 10 years ago, Bonuan Boquig National High School's environmental initiative of planting mangroves in Dagupan City, Pangasinan province, has brought the school to the shortlist of the World's Best School Prizes, awarded by international educational group T4 Education.

School principal Renato Santillan recalled that Typhoon "Pepeng" (international name: Parma) in 2009 had left heavy damage on fishponds, rivers and mangroves in their barangay, after which the high school is named.

This prompted them to start a project of growing new trees to help support students and their families, who subsisted on their catch at the mangroves before disaster struck.

"Recently, one of our students said the initiative became a huge help because they were able to get oysters that grow at the roots of mangroves. [The oysters were] their food amid the [COVID-19] pandemic," Santillan said in a recent phone interview.

The trees also helped slow down washouts when a storm hit their area, he said.

Initially, only the students were involved in planting. But the high school had since expanded the project as it tapped the assistance of its council and its parents-teachers' association, and even the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and nongovernmental organizations like Junior Chamber International.

"We partnered with the



LABOR OF LOVE In this Feb. 15 photo, students of Bonuan Boquig National High School, joined by teachers and students from other schools as well as representatives of Junior Chamber International Dagupeñas and Knights of Columbus 3711 Pangasinan Chapter, arrive at a wetland to plant mangroves.

—PHOTO COURTESY OF JCI DAGUPEÑAS FACEBOOK PAGE

DENR to monitor the growth of [the] mangroves. They give us updates on how many ... are alive and how many seeds we need to plant," Santillan said.

The principal said the school plans to go into research and eventually develop its own mangrove nursery—the term for any area where seedlings are tended before they are grown on wetlands.

\$50,000 prize

Bonuan Boquig National High School made it to the shortlist of the World's Best School Prizes under the environmental action category, while two other schools—the G.L. David Memorial Integrated School in Balanga City, Bataan province, and Malitbog National High School in the municipality of Calinog, Iloilo province—were shortlisted under the community collaboration and supporting healthy lives categories, respectively.

If these schools win, each of them will receive a prize of \$50,000.

The awarding ceremonies will be held between Oct. 17 and Oct. 21. T4 Education has designated those five workdays as World Education Week.

Santillan said "we can [help] sustain the needs of [our] fisherfolk" if Bonuan Boquig National High School wins that award.

T4 Education describes itself as a "global organization committed to providing engaging tools, initiatives and events for educators and schools."

Vikas Pota, the group's founder and CEO, is quoted in its website as saying that "by telling the stories of inspirational schools that are transforming the lives of their students and making a real difference to their communities, schools can share their best practices and have their voices heard ... to help transform education." INQ



NAGSIMULA nang dagsain ang Dolomite Beach sa Manila Bay magmula nang muli itong buksan noong Linggo, Hunyo 12. Gayunman ay ipinagbabawal pa rin ang pagligo bagama't bumaba na ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay.
Kuha ni AVITO DALAN (PNA)



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TEMPORARY SOLUTION

Incoming Obando mayor Leonardo Valeda watches as government workers try to repair the damaged dike in Barangay Lawa on Friday, June 17, 2022. Some villages in Obando and Valenzuela experienced flooding after a portion of the dike collapsed recently. PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK POST OF DING VALEDA



Obando dike repaired to stop flooding

SOME villages in Obando town in Bulacan and Valenzuela City were submerged from 1 foot to 4 feet of flood waters after the dikes that blocked water coming from the Manila Bay were recently damaged by the high tide.

Mayor-elect Leonardo Valeda of Obando on Friday has coordinated with Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando, Valenzuela City Mayor Rex Gatchalian and incoming mayor Wes Gatchalian, and the Second Bulacan District Engineers Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the immediate action regarding the

flooding incident.

Valeda said the extreme pressure of the tide damaged the Lawa Floodgate as well as the dikes in Barangay Tawiran, Lawa and Paco, which created flooding in the said areas to as high as 4 feet.

"The strong pressure of the high tide destroyed the foundation underneath so the rubble concrete revetment hung itself until it completely gave up," said Valeda.

Jhong Zuniga, a resident of Barangay Paco, said it was almost a month since the dike in Barangay Lawa was first damaged, but it was only temporarily repaired

and not fully renovated, that's why last Tuesday, June 14, it was completely damaged along with the other dikes.

It was learned that since the dike was built almost eight years ago, the residents of Obando no longer experienced flooding until the collapse of the dikes.

Fernando, upon receiving the report from Valeda, immediately directed Engr. Glenn Santos of the Provincial Engineering Office to send needed materials such as sheet piles and sand bags that can be used to temporarily repair the damaged structure.

Also on Friday, Valeda and the staff of the local governments of Obando and Valenzuela City visited the damaged site in Barangay Lawa.

Valeda said sheet piles were installed to temporarily stop the water coming from Manila Bay.

The Valenzuela City government also donated a replacement floodgate that can be built in just one day, but this must first go through the city council process.

Valeda expressed his gratitude to the local officials who immediately acted on his request to repair the damaged dike and floodgate.

FREDERICK SILVERIO



Effect of non-registration of the Special Power of Attorney for the filing of reconstitution of lost title

Dear PAO,
I was given by Joshua a Special Power of Attorney (notarized document) to file an appropriate petition in court for the issuance of new duplicate of title on his behalf. One relative working at the local government unit told me to register the said document otherwise the same would be void. Is this correct? What is the purpose of registration?

Hense!

Dear Hense),
The requirement of registration of the Special Power of Attorney (SPA) was specifically provided under Section 64 of Presidential Decree (PD) 1529 or the "Property Registration Decree" which states:



DEAR PAO
PERSIDA ACOSTA

"Any person may, by power of attorney, convey or otherwise deal with registered land and the same shall be registered with the Register of Deeds of the province or city where the land lies. Any instrument revoking such power of attorney shall be registered in like manner."

The contract of agency between you and Joshua is valid as long as the following requirements enumerated under Article 1318 of the New Civil Code of the Philippines are present:

"There is no contract unless the following requisites concur:

"(1) Consent of the contracting parties;

"(2) Object certain which is the subject matter of the contract;

"(3) Cause of the obligation which is established."

Correlative thereto, Article 1869 of the same law provides that:

"Agency may be express, or implied from the acts of the principal, from his silence or lack of action; or his failure to repudiate the agency, knowing that another person is acting on his behalf without authority. Agency may be oral, unless the law requires a specific form." (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

The contract of agency between you and Joshua was perfectly valid as the requirements provided by

law was already complied with, its non-registration with the Registry of Deeds has nothing to do with its validity. This finds support in the case of *Republic of the Philippines vs. Ciruelas* (GR 239505, Feb. 17, 2021), where the Supreme Court speaking through Associate Justice Edgardo L. Delos Santos stated that:

"Petitioner makes much of the fact that the SPA conferring authority to Dominador was not registered with the Registry of Deeds of Batangas and, thus, in violation of Section 64 of P.D. No. 1529 which states:

"SEC. 64. Power of attorney. Any person may, by power of attorney, convey or otherwise deal with registered land and the same shall be registered with the Register of Deeds of the province or city where

the land lies. Any instrument revoking such power of attorney shall be registered in like manner.

"A plain reading of the aforementioned provision, however, does not state that the registration of an SPA is a prerequisite to its validity or conversely, its non-registration makes the agent's authority ineffective. The Court agrees with the rationalization of the appellate court that the main purpose of registration is to notify the whole world and ultimately, to protect the rights of any third person who may have interests or claims over the land. Xox"

Applying the above-cited decision in your situation, the non-registration of the SPA with the Registry of Deeds affects only the notice requirement. The primary purpose of registration

of said document is to notify the whole world of the contract rights of third person who has interest in the said land. Thus, the statement of your relative is not correct because the failure to register the said SPA has nothing to do with the validity of said document.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



Bol greenlights CDO 'green hotel'

One primary goal of such a modernization project is to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, and diminish environmental footprint, as it is redesigned to coherently integrate with the local environment through sustainable operational practices and energy-efficient build and water economical fitting

Sustaining the country's momentum for a green and modern economy, the Board of Investments (BoI) has approved the application for registration of Grand City Hotels Inc. for its project, the modernization of the New Dawn Pensionne House in Cagayan de Oro City.

The modernization project, which has an estimated investment cost of P36.89 million, qualified as a tourism project for complying with the requirements under Special Laws Republic Act (RA) 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009 – Tourism Related Facilities of the 2022 Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) of RA 11534 (CREATE Act).

The facility will revitalize its features with efficient technologies that will reduce carbon footprints and is expected to start its operations by June 2022. The renovated inn is a modern, comfortable, yet highly-affordable home that was conceptualized for its guests' convenience, comfort, and safety, from business executives to families and tourists.

"This project is a testament to what we are doing to make the Philippine economy modern and greener. I am optimistic about what else will come for the country this year and beyond, as we have already made inroads to attract more investments. We will make it happen in the Philippines," Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said.

Existing for the past 12 years, the facility will turn into a seven-story inn accommodation with 77 rooms, upgrading its features with the installation of technology to fully comply with the health and safety protocols for tourism accommodation to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and reduce carbon emission.

Reducing human contact has been a critical part of suppressing the coronavirus, which enthused the said facility operator to introduce and implement crucial changes, aiming to modernize its facilities within the hotel with technology upgrades and equipment. Specifically, the project will upgrade its booking, check-in/out, and payment system by using the Hotel Property Management System of OPTIMA.

With the enhancement of the Optima Hotel Management System, the initiative also envisions integrating the system's Go Green Strategy with less printed paper and ink usage. Further, its server network allows the hotel to process prepayments online and channel management of online reservations, resulting in cashless transactions and an overall smoother process.

In particular, the modernization efforts include a digital payment system, self-check-in kiosk, fresh air, and new mechanical exhausts, upgrade of room furniture and fixtures, structural improvements, and enhancement of other major IT and operations equipment.

Additionally, one primary goal of such a modernization project is to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, and diminish environmental footprint, as it is redesigned to coherently integrate with the local environment through sustainable operational practices and energy-efficient build and water economical fitting.

Each room is fitted with a key fob electricity controller, where all the room's amenities are shut off once the guest removes the critical card of the room from its slot. Another feature is the sustainable operations practice of reducing water usage by encouraging guests to reuse linens and towels in the room. Also, greenery and plants are placed on the rooftop to reduce rain runoff and add insulation to the building.

To increase its natural air purification and ambiance, plants are placed around public areas, while room and general area light fit-outs are replaced with LED models. Other features of the renovated facility are a centralized heater, hotel signage, and generator set with designated power-up hours; natural fresh air build-ups with windows and doorways to encourage air flow with less electricity use, and the use of new elevator models with energy-efficient fit-out and build up.



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNEP

AT a community farm in Vietnam, this woman harvests rice and maize.

Earth 'cannot keep up with our demands'

It is essential that we wisely manage nature and ensure equitable access to its services, especially for the most vulnerable people and communities

"This planet is our only home," United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres said in his message for World Environment Day, warning that the Earth's natural systems "cannot keep up with our demands."

"It is vital we safeguard the health of its atmosphere, the richness and diversity of life on Earth, its ecosystems and its finite resources. But we are failing to do so," the UN chief said.

"We are asking too much of our planet to maintain ways of life that are unsustainable," he cautioned, noting that this not only hurts the Earth, but also its inhabitants.

Since 1973, the day has been used to raise awareness and generate political momentum around growing environmental concerns, such as toxic chemical pollution, desertification and global warming.

It has since grown into a global action platform, helping to drive change in consumption habits, as well as in national and

international environmental policy.

By providing food, clean water, medicines, climate regulation and protection from extreme weather events, Guterres reminded that a healthy environment is essential for people and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

"It is essential that we wisely manage nature and ensure equitable access to its services, especially for the most vulnerable people and communities," Guterres underscored.

More than three billion people are affected by degraded ecosystems. Pollution causes some nine million premature deaths each year, and more than one million plant and animal species risk extinction — many within decades, according to the UN chief.

"Close to half of humanity is already in the climate danger zone — 15 times more likely to die from climate impacts, such as extreme heat, floods and drought," he said.

He added there is a 50:50 chance that global temperatures will breach the Paris

Agreement limit of 1.5 in the next five years.

And by 2050, more than 200 million people each year risk displacement through climate disruption.

When world leaders came together 50 years ago at the UN Conference on the Human Environment, they committed to protecting the planet.

"But we are far from succeeding. We can no longer ignore the alarm bells that ring louder every day," the top UN official warned.

The recent Stockholm+50 environment meeting reiterated that all 17 SDG rely on a healthy planet to avert the triple crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

He urged governments to prioritize climate action and environmental protection through policy decisions that promote sustainable progress.

The UN Secretary-General outlined recommendations to activate renewable energy everywhere by making renewable technologies and raw materials available to all, cutting red tape, shifting subsidies and tripling investment.

"Businesses need to put sustainability at the heart of their decision-making for the

sake of humanity and their own bottom line. A healthy planet is the backbone of nearly every industry on Earth," he said.

He advocated for the empowerment of women and girls as "forceful agents of change," including in decision-making at all levels. He also upheld the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge to help protect fragile ecosystems.

The UN chief flagged that history has shown what can be achieved when the planet is placed first, pointing to a continent-sized hole in the ozone layer that triggered every country to commit to the Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting chemicals.

"This year and the next will present more opportunities for the global community to demonstrate the power of multilateralism to tackle our intertwined environmental crises, from negotiations on a new global biodiversity framework to reverse nature loss by 2030 to the establishment of a treaty to tackle plastics pollution," he stated.

Guterres reiterated the UN commitment to lead cooperative global efforts, "because the only way forward is to work with nature, not against it."



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Manulife taps NGOs for health, education, environment concerns

By **ELIJAH FELICE ROSALES**

Insurance powerhouse Manulife Philippines has tapped three non-government organizations as its partners in trying to address health, education and environmental concerns in the country.

As part of Manulife's Impact Agenda, the life insurer partnered with Gawad Kalinga, Corazon S. Atayde Memorial Foundation (CSAMF) and Haribon Foundation to deliver

on efforts to promote health and well-being, economic opportunities and a sustainable future.

In the tie-up with Gawad Kalinga, Manulife will support at least 300 families through the NGO's Goodbye Gutom, a program that seeks to educate the poor on how to produce their own food.

Manulife, for its part, will provide the beneficiaries with training on organic farming. The families will also be guid-

ed on how they can maintain their plantations for long-term production.

Also, Manulife will build five Peso Smart Learning Centers, educational facilities named after its financial literacy program, in villages supported by Gawad Kalinga. The learning centers will be used as classrooms that can accommodate the remote schooling of children.

Likewise, the Toronto-based insurer renewed its collabora-

tion with CSAMF for their Peso Smart x RecoverEADS program that intends to teach financial literacy in public schools.

For the year, Manulife and CSAMF target to expand the number of graduates to 1,200 students, including in cities and provinces where the program has never reached before.

Since its launch, Peso Smart in itself has graduated more than 400 students who went through various courses on

financial literacy at the hands of experts.

On the other hand, Manulife hopes to contribute to the restoration of Philippine rainforests in the partnership it struck with Haribon. For the long haul, the life insurer wants to incorporate climate change considerations in its investment decisions and product offerings.

Under Haribon's Forests for Life, Manulife will plant 15,000 seedlings in at least 12 hectares of land. The tree planting will

be concentrated in Haribon's conservation areas in Laguna, Quezon and Rizal.

Manulife, or the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. (Philippines) Inc., saw its profit decline by 11 percent to P3.48 billion in 2021, from P3.9 billion in 2020.

As an industry leader, Manulife ranks seventh among life insurers in terms of size with an asset base of P112.81 billion on P52.73 billion in traditional and P60.09 billion in variables.



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Davao Light seeks ISO 55001

By DANESSA RIVERA

Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. is eyeing to secure ISO 55001 Asset Management System certification by yearend to ensure that the distribution utility is always functioning at peak performance.

Davao Light said it is set to be evaluated by an independent third party to obtain the ISO 55001 Asset Management System standard.

The ISO 55001 Asset Management System is an international standard that aims to help organizations manage and optimize both physical and intangible assets more effectively throughout their lifecycle.

By implementing this, the company will have better control over its daily activities,

achieve higher business profitability, and ensure operational efficiency.

This will also further improve Davao Light's asset information accuracy and network availability and reliability, enabling the company to give world-class services to its customers.

"We are aiming to be ISO 55001 certified by the fourth quarter of 2022. Early this year, we conducted orientations per department and training has already started to meet the timelines of this project," Davao Light president and COO Rodger Velasco said.

An internal audit exercise was conducted to determine if Davao Light's AMS is adhering to the requirements of ISO 55001:2014, identify opportunities for improvements of the

established AMS, and assess the readiness of the company for the certification audit.

In 2020, Davao Light attained its re-certification for the ISO 9001:2015 or the Quality Management System (QMS) and passed the surveillance audit for ISO 45001:2018 – Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Management System and ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental Management (EM) System as part of maintaining the quality service that the company provides to its customers.

Late last year, the power distributor unveiled its fully digital substation which enhances efficiency, reliability, and availability of power supply through real-time control and protection operations.

And since 2015, Davao

Light has been investing P87 million to acquire around 1,300 green transformers each year to serve the ever-growing demand of distribution transformer installations and to replace old units that use mineral oil due for decommissioning. This will help the company deliver sustainable and reliable electricity to customers.

Davao Light is the third-largest privately-owned electric distribution utility in the country in terms of customer size and annual kWh sales.

Its franchise area covers Davao City, areas of Panabo City, and the municipalities of Carmen, Dujali, and Santo Tomas in Davao del Norte, with a population of approximately 2.2 million and a total area of 3,561 square kilometers.



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UN chief calls for end to 'age of fossil fuels'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The UN chief on Friday launched an all-out attack on the fossil fuel industry, accusing it of having "humanity by the throat" and calling on leaders of the world's major economies to "end the age of fossil fuels."

"The first duty of leadership is to protect people from clear and present dangers," Antonio Guterres said in a speech to the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. "Nothing could be more clear or present than the danger of fossil fuel expansion."

The virtual meeting, hosted by US President Joe Biden, brings together countries representing 80 percent of global GDP, population, and greenhouse gas emissions, the White House said.

"Even in the short term, fos-

sil fuels don't make political or economic sense," Guterres said. "Yet we seem trapped in a world where fossil fuel producers and financiers have humanity by the throat."

The UN chief accused the fossil fuel industry of having tried for decades to convince leaders and sway public opinion of its limited responsibility for climate change, and for seeking to "undermine ambitious climate policies."

"They exploited precisely the same scandalous tactics as Big Tobacco decades before," he said, referring to what he called the industry's push to obfuscate its products' harm and what it knew concerning the dangers.

"Let's make sure the war in Ukraine is not used to increase that dependency," he added.

After Russia invaded Ukraine in late February, Western nations imposed steep sanctions on Moscow, sending food and fuel prices up at a blistering rate.

"The climate crisis is our number one emergency," Guterres said.



Educator PH's 1st Gandhi Peace Prize awardee

BY ARLIE O. CALALO

COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Dr. Ronald Adamat has formally received the Mahatma MK Gandhi Peace Prize for Non-Violent Peace 2021 during Saturday's ceremony, which put him in the same level with past awardees like Britain's Margaret Thatcher, former United States of America president Jimmy Carter, South Africa's Nelson Mandela and Russia's Mikhail Gorbachev, among others.

Receiving the actual award through the Heavenly World Peace Restoration of Lights (HWPL) led by its country manager John Rommel Garces, Adamat got several congratulatory greetings from various sectors along with President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (BBM), Vice President-elect Sara Duterte Carpio and lawmakers led by Sen. Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian.

The top two incoming government officials took note of Adamat, being the only Filipino to have obtained such distinction, for receiving the prestigious award that they said had put the country in the map of those who have produced the few great men and women that were conferred the same global recognition.

A Teduray from Upi, Maguindanao and a former congressman representing the Indigenous people's sector in the 10th Congress, Adamat expressed his gratitude to the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation for "finally recognizing my advocacy on peace which I have been doing untiringly with undying commitment for decades."

"I am also grateful to the leadership of HWPL Chairman Man Hee Lee, a South Korean and also a former awardee. Without his blessing, my nomination and subsequent conferment of the Mahatma MK Gandhi Prize for Non-Violent Peace Award may not have happened," Adamat said after receiving the award.

Humbled by being at the same level with the previous popular awardees, Adamat said these people (Thatcher, Mandela, Carter and Lee, among others) believed that everyone can change the world into a better place for all.

He even quoted words from Mahatma Gandhi who said: "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change."

"With this peace award, I now challenge all of you to work for

peace, to give time to peace! As my quote goes: 'Investing in education and peace is investing in the future,'" the CHED commissioner said.

He recalled that during the campaign trail prior to the May 9 polls, he was approached by some people close to the incoming president who asked him to submit a proposal of a 10-point Higher Education agenda for the new administration.

"Without hesitation, I immediately went to work and came up with a road map for higher education which I named BBM-SD that stands for Build, Bind, Minds for Sustainable Development," Adamat said.

"I knew it was a privilege for me to develop the 'BBM-SD,' which subsequently found its way to

BBM's heart and thus was approved and gained media attention," said Adamat who is also an author, composer, actor and director.

In his almost six years in CHED, Adamat said he was able to introduce several reforms in higher education and helped address the problems and issues confronting the private higher education sector concerning their recognition and program accreditation.

Adamat was the one that initiated and authored the integration of the Peace Studies and Indigenous Peoples Studies into the tertiary education curricula.

Currently, Adamat said he is working for the establishment of the National Agriculture and Food Security Academy aimed at training and encouraging country's agriculture and food security practitioners and experts to become scientists "who will use their knowledge in putting the country back in the global map of agriculture and food havens just like what President Ferdinand Marcos did when he was the president of the republic."

He said he was also developing the concept of a United Nations of Indigenous Peoples (UNIP) in the Philippines which will be composed of different Filipino

Indigenous peoples or tribes that shall be recognized as IP nations.

With the support of at least 25 state universities and colleges, Adamat said he was able to establish peace monuments in their campuses.

"I have also received their support to establish Peace Clubs among students from the higher education institutions as I believed that the students are the bedrock of peace," he said.

"I am also conceptualizing the conduct of peace competitions among universities and colleges in the form of songs, poetry and visual arts," he added.

Saying he will not hesitate to accept in case the incoming president will offer him any post to continue serving the government, Adamat told *The Manila Times* that he would prefer to remain working with the higher education sector.

"I can offer my expertise and availability to continue serving under the BBM administration, so I could champion the BBM-SD's 10-point Higher Education Agenda and the National Unity Program, through peace," he said.

Adamat told *The Manila Times* that he shared the prestigious 2021 award with a peace advocate from Burma whom he declined to name.



MAN OF PEACE Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Ronald Adamat accepts the Mahatma MK Gandhi Prize for Non-Violent Peace at a restaurant in Quezon City on Saturday, June 18, 2022. Adamat was cited in an online ceremony last March 27. Also in photo are (from left) CHED-NCR Director Dr. Julieta Paras, HWPL Chief Branch Manager John Rommel Garces, and Tarlac Agricultural University President Dr. Max Guillermo. PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE

19 JUNE 2022, SUNDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

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PH fully vaccinates 70M Filipinos before PRRD ends term

June 18, 2022, 7:06 pm



BEST PROTECTION. 2Lt. Anne Zairell Villabroza, a nurse, administers the Moderna Covid-19 booster shot to Mhontie Mentos at the Philippine Medical Association auditorium in Quezon City on March 10, 2022. The Philippines has achieved its target of fully vaccinating at least 70 million before the end of the Duterte administration. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)

MANILA – Within 15 months after the National Vaccination Program was launched, the Philippine government achieved its target of fully vaccinating 70 million Filipinos against Covid-19.

In the latest report of the National Vaccination Operations Center as of June 17, a total of 70,005,247 individuals, or 77.78 percent of the target population have completed their primary series.

Of the total, 14,704,514 have availed of the first booster shot while 648,555 have the second booster dose.

To date, only the elderly, medical front-liners, and immunocompromised adults (with cancer, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome, taking immunosuppressants, or organ transplant recipients) are eligible for the second dose.

Out of the 153,013,072 doses administered, 74,813,407 have received at least one dose.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer, said the milestone is a testament to the administration's commitment to protect as many Filipinos as possible from the fatal effects of Covid-19.

"As promised, we reached the target of 70 million fully vaccinated individuals. The NTF thanks our health care workers, volunteers, and everyone who made the vaccination program a success," Galvez said in a statement on Saturday.

"This is our parting gift to the next administration. We hope that our new leaders will also prioritize our vaccination program and continue to build an immunity wall among our people," he added.

Galvez is confident that the high vaccination rate, coupled with the continued compliance with health protocols, can prevent another surge of infections.



“We have had many superspreader events in the past months, including the national elections, but we still managed to keep our new Covid-19 cases low because of our high vaccination rate,” he said, while stressing continued wearing of face masks, physical distancing, and frequent washing of hands.

The government’s pediatric vaccination likewise continues to gain momentum, with 3,217,367 children aged 5 to 11 already fully vaccinated.

Under the 12 to 17 bracket, 9,487,745 have already received their full doses.

Galvez renewed his call to the public to get their booster shots as soon as they are eligible to strengthen the protection provided by the primary doses, which wane over time.

Frontline health care workers and senior citizens can take their second booster shot four months after their first booster dose, while immunocompromised adults have to wait for three months after their first booster shot. **(PR)**



Wear face mask, follow health protocols: BBM urges public

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos [June 18, 2022, 3:40 pm](#)



FACE MASKS STILL REQUIRED. Seniors wearing face masks while waiting for their turn to receive vaccines to protect them from Covid-19 infections in this file photo taken in Bacolod City. President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday (June 17, 2022) called on the public to continue wearing face masks and observing other health protocols. (PNA file photo)

MANILA – President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is encouraging the public to continue wearing face masks and observing other health protocols amid the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Marcos made the appeal after the Department of Health (DOH) warned of the possible rise in severe and critical Covid-19 cases by August because of the waning immunity from the coronavirus vaccine and reduction in adherence to minimum public health standards.

“We have to wear face masks and comply with other health standards to ensure our safety and that of our loved ones,” he said in a statement issued Friday.

The Cebu provincial government earlier issued an ordinance on the optional use of face masks, but Malacañang clarified that the local directive was not supported by President Rodrigo Duterte.

The Palace said the policy on mandatory wearing of face masks crafted by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and approved by Duterte prevails over the local ordinance.

Marcos likewise emphasized the need for continued compliance with the health protocols, to prevent another surge of Covid-19 infections that could impede the country’s economic recovery.

“We have already made economic headways and we should not allow them to be brought to naught. This is why I am urging everyone to take part in preventing another surge that could block our way to economic recovery,” he said.

Marcos urged his fellow Filipinos to avail of the free booster shots being offered by the government to protect themselves against Covid-19.

He said there is a need to receive booster shots, considering that the waning immunity stems from the effect of the highly-transmissible Omicron coronavirus variant on the primary vaccine series.



Citing the findings of a study on over one million people in Qatar, Marcos said those infected with an earlier version of Covid-19 and who received three doses of an mRNA vaccine “appear to be best protected against symptomatic infection by the Omicron variant.”

“With the Covid pandemic still ongoing, different variants may still emerge. And as we have seen, some variants are not as resistant to the first and second doses as others. Hence, there is a need to enhance our immunity by getting booster shots. Kailangan ng dagdag na proteksyon (We need additional protection),” he said.

The DOH on Thursday recorded 425 new Covid-19 infections, the highest daily number of new cases in over two months. **(PNA)**



800-1,200 COVID-19 cases kada araw posible hanggang Hunyo – DOH

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pang-masa June 19, 2022 | 12:00am



People enter a polling station before casting their votes during the presidential election in Manila on May 9, 2022.

AFP / Chaideer Mahyuddin

MANILA, Philippines — Sa pagtaya ng Department of Health (DOH), posibleng umabot sa 800 hanggang 1,200 ang arawang kaso ng COVID-19 hanggang sa katapusan ng Hunyo kung magpapatuloy ang pagtaas ng mga kaso ng naturang sakit.

“Ang meron tayo, projections that by the end of June, maaari na aabot tayo to 800 to 1,200 cases per day kung magtutuloy-tuloy ang mga kaso natin sa ngayon,” ayon kay Health Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire, sa Laging Handa briefing nitong Sabado.

Gayunman, nilinaw naman ni Vergeire, ito ay projections lamang nila na ginagamit upang makapaghanda ang lahat.

“These projections are not cast in stone. These are just used for us to prepare,” aniya pa.

Nilinaw din ni Vergeire na bagama’t bahagyang tumaas ang bilang ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa, hindi pa rin ito maituturing na “surge”.

“Let us not call it a surge. When you talk about a surge, it’s a sudden increase in the number of cases,” paliwanag ni Vergeire.

Ani Vergeire, sa ngayon ay nasa 350 ang COVID-19 infections kada araw na naiuulat sa buong bansa o paglundag ng 50-60%. Aniya, maging ang daily average ng mga naitatalang bagong kaso ng sakit sa Metro Manila ay tumaas din ng mula 102 ay naging 170.

Sa pagtaya naman ng OCTA Research Group, umakyat na sa 71% ang “one week growth rate” ng COVID-19 cases sa National Capital Region (NCR). Ayon kay Dr. Guido David ng OCTA, mula Hunyo 11-17, ang 7-day average sa NCR ay nadagdagan pa at naging 176 mula sa dating 103 lamang o 71% increase.

“This translates to an ADAR (average daily attack rate) of 1.24,” ani David.

Aniya, ang reproduction number naman sa NCR, o yaong bilang ng mga taong nahawaan ng sakit ng isang pasyente ay tumaas at umabot sa 1.80 hanggang noong Hunyo 14, mula sa dating 1.40 noong Hunyo 7. Ang reproduction number na mas mababa sa 1 ay indikasyon ng pagbagal ng hawahan ng virus.



Maging ang positivity rate sa rehiyon, o yaong porsiyento ng mga tao na nagpopositibo sa sakit ay tumaas na rin umano sa 3.7%.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ng OCTA na bagama't dumarami ang bilang ng mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa NCR, mababa pa rin ang hospital bed utilization rate na nasa 22%, gayundin ang ICU utilization rate na nasa 17% lamang. – **Ludy Bermudo**

19 JUNE 2022, SUNDAY



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