

23 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR Receives Used Fish Nets for Trash Traps

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 Journal Online







In support of the Manila Bay rehabilitation and Enhanced Adopt-an-Estero/Waterbody Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (**DENR**), the Rotary Club of Diliman Heights (RCDH) through its past president Suzzette Lee (center) and Rotary International District (RID) 3780 Governor Ed Ayento (4th from right) unfurls a fish net as its donation to the rehabilitation and program before it is handed to former Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (left). The used fish nets will be used to fabricate trash traps (inset) to prevent solid wastes from barangay esteros from draining to bigger water bodies like Manila Bay. The trash traps will be distributed in Barangays Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches Proper, and Capri in Quezon City through Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan (TF TAK). Also in photo are TF TAK Technical Assistant Roberto Feliciano (3rd from right), members of the RID 3780 and RCDH led by President Jocel Navarro (3rd from left). The handover was held during the celebration of the 21st signing anniversary of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 on Feb. 2, 2022 at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.



DENR OIC Jim Sampulna, tutukan ang rehabilitasyon ng mga minahan

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DENR plants mangroves in Central Luzon wetlands

The Philippine Star February 23, 2022 | 12:00am

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — More than 1,000 mangrove propagules were planted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its partner agencies and companies in various areas in Central Luzon.

Species of bauang bakawan, bakawan babae and bakawan lalaki were planted at the Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad critical habitat eco-tourism area in Pampanga, Bagac River in Bataan and Uacon Lake in Zambales.

“The activities were part of the month-long celebration of World Wetlands Day. This is fundamental in nourishing wildlife habitat including the wintering area of migratory birds and breeding grounds of marine species,” DENR-Central Luzon chief Paquito Moreno Jr.



DENR hosts mangrove planting activity



MANGROVE PLANTING. Over 1,000 mangrove propagules were planted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources and partners in various areas in Central Luzon. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

February 22, 2022

HUNDREDS of volunteers and personnel from partner government agencies joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando in massive mangrove growing activities in an effort to uphold sustainability and conservation of wetland areas in Central Luzon.

Over 1,000 mangrove propagules, composed of Bauang bakawan, Bakawan babae and Bakawan lalaki species, were planted in identified planting sites in Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat Ecotourism Area in Pampanga, Bagac River in Bataan and Uacon Lake in Zambales.

Apart from sustaining the ecological health of wetland areas in the region, the initiative was part of the activities of the month-long celebration of the World Wetlands Day that would be fundamental in nourishing wildlife habitat, including the wintering area of migratory birds and breeding grounds of marine species.

It also helped in stabilizing shorelines and preventing erosion, thus protecting coastal communities from waves and storm surge.

The World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2 of every year to highlight the vital role and ecological importance of wetlands. Its annual observance coincides with the anniversary of when the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in 1971 in the city of Ramsar.

This year, the theme "Wetlands action for people and nature" underscores the significance of concerted actions in conserving natural resources like wetlands.

In Central Luzon, there are 19 identified wetlands covering more than 16,000 hectares. These play important roles like storing clean water, providing a home for nature, and keeping communities safe from flood and storms.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1921686/pampanga/local-news/denr-hosts-mangrove-planting-activity>



31 poor families tapped in Northern Samar reforestation

By Sarwell Meniano February 22, 2022, 1:10 pm



PLANTERS. Some residents in San Roque, Northern Samar are tapped as partners of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the enhanced National Greening Program during a meeting on Feb. 15, 2022. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Northern Samar has forged partnerships with 31 poor families in two villages of San Roque town to plant trees in 220 hectares of land. *(Photo courtesy of DENR Region 8)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Northern Samar has forged partnerships with 31 poor families in two villages of San Roque town to plant trees in 220 hectares of land under the government’s enhanced National Greening Program (NGP).

For three years, identified family beneficiaries in Ginagdanan and Pagasang-an villages are tasked to establish nurseries, plant trees, and take care of them for a contract price of PHP5.72 million, said Dennis Arino, chief of the conservation and development section of CENRO based in Pambujan town.

These families are expected to set up nurseries by June 2022, plant seedlings in the third quarter of the year, and start the maintenance by October, Arino told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Tuesday.

“We help people understand that they are the first to benefit from this reforestation activity. We have to engage people on the ground since they are knowledgeable of the situation and are in a better position to successfully implement the project,” Arino said in a phone interview.

At least 15 percent of their total mobilization fund will be released as soon as the agreement is notarized.

Succeeding payments will be released corresponding to the contracted families’ performance and their plantation’s survival rate of at least 85 percent, according to the official.

The biggest area assigned to a family is 10 hectares and they can earn up to PHP260,000 for three years.

San Roque town has been identified as a priority area for this year’s implementation of the enhanced NGP in support of the conservation and protection efforts for the Bantayan Watershed in the area. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168263>



Marginalized tapped for Northern Samar reforestation

We help people understand that they are the first to benefit from this reforestation activity

Published 5 hours ago on February 23, 2022 03:30 AM

By [Elmer Navarro Manuel](#) [@tribunephil_jmer](#)



TACLOBAN CITY — In line with the government's enhanced National Greening Program, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Northern Samar forged partnerships with 31 poor families in two villages of San Roque town to plant trees in 220 hectares of land.

Pambujan town CENRO conservation and development section chief Dennis Arino disclosed that for the last three years, identified family beneficiaries in Ginagdanan and Pagasang-an villages are tasked to establish nurseries, plant trees, and take care of them for a contract price of P5.72 million.

He added that the families are expected to set up nurseries by June 2022, plant seedlings in the third quarter of the year, and start the maintenance by October.

"We help people understand that they are the first to benefit from this reforestation activity. We have to engage people on the ground since they are knowledgeable of the situation and are in a better position to successfully implement the project," Arino said in an online interview.

At least 15 percent of their total mobilization fund will be released as soon as the agreement is notarized and succeeding payments will be released corresponding to the contracted families' performance and their plantation's survival rate of at least 85 percent, according to the official.

The biggest area assigned to a family is 10 hectares and they can earn up to P260,000 for three years.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/02/23/marginalized-tapped-for-northern-samar-reforestation/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=marginalized-tapped-for-northern-samar-reforestation



Philippine eagle rescued in Lanao Sur

By [Asangan Madale](#) February 23, 2022

MARAWI, Lanao del Sur: A Philippine eagle named Bangsa Bae was turned over by the Community Environment and Natural Resources and Energy Office (Cenreo) in Lanao del Sur to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City.

The eagle was found in Barangay Piyangologan in Marogong, Lanao del Sur by a concerned citizen who turned over the endangered animal to the Cenreo. The eagle was then transported to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center in Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur for further treatment before it was handed over to PEF.

"The eagle may have had a nesting site in Mt. Kalantimon, Marogong, Lanao del Sur, verifying previous reports that it may be sighted within the Municipalities of Butig, Lumbabayabao and Wao within the Mt. Piyagayungan Range," Cenreo officer Benjamin Alangca said.

"The approximately 150,000-hectare mountain range covering Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao is considered as a key biodiversity area by the DENR."

Bangsa Bae, named in honor of the Bangsamoro women, has a wingspan of 51 centimeters and a weight of five kilograms. In its right wing, the Cenreo team observed a bone fracture and missing feathers.

"It was the first time that we found and rescued an injured Philippine eagle which signifies the Bangsamoro region's vast environment and natural resources," Alangca added.



Laguna Bay to host solar projects

By [Ben Gines Jr.](#) February 19, 2022

THE Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has approved the allocation of 2,000 hectares in Laguna Bay for floating solar projects.

"An initial predetermined area of not more than 2,000 hectares in the LDB (Laguna de Bay) is hereby allocated for REU (renewable energy utilization) projects," the LLDA said in its memorandum dated Feb. 2, 2022.

The location of the solar projects would be 200 meters away from the lake's shoreline, with a 10.5-meter elevation requirement. Based on the map, the predetermined areas (PDA) are concentrated on the lake's southern side, spanning from Santa Rosa City to Paete, all in Laguna.

LLDA will also be bidding out the allocation and grant of renewable energy areas at a minimum price of P6 per square meter. Each developer application will be allocated with a maximum of 100 hectares per block.

Contracts would last for 25 years, covering the development, commissioning and operation of the project. These would also be subject to LLDA's evaluation every five years.

Winning bidders would need to secure permits and clearances from the Department of Energy (DoE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau.

A Privilege to Operate Renewable Energy would also have to be secured from the LLDA.

The DoE earlier said that it is working with the LLDA to come up with a policy for large-scale floating projects in Laguna Bay.

Last year, Ayala-led AC Energy Corp. (ACEN) expressed its openness to develop floating solar projects in the Laguna Bay. Eric Francia, ACEN president and chief executive officer, said that the country's largest lake is a "great location" for such ventures, adding that 25 percent of it can be allotted for floating solar projects.



Ibinahagi ng Bayan Patrollers ang mga larawan ng kanilang pagsali sa tree-hugging activity ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Forest Management Bureau (DENR FMB). | via Hernel Tocmo, BMPM

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



Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo added 4 new photos to the album: **Tree Hugging Campaign.**

February 21 at 4:49 PM · 🌐

TINGNAN: Mga Bayan Patroller, ibinahagi ang mga larawan ng kanilang pagsali sa Tree-hugging activity ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Forest Management Bureau (DENR FMB).

Natapos na ito noong Pebrero 18 at nakatakdang ianunsyo ng DENR FMB ang nanalong larawan na mabibigyan ng premyo gaya ng bamboo watch at tree hugger shirt.

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Villar renews pitch for wetlands protection, conservation

[Cecille Suerte Felipe](#) - The Philippine Star February 23, 2022 | 12:00am



Villar rallied behind this year's World Wetlands Celebration's call and appealed to invest in financial, human and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

The STAR / Jeremy Pintolo

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar has urged the government to take action for wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

Villar rallied behind this year's World Wetlands Celebration's call and appealed to invest in financial, human and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

"In all candidness, this is no mean feat for a state like the Philippines to follow. With our country's archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention," said Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

During the celebration at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) yesterday, Villar noted that the United Nations encourages the annual celebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands.

She thanked the LPPWP-Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and its partners, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and the Philippine Wild Bird Club for their active participation in this event.

The 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Of that figure 221 are lakes, 39 are water storage, 31 are ponds, 12 are marshes and swamps and nine are peatlands, according to the senator.

Villar, however, lamented that some people, even those in the government, do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands.

"And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it," she said.

She specifically cited the LPPWP, which has always been endangered despite being established as a critical habitat, declared a Wetland of International Importance and was legislated a protected area under the Expanded NIPAS Act in 2018.



Villar said the LPPWP has been constantly exposed to the threat of being destroyed due to various reclamation projects in Parañaque and Cavite.

She also took potshots at the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for issuing environmental clearance certificates to these reclamation projects.

The senator recalled late last year a painful experience of being barred by the DENR-EMB from joining a discussion with the technical experts in the Parañaque reclamation project.

“I was simply told that I am not an allowed participant in the meeting. What was so annoying in the incident is that the EMB personnel presiding over the meeting was ignorant of the existence of the LPPWP-PAMB, the body I represent for the meeting, even when LPPWP PAMB was actually invited by EMB itself in that meeting,” she said.

“I am ‘crushed’ that the EMB has plainly adopted the position of the proponent on this ‘matter hook, line and sinker’ and no further discussion and independent studies were made,” she added.

For Villar, who has been involved in the conservation of the wetland park for two decades now, this is “just one of the sad realities that we are confronted with in defending this piece of wetland, and we have been through tougher times along the way.”

“Apart from the destructive effect to the wetland park, one of the issues I wish to point out to the EMB is that the 286-hectare Parañaque reclamation project will obstruct the free flow of water coming from Parañaque River, which is connected to the Las Piñas River in my hometown,” she said.

She underscored that this would trigger massive flooding in Las Piñas, Paranaque and nearby places in Cavite.

“The LPPWP is a showcase of biodiversity conservation in Metro Manila, and we envision it to be the premier learning environment for urban wetlands in the Philippines as well. We are doing our best also to make it a model of sustainable eco-tourism at its best while ensuring that its natural ecological attributes are not compromised,” Villar said.



Villar tells public, gov't once again: Protect wetlands

Published February 22, 2022, 4:45 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar has renewed her call to take action for the country's wetlands and appeal to the public to protect them from disappearing.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, made her call Tuesday during the celebration of World Wetlands' Day held at Las Pinas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

"In all candidness, this is no mean feat for a state like the Philippines to follow. With our country's archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention," she said.

Villar said that even the United Nations encourages its annual celebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

Although there are some 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems, Villar lamented that the public and even the government do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands amid her consistent pleas.

"And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it," she said.

For instance, she said LPPWP, which is tagged as endangered despite being established a critical habitat, is always under threat of being destroyed due to various reclamation projects in Parañaque and Cavite.

The lawmaker hit the DENR – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for issuing Environmental Clearance Certificates to these reclamation projects.

"Apart from the destructive effect to the wetland park, one of the issues I wish to point out to EMB is that the 286-hectare Paranaque reclamation project will obstruct the free flow of water coming from Paranaque River, which is connected to the Las Pinas River in my hometown," Villar said, adding that the project may also trigger massive flooding in Las Pinas, Paranaque and nearby places in Cavite.



Villar bats for protection of wet lands in Parañaque

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#) February 22, 2022, 10:10 pm

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar has rallied behind this year World Wetlands Celebration's call to take action for wetlands and appeal to invest financial, human and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.



FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION. Senator Cynthia Villar leads the opening of a photo exhibit about the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland on Tuesday. The exhibit aims to promote awareness of the importance of wetlands and what actions stakeholders can do to help in wetland conservation. Danny Pata

During the celebration in Las Pinas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) on Feb. 22, Villar also noted that the United Nations encourages the annual celebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

She thanked the LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and its partners, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Philippine Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, for their active participation in this event.

According to the senator, the 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Out of these, 314 wetlands are 221 lakes, 12 marshes and swamps, 9 peat lands, 39 water storage, and 31 ponds.

However, she lamented that some people, even those in our government, do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands.

“And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it,” stressed Villar.

She specifically cited LPPWP which has always been endangered despite being established a critical habitat, declared a Wetland of International Importance and legislated a protected area under the Expanded NIPAS Act in 2018.

She said LPPWP has been constantly exposed to the threat of being destroyed due to various reclamation projects in Parañaque and Cavite.



She also took potshots at the DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for issuing Environmental Clearance Certificates to these reclamation projects.

“This is just one of the sad realities we are confronted with in defending this piece of wetland and we have been through tougher times along the way,” added the senator who has been involved in the conservation of the wetland park for two decades now.



Villar renews pitch for wetlands protection, conservation

February 22, 2022

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA — Sen. Cynthia A. Villar has rallied behind this year's World Wetlands Celebration's call to take action for wetlands and appeal to invest financial, human, and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

"In all candidness, this is no mean feat for a state like the Philippines to follow. With our country's archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention," said Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

During the celebration in Las Pinas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) on Feb. 22, Villar also noted that the United Nations encourages the annual celebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

She thanked the LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and its partners, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Philippine Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, for their active participation in this event.



Sen. Cynthia Villar joins the Photo Exhibit about the La Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) on Tuesday February 22, 2022 at the LPPWP activity center, conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -National Capital Region (DENR- NCR), Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW) and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in connection the World Wetlands Day celebration. The theme for the photo exhibit is "Value, Manage, Restore,Love:Wetland Actions for LPPWP."



According to the senator, the 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Out of these, 314 wetlands are 221 lakes, 12 marshes and swamps, 9 peatlands, 39 water storage, and 31 ponds.

However, she lamented that some people, even those in our government, do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands.

“And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it,” stressed Villar.

She specifically cited LPPWP which has always been endangered despite being established a critical habitat, declared a Wetland of International Importance and legislated a protected area under the Expanded NIPAS Act in 2018.

She said LPPWP has been constantly exposed to the threat of being destroyed due to various reclamation projects in Parañaque and Cavite.

She also took potshots at the DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for issuing Environmental Clearance Certificates to these reclamation projects.

Villar recalled late last year,

a painful experience of being barred by EMB to join in a discussion with the technical experts in the Paranaque reclamation project.

“I was simply told that I am not an allowed participant in the meeting. What was so annoying in the incident is that the EMB personnel presiding over the meeting was ignorant of the existence of the LPPWP- PAMB, the body I represent for the meeting, even when LPPWP PAMB was actually invited by EMB itself in that meeting,” related Villar.

“I am ‘crushed’ that EMB has plainly adopted the position of the proponent on this ‘matter hook, line and sinker and no further discussion and independent studies were made,” she said.

“This is just one of the sad realities we are confronted with in defending this piece of wetland and we have been through tougher times along the way,” added the senator who has been involved in the conservation of the wetland park for two decades now.

“Apart from the destructive effect to the wetland park, one of the issues I wish to point out to EMB is that the 286-hectare Paranaque reclamation project will obstruct the free flow of water coming from Paranaque River, which is connected to the Las Pinas River in my hometown,” said Villar.

She said this will trigger massive flooding in Las Pinas, Paranaque and nearby places in Cavite.

“LPPWP is a showcase of biodiversity conservation in Metro Manila and we envision it to be the premier learning environment for urban wetlands in the Philippines as well. We are doing our best also to make it a model of sustainable eco-tourism at its best, while ensuring that its natural ecological attributes are not compromised.” (AI/MTVN)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/02/22/villar-renews-pitch-for-wetlands-protection-conservation/?fbclid=IwAR0xiiCzoht-dceSKHAqUowNbzzT2SRBzHQHqFnQcNqas009DS4baIBEIQk>

VILLAR MULING NANAWAGAN SA PROTECTION AT CONSERVATION NG WETLANDS

[9 hours ago](#) [jake](#)



SUPPORTADO ni Sen. Cynthia A. Villar ang panawagan sa pagdiriwang sa taon ito ng World Wetlands Celebration na gumawa ng aksyon para sa wetlands at apela na mag-invest ng financial, human at political capital upang mapigil ang pagkawala ng wetlands at maibalik ang mga nasira.

“In all candidness, this is no mean feat for a state like the Philippines to follow. With our country’s archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention,” ayon kay Villar, chairperson ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Sa selebrasyon sa Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) noong Feb. 22, iginiit ni Villar na taunang ipinagdiriwang ito ng United Nations para iangat ang public consciousness sa kahalagahan ng wetlands sa ecosystems dahil sa kontribusyon nito sa biodiversity, climate mitigation at adaptation, freshwater availability at sa ekonomiya.

Pinasalamatan niya ang LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) at ang mga partner nito gaya ng Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) at ang Philippine Wild Bird Club of the Philippines sa kanilang aktibong paglahok sa pagdiriwang na ito.

Sinabi ng senador na base sa 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves, meron tayong 314 inland wetlands at 2,487 river systems. Sa 314 wetlands, may 221 lakes, 12 marshes at swamps, 9 peat lands, 39 water storage, at 31 ponds.

Subalit dismayado si Villar na may mga tao kahit na yaong nasa gobyerno na hindi naiintindihan ang kahalagahan ng wetlands.

“And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it,” giit ni Villar.

Partikular na tinukoy niya ang LPPWP na palagiang nanganganib sa kabila ng pagiging critical habitat, Wetland of International Importance at legislated na protected area sa ilalim ng Expanded NIPAS Act in 2018.

Ayon kay Villar, palaging may bantang masira ang LPPWP dahil sa mga reclamation project sa Parañaque at Cavite.



Kinastigo rin niya ang DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa pagbibigay ng Environmental Clearance Certificates sa mga reclamation projects.

Ginunita ni Villar noong nakaraang taon ang masaklap niyang karanasan nang hindi payagang makasali sa talakayan ng technical experts sa Paranaque reclamation project.

“I was simply told that I am not an allowed participant in the meeting. What was so annoying in the incident is that the EMB personnel presiding over the meeting was ignorant of the existence of the LPPWP- PAMB, the body I represent for the meeting, even when LPPWP PAMB was actually invited by EMB itself in that meeting,” pahayag ni Villar.

“I am ‘crushed’ that EMB has plainly adopted the position of the proponent on this ‘matter hook, line and sinker’ and no further discussion and independent studies were made,” sabi pa niya.

“This is just one of the sad realities we are confronted with in defending this piece of wetland and we have been through tougher times along the way,” dagdag pa ng senador na nangunguna sa pagtataguyod sa wetland park conservation sa loob ng dalawang dekada.

“Apart from the destructive effect to the wetland park, one of the issues I wish to point out to EMB is that the 286-hectare Paranaque reclamation project will obstruct the free flow of water coming from Paranaque River, which is connected to the Las Pinas River in my hometown,” sabi pa ni Villar.

Aniya, magdudulot ito ng matinding pagbaha sa Las Pinas, Paranaque at mga kalapit na lugar sa Cavite.

“LPPWP is a showcase of biodiversity conservation in Metro Manila and we envision it to be the premiere learning environment for urban wetlands in the Philippines as well. We are doing our best also to make it a model of sustainable eco-tourism at its best, while ensuring that its natural ecological attributes are not compromised.” (ESTONG REYES)



Media urged to help expand climate literacy among Filipinos

February 22, 2022, 1:07 pm



DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

MANILA – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on the media to help accelerate climate action in the country by spearheading the education and advocacy campaigns necessary to motivate Filipinos to be at the frontlines of the global fight against climate change.

With the media playing an indispensable role in keeping people informed about relevant concerns and contextual issues that frame the daily grind of news, climate change should be among their top priorities given the urgency in addressing this worsening environmental crisis, he told members of the Tuesday Club during their media forum.

“I know that environmental news can sometimes be boring. It can be too scientific, complicated, and full of gloom and doom. But you have an important mission to bring new perspectives to the climate change discourse and inspire communities to take action in mitigating this crisis. I am confident that you all have creative ways to center climate change and environmental issues as top priorities in business and politics,” Dominguez said.

Joining the media forum were several members of the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the Climate Change Commission (CCC). This new composition of the NPTE represents all corners of the country and has been selected to help engage and educate communities in adopting localized climate adaptation and mitigation programs.

Dominguez said members of the Tuesday Club, which include editors, columnists, and public relations (PR) practitioners, can start by writing newsworthy and incisive articles that would encourage Filipinos to “spring into action” to help reverse the ill effects of the climate crisis.

“The greatest defense to this fight against climate change is climate literacy. I urge you to accelerate climate action through advocacy and education,” he added.

Underscoring the urgency of mitigating the effects of climate change in the country, Dominguez said the Philippines ranks 9th out of 181 nations in the world as the most affected country from extreme weather events in the 2020 World Risk Index, on top of being visited by an average of 20 tropical cyclones yearly as it sits squarely at the Typhoon Belt.

The Philippine archipelago is also sinking at a rate four times faster than the global rate, which is alarming, especially because most of the population is situated in coastal communities and low-lying areas, Dominguez said.



He cited as an example the town of Masantol, Pampanga, which has been experiencing an uninterrupted cycle of flooding.

Dominguez also said that over the last decade, the Philippines incurred losses and damages estimated at PHP506 billion from climate-related hazards, which is a “staggering amount” equivalent to an annual average of about PHP50 billion.

In 2021, damage to infrastructure and agriculture from Typhoon Odette alone ballooned to about PHP25 billion.

“Clearly, climate change is a real threat and a daily reality for the Philippines. For us, turning back the effects of climate change is a matter of survival,” Dominguez said.

As the President’s official representative to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Dominguez said he is “very determined” to shift the country’s focus from “merely theorizing and talking about climate change, to implementing practical and doable projects on the ground to mitigate its destructive effects.”

Dominguez said that even though the Philippines contributes only 0.3 percent to the global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), it had boldly committed to reducing these by 75 percent in 2030, which will be done through actionable projects –to demonstrate to the world how an emerging economy yet climate-vulnerable country can lead in the fight to save the planet.

“In the last COP26 (26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) meeting in Glasgow, the Philippine delegation sternly reminded the wealthier economies about their commitment to providing US\$100 billion in climate financing. The response we received was disappointing. The Western countries that agreed to raise the funds seem to require three more years to work out the details and parameters of the concept,” Dominguez said.

Ironically, these industrialized economies were the countries that polluted and continue to pollute the planet, emitting the world’s greatest volume of GHG emissions, he added.

Dominguez said the Philippines is determined to move ahead with fulfilling its climate ambitions, “on its own, if necessary,” although he pointed out that as an emerging economy, the country cannot fully achieve its carbon-reduction commitments without financial support from wealthier countries.

To proceed with its climate ambition and pave the way for the green bonds’ issuance, the government inaugurated its Sustainable Finance Framework last year, he said.

Dominguez said the government is also working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and some private sector partners in developing the innovative Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) project to help the Philippines accelerate the retirement of coal plants in the country by at least 10 to 15 years on average and boost the growth of renewable energy (RE) using an equitable, scalable, and market-based approach.

He said the participation of the Philippines’ multilateral and bilateral partners in implementing clean energy projects has encouraged the private sector to likewise invest in these initiatives. **(PR)**

Source:

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168277?fbclid=IwAR2TiJbY_u10qK8W3EVYtUCubOCojtMBG-C06E8QHJ75hBIFITkRCCug8



‘Climate justice’ remains elusive

COMMONSENSE - [Marichu A. Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star February 23, 2022 | 12:00am

After leading the Philippine delegation that participated in the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) meeting held in Glasgow, Scotland in Oct. to Nov. last year, Finance Secretary Carlos “Sonny” Dominguez III finally has come to terms that our country will not get any time sooner the “climate justice” from the biggest carbon-emitting countries in the world.

As the head of the Philippine delegation, Dominguez sternly reminded the wealthier economies about their commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate financing. Obviously, it fell anew to deaf ears.

From the start, President Rodrigo Duterte has expressed his own misgivings about the participation of the Philippines in COP events, especially those that required our government officials to frequently travel abroad. In fact, he had fired one high-ranking official of his administration due to frequent travels abroad to supposedly attend climate change-related conferences.

“What is this conference of climate change for? There is nobody, no entity to enforce the laws governing climate,” President Duterte said in impromptu remarks of his speech at the Nikkei 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia in Japan on May 31, 2019. Dominguez can only now validate the President’s own views.

Speaking in our Tuesday Club virtual breakfast forum yesterday, the Finance Secretary frankly admitted his frustration after attending the COP26 meet in Glasgow.

“The response we received was disappointing. The Western countries that agreed to raise the funds seem to require three more years to work out the details and parameters of the concept,” Dominguez rued.

Ironically, he lamented, these are the same industrialized economies identified as the world’s biggest polluters and continue to pollute the planet, emitting the world’s greatest volume of toxic carbon emissions.

Undeterred, however, Dominguez asserted the Philippines is determined to move ahead with fulfilling its climate ambitions “on its own, if necessary.” This is even as he conceded the Philippines, as an emerging economy, can not fully achieve its carbon-reduction commitments without financial support from wealthier countries.

“Clearly, climate change is a real threat and a daily reality for the Philippines,” Dominguez warned.

“For us, turning back the effects of climate change is a matter of survival,” the Finance Secretary cited.

As the designated representative of President Duterte to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Dominguez vows his determination to shift the country’s focus to less talk, more actions on the ground. “I am very determined to shift our focus from merely theorizing and talking about climate change, to implementing practical and doable projects on the ground to mitigate its destructive effects.

But how could the Finance Secretary exercise this determination in the last five months of the outgoing administration? In a sort of show of force, Dominguez brought along with him several members of the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the CCC in our Tuesday Club zoom meeting yesterday.



Dominguez invited several of them led by his co-chairperson at the NPTE, Dr. Susan Mercado, wife of former Sen. Orlando Mercado, who brings with her at the NPTE more than 25 years of experience at international, national and local settings. Mercado served with the World Health Organization (WHO) for 15 years. She returned to the DOH as undersecretary from 1998 to 2001.

Mercado was named as Special Envoy for Global Health Initiatives of President Duterte in May, 2018. She is currently Director of Food Systems and Resiliency at the Hawaii Public Health Institute where she is based with her family. Uninterrupted by any unstable internet because of better connectivity in Hawaii, Mercado noted with concern that even the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has an impact on climate change adaptation measures. She particularly referred to the emerging problem of proper disposal of facemasks, volumes of which have been thrown carelessly and ended up in seas and oceans.

The NPTE was created under Republic Act (RA) 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009. It was a landmark law signed by former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It was strongly pushed in Congress and principally authored by climate change advocate Sen. Loren Legarda. But it was only in 2015 when the NPTE was constituted during the administration of the late president Benigno Simeon Aquino III.

It was reconstituted by President Duterte in 2017 and made the NPTE composition more inclusive and added experts from Visayas and Mindanao. This NPTE is mandated, among others, to help engage and educate communities in adopting localized climate adaptation and mitigation programs.

The Finance Secretary feels proud and honored in having secured the services of these experts. According to him, all of them went through the national vetting process and come from across the country. All have post-graduate specialization with their names preceded by "Dr." (as in "doctorate" degree). Only two of them are actually medical doctors, namely, doctors Mercado who is a public health and food security expert, and Ramon Lorenzo Luis Guinto, an expert in climate change and public health.

The term of the new panel ends in 2023. But they may be reappointed when the new administration takes over after President Duterte steps down on June 30 this year. The NPTE is currently composed of 14 men and women whose names are associated with the stature of their respective fields of expertise encompassing the challenges of climate change upon our country.

Even though the Philippines contributes only 0.3% to the global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Dominguez reiterated the country's bold commitment to reduce these by 75% by the year 2030. But it's already far beyond in the horizon. While climate justice remains elusive to a climate change vulnerable country, Dominguez declared, the Philippines can lead in the fight to save the planet.



13 Minahang Bayan sites approved in Cordillera

By [Dexter A. See](#) February 23, 2022

BAGUIO CITY: Thirteen Minahang Bayan (MB) sites in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had been given the green light to operate by their respective Provincial Mining Regulatory Boards (PMRB) in a bid to legitimize the operation of small-scale mining (SSM) that was temporarily banned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) two years ago.

Engineer Fay Apil, regional director of the Cordillera office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-CAR), said that there are four MB sites each in Apayao and Benguet and one MB site each in Abra, Mountain Province and Kalinga.

Apil said the number of the approved MB sites could increase in the coming months as there are two areas in Apayao that had been cleared by the office of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and awaiting declaration as MB areas by the PMRB.

According to the MGB-CAR, only the MB site in Itogon is currently operational as most of the approved Minahang Bayan sites are still undergoing the rigid process of securing the free and prior informed consent from the indigenous cultural communities and Indigenous Peoples, who will be affected by the mining operations, and the completion of the documentary requirements such as the environmental compliance certificate and SSM contract, among others.

According to Apil, there are more than 70 applications filed by different pocket mining (PM) companies for the declaration and approval of potential MB sites covering certain areas in the different provinces in the region.

Earlier, SSM associations that applied for the declaration and approval of MB sites in the different parts of the region called on the DENR to reduce the processes in the approval of MB sites to allow the said industry to recover from the negative impact of the temporary stoppage order that has not been lifted despite repeated appeals from local governments and PM groups.

Apil expressed hope that the SSM associations with approved MB sites will be able to process the documentary requirements supporting their SSM contracts to start their operations that will contribute in the eventual revival of the PM industry.

She called on SSM associations with approved applications for MB sites to fast-track the processing of the prescribed documents for them to start operating and earn from their PM activities as the same will contribute in providing them with sustainable sources of income aside from helping the government generate resources that will be used to enhance the delivery of basic services and implement development projects within their localities.

Apil stipulated that there are still many SSM groups that are interested to apply for the declaration of MB sites, but their proposed sites are located within forest reservations, watersheds, timberlands and patented mining claims.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/23/news/regions/13-minahang-bayan-sites-approved-in-cordillera/1833906>



Be 'proactive' vs threats to park rangers – Masungi to DENR

By: [Dempsey Reyes](#) - Reporter / [@dempseyreyesINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:25 AM February 23, 2022



FOREST OF FEAR? A team of scientists, conservationists, forest rangers, and volunteers sets out on a biodiversity research expedition in Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province, in this photo taken on Jan. 25. The project is carried out amid the increasing dangers faced by the rangers from groups linked to illegal construction projects in the area. (Photo by NIÑO JESUS ORBETA / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines — The [Masungi Georeserve Foundation](#) is calling on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to make a clear stand and condemn the violent attacks against park rangers and threats against other members of the community allegedly committed by resort owners in the reforestation area.

“Our lives are in danger,” Ann Dumaliang, trustee and project manager of the foundation, told the Inquirer on Tuesday, lamenting the lack of “proactive action” from the DENR.

Dumaliang said the DENR had been taking a “neutral” stand on the illegal occupation of a forest reservation, telling the foundation that they would not intervene in what the department had referred to as a “land dispute.”

The foundation signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DENR in 2017 under the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

The MOA was intended to continue efforts to protect and conserve the 2,700-hectare land around Masungi Georeserve, which is largely in Baras, Rizal, but includes some parts of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, Dumaliang said.

7 assaulted by 30

According to Dumaliang, the DENR has the “contractual obligation” to evict the “illegal resorts, quarry companies and other illegal occupants” within the conservation project area.

She said seven Masungi park rangers, who were eating in a canteen, were assaulted on Friday last week by around 30 people believed to be working for owners of allegedly illegal resorts in the area. Two rangers had to be hospitalized.

“This would not have happened if the DENR had just removed them [illegal occupants] from here. This somehow drove these people to become violent rioters,” Dumaliang said. “[The DENR] is very concerned in keeping a neutral position and weighing things on this issue.”

The DENR did not immediately respond to the Inquirer’s request for comment.



Dumaliang also said resort owners were flaunting what they claimed was an endorsement from the DENR that somehow solidified the owners' occupancy of parts of the protected area, despite the department's own cease-and-desist orders against their "continued harmful operation."

Request to PNP chief

"Emboldened by the questionable endorsements and advised that only Masungi [Foundation] stands in the way of their businesses, the resort owners embarked on a comprehensive disinformation, hate and violent campaign including the Friday assault to stop the conservation project of Masungi and DENR in the area," Dumaliang added.

The foundation wrote Philippine National Police chief Dionardo Carlos on Tuesday to follow up on its Feb. 7 request for the designation of an on-site police partner in the Masungi Geopark Project, she said.

"Anarchy and lawlessness rule the day," Ben Dumaliang, her father and president of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, said in a letter to Carlos obtained by the Inquirer. "There is a convenient—but mistaken—police excuse not to intervene claiming it is a land dispute issue." "Neither is Masungi [Foundation] engaged in land grabbing or in business as the illegal quarries and resorts falsely portray," he wrote.

Dumaliang also said that her community had been receiving threats allegedly from owners of resorts and illegal structures in the area.

Early last year, a cardboard box containing bullets was left outside the foundation's office, a form of grave threat. Months later, two park rangers were wounded after they were shot at by men suspected to be working for the resorts.

"Violence is never okay here," she said. "We need to hold these people accountable already." The foundation has reported the threats to the Baras police, but they were told to instead file complaints with the barangay and the prosecutor's office against the people whom they believe were responsible for the threats and intimidation.



2 Masungi forest rangers hurt during attack by alleged locals

Published February 22, 2022 8:43pm

Two forest rangers of the Masungi Georeserve were hurt after alleged residents of Sitio San Roque in Baras, Rizal attacked them.

According to Maki Pulido's report on "24 Oras" on Tuesday, the mob ganged up and attacked seven forest rangers, accusing them of carrying firearms.

Two rangers were injured and taken to hospital.

"Lumalapit po sila, dumadami, nagsisigawan, nagkasuntukan na po. Sila po nauna. Nagkahiwalay po kami kasi nagkatulakan na po," one of the rangers said.

(They came up to us, a lot of them, yelling. Punches were thrown. They started it. We got separated because there was a lot of shoving.)

Masungi, meanwhile, condemned the attack on their park rangers.

"Masyado na pong sunod-sunod. Hindi lang po 'to environmental crime lang.' We're talking about violence to people, safety issues," Masungi Georeserve board of trustee member Ann Dumaliang said.

(It's been one after the other. It isn't just about environmental crime. We're talking about violence to people, safety issues.)

Baras, Rizal Police said they are investigating the matter.

"They were outnumbered 'yong pulis na nagresponde sa atin is tatlo po at ang naggulo sa kanila is more or less 50 to 60 persons," Police Captain Raymund Osea said.

Ortega added that they would investigate the matter further, build a case, and file charges against those behind the attack. — **DVM, GMA News/Ma. Angelica Garcia**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/822727/2-masungi-forest-rangers-hurt-during-attack-by-alleged-locals/story/?fbclid=IwAR3SdG2p9LtLNqeWJ8E80QbRarvVvZczddmvSK59HFMAO_zAEdKa8qmBTQo



Masungi: Maulers are illegal resort owners, not farmers

By [Stanley Buenafe Gajete, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Feb 21, 2022 2:36:10 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 21) — Masungi Georeserve has denied the claim of those allegedly involved in a mobbing incident last week which wounded forest rangers that they are farmers, saying they are actually workers of illegal resorts and land-grabbers in the area.

“They are pretending to be farmers despite clearly operating resorts on the ground,” Ann Dumaliang, Trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation, told CNN Philippines on Sunday.

Masungi Georeserve is a conservation project located in Baras, Rizal that aims to protect the biodiversity in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

“These land-grabbers and illegal resorts owners are spreading disinformation and agitating the people against us to protect their own interest. That we are removing small farmers and households from the protected area is a complete lie,” Dumaliang added.

She noted that “resort owners arrived in the areas and are claiming only recently.”

Dumaliang explained that there are three “illegal” resorts in the area, with Olitoquit operating since 2017, and Lihim na Batis and Erin’s Place Resort operating since 2018.

She also said they believe that true forest-dependent communities—the landless, and those who have genuine tenure—must be empowered and protected.

“But big time and capable businesses, as well as landgrabbers, have no right to appropriate benefits reserved for forest-dependent communities, the landless, and those who have genuine tenure,” she added.

On Friday, [at least six unarmed Masungi forest rangers](#) were attacked by about 30 individuals, with two rangers ending up hospitalized.

Dumaliang said the police responded to the incident but there were too many perpetrators to initiate arrests.

She also dismissed statements made by the alleged landgrabbers that the protected area where locals reside, and where “illegal” businesses operate, are alienated and disposable land based on Presidential Decree 324.



PD 324, which was issued in 1973, was lifted in 1977 reverting the area back to protected land and wildlife reserve status, Dumaliang said. explained.

“We respect genuine free patents given during this period and rightful beneficiary would have documents to show. However, these resorts only entered in recent time. Sale of these lands without documents to show more than three decades after PD 324 was lifted is ridiculous,” Dumaliang discussed.

She also explained illegal operations and business activities inside the protected area are prohibited as these could harm the biodiversity and destroy the environment.

The Environment Department issued a Cease-and-Desist Order last July 2021 to illegal infrastructures in the area, disallowing businesses to operate, including Erin's Place Resort. However, the resort reportedly remains open to visitors and tourists.

The Environment Department said any construction or infrastructure within the protected area without permission is prohibited based on Section 20 of R.A 7586 or National Integrated Protected Areas System Act and R.A 11038 or Expanded NIPAS Act. Violators will be charged with up to five million pesos and subject for imprisonment of up to 12 years.

Based on Global Witness Report in 2019, the Philippines is the second most dangerous place for environmental defenders.

CNN Philippines has reached out to the local police and the resorts mentioned for comment but they have yet to respond.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/2/21/Masungi-rangers.html?fbclid=IwAR3WfZ1i84jHNqoRGIXxl9RqvISeHhvKTTXA3dY0QabUox8AbXpScVtt8u4>



Environmental groups hold tree planting

By [Frederick M. Nasiad](#) February 23, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL advocate groups will hold a "Bundok Mo, Tamnan Ko" tree planting and reforestation activity in the province of Cagayan on Saturday, February 26.

More than 150 volunteers and 200 motorcycle enthusiasts are expected to participate in the one-day tree planting project at Barangay Viga in the town of Lasam.

The environmental restoration effort is also supported by various advocacy groups, farmer leaders of the Zinundungan Valley Agriculture Cooperative, the Kaakibat Civic Communicators Group, the Kaunlaran team of Dr. Zarah Lara, the local police force and Lasam Mayor Dante Dexter Agatep, among others.

A demonstration sponsored by engineer Sonny Mateo and Charles Iglesias on the basics of handmade paper making from farm wastes will also be conducted while the charity riders club members will also conduct a motorcade/caravan to inform the people of Lasam the importance of taking care of the environment and how to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change that is already felt worldwide.

The Bundok Mo, Tamnan Ko project organizers are calling on climate advocates to join the "Ride for a Cause cum Tree Planting" to inspire and help empower the general public to become key players in community-based climate action.



GMA News

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May bago raw naghahari-harian sa Tondo at ang kanilang teritoryo, ang mga estero doon!

Ang mga bagong 'siga ng Tondo', mga sawa! Labing apat na sawa kasi ang magkakasunod na nahuli roon.

Kung bakit naging pugad ito ng mga ahas, alamin sa video!



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112 Comments 43 Shares



Angat Dam water level continues to fall

Published February 22, 2022 8:42pm

The water level in Angat Dam continued to drop despite rains in recent days, according to Dano Tingcungco's "24 Oras" report on Tuesday.

Based on weather bureau PAGASA's latest data, the water level in Angat Dam is currently at 195.36 meters as of February 22. This is far from the normal level of 212 meters.

PAGASA said there has been reported rains in the watershed of Angat Dam in the past five days. However, it was not enough to raise the water level in the dam.

"Although mayroon po tayong ... weather systems like we have the Northeast Monsoon, we have the shear line pero ang talaga pong makakapagbigay ng significant na pagulan within the watershed ay ang bagyo," Rosalie Pagulayan, weather specialist of PAGASA, said.

(Although we have presence of weather systems like the Northeast Monsoon and shear line, what can really provide significant rainfall within the watershed is a typhoon.)

In the coming months of April and May, there is only one typhoon expected to enter the country.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has earlier said that the water level in Angat Dam may possibly hit the minimum operating level of 180 meters in April.

Meanwhile, Maynilad said the demand for water from their customers usually increases up to 20 million liters a day during the summer season, noting the difference in water consumption before COVID-19 pandemic.

"More supply is needed now in areas where there were less demand before so kailangan siya ng management (the management needs it)," Jen Rufo, head corporate communications of Maynilad, said.

According to Maynilad, it planned to install four modular treatment plants that can generate an additional 33.6 million liters of water supply a day.

Maynilad said the NWRB also approved its request to create an additional 11 deep wells.

If there will be a shortage of water supply, the water pressure will be lowered or there will be a possible water interruption.

"Babawasan lang natin nang kaunti yung network pressure, not to affect the service of our customers, but just to manage it enough para hindi ang mabawasan yung sayang, you know matipid natin yung supply for as long as we can until such time na ma-replenish yung ating main na pinagkukuhanan ng tubig," Rufo said.

(We will only reduce the network pressure a little, not to affect the service of our customers, but just to manage it enough so as not to reduce the supply. We will save the supply for as long as we can, until such time we can replenish our main source of water.)—**Richa Noriega/LDF, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/822730/ang-at-dam-water-level-continues-to-fall/story/?fbclid=IwAR0phDnIv14G6a9gnH49SK3xM_6wumhMvmhoQrqrBMaW3bhg2sYNQXRY10o



DZRH News

17h · 🌐



Suplay ng tubig sa Kalakhang Maynila, sapat hanggang sa Abril, ayon sa NWRB



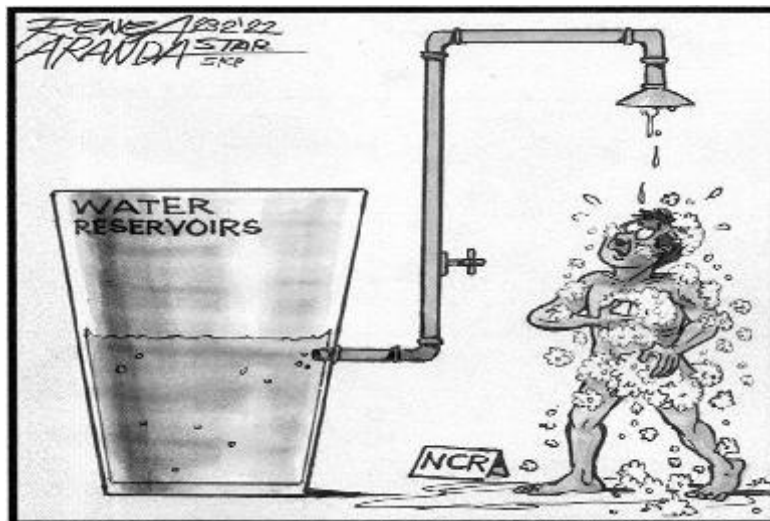
👍❤️ 31

3 Comments 1 Share



EDITORIAL - Water conservation

The Philippine Star February 23, 2022 | 12:00am



In several areas in Metro Manila, water supply has been on rotation for several weeks now because additional work is needed for the turbid water sourced from Laguna de Bay. Over in Angat Dam, the main source of water for Metro Manila, administrators are warning that the water is approaching the critical level.

While the La Niña phenomenon is expected to persist until May, bringing more rainfall than usual in the country, water resource authorities are advising the public to start conserving water. This is important particularly in households with limited facilities for water storage.

Conserving water, however, is easier said than done in the time of COVID-19, when hand hygiene is a key defense against the coronavirus. Those who can't afford regular hand disinfection with 70 percent alcohol settle for soap and water or simply water.

Beyond water conservation, there should be greater effort to promote water recycling and other smart methods of water utilization. High-rise buildings and new property developments can incorporate water recycling systems into their designs. Worldwide, clean water is increasingly becoming insufficient for booming populations. Some experts have warned that the next major wars will be fought over clean water.

In the Philippines, the periodic turbidity of water sourced from Laguna de Bay is due to heavy siltation caused by fish pens whose numbers continue to grow. The two water concessionaires of Metro Manila have noted that this is happening amid greater demand for water due to the COVID pandemic as well as population growth.

New water sources must also be developed. The National Capital Region has long needed new sources of water to meet the continually growing demand, but the government has been slow in responding to the need. New water treatment plants are being built and deep wells being constructed while the NCR waits for the new sources to come on stream.

Beyond conserving water for the approaching dry season, ensuring a reliable supply of clean, safe water needs several long-term measures and sustainable best practices in water management.



75% of people want single-use plastics banned, global survey finds

By [John Geddie via Reuters](#) - February 22, 2022 - 6:07 PM



A woman picks up plastic cups along the riverbank of Pasig river, in Manila, Philippines, June 10, 2021.
(Reuters/Lisa Marie David)

LONDON — Three in four people worldwide want single-use plastics to be banned as soon as possible, according to a poll released on Tuesday, as United Nations members prepare to begin talks on a global treaty to rein in soaring plastic pollution.

The percentage of people calling for bans is up from 71% since 2019, while those who said they favored products with less plastic packaging rose to 82% from 75%, according to the IPSOS poll of more than 20,000 people across 28 countries.

Activists say the results send a clear message to governments meeting in Nairobi this month to press ahead with an ambitious treaty to tackle plastic waste, a deal being touted as the most important environmental pact since the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015.

“People worldwide have made their views clear,” said Marco Lambertini, WWF International’s director general. “The onus and opportunity is now on governments to adopt a global plastics treaty ... so we can eliminate plastic pollution.”

Nearly 90% of those surveyed said they supported a treaty, but it remains to be seen whether any such deal will focus on waste collection and recycling or take more radical measures such as curbing production and use of throwaway plastics. [Read full story](#)

Reuters revealed last week that big oil and chemical industry groups were devising strategies to persuade conference participants to reject any deal that would limit production of plastic, which is made from oil and gas and a key source of their revenues.

If the United Nations cannot agree on a deal to put the brakes on plastic pollution, there will be widespread ecological damage over the coming decades, putting some marine species at risk of extinction and destroying sensitive ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves, according to a WWF study released this month.

It is likely to take at least two years to finalize any treaty. But whatever is agreed at the Nairobi conference from Feb. 28 to March 2 will determine key elements of any deal.



The biggest support for single-use plastic bans in the poll came from the likes of Colombia, Mexico and India, developing countries at the sharp end of a waste crisis.

The IPSOS poll also showed that 85% of respondents globally want manufacturers and retailers to be held responsible for reducing, reusing and recycling plastic packaging, up from 80% previously.

—Reporting by John Geddie in London Editing by Mark Potter



Deforestation threat to Amazon indigenous areas if protected status changed - report

By Georgina Rannard

BBC News Published 11 hours ago



RICARDO TELES/ AGÊNCIA VALE

Image caption, Brazilian company Vale operates huge mines in the Amazon

Areas of Amazon rainforest with a combined area the size of England could be threatened by new mining and deforestation, a new report claims.

It is currently illegal to mine in these protected indigenous territories of the Amazon.

But Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro wants to change this to allow more exploitation for economic development.

US and UK companies are among those who had applied to open new mines, the report says. But Anglo American and Vale both say they have withdrawn their applications. Protecting the Amazon is crucial in the fight to curb climate change be

Thousands of indigenous people who live in these areas are also threatened by new developments.

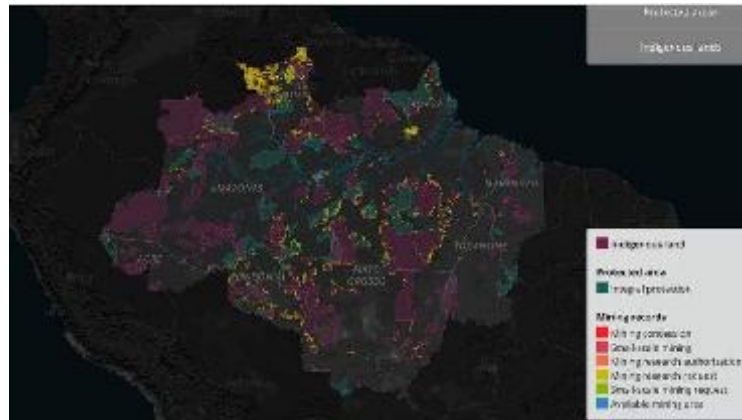
"We are looking at deforestation in some of the most pristine areas of the Amazon. It will be a tragedy if mining on indigenous lands goes ahead," researcher Rosana Miranda, who wrote the report for NGO Amazon Watch, told BBC News.

"Are we willing to give up incredibly rich biodiversity and cultural diversity just to extract more gold and copper for international shareholders?" she added.

Amazon Watch and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil are identifying in real-time live applications to Brazil's National Mining Agency to begin mining projects in protected areas. The latest figure is 2,622 applications.

Brazilian company Vale has filed the largest number with 75 applications, while UK multi-national Anglo-American has 65.

Both companies had previously promised to withdraw some applications for mining in these areas after pressure from campaigners.



AMAZON WATCH

Image caption, Amazon Watch mapped the mining applications in protected and indigenous areas of the Amazon

In total, 570 companies have filed for permission to begin work in areas affecting 260 indigenous lands, covering 101,000 square kilometres (10.1 million ha). Almost half are for gold mining.

Anglo American told BBC News that it made applications to mine on indigenous lands but withdrew them "several years ago". It added: "Several of these applications have not yet been removed from the database of the National Mining Agency (ANM). Anglo American is working with Brazilian government representatives to ensure that on-line tenement databases actually reflect those that have been formally approved."

Vale commented: "Last year, the company announced the relinquishment of all its mining rights in Indigenous Land in Brazil (which includes applications for exploration permits and mining concessions)."

Mines run by global corporations in the Amazon have been associated with toxic spills, river pollution as well as the destruction of indigenous communities.

Alessandra Munduruku from the indigenous group Munduruku is an activist defending indigenous lands. "What is at stake in this mining project is death: death of the rivers, death of the forest, death of the people, death of culture, death of language," she told BBC News.



ALESSANDRA MUNDURUKU

Image caption, Alessandra says mining has caused disease and destruction in her community for decades

The report also claims that huge amounts of international finance is supporting mining companies, suggesting that shareholders around the world are involved in deforestation of the Amazon.



Amazon Watch found that the global financial organisations Capital Group and BlackRock hold stakes worth \$13.2bn in companies attempting to mine indigenous lands.

In total, eight large mining companies received \$54.1bn in financing from banks or asset managers globally in 2016-21, the report claims.

Capital Group told BBC News it does not comment on its holdings. BlackRock did not respond to the allegations but highlighted their guidance, which says "BlackRock Investment Stewardship believes it is important for companies to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples for initiatives that affect their rights."

The applications are currently lodged with Brazil's mining agency. It remains illegal to develop these pristine and extremely biodiverse areas of the Amazon.

But President Bolsonaro says it is necessary to open up the rainforest to new exploitation and lift communities out of poverty.

He has proposed a bill to Congress that would make it possible to exploit these protected regions. Companies who have filed for the right to mine would be first in line, says Amazon Watch.

Campaigners say more development of the Amazon would be a disaster for the climate, and for the people living there.

At the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow last year, 141 countries including Brazil signed a declaration to stop and reverse deforestation by 2030 and protect indigenous lands.

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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Marginalized tapped for Northern Samar reforestation

We help people understand that they are the first to benefit from this reforestation activity

TACLOBAN CITY – In line with the government's enhanced National Greening Program, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Northern Samar forged partnerships with 31 poor families in two villages of San Roque town to plant trees in 220 hectares of land.

Pambujan town CENRO conservation and development section chief Dennis Arino disclosed that for the last three years, identified family beneficiaries in Ginagdanan and Pagasang-an villages are tasked to establish nurseries, plant trees, and take care of them for a contract price of P5.72 million.

He added that the families are expected to set up nurseries by June 2022, plant seedlings in the third quarter of the year, and start the maintenance by October.

"We help people understand that they are the first to benefit from this reforestation activity. We have to engage people on the ground since they are knowledgeable of the situation and are in a better position to successfully implement the project," Arino said in an online interview.

At least 15 percent of their total mobilization fund will be released as soon as the agreement is notarized and succeeding payments will be released corresponding to the contracted families' performance and their plantation's survival rate of at least 85 percent, according to the official.

The biggest area assigned to a family is 10 hectares and they can earn up to P260,000 for three years. ENM



FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION. Senator Cynthia Villar leads the opening of a photo exhibit about the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland on Tuesday. The exhibit aims to promote awareness of the importance of wetlands and what actions stakeholders can do to help in wetland conservation. **Danny Pata**

Villar bats for protection of wet lands in Parañaque

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SEN. Cynthia A. Villar has rallied behind this year World Wetlands Celebration's call to take action for wetlands and appeal to invest financial, human and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

During the celebration in Las Pinas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) on Feb. 22, Villar also noted that the United Nations encourages the annual cel-

ebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

She thanked the LPPWP- Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and its partners, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Philippine Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, for their active

participation in this event.

According to the senator, the 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Out of these, 314 wetlands are 221 lakes, 12 marshes and swamps, 9 peat lands, 39 water storage, and 31 ponds.

However, she lamented that some people, even those in our government, do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands.



Villar renews pitch for wetlands protection, conservation

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Sen. Cynthia Villar has urged the government to take action for wetlands, which are critically important ecosystems contributing to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability and to economies.

Villar rallied behind this year's World Wetlands Celebration's call and appealed to invest in financial, human and political capital to save wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

"In all candidness, this is no mean feat for a state like the Philippines to follow. With our country's archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention," said Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

During the celebration at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) yesterday, Villar noted that the United Nations encourages the annual celebration to raise public consciousness on wetlands.

She thanked the LPPWP-Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and its partners, the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and the Philippine Wild Bird Club for their active participation in this event.

The 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Of that figure 221 are lakes, 39 are water storage, 31 are ponds, 12 are marshes and swamps and nine are peatlands, according to the senator.

Villar, however, lamented that

some people, even those in the government, do not fully recognize and appreciate the significance of wetlands.

"And what is even worse is that there are even people within the DENR who should know the significance of wetlands, yet have chosen to be ignorant of it," she said.

She specifically cited the LPPWP, which has always been endangered despite being established as a critical habitat, declared a Wetland of International Importance and was legislated a protected area under the Expanded NIPAS Act in 2018.

Villar said the LPPWP has been constantly exposed to the threat of being destroyed due to various reclamation projects in Parañaque and Cavite.

She also took potshots at the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) for issuing environmental clearance certificates to these reclamation projects.

The senator recalled late last year a painful experience of being barred by the DENR-EMB from joining a discussion with the technical experts in the Parañaque reclamation project.

"I was simply told that I am not an allowed participant in the meeting. What was so annoying in the incident is that the EMB personnel presiding over the meeting was ignorant of the existence of the LPPWP-PAMB, the body I represent for the meeting, even when LPPWP PAMB was actually invited by EMB itself in that meeting," she said.

"I am 'crushed' that the EMB has plainly adopted the position of the proponent on this 'matter hook, line and sinker' and no further discussion and independent studies were made," she added.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



02-23-22

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WETLAND PARK PARTNERSHIP – Senator Cynthia Villar (center), with Department of Environment and Natural Resources–National Capital Region (DENR–NCR) regional executive director Jacqueline Caanacan (left), partners with the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW) and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in a photo exhibit about the Las Piñas–Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 at the Wave Activity Center in LPPWP, one of eight wetlands of international importance to the Philippines under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. (Ali Vicoy)



ACROSS THE COUNTRY

DENR plants mangroves in Central Luzon wetlands

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – More than 1,000 mangrove propagules were planted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its partner agencies and companies in various areas in Central Luzon.

Species of *bauang bakawan*, *bakawan babae* and *bakawan lalaki* were planted at the Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad critical habitat eco-tourism area in Pampanga, Bagac River in Bataan and Uacon Lake in Zambales.

"The activities were part of the month-long celebration of World Wetlands Day. This is fundamental in nourishing wildlife habitat including the wintering area of migratory birds and breeding grounds of marine species," DENR-Central Luzon chief Paquito Moreno Jr.

– Ric Sapnu

HIGH METAL PRICES

BENGUET'S OLDEST MINES STEP UP PRODUCTION TO HELP PH RECOVERY

By Vincent Cabreza
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—Some of the country's oldest mines in Benguet province are prepared to double down and increase production to help speed up the country's economic recovery.

These pioneer mines, which began operating during the American colonial period, benefit from high world metals prices, which means more company revenues "that translate to more taxes for the government," said lawyer Eduardo Aratas, who heads the legal and administrative department at the Padcal project of Philex Mining Corp.

Philex (incorporated in 1955), Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (1936), Apex Mining's Itogon-Suyoc Resources Inc. (which began in 1925 as Itogon-Suyoc Mines) and the country's first mining company, Benguet Corp. (1903), outlined

their recovery plans at a briefing here on Monday.

President Duterte last year described mining as key to rebuilding the economy after he lifted industry restrictions imposed in 2012 by the late President Benigno Aquino III through Executive Order No. 79, which reformed all regulatory and taxation rules governing the mining industry and established zones where mining is prohibited.

The executive order was reinforced in 2016 by the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez who suspended mining firms for violating environmental laws.

Best year

While most businesses shut down during the Luzon lockdown in 2020, Philex continued to operate after the national pandemic task force classified mining as an essential sector



READY FOR SHIPPING Benguet mines are considered essential industries and allowed to continue operating at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but with strict health protocols. In this 2020 photo, personnel of Philex Mining Corp. ferry extracted minerals from its Padcal project in Benguet to Poro Point in La Union province so these can be shipped to overseas buyers. —EV ESPINAR

being an export-oriented industry, Aratas said.

Most mines struggled with low metal prices before the pandemic, he said.

"But 2021 was one of our best

operating years [in Padcal] ... when prices for metals rose [and continue to remain high] until the present. We were able to take advantage of that development during the pandemic," he added.

Aratas, Lepanto communications director Salvador Mendizabal, Itogon-Suyoc resident manager Eric Andal and Benguet Corp. administrative manager Froilan Lawilao said their respective mine projects intend to double their production "to fulfill our commitment and contribute to the national economy."

Progress has also been made in the pocket mining sector despite the pandemic.

The number of Minahang Bayan (people's mine) approved for the Cordillera has risen to 11, six of which received clearance to operate last year and in January this year, said Alfredo Genetiano, mine management division chief of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the region.

Permit processing

Small-scale mining associations are completing their permits so they could start

working in these people's mining zones in Benguet, Apayao, Abra, Kalinga and Mountain Province, Genetiano said.

Apayao has two more areas that need to be declared Minahang Bayan by the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board after being cleared by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who resigned recently, Genetiano said.

In 2020, the Cordillera mining sector paid \$1.08 billion (about P58.4 billion) in taxes and royalties, spent \$3.7 billion (P190.3 billion) in investments, and exported \$186 million (P9.5 billion) worth of minerals, said Fay Apil, MGB regional director.

The Cordillera economy contracted by 9.9 percent in 2020 as a result of the business shutdowns, although that year ended for the mineral sector with increased production, worth P10.24 billion from P9.7 billion generated in 2019, according to MGB records. **INQ**



Disillusioned

BIZ BUZZ



Finance Secretary **Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez**, the man responsible for real estate investment trusts (REITs) finally taking off as a new asset class after nearly a decade of inutility, minced no words in sharing the government's disappointment with the West on climate change imperatives.

Dominguez, who headed the country's COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow) delegation late last year, stressed that while the Philippines was contributing only three-tenths of 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, it was bearing the brunt of the consequences of climate change.

"To demonstrate to the world how a developing and cli-

mate vulnerable country like the Philippines can lead in this fight to save our planet, we submitted a bold commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent in 2030," Dominguez said on Tuesday as he graced the stock market listing of Citicore Energy REIT Corp., the country's first renewable energy-themed REIT.

"We are disappointed, however, that the wealthier nations with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to the global effort to rescue the planet. We are also disillusioned by the fact that the Western economies that agreed to raise the climate financing for vulnerable countries seem to require three more years to work out the details and parameters of the concept," he said.

Nonetheless, Dominguez

said the Philippines was very determined to fulfill its ambitious targets through the implementation of practical projects on the ground.

"We have decided not to rely entirely on COP and on the financing commitments of Western countries. We will not sit and wait idly while the planet burns. We will take action on our own," he said.

He noted that CREIT's listing was a perfect example of how the government and the private sector could jointly address issues related to global warming.

"All of these will complement our ongoing efforts to accelerate the Philippines' transition to clean energy through the energy transition mechanism (ETM) project with the Asia Development Bank (ADB)," he said.

The Philippines announced

a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants in October 2020.

The ETM project with the ADB seeks to retire or repurpose coal-fired power plants in pilot countries in the near-term. Ultimately, retiring 50 percent of the coal fleet in BTM's three pilot phase countries (Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam) is seen to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 200 million tons annually, the equivalent of taking 61 million cars off the roads.

— DORIS DURLAO-ABADILLA

Growing clientele

It seems that more and more consumers are opting to get their power supply from greener sources, as evident in Citicore Renewable Energy Corp.'s (CREC) growing customer base.

CREC recently reported a 250-percent increase in its

number of customers. Through Citicore Energy Solutions Inc., the retail electricity arm of CREC, more end-users are assured of consistent and reliable electricity supply coming from CREC's solar power generating plants.

According to CREC, its clientele has steadily increased from 2016 to 2020. By the end of 2021, it was also able to bag two new contracts for the supply of renewable energy to several facilities of a real estate logistics company and two of its subsidiaries in Luzon.

"The increasing collaboration with various industry players reflects the growing consciousness to shift to clean and renewable energy among consumers," said **Oliver Tan**, president and CEO of CREC. "It is likewise a strong testament to CREC's capability to provide

steady and reliable supply of renewable energy to a diverse set of customers and clients coming from our diverse portfolio, which also provides us with a distinct advantage."

CREC currently operates eight solar plants nationwide with an aggregate installed capacity of 153 megawatts.

Interest in renewables continues to rise as shown in the successful listing of Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT) on Tuesday. CREC is the sponsor-firm of the renewable-energy focused real estate investment trust (REIT), which received "overwhelming demand" for its IPO. —KARL R. OCAMPO INQ



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COMMONSENSE

MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

'Climate justice' remains elusive

After leading the Philippine delegation that participated in the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) meeting held in Glasgow, Scotland in Oct. to Nov. last year, Finance Secretary Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez III finally has come to terms that our country will not get any time sooner the "climate justice" from the biggest carbon-emitting countries in the world.



As the head of the Philippine delegation, Dominguez sternly reminded the wealthier economies about their commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate financing. Obviously, it fell anew to deaf ears.

From the start, President Rodrigo Duterte has expressed his own misgivings about the participation of the Philippines in COP events, especially those that required our government officials to frequently travel abroad. In fact, he had fired one high-ranking official of his administration due to frequent travels abroad to supposedly attend climate change-related conferences.

"What is this conference of climate change for? There is nobody, no entity to enforce the laws governing climate," President Duterte said in impromptu remarks of his speech at the Nikkei 25th International Conference on the Future of Asia in Japan on May 31, 2019. Dominguez can only now validate the President's own views.

Speaking in our Tuesday Club virtual breakfast forum yesterday, the Finance Secretary frankly admitted his frustration after attending the COP26 meet in Glasgow.

"The response we received was disappointing. The Western countries that agreed to raise the funds seem to require three more years to work out the details and parameters of the concept," Dominguez rued.

For us, turning back the effects of climate change is a matter of survival," the Finance Secretary cited.

Ironically, he lamented, these are the same industrialized economies identified as the world's biggest polluters and continue to pollute the planet, emitting the world's greatest volume of toxic carbon emissions.

Undeterred, however, Dominguez asserted the Philippines is determined to move ahead with fulfilling its climate ambitions "on its own, if necessary." This is even as he conceded the Philippines, as an emerging economy, can not fully achieve its carbon-reduction commitments without financial support from wealthier countries.

"Clearly, climate change is a real threat and a daily reality for the Philippines," Dominguez warned.

"For us, turning back the effects of climate change is a matter of survival," the Finance Secretary cited.

As the designated representative of President Duterte to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Dominguez vows his determination to shift the country's focus to less talk, more actions on the ground. "I am very determined to shift our focus from merely theorizing and talking about climate change, to implementing practical and doable projects on the ground to mitigate its destructive effects.

But how could the Finance Secretary exercise this determination in the last five months of the outgoing administration? In a sort of show of force, Dominguez brought along with him several members of the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) of the CCC in our Tuesday Club zoom meeting yesterday.

Dominguez invited several of them led by his co-chairperson at the NPTE, Dr. Susan Mercado, wife of former Sen. Orlando Mercado, who brings with her at the NPTE more than 25 years of experience at international, national and local settings. Mercado served with the World Health Organization (WHO) for 15 years. She returned to the DOH as undersecretary from 1998 to 2001.

Mercado was named as Special Envoy for Global Health Initiatives of President Duterte in May, 2018. She is currently Director of Food Systems and Resiliency at the Hawaii Public Health Institute where she is based with her family. Uninterrupted by any unstable internet because of better connectivity in Hawaii, Mercado noted with concern that even the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has an impact on climate change adaptation measures. She particularly referred to the emerging problem of proper disposal of facemasks, volumes of which have been thrown carelessly and ended up in seas and oceans.

The NPTE was created under Republic Act (RA) 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009. It was a landmark law signed by former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It was strongly pushed in Congress and principally authored by climate change advocate Sen. Loren Legarda. But it was only in 2015 when the NPTE was constituted during the administration of the late president Benigno Simeon Aquino III.

It was reconstituted by President Duterte in 2017 and made the NPTE composition more inclusive and added experts from Visayas and Mindanao. This NPTE is mandated, among others, to help engage and educate communities in adopting localized climate adaptation and mitigation programs.

The Finance Secretary feels proud and honored in having secured the services of these experts. According to him, all of them went through the national vetting process and come from across the country. All have post-graduate specialization with their names preceded by "Dr." (as in "doctorate" degree). Only two of them are actually medical doctors, namely, doctors Mercado who is a public health and food security expert, and Ramon Lorenzo Luis Guinto, an expert in climate change and public health.

The term of the new panel ends in 2023. But they may be reappointed when the new administration takes over after President Duterte steps down on June 30 this year. The NPTE is currently composed of 14 men and women whose names are associated with the stature of their respective fields of expertise encompassing the challenges of climate change upon our country.

Even though the Philippines contributes only 0.3% to the global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Dominguez reiterated the country's bold commitment to reduce these by 75% by the year 2030. But it's already far beyond in the horizon. While climate justice remains elusive to a climate change vulnerable country, Dominguez declared, the Philippines can lead in the fight to save the planet.

★



Nestlé Philippines calls for development of markets to spur waste material collection

THE development of a market for waste recycling will help the Philippines achieve its environmental goals by offering rewards for the collection of materials currently deemed unrecyclable, the head of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. said.

The company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Kais Marzouki, said at a virtual forum organized by the Makati Business Club that markets are essential, noting that materials that have recycling value routinely get collected and sent in for processing.

"Let the market forces solve the problem... here in the Philippines we have the palengkes (wet markets) that collect (waste materials). Why do palengkes collect

plastic bottles? Because the plastic bottles have value. Somebody is happy to buy them back," he said.

"When it comes to our plastic laminates and flexible plastic, nobody is collecting these because they have no value," Mr. Marzouki added.

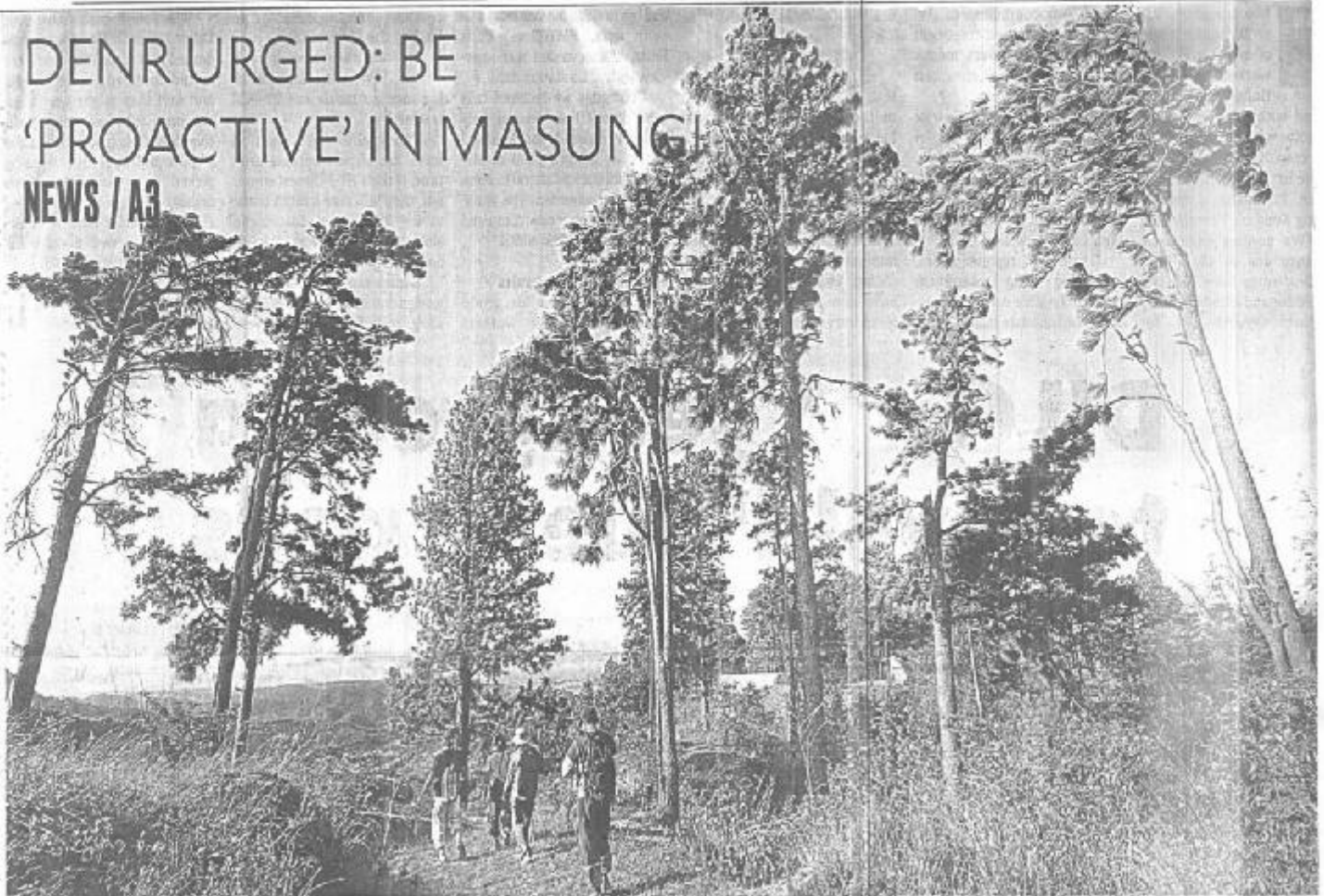
"The moment that you set up an industry that recycles packaging, for sure people will find value and will collect and bring it to the factory to get something in exchange for it and the industry will happily buy also recycled plastic," Mr. Marzouki said.

He called on the government to lay the groundwork for such markets via legislation and financing to the point where "the whole system can start running on its own."





DENR URGED: BE 'PROACTIVE' IN MASUNGI NEWS / A3



FOREST OF FEAR? A team of scientists, conservationists, forest rangers and volunteers sets out on a biodiversity research expedition in the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province, in this photo taken on Jan. 25. The project is carried out amid the increasing dangers faced by the rangers. —MIRO JESUS ORBETA

WEDNESDAY / FEBRUARY 23, 2022 WWW.INQUIRER.NET

NEWS

A3

DENR urged: Be 'proactive' in Masungi

By Dempsey Reyes @dempseyreysinq

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation is calling on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to make a clear stand and condemn the violent attacks against park rangers and threats against other members of the community allegedly committed by resort owners in the reforestation area.

"Our lives are in danger," Ann Dumaliang, trustee and project manager of the foundation, told the Inquirer on Tuesday, lamenting the lack of "proactive action" from the DENR.

Dumaliang said the DENR had been taking a "neutral" stand on the illegal occupation of a forest reservation, telling the foundation that they would

not intervene in what the department had referred to as a "land dispute."

The foundation signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the DENR in 2017 under the late Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

The MOA was intended to continue efforts to protect and conserve the 2,700-hectare land around Masungi Georeserve, which is largely in Baras, Rizal, but includes some parts of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, Dumaliang said.

7 assaulted by 30

According to Dumaliang, the DENR has the "contractual obligation" to evict the "illegal resorts, quarry companies and other illegal occupants" within the conservation project area.



[The DENR] is very concerned in keeping a neutral position and weighing things on this issue

Ann Dumaliang Masungi Georeserve Foundation trustee

She said seven Masungi park rangers, who were eating in a canteen, were assaulted on Friday last week by around 30 people believed to be working

for owners of allegedly illegal resorts in the area. Two rangers had to be hospitalized.

"This would not have happened if the DENR had just removed them [illegal occupants] from here. This somehow drove these people to become violent rioters," Dumaliang said. "The DENR is very concerned in keeping a neutral position and weighing things on this issue."

The DENR did not immediately respond to the Inquirer's request for comment.

Dumaliang also said resort owners were flaunting what they claimed was an endorsement from the DENR that somehow solidified the owners' occupancy of parts of the protected area, despite the department's own cease-and-desist orders against their "continued

harmful operation."

Request to PNP chief

"Emboldened by the questionable endorsements and advised that only Masungi [Foundation] stands in the way of their businesses, the resort owners embarked on a comprehensive disinformation, hate and violent campaign including the Friday assault to stop the conservation project of Masungi and DENR in the area," Dumaliang added.

The foundation wrote Philippine National Police chief Dionardo Carlos on Tuesday to follow up on its Feb. 7 request for the designation of an on-site police partner in the Masungi Geopark Project, she said.

"Anarchy and lawlessness rule the day," Ben Dumaliang, her father and president of the

Masungi Georeserve Foundation, said in a letter to Carlos obtained by the Inquirer. "There is a convenient—but mistaken—police excuse not to intervene claiming it is a land dispute issue."

"Neither is Masungi [Foundation] engaged in land grabbing or in business as the illegal quarries and resorts falsely portray," he wrote.

Dumaliang also said that her community had been receiving threats allegedly from owners of resorts and illegal structures in the area.

Early last year, a cardboard box containing bullets was left outside the foundation's office, a form of grave threat. Months later, two park rangers were wounded after they were shot at by men suspected to be working for the resorts.

FROM A3

"Violence is never okay here," she said. "We need to hold these people accountable already."

The foundation has report-

tion. mo



Pangasala ng basura sa Bicol ilog Earth-friendly

MULING ipinamalas ng mga Pinoy ang pagiging malikhain nito nang pakinabangan ang mga gamit nang bote sa isang ilog sa Bicol.

Sinabi ni Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) Andy Pu, ang ideya na gawing solid waste strainer ang mga natapon o pinagamitang mga plastic bottle sa Gogon River sa Virac, Catanduanes ay para maharang at salain ang mga basura sa ilog. Target din nitong pigilan ang pagka-kaanod ng basura sa dagat.

Ang naturang strainer ay gawa sa mga pinagdugrong-dugrong na mga nakolektang plastic bottle na mula sa mga softdrink.

Nagsimulang layan ng solid waste strainers ang Gogon River ngayong Pebrero. Target nilang bumuo ng 12 estasyon.

Katulong ng MENRO sa proyekto ang ilang estudyante ng Catanduanes State University at Virac River Warriors ng local government unit.

"Napakahaba kasi ng river at nahihirapan kami maglinis at ma-contain 'yong mga basura na sumasabay sa agos kapag high tide o low tide. Kaya naisip namin na maglagay ng strainer," sinabi ni Andy.

Umaasa silang makatutulong ang kanilang inisyatiba para mas mapadali ang paghakot ng mga hindi dapat nasa ilog.

"With this strainer na ilalagay namin sa bawat station, mas mapapadali 'yong paglinis namin. At saka through this strainer, mamo-monitor natin kung



kanino o sino-sino 'yong mga talagang walang awang nagtatapon ng basura sa ilog. So makikita 'yong volume ng basura na makukuha namin doon sa strainer," sambit ng MENRO.

"We have to do this kasi 'pag hindi na-contain ang mga basura, dumidiretso sa dagat. Malaking epekto nito sa karagatan lalo na't marami rin kami ditong mga bahura. Puwedeng maka-contaminate 'yong tubig at mamamatay 'yong mga isda," paliwanag niya pa.

Hinikayat ni Andy ang ibang mga lugar na malapit sa tabing-ilog na gayahin ang kanilang ginawa at mag-recycle upong makshawas ng basura. **(Kiko Cueto)**



'Bundok Mo, Tamnan Ko' reforestation project continues

ENVIRONMENT and reforestation advocate group Bundok mo, Tamnan ko is set to launch yet another tree planting and reforestation activity on February 26 in the province of Cagayan.

The project, led by advocacy groups and farmer leaders of the Zinundungan Valley Agriculture Cooperative, is a one-day activity and will be attended by some 150 volunteers from several civic society organizations and some 200 motorcycle riders from around the province who pledged support for this Ride for a Cause and environmental resto-

ration effort.

Organizers said site for this tree planting activity will be at Barangay Viga in the town of Lasam and members of the police force, the LGU led by Mayor Dante Dexter Agatep and members of the Kaakibat Civic Communicators Group will also join and participate for this noble cause.

A demonstration sponsored by Engr. Sonny Mateo and Charles Iglesias on the basics of handmade paper making from farm wastes will also be conducted while the charity riders club members will also conduct a

motoreade/ caravan to inform the people of Lasam the importance of taking care of the environment and how to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change that is already felt worldwide.

Anent to this, the "Bundok Mo, Tamnan Ko" project organizers called on climate advocates and concerned stakeholder partners/sponsors to join and participate the upcoming "Ride for a Cause" cum Tree Planting to inspire and help empower the general public to become key players in community-based climate action.



Lost world of unique prehistoric birds found near the Great Wall of China

By PAUL SEABURN

THE Great Wall of China is perhaps the most studied structure in the world and its impact on the areas it runs through was unprecedented.

However, there was life in that area before the Great Wall and a recent discovery by archeologists digging near the wall's west end shows how little we really know about it. Paleontologists examining fossils at Changma, 80 miles from the wall's western end are now calling it a 'lost world' of birds that lived 120 million years ago... and they've identified a number of new and unusual species.



Some modern birds like this ground hornbill still look like dinosaurs.

"These fossils come from a site in China that has produced fossils of birds that are pretty darned close to modern birds, but all the bird fossils described thus far haven't had skulls preserved with the bodies. These new skull specimens help fill in that gap in our knowledge of the birds from this site and of bird

evolution as a whole."

In a new study published in the *Journal of Systematics and Evolution*, co-author Jerald Harris from Utah Tech University unveils the first unique aspect of this 'lost world' - skulls. Birds are the most fragile of prehistoric remains and skulls are extremely rare, which makes determining what they ate, how they ate it, brain size and other key characteristics impossible. In addition, while much is known about the small group of dinosaurs which evolved into the birds that became modern birds, little is known about the birds that didn't survive the dinosaur-killing extinction. Jingmai

O'Connor, lead author and the associate curator of vertebrate paleontology at Chicago's Field Museum, points out in the press release that the 'lost world' helped find some.

"It was a long, painstaking process teasing out what these things were. But these new specimens include two new species that increase our knowledge of Cretaceous bird faunas, and we found combinations of dental features that we've never seen in any other dinosaurs."

One new genus (a step above species) is *Brevidentavis zhangii* - *brevidentavis* means "short-toothed bird" and this one had a mouth tightly packed with

small, peg-like teeth. (An illustration of what they may have looked like can be seen here.) Ornithuromorph birds with teeth had what looks like a chin bone that didn't move, but this unusual *Brevidentavis zhangii* had cartilage attached to the bone, which showed evidence of stress. That means it moved and was able to feel what it touched.

"It could have helped them detect prey. We can hypothesize that these toothed birds had little beaks with some kind of movable pincer at the tip of their jaws in front of the teeth."

O'Connor thinks this made *Brevidentavis zhan-*

gi a predator - possibly of some of the other species in the 'lost world' like the *Gansus*, the first known true Mesozoic bird in the world. The site contained at least four *Gansus* skulls. Tom Stidham, another co-author from the IVPP (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology) in Beijing, eloquently describes the significance of this discovery.

"At a time when giant dinosaurs still roamed the land, these birds were the products of evolution experimenting with different lifestyles in the water, in the air, and on land, and with different diets as we can see in some



Now THAT'S a predator! species having or lacking teeth. Very few fossils of this geological age provide the level of anatomical detail that we can see in these ancient bird skulls."

The Great Wall is great because of its size and contribution to Chinese history. The Changma fossil site just made a great contribution to Chinese prehistory. Is it time to start calling it the Great Lost World of China?



75% of people want single-use plastics banned, global survey finds

LONDON — Three in four people worldwide want single-use plastics to be banned as soon as possible, according to a poll released on Tuesday, as United Nations members prepare to begin talks on a global treaty to rein in soaring plastic pollution.

The percentage of people calling for bans is up from 71% since 2019, while those who said they favored products with less plastic packaging rose to 82% from 75%, according to the IPSOS poll of more than 20,000 people across 28 countries.

Activists say the results send a clear message to governments meeting in Nairobi this month to press ahead with an ambitious treaty to tackle plastic waste, a deal being touted as the most important environmental pact since the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015.

"People worldwide have made their views clear," said Marco Lambertini, WWF International's director general. "The onus and opportunity are now on governments to adopt a global plastics treaty ... so we can eliminate plastic pollution."

Nearly 90% of those surveyed said they supported a treaty, but it remains to be seen whether any such deal will focus on waste collection and recycling or take more radical measures such as curbing production and use of throwaway plastics.

Reuters revealed last week that big oil and chemical industry groups were devising strategies to persuade conference participants to reject any deal that would limit production of plastic, which is made from oil and gas and a key source of their revenues.

If the United Nations cannot agree on a deal to put the brakes on plastic pollution, there will be widespread ecological damage over the coming decades, putting some marine species at risk of extinction and destroying sensitive ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves, according to a WWF study released this month.

It is likely to take at least two years to finalize any treaty. But whatever is agreed at the Nairobi conference from Feb. 28 to March 2 will determine key elements of any deal.

The biggest support for single-use plastic bans in the poll came from the likes of Colombia, Mexico and India, developing countries at the sharp end of a waste crisis.

The IPSOS poll also showed that 85% of respondents globally want manufacturers and retailers to be held responsible for reducing, reusing and recycling plastic packaging, up from 80% previously. — Reuters



invasion force he has massed on Ukraine's borders.

In a lengthy televised national address announcing his recognition of the rebel-held areas, Putin railed against Ukraine as a failed state and "puppet" of the West, repeatedly suggesting it was essentially part of Russia.

Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel, the European Union's (EU) two most senior figures, posted identical statements on Twitter.

Condemning Putin's move as "a blatant violation of international law," they added: "The EU and its partners will react with unity, firmness and with determination in solidarity with Ukraine."



CHAIDEER MAHYUDDIN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

THIS baby sea turtle hatchling is being released into the sea at Lhoknga beach, Aceh province, Indonesia.

23 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



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NOV 08 2021

**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2021-34**

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAVE
MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION, AND
CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CMPCP)**

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9072 otherwise known as the "National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, RA No. 7586 "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act" as amended by RA No. 11038 "Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018", and consistent with RA No. 8371 "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act", RA No. 7942 "Philippine Mining Act", the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022), the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2028), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations, the guidelines for the establishment and implementation of the Cave Management, Protection, and Conservation Program (CMPCP) is hereby issued.

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect, conserve and manage caves and cave resources, along with the surrounding karst landscape, as part of the country's natural wealth and heritage and to promote the right to a healthful and balanced ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 2. Objectives. The general objective of the CMPCP is to achieve the effective management of the country's caves and their surrounding karst landscapes in order to maintain and conserve biodiversity, to promote sustainable resource use, and to enhance appreciation of their biological, natural, cultural, and historic values for the present and future generations.

Specifically, the Program aims to:

- Establish a registry of caves and their surrounding karst landscapes to ensure the effective and sustainable management of cave resources;
- Implement sustainable management of caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystems;
- Enhance the formation of positive values among all stakeholders including the youth through shared responsibilities in sustainable management of caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystems; and
- Develop and/or enhance skills of DENR staff as well as other stakeholders on caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystem management.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall apply to all caves, whether terrestrial or underwater, cave resources, and their surrounding karst landscape in the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- "Cave" means any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess or system of interconnected passages beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge and which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance, located either in private or public land, is naturally formed or man-made. It shall include any natural pit, sinkhole or other feature which is an extension of the entrance. The term also includes cave resources therein, but not any vug, mine tunnel, aqueduct or other manmade excavation¹.
- "Cave resources" includes any material or substance occurring naturally in caves, such as animal life, plant life, including paleontological and archaeological deposits, cultural artifacts or products of human activities, sediments, minerals, speleogems and speleothems².
- "Karst" is a type of landscape consisting of geologic features including a groundwater system formed from soluble bedrock, such as limestone³.
- "Terrestrial caves" refer to caves that are located inland and with passages that are not submerged in water.
- "Underwater caves" refer to caves that are totally or partially submerged in water and which are usually impassable to humans with no sufficient diving skills and proper scuba gear⁴.

to cave resources; and iv) providing technical advice and assistance as to maintaining the ecological and aesthetic integrity of caves opened for various purposes such as religious/cultural practices, eco-tourism, and spelunking.

- Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise (BDFE) Development** — this shall involve the conduct of economic activities and practices of micro, small and medium enterprises, LGUs and People's organizations that promote the sustainable use of caves, cave resources, and adjacent land for consumptive and non-consumptive use. The provision of these livelihood options shall help sustain the community support on all cave and surrounding karst landscape management efforts. This component shall follow DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-13 (Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises in Protected Areas under the National Integrated Protected Area System and Conservation Areas, Providing for Incentives and Supporting Mechanisms) as well as any additional guidelines or amendments regarding BDFEs.
- Capacity-Building** — the concerned DENR staff at the national and regional/field offices and of the Regional and Provincial Cave Committees shall be trained to develop their skills and expertise on caves and their surrounding karst landscape management. The BMB shall develop training modules for capacity-building on cave management and periodically conduct training-of-trainers to roll-out these modules. The capacity building received by the DENR personnel and of the members of the Regional and Provincial Cave Committees shall be cascaded to the LGUs, other stakeholders, and partners in the field. The DENR may engage the services of a third party such as consulting firms, caving groups, academe, etc. to assist concerned stakeholders in the conduct of capacity building activities.
- Research and Development** — the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the DENR shall conduct research and policy studies on caves and cave resources as part of the Bureau's Research and Development Program. The BMB shall provide logistical support and coordinate with academic and research institutions for cave research and development programs and speleological field studies, as well as recommend to ERDB research actions in aide of developing cave management guidelines.
- Knowledge Management System** — a knowledge management system shall be developed to serve as a repository of all data and information on caves and their surrounding karst landscape, including the results of the assessments. This system shall be used to generate useful information for the management of caves and their surrounding karst landscape biodiversity. It shall also be used to monitor and assess the impact of the CMPCP.
- Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA)** — a well-designed communication framework, strategies, and approaches shall be developed to promote public awareness, instill social and environmental consciousness, and affect behavior change regarding caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystems. This shall include establishment of linkages among all stakeholders, and conduct of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys, among others.
- Monitoring and Evaluation** — the BMB, in collaboration with the DENR Policy and Planning Service shall conduct annual monitoring and assessment of the CMPCP. The BMB shall also conduct an analysis and evaluation of the results of the program.

SECTION 7. Program Management and Supervision. The DENR shall exercise overall management and supervision of the CMPCP. The DENR Regional Offices shall take the lead in the implementation of the Program, with the technical assistance and guidance from the BMB. They shall initiate partnership with the Department of Tourism, the National Museum, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, other National Government Agencies, local government units, the academe, civil society organizations, and/or other stakeholders in the implementation of the Program.



SECTION 5. Cave Management, Protection, and Conservation Program. The Cave Management, Protection, and Conservation Program (CMPCP) is a national program which aims to comprehensively manage, address and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of caves, cave resources, and their surrounding karst landscape; to conserve their biological, aesthetic, archaeological, paleontological, historic, recreational, scientific, and educational value; and to promote the sustainability of caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystem services and climate change resiliency. Under the CMPCP, management, protection, and conservation shall be anchored on the following approaches:

- a. Integrated and Holistic Management
- b. Application of Gender Equity Principles
- c. Partnership Building
- d. Science-based Decision-making and Management Planning Process
- e. Application of Precautionary Principle

SECTION 6. Program Components. The Program shall consist of the following components:

- a. **Cave and Cave Resource Inventory and Assessment** — this shall include inventory, mapping, delineation, and marking of boundaries, and classification of caves as well as the documentation of biological, geological, hydrological, paleontological, archaeological, historical, and other cave resources, including the identification, characterization and analysis of threats affecting them. The cave inventory and assessment shall be guided by the standards developed by the Biodiversity Management Bureau and other internationally accepted methods. Following the assessment is the selection of potential sites for establishing Protected Areas and/or World Heritage Sites based on a set of criteria, including bio-geographical, ecological, spatial, social, socio-economic, and political considerations, among others.
- b. **Management Plan Development** — this shall include crafting of a sound Cave Management Plan for each cave and its surrounding karst landscape through full community involvement and multi-stakeholder participation in the development and implementation. This shall also include cave resource management and utilization, protection measures and monitoring schemes, visitor management, mainstreaming climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and business and financing mechanisms in each Cave Management Plan. For caves within a protected area, the cave management plan shall be anchored and consistent with the protected area management plan.
- c. **Maintenance and Protection** — this includes the development schemes to promote cooperation, coordination and partnerships among different stakeholders including the enhancement of caves in existing protected areas and to provide support in the protection of caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystems. It shall also include the restoration of damaged and disturbed caves and their surrounding karst landscape ecosystems by protecting and allowing ecosystems to recover naturally or use of applicable technologies grounded on science and consistent with the overall management goals.

The provisions of RA No. 7586 as amended by RA No. 11038, and its rules and regulations shall guide the DENR in the management of caves within protected areas.

The DENR shall engage LGUs in the maintenance and protection of caves in their areas. This may include but not limited to: i) entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the concerned LGU; ii) training and deputizing LGU personnel as Cave Protection and Enforcement Officers pursuant to Section 9 of this Order; iii) coordinating with the concerned LGU on reporting and monitoring of violations committed within caves and

SECTION 8. Institutional Mechanism for Advisory Bodies. The National, Regional, and Provincial Cave Committees shall have the following functions:

- a. The National Cave Committee (NCC) shall recommend policies/plans and programs for the CMPCP. It shall also act as an advisory body to the Secretary on matters relating to the effective implementation of the CMPCP and to address issues on caves as deemed necessary.
- b. The Regional Cave Committee (RCC), created by the Regional Directors in their respective region, shall be chaired by the Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and co-chaired by the Regional Director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau with members coming from different local coordinating agencies/offices, academe, and non-government organizations. The RCC shall assist the NCC in the implementation of CMPCP, and other cave-related plans, programs, and policies. Decisions of the RCC shall be affirmed by the Regional Director. When the cave is located within a protected area, the RCC shall be constituted as a Special Committee within the PAMB to give advice to PAMB for matters relating to caves and cave resources.
- c. The DENR Regional Director may create a Provincial Cave Committee (PCC) for island provinces as appropriate. It shall be chaired by the DENR PENRO with members coming from different local agencies, academe, and non-government organizations. The PCC shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the RCC. Decisions of the PCC shall be affirmed by the Regional Director. In the Province of Palawan, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development shall serve as the PCC for Palawan for purposes of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the CMPCP.

SECTION 9. Appointment of Cave Protection Enforcement Officers. The concerned DENR Regional Office shall deputize Cave Protection Enforcement Officers (CPEOs) from locally-based non-government organizations (NGOs), peoples' organizations (POs), LGUs and other volunteers in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. Reporting. The Regional Offices shall prepare and submit annual reports on the progress and status of Program implementation to the Director of BMB for consolidation. The Director of the BMB shall then submit a consolidated report to the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs.

The NCC, through the BMB, shall submit to the DENR Secretary an annual report on the progress of the CMPCP.

SECTION 11. Funding and Budgetary Requirements. The DENR shall allocate funds to support the full implementation of the CMPCP. The DENR Regional Offices shall include this in their annual budget plan.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. If any clause, sentence or provision of this Order is held invalid, or unconstitutional, the remaining parts which are not affected shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. This Order shall supersede DENR Administrative Order No. 1994-04 and Section 11, of DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-29. All rules, regulations, circulars, instructions, memoranda, orders, or portions thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of UP Law Center.

ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary



1. Republic Act No. 9772 "National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act" Section 3
 2. *ibid.*
 3. DENR-EMB, 2017, Philippine Caves: Beneath the Earth's Surface - Conservation and Management, Page 3
 4. *ibid.* Page 30.



Republic of the Philippines
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RXI-5, Lacaron, Malita, Davao Occidental
Email Address: penro.davao@denr.gov.ph
Mobile No.: 09176327384

LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS


NOTICE is hereby given that Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office No. RXI-5, Lacaron, Malita, Davao Occidental will accept sealed written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock in the morning on April 5, 2022, for the lease for industrial purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Culaman, Malita, Davao Occidental
Description	: F.L.A. No. RXI-005
Area	: 40,000 square meters
Appraised of the Land	: Php 475.00 per square meter
Value of Existing/Proposed Improvements	: None
Applied for by	: SAN MIGUEL CONSOLIDATED POWER CORPORATION Rep. by Ramon U. Agay

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

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

Lacaron, Malita, Davao Occidental, Philippines this 17th day of February, 2022.


CHAMBERLAIN D. BABIERA, J.D.
OIC, PENRO-Officer

23 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH says COVID-19 cases in Philippines plateauing

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com February 22, 2022 | 4:53pm



Residents wait for a commuter train to pass before crossing the railway tracks at a station in Manila on Feb. 16, 2022.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health said the country is seeing a plateauing in the number of cases, with most regions in the country classified under low risk.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said all regions have negative growth rates and are deemed low risk for COVID-19 spread, except for the Cordillera Administrative Region and Davao region.

The country's healthcare utilization rate is at low risk. Meanwhile, Davao region's intensive care unit utilization rate is at moderate risk.

"All island groups are showing a gradual decline in cases. All regions are reporting fewer than 1,000 cases daily for this week," Vergeire said in Filipino.

The DOH on Tuesday reported 1,019 new coronavirus infections, pushing the total caseload to 3,654,284. Of the total, 1.6% or 56,668 are active cases.

Since the start of the pandemic, 55,776 have died from COVID-19 in the country.

Vergeire also said that only 12 to 15% of hospital admissions in the Philippines have severe and critical illness.

"This shows that vaccines are effective against severe and critical illness caused by COVID-19," she said.

Latest government data showed that over 62.5 million people have completed vaccination against COVID-19. Officials are aiming to fully vaccinate 90 million individuals by end-June.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/02/22/2162610/doh-says-covid-19-cases-philippines-plateauing>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 710

PEBRERO 22, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
56,668

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.9%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,541,840

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.53%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
55,776

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,019**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **2,988**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **13**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,654,284**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 20

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 22
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 20

6.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

18,177

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
91.9%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
 29% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)
 24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.2K TOTAL BEDS)
 19% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 16% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
 26% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
 24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)
 26% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
 19% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

704 Asymptomatic

51,395 Mild

2,840 Moderate

1,425 Severe

304 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

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MedCheck
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HealthNow
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✉ help@healthnow.ph
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

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23 FEBRUARY 2022, WEDNESDAY



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
Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdYCNk5yX3Q>

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Villar calls for wetland protection, pursues initiatives to avert any reclamation near the buffer zone

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Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park | Dentr activity

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MANILA
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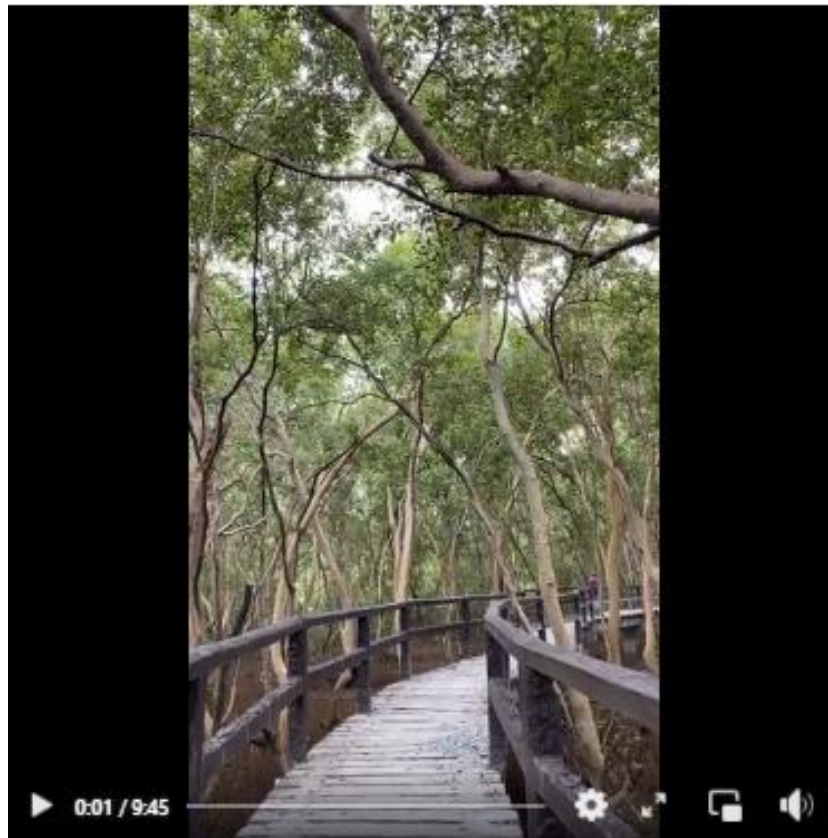
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