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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



ADOBO WELCOMES YULO-LOYZAGA

July 22, 2022 2 min read

Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga

MANILA — Lawyer Ernesto Adobo welcomed newly-appointed environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga in a simple turnover ceremony Thursday at DENR central office.

“Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga comes to us with a wealth of experience combining science and governance,” Adobo said before high-ranking DENR officials and regional heads present to welcome Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga.

Adobo, the most senior undersecretary, said, “the DENR, as it struggles with its sometimes-conflicting roles in both conservation and development of natural resources, is fortunate that its new leader is not a stranger to the balancing acts necessary to achieve sustainable development.

Adobo expressed optimism that Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga can steer the DENR towards cooperation at the international and national levels across different sectors, taking advantage of shared interests with our neighbors in South East Asia and the rest of the world.

In closing, Adobo said, is hopeful that with Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga the new chapter of the DENR’s story will inspire the Filipino people to hear and act on the challenges that our country’s environment and rich biodiversity face towards transformative change that we so urgently need. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharika.tv/2022/07/22/adobo-welcomes-yulo-loyzaga/?fbclid=IwAR0u71FO6jiEVUFz5JW0E3hrVldM9WL9aTtcVGRkvV2bun4rxcAv0fMvog>



NEW CAVE FOUND IN LAGUNA BY DENR

July 22, 2022 1 min read

By Glen S. Ramos

STA MARIA, Laguna – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) discovered a new cave located in the town of Sta. Maria in Laguna.

According to DENR-CALABARZON, the newly-discovered cave named “Pinagdaop,” is still subject to the agency’s analysis for proper management, protection, and conservation of resources as well as the wildlife found inside and outside the cave.

The Pinagdaop cave is a type of cave in which tunnels are created between rocks stacked on mountain slopes.

The cave has an elevation of 514 meters above sea level and is located inside the Presidential Proclamation 1636 in Barangay Cueva, Sta. Maria, Laguna.

It has the widest road inside at 4.39 meters, while the narrowest at 0.64 meters.

Pinagdaop cave is classified as a Class I cave or caves with archaeological findings and is for scientific and educational purposes.

Class I caves can also be utilized for exploration, mapping, and photography. (ai/mtnv)

Source: <https://maharika.tv/2022/07/22/new-cave-found-in-laguna-by-denr/?fbclid=IwAR3byvNbPMBvH-1TjCnGIVeYeMrTZorlqGPMXAQBAAbZEC3oe5TYhHTGh05E>



DENR Region 2 lifts ban on chainsaws

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) July 23, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) in Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)) has lifted the suspension of issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration.

DENR Enforcement Division Chief [Joel Daquiaoag](#) said all Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenros) have resumed accepting applications for the processing and issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration.

Daquiaoag also noted that most of the issued certificates of chainsaw registration in 2020 have already expired, leaving only at least 300 registered chainsaws to date. He also led chainsaw monitoring and assessment for the region.

In December 2020, DENR Region 2 executive director [Gwendolyn Bambalan](#) issued a memorandum directing all Cenros to suspend the issuance of chainsaw registration due to the alarming increase in the number of chainsaws registered considering that Region 2 has down to a million hectares of forest cover.

She said there was a need to momentarily suspend the issuance of certificates of registration or permits to use chainsaws as it is seen as the major source and avenue of illegal forest activities.

Cagayan Valley, which comprises the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and the island province of Batanes, has a total land area of over 2.6 million hectares which consists of over 1.7 million hectares of forest land with a forest cover of more than one million hectares, which is so far the largest forest cover in the [Philippines](#).

To regulate the use of chainsaws, Bambalan ordered the Centro officers to strictly exercise due diligence in the processing and issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration.

Citing Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2003-24 or the "Implementing Rules and Regulations of the [Chainsaw Act](#) of 2002," Daquiaoag said chainsaw owners are allowed to register to include the holder of a subsisting timber license agreement or any qualified lease agreement and tenurial instrument granted by the government.

Also qualified to apply for chainsaw registration are orchard or fruit tree farmers, industrial tree farmers, licensed wood processors, and anyone who shows satisfactory proof that the possession or use of a chainsaw is for legal purpose, he added.

Daquiaoag also explained that government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations that use chainsaws in some aspects of their functions such as road widening, rehabilitation, and disaster preparedness activities are also qualified for registration.

He also cited the new classification of chainsaws which are also subject to registration based on DAO 2018-09 or Amending Administrative Order 24, series of 2003, [Implementing Republic Act](#) 9175, known as the "Chainsaw Act."

Daquiaoag said these are portable rotary lathe, mobile or portable band saw, wood mizer, mobile or portable wood chipper, or wood edger, and any portable power saw or similar cutting implement rendered operative by an electric or internal combustion engine.

The DENR has directed all Centro officers to strictly monitor the use of chainsaws and to submit monthly reports of registered chainsaws to the regional office for monitoring purposes.



Daquioag said applicants will be carefully evaluated to regulate the issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration which is a document that authorizes the use of said equipment during tree harvesting.



Philippines looking into bamboo's economic potential

[Danessa Rivera](#) - The Philippine Star July 23, 2022 | 12:00am



Executive Order 879 created the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council and mandated that 25 percent of the annual school desks of the Department of Education should be made of bamboo.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is looking to tap the economic potential of pharmaceutical-industrial products based on bamboo varieties that grow in the rivers and volcanic areas of Cagayan Valley.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partnered with Cagayan State University (CSU)-Gonzaga to carry out a phytochemical screening and DNA barcoding of economically important bamboo species in Cagayan Valley, a first of such studies.

The Bamboo Characterization Project has a total cost of P1.601 million, with P1.261 million shouldered by the DENR and P340,000 from CSU.

The project aims to conserve and propagate the species in typhoon-affected Cagayan Valley as earlier mandated by the DENR.

“Cagayan is rich (in) natural systems, not only agro-ecosystems but grasslands and others like waterfalls and volcanic areas where sulfur-rich soil is found. For example, we will study if the Bayog bamboo species carries different morphological and phytochemical characteristics when they are grown in sulfur-rich volcanic areas,” project leader Jeff Opeña said.

Target for the study are bamboo species that grow in two of Cagayan Valley's volcanoes – the Smith Volcano, also called Mount Babuyan which is in Calayan Island, and Mount Cagua in Gonzaga.

Alvin Jose Reyes and Eddie Abugan Jr. of the DENR's Project Management Division said bamboo has numerous industrial, pharmaceutical, phytochemical, medical, nutritional and food advantages.

“Characterization of bamboo germplasm is an important connection between conservation of diversity and utilization of germplasms (seeds or living tissues that carry genetic resources useful in plant breeding and conservation),” they said in their project paper.

So far, CSU has obtained a “gratuitous permit” that allows it to collect bamboo samples to conduct the bamboo characterization in the Paluai Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Bamboo has been traditionally characterized based on its flowering frequency or abundance – annual flowering, sporadic or regular flowering and gregarious flowering.



“However, characterization using floral morphology posed a limitation and difficulty due to the requirement of long period of time which can occur in years or even decades,” Reyes and Abugan said.

DNA barcoding will be a modern and innovative way to characterize bamboo species. It will accelerate experts’ identification of the species that they desire to use based on traits – such as fast propagation or medicinal properties.

Moreover, biochemical characterization through phytochemical (plant chemistry) screening enables experts in pharmaceuticals and medicine to detect plant secondary metabolites in bamboo which have utilization potentials in the industry.

While primary metabolites include small molecules like amino acids and sugars, secondary plant metabolites such as alkaloids, anthocyanin, flavonoids, phenols, saponins, steroids, tannins and terpenoids are studied for medicinal plant herbal purposes, among other possible commercial uses.

In November 2020, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the extensive propagation of bamboo in Cagayan Valley to prevent massive flooding that plagued the province arising from Typhoon Ulysses.

Bamboo is also being planted in the rivers of Marikina and Bicol – areas usually flooded during typhoons.

Aside from preventing flooding effects of typhoons, the DENR also aims to use bamboo as a tool for climate change mitigation as it is known to sequester five metric tons of carbon dioxide per hectare of plantation.

The agency is also promoting engineered bamboo as lumber substitute.

Executive Order 879 created the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council and mandated that 25 percent of the annual school desks of the Department of Education should be made of bamboo.

While it has extensive use as raw material in many industries, the Philippines’ bamboo export slowed from a high of 106,000 kilos in 2011 to 35,000 in 2015 and even further lower to 8,000 kilos in 2018. Exports just picked up to 66,000 kilos in 2020.

The DENR bamboo project is seen over the long term to help boost bamboo exports.



18 barangays get training on forest land use planning

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#)(The Freeman) - July 22, 2022 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — At least 18 barangays of Cebu City have attended a four-day seminar on the planning and studying for the creation of their own Forest Land Use Planning (FLUP).

The FLUP is a participatory process of allocating forests and forestland as natural resources asset by the government under appropriate management, tenure arrangement and eventually putting these assets according to their best uses in order to harmonize uses of forest lands.

As reported by the city's Public Information Office (PIO), the seminar, which started Tuesday, July 19, was initiated by the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO).

CCENRO officer-in-charge Arlie Gesta said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) identified the 18 barangays that do not yet have their respective FLUP.

“Ang DENR ani ang nag-identify nga kining mga barangaya, base sa ilahang record sa opisina, kay ilaha ni nga programa sa DENR. Unya kay naa may ultimatum nga ipa-devolve na nga function diri sa ato, mao ni, gisugdan nato karon,” said Gesta.

Among these barangays are Bonbon, Buhisan, Busay, Malubog, Pamutan, Poblacion Pardo, Sapangdaku, Quiot, and Toong.

Gesta said that through the seminar, CCENRO will assist the barangays in the formulation of their FLUP.

“By Thursday ani mag-formulate na sila sa ilahang plano and mo-certify gyud ang kapitan, iyahang committee on environment chairman. Now, kung busy si kapitan, ang first councilor. Kinahanglan kadtong elected official gyud kay para naay accountability,” said Gesta.

“Di gyud sila makakuan nga ‘ah di man kami naghimo ana, di man kami nag attend’. Sila maoy maghimo sa plano ani giyahan sa atong mga resource speakers,” he added.

According to the DENR, an important step in FLUP is the identification of “open access” areas which are areas in forests and forest lands that are not covered by any tenure.

In the absence of a tenure holder or resource manager, anybody can just come in and use the resources, in most cases, in an unsustainable and destructive approach living the resource degraded and damaged.

Information provided in the FLUP is valuable in reaching a decision on who can be the best resource manager for a particular area.

The end goal is to harmonize the use of forestland and ensure that production activities in the uplands are in balance with forest protection and biodiversity conservation. —**GMR (FREEMAN)**



Follow advice to avoid disaster, MGB tells developers, LGUs

By Nef Luczon July 22, 2022, 4:36 pm



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) 10 (Northern Mindanao) on Friday urged land developers and local government units (LGUs) to abide by agency recommendations to avoid disasters in the future.

MGB-10 Chief Geologist Osin Sinsuat Jr. said while the agency does not have the power to enforce geohazard identification reports, many lives can be saved from possible environmental hazards, such as landslides, mudflows, or sinkholes, if developers and LGUs comply.

“As we always tell them (LGUs and land developers), we always stick to our findings,” Sinsuat said in an interview with reporters, noting that MGB assessments are scientific and non-negotiable.

An MGB report is one of the requirements of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development's technical working group before land developers are given a license to operate in converting applied lands to housing subdivisions.

The LGUs also require the environmental compliance certificates issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) before approving housing developments.

Both the MGB and EMB are under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sinsuat said there are instances when some contractors do not follow the recommendations, especially when developers get the permits. (PNA)



Diocese continues fight vs mining in NVizcaya

By [Franco Jose C. Baroña](#) July 23, 2022



Former president [Rodrigo Duterte](#) signed the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement 1 in June 2021, renewing OceanaGold's contract to resume the Didipio Gold-Copper Mining project operations. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE Diocese of Bayombong said it will continue to stand up to prevent the harmful effects of mining in the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

Bishop [Jose Elmer Mangalinao](#) said the danger caused by mining in the province is no longer fair, especially regarding the safety of the community and nature.

"The destruction caused by mining companies far outweighs whatever benefits they give to the workers, barangay, towns, and the national government," said Mangalinao in a statement.

Two large companies [OceanaGold Philippines Inc.](#) (OGPI) in Barangay Kasibu, Didipio, and [FCF Minerals Corp.](#) in Barangay Runruno, Quezon are currently continuing operations after being reauthorized to mine.

The indigenous women of Tuwali previously challenged new Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga to protect the rights of the people and end the decades-long impact of harmful mining on the community of Didipio.

[Myrna Duyan](#), chairwoman of Bileg Dagiti Babbae, requested that OGPI not be given a mining permit renewal and that the company be held accountable for the 25 years of environmental damage and human rights violations it has caused.

"It is our livelihood, our food, and our home. For all the years that OGPI has destroyed our land, we have also stood up and defended it," Duyan said.

Mangalinao prayed that the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) would create concrete action and listen to the grievances of the indigenous communities of Nueva Vizcaya so that the harmful operations of big mining companies can be stopped.

"We continuously express our desire to stop their operation and pray that the DENR office will be pro-environment, pro-ecology, and pro-Filipino," Mangalinao said.

Former president Rodrigo Duterte signed the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement 1 in June 2021, renewing OGPI's contract to resume the Didipio Gold-Copper Mining project operations.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/23/news/regions/diocese-continues-fight-vs-mining-in-nvizcaya/1851954>



Legarda files bill institutionalizing an ecosystem and natural capital accounting system

Published July 22, 2022, 2:44 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senator Loren Legarda has filed a bill seeking to develop and implement an ecosystem and natural capital accounting system that applies to the Philippine environment, giving importance to the role, value, and impact of the country's natural resources on the economy.

"For decades, the debate has been whether to choose economy over conservation of natural resources. This is a false dichotomy. The economy and all of society are fully and entirely dependent on natural resources—our natural capital that includes our forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems," Legarda said.

The four-term lady lawmaker is expected to be elected as Senate President Pro Tempore when the Senate and the House of Representatives open the 19th Congress on Monday.

Legarda said indicators and standards generated by the national income accounting system are considered vital information for economic management and policymaking. They serve as the basis for socio-economic planning, formulation of development programs, and policy analysis to aid legislation.

However, conventional national income accounting systems measure economic performance by determining the value of goods and services produced in a country and aggregating them to develop economic development indicators, such as the Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Senate Bill 9, known as the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Law of 2022, will include what was formerly considered "externalities," not valued as capital, in the national income accounts.

"I consider it important that the national income accounts reflect a more accurate state of development and economic performance of the country and should incorporate both environmental and non-environmental inputs and outputs. This will allow policymakers to make responsive, relevant, and effective laws, plans, and programs necessary for national development. The climate crisis and biodiversity losses that could potentially lead to the next pandemic highlight the urgency of having this bill approved and implemented," Legarda said.

"Good housekeeping requires that you work on what you have and not live beyond your means. It is the same for national patrimony. Not taking into account how much we have and how to allocate it drives our ecosystems to ruin," she added.

When passed into law, the bill will allow government planners to fully understand the natural capital available and expendable in pursuing national goals.

Legarda highlighted what natural capital investments could contribute to the society and economy.

She underscored the importance of fully tapping into the benefits of natural capital by developing a governance framework that promotes nature-based solutions while reducing harmful practices.

"We should recognize the immense potential of using ecosystems, such as forests, mangroves, and urban green spaces, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially as we rebuild and recover from the pandemic," Legarda stressed,



The PENCAS bill recognizes the critical role of natural capital in the Philippine sustainable development.

It also identifies the roles of various government agencies in natural capital accounting, especially that of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and provides funding to support the implementation of the PENCAS.



BAN Toxics calls President Marcos Jr. to address plastic, toxic, and waste pollution in the PH

Friday, July 22, 2022 Journal Online



Toxic and waste watchdog group BAN Toxics urges President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address the country's crisis on plastic, toxic, and waste, and ban single-use plastics in time for his upcoming State of the Nation Address on July 25.

“While we welcome President Marcos’ declaration to solve the Philippines’ [problem with plastic pollution and climate change](#) in his inauguration speech last June 30, he should take a stronger move towards addressing our issues with plastic, toxic, wastes and climate change. The government can start by implementing measures for the total ban of single-use plastics to reduce waste production and pollution,” says Reynaldo San Juan, executive director of BAN Toxics.

“BAN Toxics supports the excise tax on single-use plastic bags as an effort to address the country’s plastic overconsumption and crisis; however, we are also wary that the burden will fall on the shoulders of taxpayers, consumers, and small businesses. Moreover, the tax also does not explicitly solve the plastic, toxics, and waste pollution in the Philippines,” he added.

House Bill 9171, also known as Plastic Bags Tax Act, aims to impose a 20 PHP excise tax for every kilogram of single-use plastic bags removed from the place of production or released from the custody of the Bureau of Customs.[1]

The Department of Finance’s (DOF) Policy, Research, and Liaison Office Director, Arvin Lawrence N. Quiñones, disclosed that the country could collect around 923 million PHP for 2023 should the government decide to impose the tax on plastic bags.

Plastic Pollution

The increase in global plastic production from 2 million tons in the 1950s to over 438 million tons in 2017 is anticipated to continue.[2]

An alarming figure of 400 million tons of plastic wastes produced annually prompted the recent United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to create a new plastics treaty to address the world’s problem with plastic overproduction and overconsumption. The resumption of the fifth UNEA session (UNEA 5.2) in Nairobi, Kenya, aimed to address the global plastic crisis through the development of a new international legally binding treaty with a 2024 deadline.[3]

Plastic Crisis in the Philippines



Plastic pollution is one of the Philippines' greatest waste problems. In 2015, the country produced 2.7 million tons of plastic waste per year, making it the world's third largest producer of plastic waste.[4] According to a 2018 waste management practices study, despite the Philippines' high garbage collection rates, the country still has issues with proper waste disposal.[5]

A number of regulatory measures have been implemented at both the national and local levels to address the plastic crisis in the Philippines.

Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9003, also known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," requires local government units (LGUs) to develop 10-year solid waste management plans and to establish guidelines for reusing, recycling, and composting waste generated within their jurisdiction.

House Bill 9147 or the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act was passed to address the Philippine plastic crisis. The bill seeks to regulate the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision, use, recovery, collection, recycling, and disposal of single-use plastic products.[6]

Although some LGUs have passed ordinances prohibiting or regulating the use of plastic bags in their jurisdiction, the effectiveness is dependent on implementation and monitoring. Furthermore, R.A. No. 9003 classified plastics as "recyclable materials" despite the majority of plastic being non-recyclable. Only about 9% of plastic waste has been recycled thus far; the rest is either burned, landfilled, or released into the environment.[7]

Waste Trading in the Philippines and Basel Ban Amendment

In January 2014, a shipment of Canadian waste was discovered at the Manila International Container Port, making it the most notable instance of foreign waste dumping in the Philippines. Since then, environmental groups have advocated for the repatriation of waste shipments.

The incident prompted public criticism of waste disposal from developed countries to third world nations.

BAN Toxics also reiterates the call for President Marcos Jr. to protect the Philippines from turning into a dump site for first world countries by ratifying the long overdue Basel Ban Amendment. The Basel Ban Amendment is an international treaty that prohibits the export of hazardous wastes from member states of the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Liechtenstein to poorer countries, whether for recycling or not.

"It's high time for the government to prioritize the protection of the environment and public health, especially against the plastic, toxic, and waste pollution fallout. The longer we wait to address the issue of plastic, toxic, and waste pollution, the more we become vulnerable to its negative impacts." BAN Toxics further added.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/ban-toxics-calls-president-marcos-jr-to-address-plastic-toxic-and-waste-pollution-in-the-ph/>



CLIMATE JUSTICE | Groups want clear commitment from Marcos on shift to renewable energy

July 22, 2022 , 03:18 PM
By Beatrice Puente

(July 22, 2022) – Instead of pursuing harmful energy sources, environmental advocates on Friday urged President Bongbong Marcos Jr. to commit to a genuine shift to renewable energy as a step toward achieving climate justice.

Khevin Yu, a campaigner of Greenpeace Philippines, stressed that the government should go after fossil fuel companies for their heavy role in the worsening status of the environment.

“The president must recognize that climate justice—and to this end, the renewable energy transition—is a basic human right, and one that has to be urgently provided to the Filipino people,” said Yu.

Marcos, who will deliver his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, has not made his climate policy clear during the campaign. While he touts the Bangui Windmills in his hometown of Ilocos Norte, Marcos has also hinted at exploring nuclear energy as a potential energy source for the country.

Yu, in an earlier interview with News5, stressed that Marcos should reveal his specific plans for the environment, noting that pursuing both renewable energy and nuclear energy would be contradicting.

“Nagkakaroon ng mixed signals whether ang gusto niya ba ay renewable energy but on the other hand nagpu-push siya ng nuclear. What we need from him is clarity,” said Yu.

Marcos previously described nuclear power as “the cheapest and the cleanest” source of power that the country could explore amid the depleting supply of fossil fuels. Last year, former President Rodrigo Duterte included nuclear power into the country’s energy mix, raising the alarm on the part of environmental advocates.

Some proponents are seeking the revival of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant which was built under the term of Marcos’ dictator father. It was mothballed due to safety and corruption issues.

Yu said the social and economic costs of nuclear power would be far worse. Aside from the environment, he said it could also pose grave risks to the health of nearby communities. Groups also called on Marcos to drop the use of coal and fossil gas.

“Visayas has been the center of strong typhoons that impacted the homes, livelihood, and lives of the people. And yet, these companies operating and promoting fossil energy continue to prefer profit over national survival,” lamented environmental advocate Maria Estela Vasquez.

Much of the country’s electricity needs still depend on coal, natural gas, and oil. Under the Philippine Energy Plan, the country aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040. But critics said this is not ambitious enough.



Ian Rivera of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice stressed that Marcos should make his stance on climate action clear.

“The SONA is the litmus test if the new government is up to the task of leading the country towards economic recovery and away from impacts of the crisis,” said Rivera.

(PM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-justice-groups-want-clear-commitment-from-marcos-on-shift-to-renewable-energy?fbclid=IwAR2QddMWh4pQ0LcmDc8fuq3P3AnPvNepkaHzviGCwf_bpDEmmca35ry1Rg



Coastal clean-up drive, grand caravan held in Cebu City

By: Pegeen Maisie M. Sararaña - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|July 22,2022 - 12:34 PM



Several agencies here participated in coastal clean-up drive along South Road Properties in Cebu City on Friday, July 22.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Various agencies here have participated in the early morning coastal clean-up drive on Friday, July 22, 2022, at the South Road Properties in Cebu City.

Aside from the early morning clean-up drive, personnel from these agencies also participated in a grand caravan, wherein several agencies offered free services to the public. This includes free processing of police clearance, free circumcision for boys, dental services, legal consultation, and notarial services, among others.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Janette Rafter, deputy director for operations of the Cebu City Police Office, said that they estimated around 1,500 individuals who participated in Friday's activity.

These are personnel from the Cebu City Police Office, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard, National Police Commission, Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and Bureau of the Jail Management and Penology (BJMP-7), civilian counterparts, among others.

Rafter said this activity is among the activities that they have for the 27th celebration of the Police Community Relations (PCR) month. The police had their kick-off ceremony of the PCR Month last July 4 in Naga City.

“I think sa tanan pod ni nga agencies pod ang pagpanghilabot sa atuang community kase ang PNP is for public safety, includes cleanliness sa ato katilingban,” Rafter said.

“We also have volunteers, especially sa atuang mga divers because they will also be conducting Scubasurero,” she added.

/bmjo

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/454197/coastal-clean-up-drive-grand-caravan-held-in-cebu-city?fbclid=IwAR1rJLKMGSjJj6orVCJm9JfXZ9CAes7HvmlWldfG-bi1wKp-IAVW191StfQ>



Coastal cleanup and reef restoration in Panglao, Bohol

July 22, 2022 3 min read

MANILA—ATFX, through its corporate social responsibility arm ATFX Cares, and its local education partner SmarTrade, joined the coastal cleanup and reef restoration in Panglao, Bohol, in June 2021 during the Panglao Dive Fest. SmarTrade and ATFX collectively adopted five (5) coral beds at Doljo coral nursery in coordination with Panglao's Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

As a testament to the brand's commitment to sustaining these initiatives, SmarTrade and ATFX Cares continue to monitor the coral reef restoration.

"We have to continue maintaining these corals. Some of the activities that we regularly roll out are cleaning algae and shells, collecting trash like fishing lines and plastics, and checking for signs of diseases like discoloration. For example, if the corals turn white, we check if they are covered by algae since this limits their ability to eat properly and get the sunlight they need to make them healthy," explained Danilo Menorias, Panglao MENRO's reef ranger and dive instructor. "These are crucial steps because once one coral is affected, it will affect other healthy corals and eventually, the whole reef."

SmarTrade and ATFX Cares support the post-restoration activities. These are regular after-care activities that are implemented after coral restoration planting. Reef rangers dive at least two to three times a week to check if the corals planted are doing well.

"To grow healthy corals, there are many factors at play. Some of these are water depth, sunlight, the current's strength, and water salinity. When we achieve a good balance of all these factors, we get corals that are healthy – they return to their natural color, and at times, we can even see polyps when inspected closely," added Menorias.

This initiative is just one of the many programs spearheaded by SmarTrade and ATFX to contribute to the communities that they serve.

"As a business, we do not exist in a silo. We deal with people every day, may it be our clients, our partners, or our employees. Everyone can agree that each of us is affected by our physical environment in one way or another," said SmarTrade President and CEO Joyce Ann Mayo.

"That is why we do this because we believe that it is everyone's responsibility to protect this world we live in. Without our beautiful planet, no businesses would exist."



Menorias encourages everyone to exercise responsibility and care by not throwing garbage in the ocean, not stepping on the corals, and avoiding too much sun lotion.

Divers and fishermen should also avoid touching and holding these corals or fishing near these reefs.

To know more about ATRX (www.atrx.com) and SmarTrade's CSR programs, visit www.smartrade.ph.



Mayor Suan signs order prohibiting construction of illegal structures in town's coastal areas

Futch Anthony Inso - CDN Digital Correspondent | July 22, 2022 - 08:44 PM



Cordova's floating cottages. | Futch Anthony Inso

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines — Cordova Mayor Cesar “Didoy” Suan signed a memorandum order on Friday, July 22, 2022, which orders the enforcement of Executive Order No. 1 or “Prohibiting the construction of all illegal structures such as floating and fixed cottages along the legal easements and/or within the coastal areas of the Municipality of Cordova, Cebu.”

This was confirmed by Nanette Garong, executive secretary to the Mayor of the Municipality of Cordova.

In his memorandum order, Suan said this is in consonance with section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the “Local Government Code of 1991. The said provision talks about the general welfare clause.

The memorandum order mandates the enforcement to the fullest extent of the provisions under E.O. no.1.

E.O. no. 1 was issued on July 5, 2022. However, there are reports that there are those who continue their construction despite the express proscription.

Suan addressed his memorandum order to the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Cordova Marine Watch, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), and the village chiefs of Buagsong, Catarman, and Poblacion.

Suan orders them to exercise reasonable actions against those who will violate the executive order and submit a written report of its implementation within 72 hours. /rcg

Source: https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/454313/mayor-suan-signs-order-prohibiting-construction-of-illegal-structures-in-towns-coastal-areas?fbclid=IwAR2Ji-U3o0UNVhanPy55IFpCQvz80BP0zWuDQwdRii_nbULHz7Hbkrfv9yk#ixzz7Zm0nSaEZ



Cooling our cities with shade trees one every street

By [Robert Siy](#) July 23, 2022

WE are in an emergency. We need to act before it is too late. Every week, new heat records are being set in different parts of the world. The Earth is growing hotter; more so in cities. When we remove vegetation and trees and replace them with concrete, we make environments warmer. Communities surrounded by roads experience the "urban heat island" effect, where pavements absorb heat when the sun is out and then release it the rest of the day. One way to counter this is by growing shade trees and greenery on every street, creating as many green corridors as possible in every city.

Trees absorb carbon and make local environments cooler. Foliage lowers local temperatures through a process called evapotranspiration. Leaves also reflect solar energy. A scientific article confirms that adding tree canopies in cities — which cool the air and prevent pavements from absorbing heat — is one of the best weapons against global warming. The French environmental agency, ADEME, estimates that a mature tree has the same cooling effect as five air-conditioners.

We can make our cities cooler and more livable by growing shade trees on every street. People naturally prefer to walk or bike on a street with shade trees where the temperature can be two to nine degrees cooler than a street without, so how do we find the space in cities to grow more trees?

Streets occupy a very large share of the total land area in cities. It varies from place to place but look at any city map and you will find that around 10 to 20 percent of total land area is devoted to roads. When you consider land in the public realm — the area controlled either by national agencies or local governments — roads probably account for 80 percent in cities. The irony is that most of this valuable public resource — our urban road network — is today devoted to private motor vehicles, even though just a small minority (only about 12 percent of households in Greater Manila and about 5 percent nationwide) are car owners. For this reason, roads should be placed in the service of the majority who walk, cycle or use public transportation, rather than the person in a car.

Streets need to be planned or redesigned so that people who walk or cycle have a more pleasant and safe travel experience. Some streets can be pedestrianized and closed to through traffic (no motor vehicles allowed except for those of local residents). Trees can be planted along the street at regular intervals to create a continuous canopy and parts of a street can even be devoted to neighborhood food gardens. On streets where through traffic remains, sidewalks can be widened so that there is enough space for planting trees. Even if this means taking away space from cars, a tree-lined and walkable street delivers many long-term benefits for local residents and the planet.

What can national and local governments do? Trees and greenery should be an integral part of every road construction or rehabilitation project. Among the standard project outputs should be tree-shaded paths for those on foot or on bicycles. Every local government unit (LGU) planning office and every road project team should include landscape architects. They can ensure that the right species of greenery and trees are procured, planted and maintained — foliage that is at the same time functional, resilient and attractive.



The 2023 national budget provides an opportunity to implement these concepts. The planting of roadside shade trees should be included in the [Department of Public Works and Highways](#) work program. The [Department of the Interior](#) and Local Government's (DILG) [Local Government Support Fund](#) should be further expanded in 2023 with special attention to the greening of existing streets and public spaces. The 2023 budget could also finance recognition and awards programs (possibly organized by DILG and/or the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)), for the best urban tree planting and landscaping efforts by LGUs.

The DILG and the [National Parks Development Committee](#) can jumpstart the expansion of green public spaces by requiring every urban barangay (village) to develop a pedestrianized street to serve as a neighborhood park where any resident, young or old, can play or exercise in a safe and comfortable outdoor environment. Design guidelines can be provided, including on how to involve local communities in planning and implementing green public spaces in their neighborhoods.

Planting shade trees on every street is not only an effective weapon against climate change, it is also a way to encourage active lifestyles and promote low-carbon travel modes. It will help us survive the climate emergency and make our cities more livable. The government needs to act decisively. We are running out of time.

[Robert Y. Siy](#) is a development economist, city and regional planner, and public transport advocate. He can be reached at mobilitymatters.ph@yahoo.com or followed on Twitter [@RobertRsiy](#)



Dead 'dugong' found in Sagay reef



The dead sea cow locally known as "dugong" found in Macahulom Reef, one of the reefs at the Sagay Marine Reserve in Sagay City, on Monday, July 18. (Contributed Photo)

July 22, 2022

A DEAD sea cow locally known as "dugong" was found in Macahulom Reef, one of the reefs at the Sagay Marine Reserve in Sagay City, for the first time after more than two decades, on Monday, July 18.

Reports from City Veterinarian and Agriculture Offices reported that the "dugong" was identified to be a female adult.

It measures 2.95 meters with an estimated weight of 300 to 350 kilograms and is already in the advanced state of decomposition.

This is the second incident of "dugong" stranding in the area. The last was in 2000.

Bantay Dagat Volunteers Dionesio Pahayahay, Francis Gopio and Paolo Hulleza were on duty at the Macahulom Watchtower when they saw the dead animal at around 9 a.m.

They then reported this to the Office of the Protected Area Superintendent (Pasu) of Sagay Marine Reserve.

Based on the initial evaluation, there were no injuries and external lesions found on the animal.

Further external examination was performed by Pasu Mayo Antonio Cueva, EMS II Roberto Togle, Dr. Baltazar Delorino, Christopher Fernandez and Dina David-Lagutin upon its transport to the Old Sagay Feeder Port.

"Dugong" (Dugong dugon) also commonly known in Filipino as baboy-dagat (pig of the sea) and the only surviving species from the Family of Dugongidae is one of the indicator species inhabiting the coasts of northern Negros Occidental particularly in Sagay City, a statement from the city government said.

Due to its strategic location bounded by marine channels and migratory paths such as Asuncion Pass, Visayan Sea, and Tañon Strait Protected Seascape respectively, and of its bountiful pristine habitats strongly protected, it's no wonder that these species linger in the area, it said



According to the Updated Checklist and Status of Marine Mammals confirmed within the Philippine Waters by Aragoes et al. 2010, this animal is considered very rare and threatened having been listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites).

The carcass was then turned over to Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology for future collection of data and specimens which can provide critical elements of information for research and development of management strategies., it added. **(PR)**



Daily Tribune
20h · 🌐

MIGRATORY MONARCH BUTTERFLY NOW ENDANGERED

The migratory monarch butterfly is now an endangered species due to climate change and habitat destruction, conservationists said Thursday. | 📷 AFP

#butterfly
#endangeredspecies
#DailyTribune



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DZRH News

12h · 🌐

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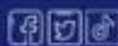
Napasailalim na sa 'endangered category' ng International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species ang migratory monarch butterfly.

Ayon sa IUCN, higit 41,000 species ang delikadong ma-extinct ngayon dahil sa illegal logging na siyang dahilan bakit nawawalan ng tirahan ang mga hayop, nadadale pa sila ng mga pesticide at apektado pa ng climate change. | DZRH News

See Translation



**MONARCH BUTTERFLY
NASA LISTAHAN NA NG
ENDANGERED SPECIES
NG INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF NATURE**



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Sama-sama Tayo, Pilipino!

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23 JULY 2022, SATURDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



07-23-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

MGB's Moncano affirms support to legitimize small-scale mining

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) expressed support behind calls to formalize artisanal and small-scale mining to improve the working and occupational safety and health condition of all miners.

"We really want to legalize and recognize artisanal and small-scale mining in the Philippines. In fact, we have already a position paper, and a proposed amendment in Congress," MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano told the *BUSINESSMIRROR*.

Moncano was reacting to the call made by Gil Indino, chairperson of the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines as the group gears up for its third general assembly on from July 28 to 30, 2022 at the Villa Silvina Hotel and Restaurant in Baguio City.

Hosted by the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, the theme of the assembly is "Pag-usad ng Responsableng Maliitang Pagmimina sa New Normal."

Moncano also said the MGB is working

closely with various sectors, including advocacy groups like BAN Toxics to legalize the sector through the declaration of Minahang Bayan.

Moncano said there are currently 53 declared Minahang Bayans in various parts of the country and the MGB is in the process of reviewing over 100 applications, which seeks to establish Minahang Bayans.

Moncano admitted that there's no available data yet that would suggest whether the small-scale mining sector is thriving or in fact dying.

"We really have no estimate as far as the number of small-scale miners is concerned. We can only monitor them through the established number of Minahang Bayans," he added.

According to Moncano, the MGB supports the move of small-scale miners who are promoting the use of environment-friendly small-scale mining process and technology like the ones being practiced

now in Paracale, and in Benguet wherein miners are no longer using mercury, a toxic heavy metal.

In calling for the formalization of the small-scale mining sector Indino said it is imperative to improve the working and occupational safety and health conditions of all miners.

"It is high time for the Philippines to prioritize the protection of small-scale mining communities," Indino said.

Backed by the group BAN Toxics, the group has been working to promote environment-friendly small-scale mining practices and technology without using mercury.

Arleen Honrade, secretary of the National Coalition and Monitoring and Evaluation of BAN Toxics said the effect of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the main anthropogenic source of mercury emissions and releases worldwide, remains unknown due to the sector's informality and illegality.

Jonathan L. Mayuga



Phl From Page 3

The agency is also promoting engineered bamboo as lumber substitute.

Executive Order 879 created the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council and mandated that 25 percent of the annual school desks of the Department of Education should be made of

bamboo.

While it has extensive use as raw material in many industries, the Philippines' bamboo export slowed from a high of 106,000 kilos in 2011 to 35,000 in 2015 and even further lower to 8,000 kilos in 2018. Exports just picked up to 66,000 kilos in 2020.

The DENR bamboo project is seen over the long term to help boost bamboo exports.

Phl looking into bamboo's economic potential

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Philippines is looking to tap the economic potential of pharmaceutical-industrial products based on bamboo varieties that grow in the rivers and volcanic areas of Cagayan Valley.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partnered with Cagayan State University (CSU)-Gonzaga to carry out a phytochemical screening and DNA barcoding of economically important bamboo species in Cagayan Valley, a first of such studies.

The Bamboo Characterization Project has a total cost of P1.601 million, with P1.261 million shouldered by the DENR and P340,000 from CSU.

The project aims to conserve and propagate the species in typhoon-

affected Cagayan Valley as earlier mandated by the DENR.

"Cagayan is rich (in) natural systems, not only agro-ecosystems but grasslands and others like waterfalls and volcanic areas where sulfur-rich soil is found. For example, we will study if the Bayog bamboo species carries different morphological and phytochemical characteristics when they are grown in sulfur-rich volcanic areas," project leader Jeff Opeña said.

Target for the study are bamboo species that grow in two of Cagayan Valley's volcanoes – the Smith Volcano, also called Mount Babuyan which is in Calayan Island, and Mount Cagua in Gonzaga.

Alvin Jose Reyes and Eddie Abugan Jr. of the DENR's Project Management Division said bamboo has numerous industrial, pharma-

ceutical, phytochemical, medical, nutritional and food advantages.

"Characterization of bamboo germplasm is an important connection between conservation of diversity and utilization of germplasms (seeds or living tissues that carry genetic resources useful in plant breeding and conservation)," they said in their project paper.

So far, CSU has obtained a "gratuitous permit" that allows it to collect bamboo samples to conduct the bamboo characterization in the Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.

Bamboo has been traditionally characterized based on its flowering frequency or abundance – annual flowering, sporadic or regular flowering and gregarious flowering.

"However, characterization using floral morphology posed a

limitation and difficulty due to the requirement of long period of time which can occur in years or even decades," Reyes and Abugan said.

DNA barcoding will be a modern and innovative way to characterize bamboo species. It will accelerate experts' identification of the species that they desire to use based on traits – such as fast propagation or medicinal properties.

Moreover, biochemical characterization through phytochemical (plant chemistry) screening enables experts in pharmaceuticals and medicine to detect plant secondary metabolites in bamboo which have utilization potentials in the industry.

While primary metabolites include small molecules like amino acids and sugars, secondary plant metabolites such as alkaloids,

anthocyanin, flavonoids, phenols, saponins, steroids, tannins and terpenoids are studied for medicinal plant herbal purposes, among other possible commercial uses.

In November 2020, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the extensive propagation of bamboo in Cagayan Valley to prevent massive flooding that plagued the province arising from Typhoon Ulysses.

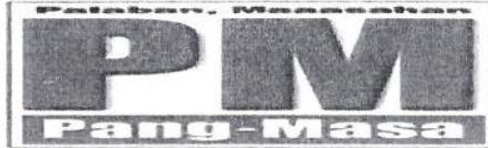
Bamboo is also being planted in the rivers of Marikina and Bicol – areas usually flooded during typhoons.

Aside from preventing flooding effects of typhoons, the DENR also aims to use bamboo as a tool for climate change mitigation as it is known to sequester five metric tons of carbon dioxide per hectare of plantation.

Turn to Page 4



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



344
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

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07-23-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

..... Ang paghuli sa environmental defender

Ang napakatinding pagtaas ng bilang ng mga pag-atake laban sa mga tagapagtanggol ng kapaligiran ay nagmarka ng dulo ng administrasyong Duterte kahit na ang mga nakaraang pag-atake noong 2020 ay naging ang Pilipinas sa pinaka-delikadong bansa sa Asia para sa mga aktibistang pangkalikasan.

(Sundan sa page 4)

QUESEJODA... Mula
page 3

Sa dalawang buwan pagkatapos ng halalan noong Mayo, sinusubaybayan ng mga environmentalist group ang anim na bagong pag-atake, nangunguna sa listahan ang pag-aresto kay Daisy Macapanpan, isang senior citizen environmental activist na aktibong nangampanya laban sa hydropower plant project. Ang multi-bilyong proyekto ay itatayo sa Mt. Inumpog, sa kabundukan ng Sicra Madre na sakop ng Pakil, Laguna. Ang biodiverse area ay mayroon ding mga mapagkukunan ng tubig na dumadaloy mula sa Dakil river ecosystem, kabilang ang Sirena Falls.

Noong Hunyo 11, 2022, inaresto ng Special Action Force si Macapanpan. Abangan.



Masungi rangers bag WCPA award

RANGERS of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation won in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) 2022 International Ranger Awards, conferred on July 20, 2022, during a hybrid awards ceremony at the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda. The Masungi team is one of 12 winners from four continents worldwide.

Masungi rangers, represented by Kuhkan Maas, John Paul Magana and Monica Inonong of the Bayog Ranger Station, were lauded for their exceptional resilience in the face of serious risks in performing their duties. The Bayog Ranger Station is located at one of the most vulnerable areas for encroachment inside the Masungi Geopark Project, the site of the foundation's forest restoration initiative, and the Upper Marikina Watershed.

"We are inspired that the international community recognizes our efforts and sacrifice. We hope this recognition will raise awareness of the plight of environment defenders in Masungi and the Philippines," Inonong said.

The Masungi team asked the new Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to help protect them from continuing danger and finally remove the destructive quarry interests and illegal structures in the watershed.

"We also ask the police and the local government to support us in defeating organized crimes inside the Masungi landscape and the surrounding watershed, the health of which is critical to the disaster resilience of many communities and cities," she added.

The team at the Bayog Ranger Station and rangers stationed nearby have faced violence, threats and harassment from environmental offenders and organized criminals

in the past few years. On July 24, 2021, at around 9 p.m., Maas and his companion were shot in the head and neck while resting inside the Bayog Ranger Station after their daily patrol.

On Feb. 18, 2022, persons associated with swimming pool resorts and compounds that have been built inside the watershed ganged up and mauled Masungi rangers including Magana and Inonong. The rangers not only face physical harassment but also legal harassment, which aims to exhaust resources and discourage them from continuing their work, including patrolling, reporting and mitigating threats, planting and maintaining project areas, and educating visitors.

"Because of the lack of enforcement, negligence, or even connivance of certain officials, we are always put in the line of danger. Many times we feel alone. Instead of helping us, some of those in positions of authority are in effect helping incompatible interests like quarries and illegal structures prosper," Inonog lamented.

According to the 2021 report of the Global Witness, the Philippines is the third among countries with the most number of environmental defenders killed in 2020, next to Colombia and Mexico, respectively. The documented killings in the country have reached 29 and these are mostly linked to defenders' opposition to mining, logging and dam projects.

The IUCN-WCPA International Ranger Awards aim to recognize the amazing work of rangers globally and improve their abilities, raise awareness of the important role they play in caring for protected landscapes around the world and spread their unique stories.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IDEANATION
UPLB in partnership with Nestle PH launched IdeaNation for innovative business concepts and solutions to climate change.

Green future for the youth

IdeaNation centers on Nestle Philippines' three net zero areas: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing virgin plastics consumption and sustainable logistics.

BY BEA ROLLO
Contributor

Climate change remains one of the world's most crucial social issues. The youth play an important role in preventing it to be.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños, in partnership with Nestle Philippines, launched IdeaNation, a project that challenges students to produce innovative business concepts and solutions to climate change.

It centers on Nestle Philippines' three net zero areas: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing virgin plastics consumption and sustainable logistics.

The IdeaNation awarding ceremony was held last 15 July via Zoom. Over 90 finalists competed, 18 of which are from UPLB's Accounting and Business Management (ABM) strand. Top three business ideas in addition to Nestle's Choice were awarded.

Winners were given cash prizes of P15,000, P10,000 and P5,000 respectively to support the start-up of their proposed projects.

During the awarding ceremony, Miss Earth 2017 Karen Ibasco emphasized the importance of the youth's engagement in environmental conservation.

"The youth plays an important role. You will have an impact. That is why promising minds like yours are worth investing in creating sustainable and innovative solutions that would benefit the planet and the future generation.

"Results may not be immediately felt, but making solutions now and taking actions afterward and continuing what has started is essential to a worthwhile impact," she said.

The ceremony honored teams Hijo Hija Enerhiya (Step Energy) for the Nestle's Choice Award; Cris' Angels (Coffee Cubes) as second placer; Trailblazer (BayanBiogas) for first place; and ACENV as champions (solar vehicles).

"[We] can serve fresh ideas from different perspectives whether you're from a different societal class. I think we can share these with the older generations to make our future better and everyone else's as well," Cris' team's Aneka Abarientos said.

Only through the collective efforts of everyone can the change be done. Let the social action for the young start from the young.



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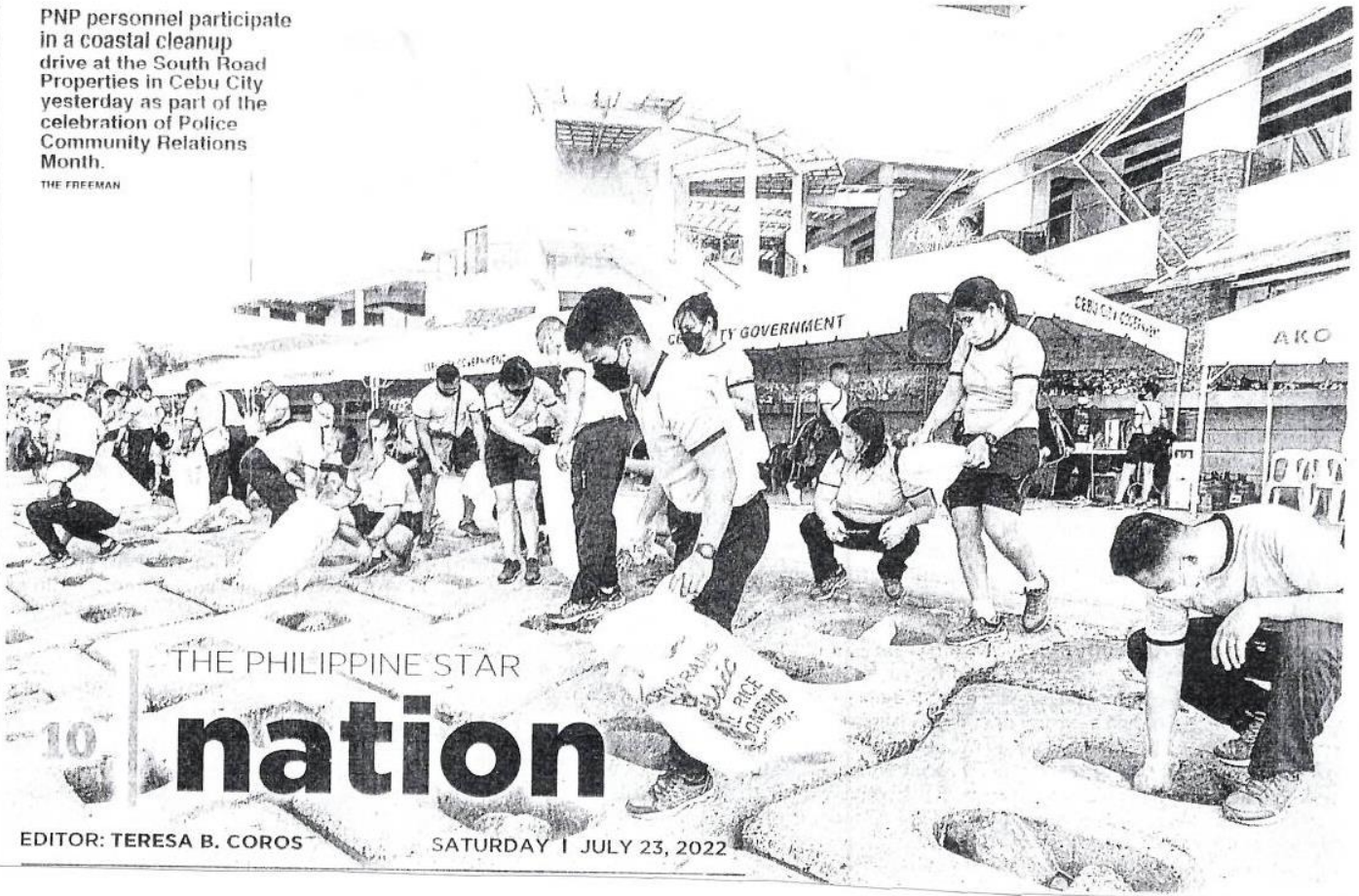
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PNP personnel participate in a coastal cleanup drive at the South Road Properties in Cebu City yesterday as part of the celebration of Police Community Relations Month.

THE FREEMAN



THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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EDITOR: TERESA B. COROS

SATURDAY | JULY 23, 2022



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



REGIONS

Mangyans get land title after 24 years

The 24-year wait for the ethnic Mangyans of Oriental Mindoro was finally over as they received their certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) on Wednesday from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for the lands they have been occupying for generations in Pinamalayan and Gloria towns. It was only the second CADT issued by the NCIP in the province after the one awarded also to the tribe in 1998. —STORY BY MADONNA T. VAROLA **AG**

Oriental Mindoro's Mangyan tribe finally gets title to ancestral domain

Members of indigenous communities recognized as landowners through CADT, the first such document issued in the province in 24 years

CITY OF CALAPAN—Two communities of the Mangyan tribe in the province of Oriental Mindoro received their certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) for 3,270.78 hectares after 24 years of waiting, officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said. Allen Capuyan, NCIP chair, said the Tadyawan and Taubuid Mangyan were awarded CADT No. 047 covering land that spans the villages of Sabang in Pinamalayan town and Buong Lups in Gloria town during a ceremony at Pinamalayan's covered court on Wednesday. According to the NCIP, the title was the first CADT ever awarded to the members of the Mangyan communities in this

province. CADT is a title formally recognizing the rights of possession and ownership of indigenous peoples (IPs) over their ancestral domains. After a period of struggle It was in 1998 when the two Mangyan communities received their certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC), according to Pren Luarca, a member of the Mangyan Mission (Risen Christ Parish) of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan. CADC is certification issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recognizing the claims of IPs on their ancestral domain, giving them some degree of control over their territories.



LAND OWNERS Leaders of the Mangyan tribe in Oriental Mindoro receive their first certificate of ancestral domain title from National Commission on Indigenous Peoples chair Allen Capuyan on Wednesday during a ceremony at the covered court of Pinamalayan town. —PHOTO COURTESY OF NCIP-MIMAROPA

The Mangyan tribe obtained the land title "after a period of struggle of [the NCIP] to provide security over ancestral domains of the IP communities,"

said Marie Grace Pascua, NCIP director in the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region. She said the CADT was filed

with the Registry of Deeds. "This is the realization of the long-awaited hopes turning into reality through a duly registered CADT, the first title ever to be registered in Oriental Mindoro after 24 years," she said.

'Soul of IPra'

At least 160 members of the Tadyawan and Taubuid communities witnessed the awarding ceremony, which was also attended by several government officials, the NCIP said. It was not immediately known how many Mangyans belong to the two tribes.

"Let's continue to secure the [ancestral domain] areas which [are] the soul of IPRA

(Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997)," said Pascua in a statement.

According to the NCIP, the issuance of a CADT would allow indigenous communities the "responsibility to have and to hold in ownership the ancestral domain ... as their private but community property which belongs to all generations."

It said the IPs would be tasked to "develop, control, manage and utilize collectively the ancestral domain with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities."

But the NCIP noted that the ancestral domain or portions of it should not be sold, disposed of or destroyed. —MADONNA T. VIROLA **NC**



07-23-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Asia energy event to be held in PH

GLOBAL Zero Carbon Partnership and Escom Events will hold the World Clean Energy Conference Philippine Edition 2022 on August 31 to Sept. 1, 2022 in partnership with the Department of Energy (DoE).

With the venue at Dusit Thani Manila, the Asia Clean Energy Conference is the region's premier event for clean energy, bringing together leading international experts, policymakers, scientists, engineers, technology developers and business professionals to discuss the most important issues in the advancement of innovative sustainable energy sources.

The Philippine edition, the series' inaugural event, brings together a broad coalition of professionals in the energy sector for two days of industry networking, education and innovation at one

of the top conference venues in the country. It is the biggest meeting of the digital energy, grid/utility, solar, wind, geothermal, energy storage and energy sectors in the nation and Asia.

Director Patrick Aquino of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau, which leads the partnership with the Energy department, as well as Daniel Collin Jomales, supervising science research specialist of DoE, and the other affiliated agencies such as Renewable Energy Management Bureau, and the Energy Policy and Planning Bureau along with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Manila Electric Co. and Aboitiz Power Corp., among others, will participate in this event.

Those interested in attending the event can visit the official website at <https://gzcp.org/wcec-phedition>.



Odette, six months on

The embassy of Spain, Instituto Cervantes, AECID, and UN-OCHA collaborate on an exhibit that sounds alarm bells on climate change



ALMOST DIPLOMATIC

CAROL RH MALASIG

As most of Western Europe grapples with a heatwave, the Philippines remembers yet another typhoon that ravaged our islands. While they are not really identical phenomena, as one brings extreme warmth as the other one carries an excess of rain and destructive winds, both are symptoms of a planet that just keeps getting warmer and warmer. Living in a tropical country, Filipinos are used to typhoons but that doesn't mean we're ready for them to get stronger, more damaging, especially as an average of 20 typhoons visit the Philippines every year.

A photo exhibition opened this week at the Instituto Cervantes in Manila, showing the devastation and the response to Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai) after it ravaged 11 of the country's 17 regions close to Christmas in 2021. Siargao, one of the country's best surfing spots, whose inhabitants are known to lead an eco-friendly way of life, was flattened. Fifteen people died on the island alone, leaving families in a state of sadness and shock. Their island, after all, wasn't normally in the path of strong typhoons.

The exhibit features a lump of typhoon debris on the gallery floor, a mix of destroyed vegetation and human possessions one can easily lose during such a calamity. A sleeping mat, thick tree branches, and someone's personal belongings are strewn



REBUILDING TOGETHER From left: Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan, Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Jorge Moragas, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) deputy assistant secretary for the Office of United Nations (UN) and International Organizations Noemi Diaz, and UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines Gustavo Gonzalez

on the floor. It gives the uncomfortable feeling of guilt and worry over who will have to clean up after such damage. How does one rebuild?

Yet rebuild, Filipinos must. Every single time. This, despite being a country that has one of the lowest carbon emissions per capita.

Hosted by the embassy of Spain, Instituto Cervantes, and Spain's international development arm (AECID) and coordinated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on behalf of the humanitarian community, the exhibit runs until Aug. 20, a day after World Humanitarian Day.

UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines Gustavo Gonzalez gave an assurance that efforts in the affected areas would continue "to ensure that progress made in the last six months is not rolled back."

So far, shelter assistance has been provided to over 210,000 typhoon-affected households and 66,000 families have received kitchen items, sleeping kits, and lighting items. Over 1.2 million people have also received livelihood support, particularly for

agriculture. There's been progress but there's more to be done. More shelter repair kits are needed. Citing a recent UN-OCHA report, Gonzalez shared that damaged homes are still at 2.1 million and 3,000 people are still displaced in five regions.

The exhibit shows photos of disaster response during various stages of relief operations. The



TITLE:

PAGE

2/2

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THE AFTERMATH In the middle of the photo gallery is a statement piece that features debris from Super Typhoon Odette

photos, arranged like waves on the walls of the gallery, also seem to depict the ebb and flow of the world's attention and the intensity of the response to a ravaged community's needs. Gonzales added that while long-term and sustained recovery will be the focus of support to the

"As nations continue to address the different impacts of the global pandemic, the reality is several hazards may strike at once," Gonzales said. "The Philippines has already experienced responding to catastrophes in a Covid-19 crisis scenario, amid difficult access to resources due

Some scientists argue that it is too late, but is there anything we can do to make a dent in the efforts to stop climate change?

government until the end of the year, the humanitarian community will reinforce measures to strengthen preparedness and build resilience against future calamities.

to the war in Ukraine. This is forcing all of us to change the way operations are being conducted."

Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan and Ambassador Jorge Moragas of Spain also spoke at the exhibit opening. The event might just be the Spanish ambassador's last official engagement as he ends his tour of duty in the Philippines. He expressed admiration for the collective efforts of the humanitarian community and his hopes for the continued improvement of the situation.

It's been reported that only 100 companies are responsible for 71 percent of global emissions. Some scientists even argue that it's already too late. While systemic change is now the only way we can make a dent in the situation and, with hope, stop a catastrophe, subtle changes in our own lifestyles wouldn't hurt. We must walk the talk by keeping companies and governments accountable while contributing to the efforts ourselves.



IMAGES OF DESTRUCTION The exhibit paints a clear picture of the tragedy and wreckage caused by Typhoon Rai



Most countries 'woefully unprepared' for changing climate — analysis

By PATRICK GALEY

PARIS (AFP) — Major economies such as India, Brazil and Russia face "cascading" crises driven by climate change such as food insecurity, energy shortages and civil unrest, an industry analysis warned Thursday.

While developing nations of Africa and Southeast Asia are predicted to be worst hit by higher temperatures, extreme weather and sea-level rise, some middle-income nations lack the infrastructure and legislative freedom to keep pace with the changing climate.

And, as Europe counts the cost of another record-shattering heatwave, the analysis showed how even nations with typically few climate-linked crises will need to adapt as global temperatures rise.

The analysis looked at countries' performances across 32 structural issues — including weather-related events, political stability, economic power, resource security, poverty and human rights — to assess each nations' capacity to manage crises.

It then divided countries into three categories: insulated, precarious and vulnerable.

Unsurprisingly, most wealthy nations performed well and were found to be the most insulated against climate shocks thanks to a combination of good governance, purchasing power and robust infrastructure.

Developing nations were mainly deemed to be in the vulnerable category for lacking these safeguards. Several middle-income countries, however, including India, Indonesia and South Africa also fell into this grouping.

Risks will spill over

"The low levels of investment in looking at the secondary risks show that most countries are almost entirely unprepared to deal with the wider political, economic and developmental impacts of a warming planet," said the analysis.

Will Nichols, head of climate and resilience at consultancy firm Verisk Maplecroft that conducted the assessment, said the major surprise was in the middle — or the "precarious" category — which contained powerhouses such as Brazil, Mexico, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

"Brazil is teetering on the edge," Nichols told AFP.

"A slight change could see it drop into that bottom group and we are certainly seeing the erosion of environmental and social protections under (President Jair) Bolsonaro.

"In Russia, Arctic infrastructure is going to be undermined by warming and you could see a leader like (President Vladimir) Putin point the finger at other groups and seek to expand its territory," Nichols said.

Although a G20 economy, Mexico landed in the precarious category largely due to its proximity to Central and South American nations such as Venezuela facing extreme climate-linked disruption, particularly in the form of mass migration.

"These risks aren't contained by political boundaries, they will spill over," said Nichols.

"Even if you have your house in order, if your neighbor is a basket case that can seriously undermine your ability to protect yourself."

Don't have resilience'

Under the UN-led climate action plan, rich nations promised in 2009 to provide \$100 billion annually to at-risk countries by 2020 but have so far failed to even approach that level of funding.

Nichols said the analysis showed the need for developed countries to help nations that cannot help themselves.

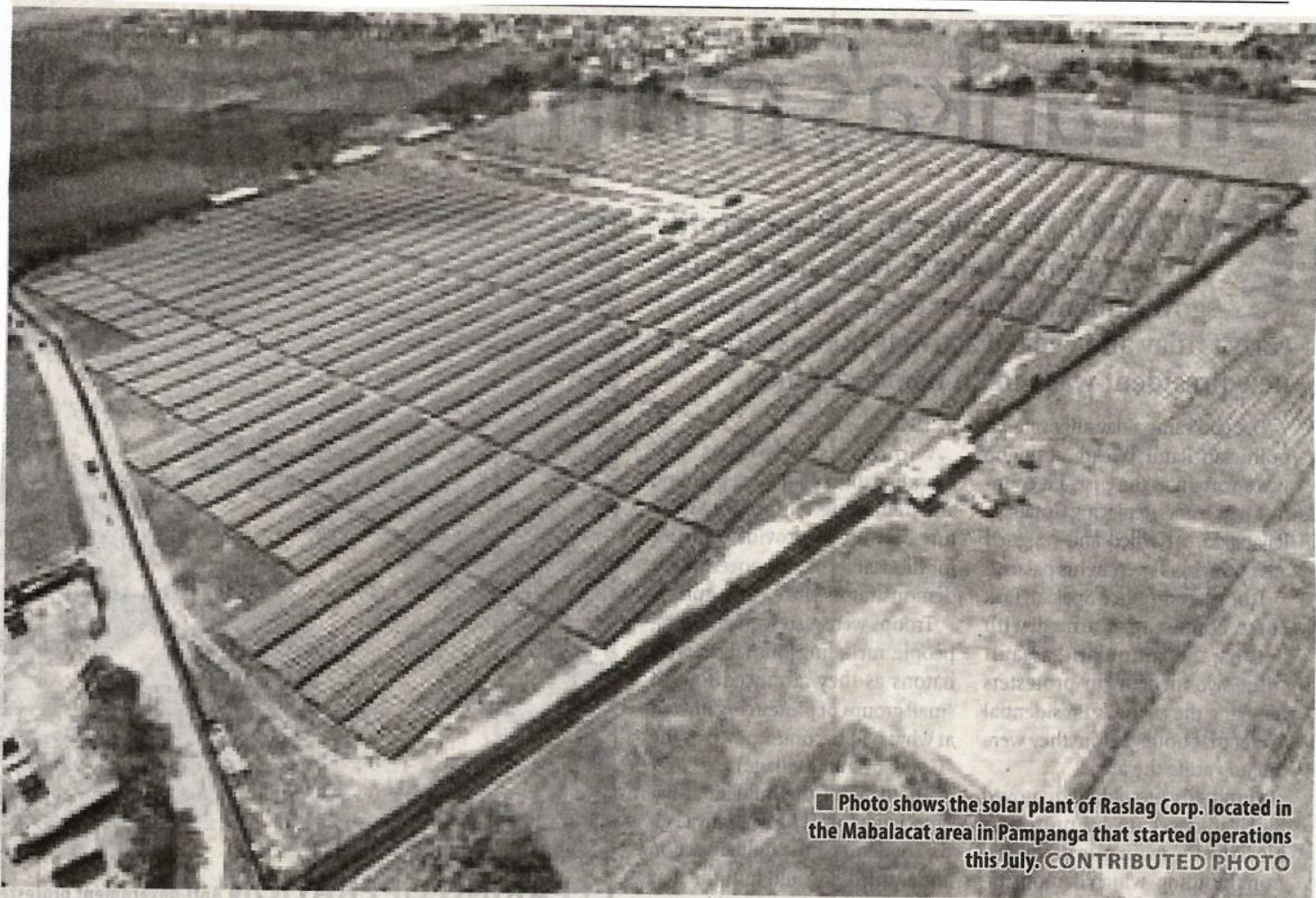
"We've seen relatively small amounts of people arriving in Europe and the US due to climate impacts causing major issues," he said.

"There's an argument that we as insulated nations have a responsibility to help vulnerable nations to protect themselves, which in turn helps protect us."

Nichols said this week's deadly heatwave in Europe was proof that even rich countries needed to factor climate change into future business and governance decisions.

"The scale of the climate threat isn't diminishing — it is obviously going to have a huge impact," he said.

"But countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and South America don't have the resilience to manage both the physical climate threat and the knock-on effects of political and supply chain instability."



■ Photo shows the solar plant of Raslag Corp. located in the Mabalacat area in Pampanga that started operations this July. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third Raslag solar plant starts operations

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

RASLAG Corp.'s third venture solar plant went online this July after receiving approval from the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines.

In a statement, the company said its 18,011-megawatt peak (MWp) plant energization earmarks the additional revenues of about P215 million for the first two years of its operation. Offering its generation to the Wholesale

Electricity Spot Market (WESM) as a merchant plant, Raslag will capitalize on the uptrend of WESM prices thus far to push its financial figures higher than expected.

The 18,011-MWp plant of Raslag — the largest plant in op-

eration located in the Mabalacat area in Pampanga — doubles the company's solaWESr generating capacity to 41,198 MWp. Raslag-1 (10,046 MWp) and Raslag-2 (13,141 MWp) both enjoy a feed-in-tariff (FIT) rate of P9.68/kWh and P8.69/kWh, respectively. The FIT rates have an annual escalation based on inflation and foreign exchange rates and guaranteed for 20 years from commercial operations.

For the rest of 2022, the power plant is expected to generate 13.5

gigawatt-hours (GWh) and 27.0 GWh in 2023. It can potentially contribute revenues of around P71.6 million in 2022 and P142.9 million in 2023, assuming an average WESM settlement price of P5.30/kWh.

The 35,159-MWp Raslag-4, which will be the company's largest plant once completed, is in the advanced stages of land acquisition, permitting and development work. It is expected to achieve commercial operations status in March 2024.



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DATE

NEW US ENVOY TO PH ASSURES

MARCOS ON DEFENSE, CLEAN ENERGY

**By Marlon Ramos
and Nestor Corrales**
@Team_Inquirer

Newly designated US Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Loss Carlson on Friday assured President Marcos of Washington's continued support in safeguarding the country's territory, facilitating fresh investments and developing clean energy.

"Our alliance is a bedrock of our bond, and our Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and other agreements are at the heart of our commitment to help defend the Philippines' sovereignty and independence," Carlson said in

remarks following her presentation of credentials to Mr. Marcos in Malacañang.

"The United States is committed to partnering with you and your team as you move ahead," the diplomat added. "As you act to ensure the security, prosperity and freedoms of the (Filipinos), we are here to help and invested in your success."

She recalled that US President Joe Biden also reiterated Washington's "deep and enduring" support "as friend, ally and partner" when the American leader phoned Mr. Marcos a day after the May 9 elections.

Philippine Ambassador to

the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez said Mr. Marcos and Carlson had a 45-minute meeting at the Palace after the presentation.

'More trade, not aid'

In a Viber message, Romualdez said the President thanked Carlson for the COVID-19 vaccines donated by the United States. The donations stood at 29.3 million doses as of end-February.

"The President expressed his appreciation to the United States in helping the Philippines with the vaccines and that our long historical ties will take us to the future of our strong relationship," Romualdez said.



MaryKay Loss Carlson

Mr. Marcos, he noted, also wanted to have "more trade, not aid, from the US."

Carlson's designation came at a crucial time in Philip-

pine-American relations amid China's increasingly aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea in continuing disregard of Manila's historic arbitral victory in 2016 that invalidated Beijing's sweeping maritime claims. (See related story on Page A5)

Reliable partner

In her speech at the Palace, the US ambassador said her country would cooperate with the Philippines also to forge new trade deals, protect its marine resources, develop clean energy and address climate change.

"You have a reliable partner in the United States on all these

issues," Carlson told Mr. Marcos. "With your leadership, we are glad that our bilateral relations are off to an excellent start."

"I feel especially fortunate to arrive in the early days of your administration," she added.

Carlson previously served as US chargé d'affaires in Argentina. For the Philippine posting, she succeeded Ambassador Sung Kim who headed the US mission in Manila from 2016 to 2020.

In a separate statement, the US Embassy announced that Heather Variava, its chargé d'affaires ad interim since September last year, will keep her post as deputy chief of mission. INQ



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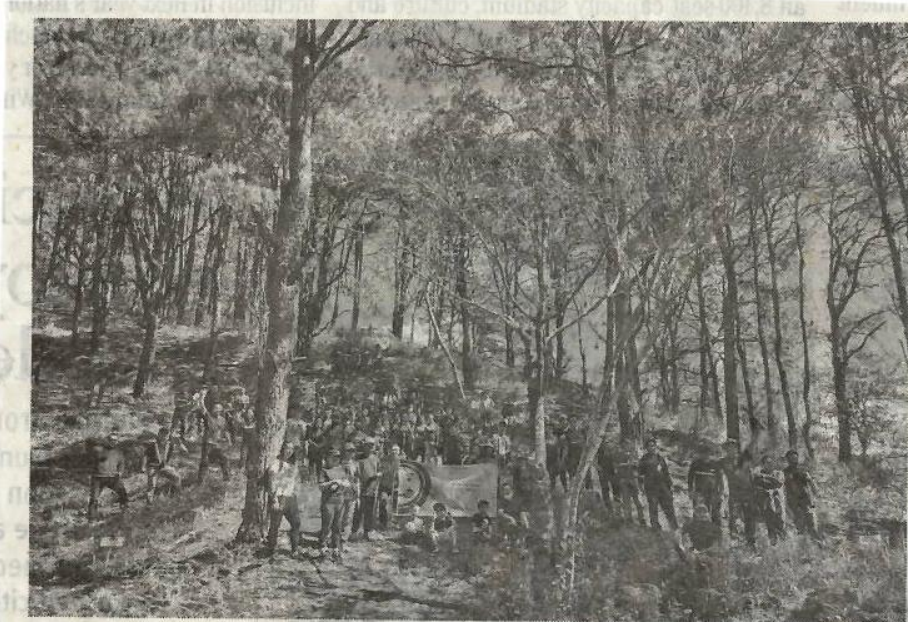
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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SNAP-BENGUET

VOLUNTEERS gather to mark the 14th anniversary of SN Aboitiz Power Benguet with a tree planting activity.

23 JULY 2022, SATURDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



OCTA: Metro Manila positivity rate suddenly going up again

Philstar.com July 22, 2022 | 3:13pm



People queue outside SM City Sta. Mesa in Quezon City to register for the upcoming December 2022 barangay elections despite the light rainfall on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — After first projecting a peak in the surge of cases within the next week, independent pandemic monitor OCTA Research sounded the alarm Friday over the sudden uptick in positive cases in recent days.

In an advisory, OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David said that the positivity rate — which refers to the percentage of cases coming out positive — was suddenly on the uptrend again after going down for a number of days in a row.

Per the Department of Health's latest update, Metro Manila made up 1,002 of the 2,828 new cases recorded nationwide on Thursday. Quezon City, Makati, and Manila were responsible for 215, 117, and 112 of those cases, respectively, while no other local government unit breached 100 cases.

"It is not yet clear what is driving this change in trends. It is also not clear at this time when the peak will be reached in the NCR. Our projections show around 3,000 new cases nationwide on July 22, with about 1,100 in the NCR," David wrote.

OCTA Research — among the most accurate groups in COVID-19 projections over the pandemic — was careful to clarify that its earlier projections were "based on data we obtained from testing laboratories care of the Department of Health."

To recall, it earlier said that the peak of the ongoing surge in cases was projected to end within seven days. This was because, they said, the daily positivity rate on July 15 reached 14 percent with the next three days showing consistently lower positivity rates.

"However, the positivity rate jumped in July 19 and now shows an increasing trend, which hit 14.6 percent on July 20," the group said.


"Cases are now rising in many parts of the country. The new sub-variants are immune evasive. We strongly advise the public to observe caution."

Experts have said that waning immunity against the coronavirus along with increased mobility could trigger small waves of transmission.




So far, only 15.1 million of the 154.1 million coronavirus vaccine doses administered were booster shots, according to the DOH National COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier this week backed retaining the existing COVID-19 Alert Level System for the time being.

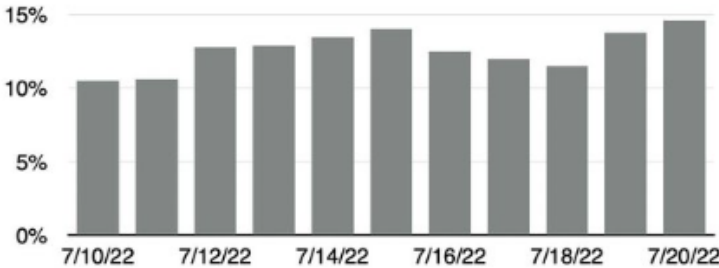
 **Dr. Guido David**
@iamguidodavid · Follow

The daily positivity rate in the NCR is increasing again. It was previously at its highest on July 15 when it was at 14%. It is now at 14.6% as of July 20. We are seeing an increasing trend again, and projecting 1100 in the NCR and 3000 nationwide today July 22. #COVID19 @dzbb



NCR Covid-19 Daily Positivity Rate Rising Again

NCR Daily Positivity Rate



A few days ago, we reported that the daily positivity rate in the NCR may have peaked. This was based on the data we obtained from testing laboratories (c/o DOH). On July 15, the daily positivity rate reached 14%, and the next three days showed lower daily positivity rates. However, the positivity rate jumped in July 19 and now shows an increasing trend, which hit 14.6% on July 20. It is not yet clear what is driving this change in trends. It is also not clear at this time when the peak will be reached in the NCR. Our projections show around 3000 new cases nationwide on July 22, with about 1100 in the NCR. Cases are now rising in many parts of the country. The new sub-variants are immune evasive. We strongly advise the public to observe caution.

8:47 AM · Jul 22, 2022

69 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Read 20 replies](#)

— Franco Luna

23 JULY 2022, SATURDAY



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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

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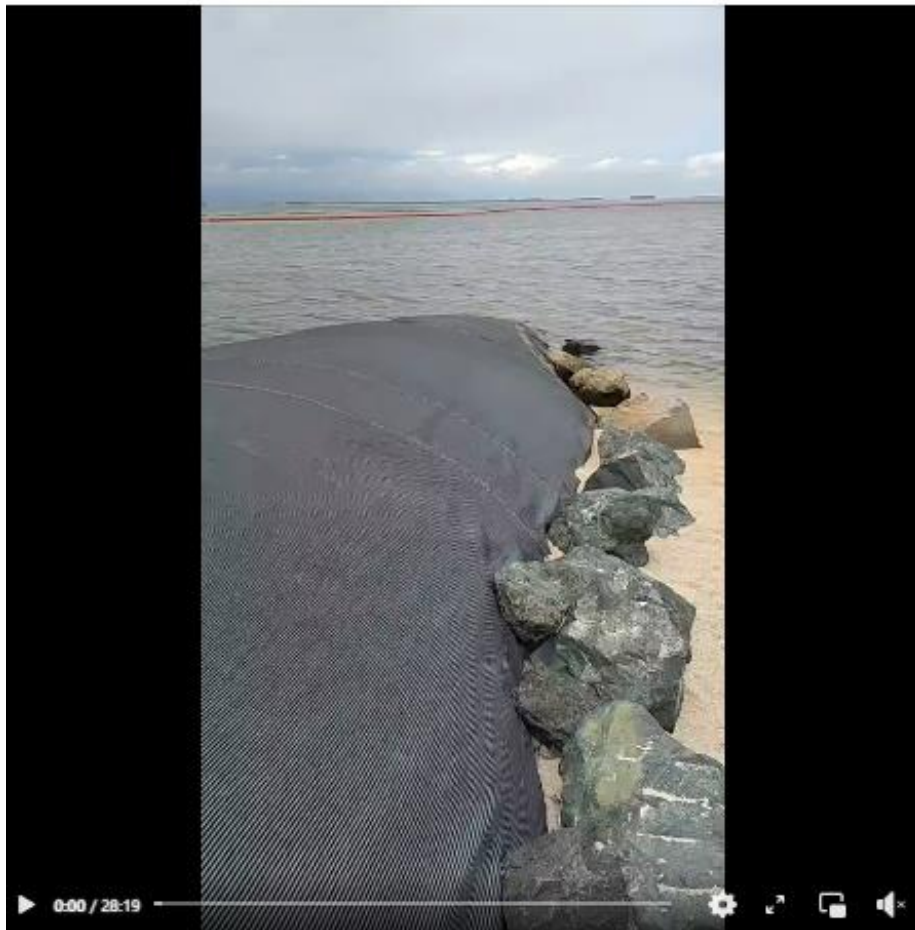
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Manila Bay Dolomite Sand




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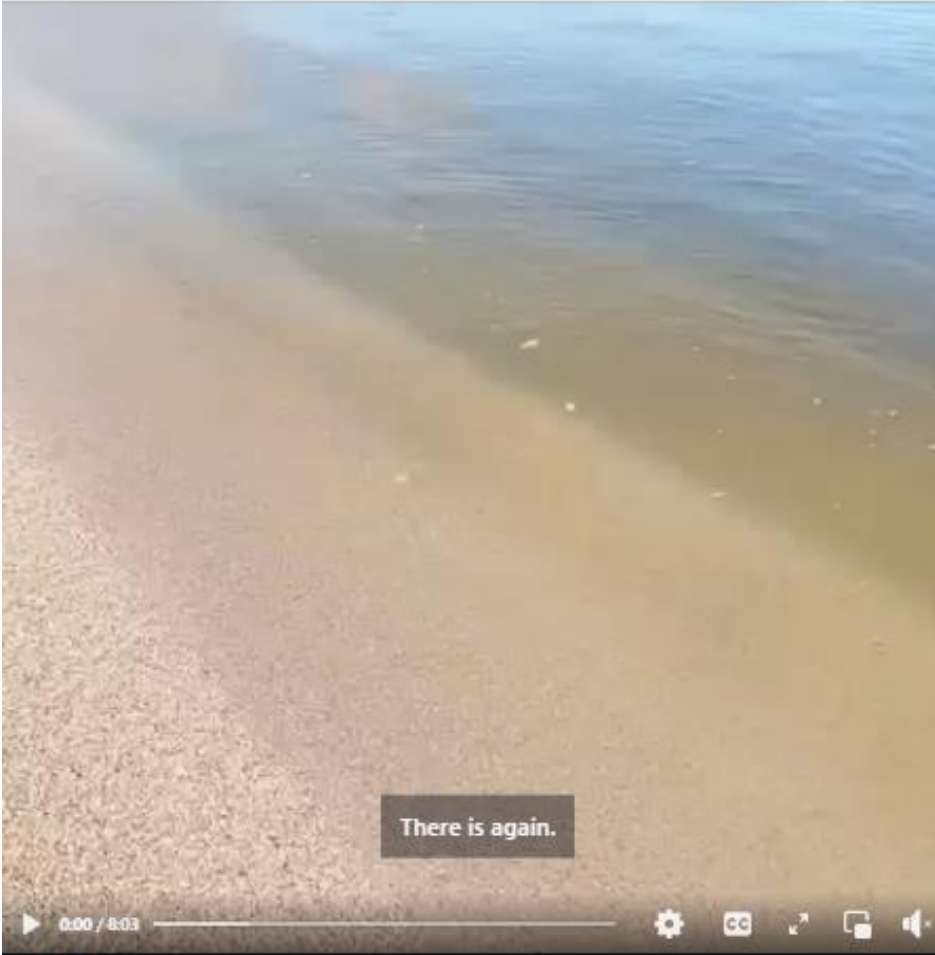
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Pagkatapos ng halaan, blue crab naman ngayon!

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