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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Holcim PH pshes green efforts



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

February 26, 2022

LEADING building solutions provider Holcim Philippines Inc. shared its best practices in measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations in a government webinar aimed at strengthening the country's efforts to mitigate climate change.

Represented by sustainability manager Stephanie Frogoso, Holcim Philippines participated as a resource speaker in the recent Climate Change Mitigation webinar organized by the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI), a joint program with the Climate Change Service under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ).

Frogoso provided an overview of the company's sustainability commitments, the carbon footprint of cement manufacturing and initiatives to contribute to the Holcim Group's net zero ambition. She also discussed available tools used for measuring emissions, simulation of a cement plant's carbon footprint and the Cement Sustainability Initiative's principles for accounting and reporting.

The webinar is part of the PaSTI project that started in 2020 to capacitate the government, private sector and key stakeholders in further improving systems for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) climate change mitigation measures. This project is supported by Japan's Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center and the MOEJ. Establishment of an MRV system is important for the Philippines to monitor and report progress on climate change actions under the Paris Agreement.

"Our deepest thanks to the government for continuing to involve us in these important discussions and recognizing our commitment and initiatives against climate change. Our company is ready to continue improving operations and rolling out innovative and sustainable building solutions to grow our business and make a positive social and environmental impact to support the country's progress," said Horia Adrian, Holcim Philippines president and chief executive officer.

It was the third time Holcim Philippines participated in the climate change webinar organized by DENR and MOEJ since 2020. Last year, Holcim Philippines joined the webinar that discussed the benefits for the private sector in participating in climate transparency initiatives. Participants discussed GHG mitigation measures and shared their insights on the importance of a national climate policy and communication with the government.

Holcim Philippines is one of the leading building solution companies in the country. The company has a deep portfolio of innovative solutions fostered by a full range of products from structuring to finishing applications that can help local builders execute with high performance and efficiency a wide range of projects from massive infrastructure to simple home repairs.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/26/business/green-industries/holcim-ph-pshes-green-efforts/1834303>



[First hybrid solar and storage project opens in Laguna](#)

FEB 25, 2022, 12:28 PM



James Veloso
Writer/Columnist

The new facility "is configured to help manage internal electricity demands, store electricity when the solar plant is generating power but demand is low, and provide rapid power charging when the demand is high," ACEN said in a recent press release.

LAGUNA province may soon become a hub for renewable energy in the Calabarzon region, with the start of the first hybrid solar and energy storage project in the Philippines.

Located in the town of Alaminos, the pilot 40-megawatt energy storage project will complement the 120-megawatt Gigasol solar farm currently operated by Ayala Group's listed energy platform AC Energy, Inc. (ACEN).

The new facility "is configured to help manage internal electricity demands, store electricity when the solar plant is generating power but demand is low, and provide rapid power charging when the demand is high," ACEN said in a recent press release.



[First hybrid solar and storage project opens in Laguna](#)

The energy storage facility will also provide ancillary services to the national grid.

The facility holds 24 battery containers with SAFT 2.5 MWh lithium-ion batteries, enough to power about 20,000 homes and avoid 35.87 MTCO_{2e} emissions per year.

“We are delighted to start the operations of ACEN’s very first battery energy storage project,” ACEN President and CEO Eric Francia.

“We will be looking to increase our investments in storage as the technology increases its viability and competitiveness.”

The 120-megawatt GigaSol solar farm, located in Barangay San Andres, started operations last June 2021.

According to the company, the solar farm can power approximately 80,000 homes in the Laguna and Batangas area, as well as contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the province.

The solar farm facility is also home to ACEN’s Sustainability Hub, where the plant is surrounded by Ayala Land’s Carbon Forest, a woodland reserve that acts as a carbon trap and home to biodiversity.

A plastic recycling facility has also been integrated to pilot the circular approach, diverting plastic waste from landfills to be upcycled into eco-bricks and to be used in building facilities within the plant.

The potentials of solar power in the province of Laguna – which has its own share of renewable-energy resources such as geothermal and hydroelectric energy – have been touted as a possible solution to the current shortage of energy supplies in Luzon.

Last February 2, the Laguna Lake Development Authority has also raised the idea of using the Laguna de Bay as a renewable energy source.

In a memorandum circular, the LLDA offered 2,000 hectares of the freshwater lake for renewable energy utilization projects (REU), most notably floating solar farms.



Masungi Georeserve

12 hrs · 🌐

WHAT'S AT STAKE? Masungi and its environs is the home of the ultra-rare JC's vine, which is now blooming in various parts of the sanctuary. Scientists discovered the species only in 2015 where Masungi is considered its most prolific natural habitat. Masungi's irreplaceable biodiversity and natural heritage is only one of the many reasons we must protect it from unchecked encroachments and developments by syndicates!

Sign the [Save Masungi Movement](#) call to remove illegal structures inside the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Geopark Project:

bit.ly/removestructures!





Saving sea turtles through community education in Ilocos Norte

By Leilanie Adriano February 25, 2022, 4:22 pm



TIME TO MOVE. Workers of the Northwind Development Corp. in Bangui, Ilocos Norte relocate sea turtle eggs to a guarded hatchery in this undated photo. The move aims to keep them safe during high tides and protect them from predators. *(Photo courtesy of Northwind Corp.)*

LAOAG CITY – Residents of the coastal towns of Bangui and Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte guard and protect the nests of endangered sea turtles or *pawikans* that lay their eggs along the shorelines.

Due to the continuing marine turtle conservation awareness and training of the NorthWind and North Luzon Renewables in Bangui and Pagudpud towns, popular habitats of marine turtles are emerging, Raymond Sesuca, stakeholder engagement manager of the Ayala Group-led wind farms, said on Friday.

Three species can be found in Ilocos Norte -- Green Sea turtle, Hawksbill Sea turtle, and Olive Ridley Sea turtle.

The Ilocos wind farms - the 52-megawatt NorthWind in Bangui and 81-megawatt North Luzon Renewables in Pagudpud - initiated the sea turtle conservation program in 2013.

Records show at least 24 nesting sites were monitored, over 1,000 hatchlings were released, and 30 sea turtles were rescued and released since the program started.

Whenever local fishermen encounter a stranded sea turtle in the area, they immediately record and report this to local authorities as they help return to the wild, Sesuca said.

He said before this intervention, local communities had a different understanding of their environment and the inherent value that *pawikans* contribute to their local heritage often leading to poaching.



Saving sea turtles through community education in Ilocos Norte

To reverse this behavior, personnel of the Ilocos wind farms began a grassroots approach to educate the local stakeholders about the benefits of Pawikan conservation for their livelihood.

"Back in 2005, we would only see one, two, three—maybe up to five *pawikans* around here. The number of pawikans laying their eggs in Bangui Bay has increased, and we have been able to rescue hundreds of eggs with a hatching rate of 80 percent," Sesuca added.

This February, residents attended their latest training on how to protect these turtles.

Meanwhile, Ed Angadol, wind farm's forestry senior manager, said the residents are now fully aware that sustainable practices help protect the marine biodiversity that surrounds them.

"Through the Pawikan Conservation initiative, we hope to be an example and an inspiration so that everyone can see that progress and caring for the environment can go hand in hand," he added. (PNA)



Reticulate python freed at Pasonanca Natural Park



ZAMBOANGA. The Office of the City Veterinarian (OCVet) released Friday, February 25, a female reticulated python at the Pasonanca Natural Park, Zamboanga City. A photo handout shows the OCVet personnel displayed the python before it was released. (SunStar Zamboanga)

February 25, 2022

PERSONNEL of the Office of the City Veterinarian (OCVet) have released a female reticulated python Friday, February 25, 2022, at the Pasonanca Natural Park, Zamboanga City.

Dr. Arnedo Agbayani, assistant city veterinarian, said the release of the python is in line with the City Government's program on wildlife preservation.

Agbayani described the reticulated python as 13 feet long and weighed 16 kilos.

The python was rescued by a resident and turned over the OCVet.

Agbayani said the python was found to be in fit condition following an assessment though some ticks were removed from it.

"It (the python) was subsequently released at the Pasonanca Natural park and watershed," he said.

The reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*) are said to be the world's longest snake.

They can grow up to 28.5 feet (8.7 meters) and are known to be fantastic swimmers, according to Reptile World Facts. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1921998/zamboanga/local-news/reticulate-python-freed-at-pasonanca-natural-park>



Sustainability, resiliency exhibit: Connecting Today to Tomorrow



NEGROS. SM vice president for operations in the Visayas Michelle Llanos, Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson, Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia, DOST provincial director Allan Dara-ug and Mall manager George Jardiolin during the satellite launching exhibit at SM City Bacolod Thursday, February 24, 2022. (Contributed photo)



NEGROS. The exhibit, dubbed as "connecting today to tomorrow," will run until March 2022. (Contributed photo)



Sustainability, resiliency exhibit: Connecting Today to Tomorrow



NEGROS. SM Prime Holdings' exhibit, titled "Connecting Today to Tomorrow," showcases decades' worth of sustainability efforts for the company and the communities it is part of. (Contributed photo)

[CARLA N. CANET](#)

February 25, 2022

SM PRIME Holdings Inc. (SM Prime) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched a series of exhibits in select SM malls across the country, focusing on the sustainability and disaster resilience initiatives of the two organizations, especially those related to addressing climate change.

The exhibit was initially unveiled at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City, while satellite launching was held at the cities of Baguio, Davao and Bacolod.

At SM City Bacolod, the exhibit, dubbed as "connecting today to tomorrow," is located at the northeast wing of the mall and will last until March 20.

Leading this local initiative were Michelle Llanos, the SM vice president for operations in the Visayas, DOST Provincial Director Engineer Allan Dara-ug, along with Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson and Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia.

Llanos shared the pride of SM Prime, citing the leadership of Hans Sy that has inspired the company to always look at ways on "how we can make it better for the people and for the planet."



Sustainability, resiliency exhibit: Connecting Today to Tomorrow

"What you will see in the exhibit are our humble contributions to the environment, where our programs on sustainability and resilience are anchored on key pillars such as energy efficiency, water resource management, waste Management, biodiversity, supporting communities and disaster risk reduction," she said.

"Climate change is the biggest environmental problem the world is facing today, with drastic increases in global temperatures recorded in recent years," she added.

Based on the 2020 Annual climate report by the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the combined land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.8 degrees Celsius per decade since 1880.

The average rate of increase, however, has been more than twice that rate since 1981, at 0.18 degrees Celsius, the report also showed.

It added that this phenomenon has been affecting our planet's natural systems in many ways.

For instance, there is strong scientific consensus supporting the idea that climate change causes typhoons to occur more frequently and contributes to stronger storms.

The report warned that this is very alarming especially in countries such as the Philippines which is considered as one of the most vulnerable in the world to the effects of extreme weather events.

Being a responsible and trusted member of the community, SM Prime knows the importance of sustainability and disaster resilience in mitigating the impact of climate change and other environmental problems on our planet, a statement from the mall said.

It also said that as a trusted integrated property developer and one of the biggest in Southeast Asia, SM Prime is committed to promoting these two advocacies in all its properties, and the exhibit is the latest to be implemented as part of this commitment.

Joining SM Prime are its numerous business units, each with its own sustainability and disaster resilience initiatives.

These include SM Supermalls, SMDC Residences, the Commercial Property Group, engaged in the development and leasing of office spaces; Leisure Resorts (Tagaytay Highlands and Pico de Loro) and the Hotels and Convention Centers business unit, which develops and manages hotels and convention centers across the country.

In line with this, the company continuously allocates ten percent of its capital expenses in features in its properties supporting these two advocacies, from rain catchment facilities to renewable energy sources and everything in between.



Sustainability, resiliency exhibit: Connecting Today to Tomorrow

Aside from this, the company also employs a multi-stakeholder approach to sustainability and disaster resilience, working together with partners in the public and private sectors, and one of these is the DOST.

For his part, SM Supermalls president Steven Tan said in a statement that DOST and SM Prime have enjoyed a long-standing partnership in promoting sustainability and disaster resilience in the country.

In recent years, working together with visionaries like DOST Undersecretary Dr. Renato Solidum, they have made great strides in facilitating discussions and creating long-term solutions in line with these two advocacies, and we hope to continue building on these achievements toward a more sustainable and disaster-resilient Philippines, Tan said.

He said SM Prime remains committed to its role as a catalyst for economic growth, delivering innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities, thereby enriching the quality of life of millions of people.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1922003/bacolod/lifestyle/sustainability-resiliency-exhibit-connecting-today-to-tomorrow>



AboitizPower breaks ground for second solar venture, to create 'brighter future' for Pangasinan

[Friday, February 25, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) on Thursday held a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for its 94-MW peak solar power project in Pangasinan, an undertaking seen to create a “brighter future” for the province.

Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III welcomed AboitizPower’s multi-billion-peso project, saying that this significant investment in sustainable power generation will help address the country’s need for more and cleaner energy sources to fuel the nation’s growth.

“Today marks a milestone in Pangasinan as we break new grounds to provide a safe and brighter future for our province and for our fellow Filipinos. This starts our tie-up to provide safe and renewable electric power to our people while protecting the environment for the next generations to enjoy,” Gov. Espino said in his message of support during the virtual event.

AboitizPower, through a special-purpose vehicle wholly owned by subsidiary Aboitiz Renewables, Inc. (ARI), in December last year awarded to JGC Philippines, Inc. the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract for the project, with a total investment of 4.5 billion.

“Cayanga Solar is a very significant project for us at ARI. This marks the beginning of our exciting journey ahead — growing our renewable energy portfolio over the next 10 years to accelerate the Philippine energy transition to more environmentally sustainable sources,” ARI Executive Director David J. Smith said.



AboitizPower breaks ground for second solar venture, to create 'brighter future' for Pangasinan

The project will soon rise on a 196-hectare site in Barangay Cayanga, about 13 kilometers southwest of the province's capital. This will be the company's second solar facility after its 59-MW peak solar plant in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Construction is set to begin on the project immediately and is targeted to be operational by the fourth quarter of 2022. JGC had completed the site investigation works and the results were used for the ongoing detailed engineering and design of the facilities. Temporary facilities are being erected and completion of the access road going to the plant is currently underway.

Once completed, the power plant is expected to produce about 147 million kWh of clean energy annually or equivalent to the yearly power consumption of 60,000 average Filipino homes. The majority of the facility's capacity will be contracted for retail electricity supply, which can help bring cleaner and more sustainable energy to power consumers across the country.

"In our partnership with you, the Department of Energy (DOE) hopes that other companies and individuals will follow and do their advocacy for renewable energy and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels. The groundbreaking of this solar farm proves that solar energy is technically and economically competitive and could deliver clean and green energy, helping our nation to mitigate climate change impacts through the reduction of carbon footprints by offsetting the energy produced by these fossil fuels," DOE Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella said.

AboitizPower is also looking to develop other renewable energy projects in the region, particularly wind and solar, with tendering on the 167-megawatt peak Laoag solar project in Aguilar, Pangasinan ongoing, and having already erected two met masts in the municipality back in February 2021 as well as two more in Bugallon in September 2021. Met mast refers to the structure where measuring equipment used for gathering resource data such as temperature, wind speed, and wind direction, among others, is installed to estimate energy production and understand the suitability of the site.

[AboitizPower's 10-year growth strategy](#) aims to contribute to a more reliable, cost-efficient, and sustainable power system for the country. With a projected investment of around 190 billion, the company is looking to grow its Cleanergy capacity to 4,600 MW, which will make up 50 percent of its total generation portfolio of 9,200 MW by 2030.



AboitizPower breaks ground for second solar venture, to create 'brighter future' for Pangasinan



About AboitizPower

[AboitizPower](#) is the holding company for the Aboitiz Group's investments in power generation, distribution, and retail electricity services. It advances business and communities by providing reliable and ample power supply at a reasonable and competitive price, and with the least adverse effects on the environment and host communities.

The company is one of the largest power producers in the Philippines with a balanced portfolio of assets located across the country. It is a major producer of Cleanergy, the company's brand for clean and renewable energy with several hydroelectric, geothermal, and solar power generation facilities. It also has thermal power plants in its generation portfolio to support the country's baseload and peak energy demands.

The company also owns distribution utilities that operate in high-growth areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including the country's second and third largest private utilities.

AboitizPower, together with its partners, is the Philippines' largest owner and operator of renewable energy based on installed capacity. In the next 10 years, the company will significantly expand its Cleanergy portfolio, in support of the government's efforts to promote renewable energy in the country. AboitizPower will build an additional 3,700 MW of renewable energy, growing its existing Cleanergy capacity threefold by 2030.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/abotizpower-breaks-ground-for-second-solar-venture-to-create-brighter-future-for-pangasinan/>

Upcycling plastic waste into more valuable materials could make recycling pay for itself

by Vicky Just, [University of Bath](#)



Credit: Unsplash/CC0 Public Domain

A new and simple method for upcycling plastic waste at room temperature has been developed by a team of researchers at the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies (CSCT) at the University of Bath. The researchers hope the new process will help recycling become more economically viable.

Plastic waste residing in either landfill or the natural environment currently outweighs all living biomass (4 Giga tonnes), culminating in one of the great environmental challenges of the 21st century. Whilst recycling rates are increasing across Europe, traditional methods remain limited because the harsh remelting conditions reduce the quality of the material each time it's recycled.

Now researchers at the CSCT have developed a mild and rapid chemical recycling process for polycarbonates, a robust class of plastics commonly used in construction and engineering.

Using a zinc-based catalyst and methanol, they were able to completely break down commercial poly(bisphenol A carbonate) (BPA-PC) beads within 20 minutes at [room temperature](#).

The waste can then be converted into its chemical constituents, namely bisphenol A (BPA) and dimethyl carbonate (DMC), helping to preserve [product quality](#) over an infinite number of cycles.

Importantly, BPA recovery prevents leakage of a potentially damaging environmental pollutant, whilst DMC is a valuable green solvent and building block for other industrial chemicals.

Their results are published in *ChemSusChem*, noting enhanced process efficiency and milder conditions compared to previous methods.



Upcycling plastic waste into more valuable materials could make recycling pay for itself

Promisingly, the catalyst is also tolerant to other commercial sources of BPA-PC (e.g. CD) and mixed waste feeds, increasing industrial relevance, whilst being amenable to other plastics (e.g. poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET)) at higher temperatures.

The team has also demonstrated a completely circular approach to producing several renewable poly(ester-amide)s (PEAs) based on terephthalamide monomers derived from waste PET bottles. These materials have excellent thermal properties and could potentially be used in biomedical applications, for example drug delivery and tissue engineering.

Lead researcher Professor Matthew Jones, at the University of Bath's CSCT, said: "It's really exciting to see the versatility of our catalysts in producing a wide range of value-added products from [plastic waste](#)."

"It's crucial we target such products, where possible, to help promote and accelerate the implementation of emerging sustainable technologies through economic incentives."

First author of the paper, Jack Payne from the CSCT, said: "Whilst plastics will play a key role in achieving a low-carbon future, current practices are unsustainable."

"Moving forward, it's imperative we source plastics from renewable feedstocks, embed biodegradability/recyclability at the design phase and diversify existing [waste](#) management strategies."

"Such future innovation should not be limited to emerging materials but encompass established products too."

"Our method creates new opportunities for polycarbonate recycling under [mild conditions](#), helping to promote a circular economy approach and keep carbon in the loop indefinitely."

Presently, the technology has only been demonstrated on a small scale, however, the team is now working on catalyst optimisation and scaling up the process (300 mL) with collaborators at the University of Bath.



Businesses must put climate resiliency at the core of their strategies



By [Ludwig Federigan](#)

February 26, 2022

THE complexity of our world's development problems have long been widely examined for insights into better approaches and solutions. The problems, however, have persisted and the tasks for all of us have become even more daunting. The latest climate science warns that we barely have until 2030 before the window of opportunity for achieving the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius long-term temperature goal closes.

For vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines, 1.5 C is a threshold of chance and hope. If we breach this temperature limit, we are bound to lose countless lives and immeasurable suffering, especially among the vulnerable and the poor, will occur. Breaching the threshold will disrupt basic social and economic activities and transform life as we know it.

The world continues to get warmer and with this comes long-lasting climate changes. Climate change, along with the Covid-19 pandemic, are among today's greatest humanitarian challenges. The climate and pandemic resilience are intertwined with world economic growth. If the world becomes an inhospitable place, the concept of the economy will disintegrate and we will be left in a pit where it will be a struggle to survive.

We recently witnessed how many of our communities were submerged in floods due to Typhoon "Odette." In this climate crisis era, made more challenging by Covid-19, more lives are at stake. Our decisions and actions will have an impact on communities and the nation. There is no more fitting time to say that responding to these crises has become a moral imperative for governments and a social responsibility for all — when having less in life means losing a life.

We actually have numerous laws and policies focused on addressing climate change issues, managing climate risk and protecting the environment. These include the Climate Change Act for strengthening climate governance; People's Survival Fund Act to provide funding for adaptation projects by local governments and community organizations; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act for building resilience against disasters; Environmental Education and Awareness Act for inculcating love of nature among our youth; and the Green Jobs Act for fostering a just transition toward a green economy.

Laws are just part of the equation, however, and their implementation through good governance could spell a big difference. The world needs to change its way of thinking and doing to effectively address today's complex problems of urban poverty, weak governance, ecosystem decline and vulnerable rural livelihoods toward achieving human development goals.

Our actions should enable us to revisit and rethink current frameworks and strategies for socioeconomic development. Through the centuries, our development approaches and practices allowed vulnerabilities to grow, spread and pervade. We need to adopt an innovative, out-of-the-box approach to effectively tackle this complex development problem.



Businesses must put climate resiliency at the core of their strategies

Our actions should enable us to reset — the kind that has genuine regard for human development and a forceful vision for the future of humanity; the kind that ushers in proactive laws and policies and reforms our way of thinking and doing.

Our actions should enable us to institutionalize a new brand of governance — the kind that ensures laws and regulations are passed and implemented and creates the enabling environment to translate sustainable development strategies into practical and measurable gains; the kind that translates commitment into real actions and results for the people.

Our actions should have a more integrated, holistic and proactive approach of reducing vulnerabilities and building the resilience of nations and communities; an approach that engages all key stakeholders and sectors and builds on partnerships, collaboration, coordination and cooperation, especially in the process of mainstreaming climate action into the national development agenda.

Our actions should have regard for our social, cultural and natural capital — the kind founded on ecosystems protection and cultural resilience. They should also be able to promote awareness in communities and increase national commitment to and investment in the climate and Covid-19 recovery for a safer and more sustainable future.

Recovering from the pandemic requires rapid and massive investments that must not only achieve the short-term gains of creating jobs and reviving industries but also meet long-term resilience objectives. Stimulus packages should channel massive investments to climate-smart infrastructure, such as smart power grids, that can accommodate renewable energy sources; early warning systems against natural hazards; sustainable transportation systems that enable public transit, walking and biking as primary travel modes; rainwater harvesting systems; nature-based solutions to floods, droughts and typhoons; and green infrastructure in public parks and spaces.

We need the support of the private sector. Businesses need to make plans that focus on sustainability in business models and corporate governance with the general population in mind. This will not only benefit communities but also businesses as it will give them a lasting competitive advantage. It is therefore in the private sector's best interest to put climate resilience at the core of their business strategies and promote green policies by strengthening support for climate action and disaster risk reduction initiatives, supporting adaptation measures that help build assets and strengthen the resilience of communities and helping finance mitigation activities and buttress adaptation measures to prevent substantial business losses and economic development setbacks resulting from disasters.

The higher value of a corporate business is not found in the monetary profit it brings nor the wealth it creates but in the nobility of purpose — to improve quality of life and build a sustainable and resilient society. What could be more rewarding than knowing that one's business, however big or small, has made a difference in making a village community or the country as a whole, a safer and happier place to live in? Isn't this the essence of environmental, social and governance concepts?



Businesses must put climate resiliency at the core of their strategies

The road promises to be filled with stumbling blocks. But instead of slowing us down, the challenges should bring about consensus, an agreement that the country should double, even triple, efforts to reach its targets. We rebuild and we continue to rebuild after every disaster. Now is the time not just to build better but build stronger, using the best standards in light of the crises we face today.

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



Defending children's rights against global warming



By [Amado Tolentino Jr.](#)

February 26, 2022

IN a special report on climate change more than a decade ago, Time magazine warned: "Be worried. Be very worried because climate change is not some vague future problem." Today, it is already damaging the planet at an alarming rate — polar ice caps are melting faster than ever; more and more land is being devastated by drought; rising waters are drowning low-lying communities; and worse, global warming is going to lead to a rise in human sickness and death among the world's old and young population alike.

True enough, as average temperature climbs, frequent and longer heat waves resulted in higher mosquito populations in the tropics which contributed much to the spread of malaria, dengue and other insect-borne infections. Industrial and traffic pollution, detrimental to air quality, brought forth lung ailments like asthma and allergy attacks. Heavy downpours led to floods and the bigger issue of water quality.

Toxic truths

Of late, two toxic truths have been reported by the World Health Organization (WHO):

1. E-waste affects the health of millions of children. The global electronic waste industry employs and exposes children to over 1,000 harmful chemical substances that e-waste contains, e.g., mercury, nickel, brominated flame retardants, etc. on account of the fact that they absorb more pollutants relative to their size and are less able to discharge toxic substances from their young bodies. Child health impacts linked to e-waste include, but are not limited to, changes in lung function, DNA damage, impaired thyroid function, and increased risk later in life to cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

2. Exposure to lead pollution causes irreparable damage to children's brains. Sources of childhood lead exposure include: substandard recycling of lead-acid batteries, lead in water from use of leaded pipes, lead-based paints, lead in cosmetics and toys, etc.

3. In all this, children around the world suffer the most, with many equating the climate crisis with a children's rights crisis.

Children have an indispensable but often overlooked role in the crisis. It encroaches upon many basic rights protected by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child among which are: the right to life and development (Art.6), the right to the highest attainable standard of health (Art. 24), the right to education (Art. 29.1), and the right to appropriate, living conditions (Art. 27). Save the Children, Earth Guardians and other international NGOs are calling on governments to prioritize the interests of minors and adolescents and involve them in decision-making and to take their proposals seriously.



Defending children's rights against global warming

Landmark suits

In that connection, since the emergence of the climate initiative Fridays for Future three years ago, it became clear to everyone that climate change is particularly important to children or the young ones. As adults, after all, they will have to cope with the worst consequences of global warming.

In the past few years, minors have asserted their rights in courts, tribunals or any legal forum available to them. In Alaska, Carl Smith, 18 years old, and 15 other teens filed a landmark complaint with the UN Committee on Rights of the Child charging five countries with violating their rights as children by not doing enough to end the climate crisis and the threat it poses to their future. The temperature rise in Alaska at a record 90 degrees saw dead salmon floating in rivers, melted the permafrost and eroded the frozen shoreline near their villages. "Nobody knows what is happening in rural Alaska but as long as everybody speaks out and keeps talking about it, there is hope," explained the young complainants.

Some regard the climate suit as a symbolic act on the big media stage. But truly such moves do have a media impact especially with the upgraded technology available nowadays. Increasingly, youth actions influence attitudes in society and politics.

In Portugal, six children and young adults between the ages of 8 and 21 submitted a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg accusing 27 EU countries of flawed climate policies. Portugal has been experiencing extreme heat waves and devastating wildfires in recent years and, for the young complainants, the governments have not taken appropriate measures to fight global warming despite having pledged to do so with the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015. Actually, forest fires in Portugal's Leiria region claimed 110 lives and caused hundreds of injuries in the summer and fall of 2017. The threat complained of is not only to the country's ancient fine forests but also to the young people's right to life and the respect for private and family life that are guaranteed by the European Human Rights Convention (Arts. 2 and 8). As a typical procedure for every complaint filed, the court in Strasbourg requested the defendant governments to respond. Civil society organizations joined the proceedings as "third parties," explaining and detailing the destructive impacts global warming is having on children's rights.

In Oregon (US), 21 minors and young adults took the US government to a district court asserting that the government's unchecked exploitation of fossil fuels is exacerbating the climate crisis and therefore endangering their future. Making use of the US "public trust doctrine," they said that the government must protect all natural resources like water, air and soil for future generations.

The US Department of Justice wanted the case dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, but the plaintiffs argued it is very much the court's role to demand that the government take measures to remove the pollutants that are contributing to global warming. In the end, the presiding judge directed both parties to come to an agreement in a settlement conference.

Children of prosecution

In Colombia, 25 youthful citizens brought a suit against their government for failing to stop the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, a threat to their right to a healthy environment guaranteed by the Constitution. Colombia's Supreme Court ordered the government to present an action plan to reduce deforestation and to develop an International Pact for the Life of the Colombian Amazon.



Defending children's rights against global warming

In 2019, Fridays for Future co-founder Greta Thunberg with 15 other young ones filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice against five countries with high greenhouse gas emissions — France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Turkey — for violating plaintiffs' human rights as guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The governments refused to have the matter argued before the court on the ground that the climate crisis requires "international relief."

Regardless of the final outcomes in the abovementioned cases, a basic pattern is evident. Young people no longer simply accept the sluggish pace of their countries' climate action. With the support of environmental lawyers and NGOs, the young have become "children of the prosecution," said Martina Dase, the Save the Children climate spokesman.

As a young activist and now co-founder of Earth Guardians, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez predicted in a speech he delivered before the UN General Assembly when he was 15: "We are flooding the streets and we are now flooding the courts to show the world that a movement is rising and that our generation is leading that movement."

Hopefully, the judicial system everywhere will increasingly assume more responsibility for the legal protection of children from the disastrous effects of climate change.



[EU gives PH P1.7-B grants to agriculture, climate](#)

FEB 24, 2022, 4:10 PM



Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

The human rights issues raised by the European Union Council on the Philippine government would not affect relations between the Philippines and the bloc. In fact, the Philippines and the bloc just signed a P1.76-billion grant from EU for use in agriculture (particularly halal and sea-aqua foods) and climate change initiatives.

DESPITE the anxiety caused by the European Union Council's issues on the human rights situation in the Philippines, the bloc even extended a €30.4 million (or P1.76-billion) grant for climate projects and agriculture over the next five years.

The Department of Finance (DoF) and the EU delegation to the Philippines on Wednesday signed financing agreements for a €20.2- million (P1.17-billion) grant that will support agriculture businesses in the Bangsamoro region.

Set to start this year, the five-year grant will fund assistance to the agriculture business sector in BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

The program will help local farmers and cooperatives use integrated farming systems that will improve their ability to increase the quantity and quality of their produce.



[EU gives PH P1.7-B grants to agriculture, climate](#)

Halal and sea-aqua goods

The Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program will also help set product standard quality systems for halal and sea-aqua goods.

"The program will improve the quality and diversity of local agricultural production to respond better to the needs of the market," the EU said in a press release.

The aim is to help agriculture businesses in the region be recognized as attractive investment opportunities, and help them export products to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. It also hopes to boost women's participation in business and create employment opportunities.

"The EU will engage a technical assistance support service provider to work directly with local governmental bodies within the BARMM to improve their institutional capacities."

The project will be rolled out with the help of international organizations that work on trade promotion, local technical institutes, university departments, quality control services, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

P591M for climate change

Meanwhile, €10.2 million (P591 million) will go to the three-year National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Program for the Philippines (CopPhil) that would develop space science and technology for use against climate change, Business World reported.

The project will work on reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change using data from the EU Copernicus Earth Observation satellites and ground-based data collection.

"It will also support the Philippine government's capacities for decision making and monitoring of policy implementation based on timely and accurate data," the EU said through its external action service.

The CopPhil project aims to help the Philippines effectively manage its natural resources and make sure that local jobs are resilient against natural disasters.

The European Space Agency, the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Space Agency will implement the program.

The project may be replicated in other countries, especially if the data exchange done in the initial agreement is later scaled up at the regional level, the EU said.

"This will facilitate access to Copernicus data and development of applications, products and services from the Philippines for the benefit of government authorities and stakeholders in the highly disaster-vulnerable ASEAN and Asia-Pacific regions."

The agreements were signed by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III and European Union Delegation to the Philippines Ambassador Luc Veron.

26 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



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Building solutions group fosters climate change mitigation

Sustainability commitment remains to be the core value of Holcim Philippines Inc. in upholding the country's efforts to mitigate climate change. In a virtual forum organized by various government agencies, the leading building solutions provider shared its best practices in measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from operations.

Holcim Philippines sustainability manager Stephanie Frogoso participated as a resource speaker in the Climate Change Mitigation webinar recently, organized by the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI), a joint program with the Climate Change Service under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ).

Frogoso provided an overview of the company's sustainability commitments, the carbon footprint of cement manufacturing, and initiatives to contribute to the Holcim Group's Net Zero ambition.

She also discussed available tools used for measuring emissions, simulation of a cement plant's carbon footprint, and the Cement Sustainability Initiative's principles for accounting and reporting.

The webinar is part of the PaSTI project that started in 2020 to capacitate the government, the private sector and key stakeholders in further improving the systems for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) climate change mitigation measures.

This project is supported by Japan's Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC) and the MOEJ.

The establishment of an MRV system is important for the Philippines to monitor and report progress on climate change actions under the Paris Agreement.

Holcim Philippines president and CEO Horia Adrian said: "Our deepest thanks to the government for continuing to involve us in these important discussions and recognizing our commitment and initiatives against climate change. Our company is ready to continue improving operations and rolling out innovative and sustainable building solutions to grow our business and make a positive social and environmental impact to support the country's progress."

It was the third time that Holcim Philippines has participated in the climate change webinar organized by DENR and MOEJ since 2020. Last year, Holcim Philippines joined the webinar that discussed the benefits for the private sector in participating in climate transparency initiatives.

Participants discussed GHG mitigation measures and shared their insights on the importance of a national climate policy and communication with the government.

(RAPY AVENG)



PHOTOGRAPH
COURTESY OF FELCOM
HOLCIM PHILIPPINES
HOLCIM
Philippines
Davao Plant.



GREEN HOBBY Various kinds of ornamental plants get their daily dose of water at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. PNA PHOTO

Holcim PH pushes green efforts

LEADING building solutions provider Holcim Philippines Inc. shared its best practices in measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations in a government webinar aimed at strengthening the country's efforts to mitigate climate change.

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impact to support the country's progress," said Horia Adrian, Holcim Philippines president and chief executive officer.

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Holcim Philippines is one of the leading building solution companies in the country. The company has a deep portfolio of innovative solutions fostered by a full range of products from structuring to finishing applications that can help local builders execute with high performance and efficiency a wide range of projects from massive infrastructure to simple home repairs. **EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ**



MWSS, MFTI plant 5.2 million trees in 5 years

MORE than 5 million seedlings have been planted in five years through the Annual Million Trees Challenge project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

This was jointly reported by MWSS administrator Leonor Cleofas and Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MFTI) president Melandrew Velasco during the strategic planning activity to develop a watershed restoration roadmap held at MWSS La Mesa Guesthouse inside the La Mesa Dam Compound in Novaliches, Quezon City.

According to the report from 2017-2021, a total of 5.212 million seedlings have been planted in beneficiary watersheds. Of this number, 2,512,754 were planted in Ipo-Angat; 853,580 in La Mesa; 404,043 in Laguna de Bay; 257,099 in Kaliwa-Umiray; 1,040,964 in Upper Marikina; and 143,904 in Manila Bay. Thus far, the AMTC has met its targets.

The tree-planting activities have resulted in the reforestation of 12,486.09 hectares (ha) in the watersheds as of end 2021: Ipo-Angat, 5,653.21 ha; La Mesa, 1,913.59 ha; Laguna de Bay, 802.73 ha; Kaliwa-Umiray, 612.44 ha; Upper Marikina, 3,150.99 ha; and Manila Bay, 323.13 ha.

AMTC is a five-year watershed rehabilitation project with seven critical watersheds as its beneficiaries. The project's target was to plant at least 1 million trees yearly and has successfully met its targets. It was launched in 2017 by then-MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco, who is now chairman emeritus of MFTI.

Reforestation activities were undertaken through collaborative efforts of various organizations from national government agencies, local governments, civil society groups and the private sector.

Among AMTC's partners and their respective scorecard of planted

trees from 2017 to 2021 are Manila Water Co. with 386,000; Maynilad Water Services Inc. with 337,720; Luzon Clean Water Development Corp. with 6,900; Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region with 382,930; DENR Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 1,923 million; DENR Region 4A (Calabarzon or Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) with 990,964; Laguna Lake Development Authority with 360,552; local government of General Natar in Quezon province with 76,980; ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation Inc.-Bantay Kalikasan with 144,600; and World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines with 297,400.

Tackled at the strategic planning activity were the gaps, challenges and opportunities to improve watershed restoration.

It was also a venue to formulate goals, strategies and arrangements to

enhance the restoration of the seven critical watersheds (Umiray, Angat, Ipo, La Mesa, Laguna de Bay, Kaliwa and Upper Marikina) supporting Metro Manila's water supply.

These watersheds are threatened by destructive anthropogenic human activities and climate change, which leads to massive losses in forest cover, degradation and deteriorating water quality. It was also a venue to renew and institutionalize partnerships and collaboration among watershed stakeholders.

The event was envisioned to develop a roadmap for enhancing watershed ecosystem restoration. The roadmap, to be implemented from 2022-2030, will contain goals and outcomes, implementation strategies, institutional arrangements and action plans to achieve improved biodiversity, ecological health and ecosystem services.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



BSP invests in green bond fund

THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) announced that it has invested in the Asian Green Bond Fund or Bisip G3 of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which intends to help fund investments in green projects across the Asia-Pacific region.

In a statement, the central bank said the investment is part of its aim to lead by example and redirect capital to solve important global concerns.

"The participation in the fund is expected to provide the BSP with an additional source of return and investment diversification that is consistent with our prudent approach to reserve management," BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said in a statement.

"The BSP's decision to invest in the fund bolsters our sustainability efforts and supports our sustainable central banking agenda," he added.

The Bangko Sentral noted that the BIS launched the Asian Green Bond Fund, a US dollar-denominated open-ended fund, in conjunction with development finance institutions and an advisory group made up of various central banks including the BSP.

The fund promotes environmental-friendly initiatives in Asia-Pacific and provides a platform for central banks to invest their reserves in high-quality green bonds that fulfill internationally recognized standards, it underscored.

The Bangko Sentral has yet to reveal the size of its investment, although it is worth noting that it earlier put \$550 million in the BIS Green Bond Fund or Bisip G1.

MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO



Businesses must put climate resiliency at the core of their strategies

THE complexity of our world's development problems have long been widely examined for insights into better approaches and solutions. The problems, however, have persisted and the tasks for all of us have become even more daunting. The latest climate science warns that we barely have until 2030 before the window of opportunity for achieving the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius long-term temperature goal closes.

For vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines, 1.5 C is a threshold of chance and hope. If we breach this temperature limit, we are bound to lose countless lives and immeasurable suffering, especially among the vulnerable and the poor, will occur. Breaching the threshold will disrupt basic social and economic activities and transform life as we know it.

The world continues to get warmer and with this comes long-lasting climate changes. Climate change, along with the Covid-19 pandemic, are among today's greatest humanitarian challenges. The climate and pandemic resilience are intertwined with world economic growth. If the world becomes an inhospitable place, the concept of the economy will disintegrate and we will be left in a pit where it will be a struggle to survive.

We recently witnessed how many of our communities were submerged in floods due to Typhoon "Odette." In this climate crisis era, made more challenging by Covid-19, more lives are at stake. Our decisions and actions will have an impact on communities and the nation. There is no more fitting time to say that responding to these crises has become a moral imperative for governments and a social responsibility for all — when having less in life means losing a life.



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

We actually have numerous laws and policies focused on addressing climate change issues, managing climate risk and protecting the environment. These include the Climate Change Act for strengthening climate governance; People's Survival Fund Act to provide funding for adaptation projects by local governments and community organizations; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act for building resilience against disasters; Environmental Education and Awareness Act for inculcating love of nature among our youth; and the Green Jobs Act for fostering a just transition toward a green economy.

Laws are just part of the equation, however, and their implementation through good governance could spell a big difference. The world needs to change its way of thinking and doing to effectively address today's complex problems of urban poverty, weak governance, ecosystem decline and vulnerable rural livelihoods toward achieving human development goals.

Our actions should enable us to revisit and rethink current frameworks and strategies for socio-economic development. Through the centuries, our development approaches and practices allowed vulnerabilities to grow, spread and pervade. We need to adopt an innovative, out-of-the-box approach to effectively tackle this complex development problem.

Our actions should enable us to reset — the kind that has genuine regard for human development and a forceful vision for the future of humanity; the kind that ushers in proactive laws and policies and reforms our way of thinking and doing.

Our actions should enable us to institutionalize a new brand of governance — the kind that ensures laws and regulations are passed and implemented and creates the enabling environment to translate sustainable development strategies into practical and measurable gains; the kind that translates commitment into real actions and results for the people.

Our actions should have a more

integrated, holistic and proactive approach of reducing vulnerabilities and building the resilience of nations and communities; an approach that engages all key stakeholders and sectors and builds on partnerships, collaboration, coordination and cooperation, especially in the process of mainstreaming climate action into the national development agenda.

Our actions should have regard for our social, cultural and natural capital — the kind founded on ecosystems protection and cultural resilience. They should also be able to promote awareness in communities and increase national commitment to and investment in the climate and Covid-19 recovery for a safer and more sustainable future.

Recovering from the pandemic requires rapid and massive investments that must not only achieve the short-term gains of creating jobs and reviving industries but also meet long-term resilience objectives. Stimulus packages should channel massive investments to climate-smart infrastructure, such as smart power grids, that can accommodate renewable energy sources; early warning systems against natural hazards; sustainable transportation systems that enable public transit, walking and biking as primary travel modes; rainwater harvesting systems; nature-based solutions to floods, droughts and typhoons; and green infrastructure in public parks and spaces.

We need the support of the private sector. Businesses need to make plans that focus on sus-

tainability in business models and corporate governance with the general population in mind. This will not only benefit communities but also businesses as it will give them a lasting competitive advantage. It is therefore in the private sector's best interest to put climate resilience at the core of their business strategies and promote green policies by strengthening support for climate action and disaster risk reduction initiatives, supporting adaptation measures that help build assets and strengthen the resilience of communities and helping finance mitigation activities and buttress adaptation measures to prevent substantial business losses and economic development setbacks resulting from disasters.

The higher value of a corporate business is not found in the monetary profit it brings nor the wealth it creates but in the nobility of purpose — to improve quality of life and build a sustainable and resilient society. What could be more rewarding than knowing that one's business, however big or small, has made a difference in making a village community or the country as a whole, a safer and happier place to live in? Isn't this the essence of environmental, social and governance concepts?

The road promises to be filled with stumbling blocks. But instead of slowing us down, the challenges should bring about consensus, an agreement that the country should double, even triple, efforts to reach its targets. We rebuild and we continue to rebuild after every disaster. Now is the time not just to build better but build stronger, using the best standards in light of the crises we face today.

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



Circular economy pushed as Phl faces waste crisis

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Philippines is urged to establish policies and regulations on circular economy as the country is facing a waste crisis that may worsen in the coming years.

In a report, Tokyo-based Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the multilateral lender's think tank, said that transitioning to a circular economy could build better growth and create more value with fewer materials.

At present, there is no integrated circular economy strategy or policy framework that exists in the Philippines.

Environmental, climate, and sustainability lawyer and Ateneo de Manila School of Law faculty member Gregorio Bueta said the Philippines is facing a waste crisis, perhaps of an "unimaginable scale."

"It comes as no surprise that the Philippines is experiencing a waste crisis. More people, and living in dense,

often ill-planned urban areas, in poor living conditions, can only result in more waste that cannot be handled by an already stretched and overburdened waste management system," said Bueta, one of the study's contributors.

The country is producing 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste per year, out of which 17 percent of the collected plastic waste and 31 percent of the uncollected waste is leaked into the ocean.

Sixty percent of plastic waste entering the oceans also comes from five Asian countries namely China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Government projections showed that generated waste will reach 23.6 million MT by 2025 from 21.4 million MT in 2020.

Bueta emphasized that the waste crisis in the Philippines has been brewing for several years already and was fur-

ther exacerbated due to the pandemic which resulted in increased plastics and medical waste.

"Part of the problem is the inadequate waste management infrastructure around the country. There are only 237 sanitary landfills nationwide to service the 1,634 cities and municipalities in the country," Bueta said.

As a solution to the waste crisis, Bueta said it is necessary to have a roadmap for the journey toward a circular economy especially as the transition will not happen overnight amid policy changes and reforms needed.

He also called for the proper and effective enforcement of waste management and other environmental laws.

"It will be difficult to put in place new policies such as those related to a circular economy if other waste management and related environmental laws are not being properly and effectively

implemented," Bueta said.

"The danger is that the circular economy will just end up as another one of those policies good on paper. Countries like the Philippines fall into this situation, where excellent laws are crafted only to end up not being successfully implemented," he said.

Further, the expert maintained that a cultural and societal shift is necessary alongside the shift in policies.

Bueta said one big hurdle is the fact that most policies only focus on dealing with the waste without commensurate efforts at reducing waste generation at source.

"If rising populations keep on consuming and using in the same business-as-usual manner, any circular economy scheme or system is bound to collapse. That is why proposals need to include a change in consumption and production patterns to close the loop," he said.



Plastic treaty would be historic for planet: UNEP chief

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NAIROBI (AFP) – The world has a rare opportunity to clean up the planet for future generations by uniting behind an ambitious treaty to tackle plastic trash, the UN environment chief told AFP.

Inger Andersen said a global plastics treaty being negotiated in Nairobi "holds the potential and the promise of being the biggest multilateral environmental breakthrough" since the Paris climate accords signed in 2015.

"This is a big moment. This is one for the history books," the executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) told AFP in an interview.

The framework for a legally binding plastics agreement is still being hammered out ahead of a UN environment summit starting on Monday in Nairobi, where UNEP is headquartered.

There are competing proposals being considered but more than 50 countries have backed calls for a treaty

food chain to fish or shellfish, which in turn are eaten by humans.

"Stopping the plastic tap is critical... If you continue polluting over here, and cleaning up there, that is a forever job," said Andersen, who was appointed UNEP head in 2019.

Many countries, including major plastic producers like the United States and China, have expressed general support for a treaty but not publicly endorsed any specific measures.

Dozens of major corporations including Coca Cola and Unilever have called for a global treaty, as have some of the world's largest plastics manufacturers.

But environment groups have warned that plastic giants were resisting efforts to cap production, and would try and steer talks in Nairobi toward reusing and recycling waste.

Andersen said she was buoyed by the commitments of industry — but voluntary efforts had fallen short of tackling the crisis.

"We can't recycle our way out of this mess. That's clear," Andersen said.

It is already so pervasive that plastic has been found inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean, flecked through Arctic sea ice, and floating in the air we breathe.

"We must understand that plastic is part of our lives — we use it in construction, in medicine, in places where we need it. But we also use it in places where we do not," she said.



A 30-FOOT MONUMENT (themed 'turn off the plastics tap' by Canadian activist and artist, Benjamin von Wong, using plastic waste retrieved from Nairobi's largest slum, Kibera, stands outside the venue of the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, (UNEA-5), at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi on Feb. 22, 2022. (AFP)



Time running out

Binding targets and a common framework would ensure a level

playing field so countries and corporations felt confident they were playing by the same rules, she said.

Past global protocols had phased-out mercury and ozone-depleting substances once common in household goods, demonstrating it was possible to achieve consensus across borders and spur economy-wide change.

Some of those conventions took a decade to enshrine, by which stage tens of millions of tonnes of plastic trash could have entered the sea.

Already the amount of plastic entering the world's waterways is expected to triple by 2040 unless drastic action is taken.

"We don't have 10 years to do this, and we need to get it done, and fast," Andersen said.

A treaty proposal from Rwanda and Peru has attracted the most support ahead of the UN summit, with the 27-member European Union among dozens of co-sponsors.

The text is still being negotiated, as are two other draft treaty resolutions.

But it bodes well: Andersen said it was "very unusual" for a UN resolution to have such broad backing ahead of a plenary.

"I have to be sure that this thing will land, and land with a degree of ambition. We are going to push very hard."

that includes tough new controls on plastics, which are largely derived from oil and gas.

This could include limits on the manufacture of new plastic, or the phasing-out of single-use products that choke oceans and marine life and take centuries to break down.

Delegates meeting in Nairobi are expected to agree on the broad template for a treaty and establish a negotiating committee to finalize the terms, a process that would take at least two years.

Stop the plastic tap

Andersen said it was too early to speculate about specific details of the treaty but stressed it was "hopeless" to try to curb plastic litter without addressing the source.

Some 400 million tonnes of new plastic are manufactured every year — a figure set to double by 2040.

Less than 10 percent of plastic is recycled, the rest burned or dumped on land where it often ends up in rivers and flows out to sea and drifts around the globe.

Large pieces of plastic are perilous for sea mammals and birds — but even when the substance is broken down by the action of the sea into micro-particles, this too is absorbed by small organisms and passes up the



Plastic treaty a rare, historic feat for planet—UNEP chief

THE world has a rare opportunity to clean up the planet for future generations by voting behind an ambitious treaty to tackle plastic waste, the UN environment chief told AFP.

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There are competing proposals being considered but more than 20 countries have backed calls for a treaty that includes tough new controls on plastics, which are largely derived from oil and gas.

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Lessons on climate grief from the people of the sea ice

BY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS (AFP) - Marilyn Baikie's remote Inuit community has more wisdom than they could ever want about ecological grief.

These "people of the sea ice" have endured years of dramatic warming that is ravaging their beloved landscape at the edge of the Arctic, forcing them to reimagine a way of life that goes back centuries. "It affects how you live your life, it affects the things you do with your children, it really is affecting people's mental health," said Baikie, a community health worker in Rigolet, a coastal village of 300 people in Canada's Labrador region.

Before this region became one of the fastest-warming places on the planet, people could travel across frozen waters until spring, to fish or go deep into countryside that is a profound part of their identity.

Now they often worry the ice won't hold.

So when in winter the thermometer goes to up to zero -- or higher -- Baikie knows people will need extra support.

She and colleagues organize activities to ease stress and fill the "empty time" for people stranded by the warmth, like craft workshops and knowledge sharing between elders and young people.

Other local projects include mapping safe routes over the ice and taking an active part in climate monitoring.

Still, people feel isolated, Baikie told AFP in a recent video call. "When you talk about it, it really tugs at your heart."

Solastalgia

But it was talking about it that made the Inuit elders -- including Baikie's mother -- among the first to sound the alarm about the wrenching grief wrought by climate change.

Opening up to researchers more than a decade ago, they described the

land like a family member.

"People would say it's just as much a part of your life as breathing," said Ashlee Cunsolo, who was studying climate impacts on water quality before pivoting to wellbeing as a result of the strong testimonies.

A decade later, these experiences and coping strategies are part of a growing understanding of the mental health toll of environmental destruction.

"It's not just something anymore that people say: 'that's in the future, or that'll be in 20 years, or that's only in the north,'" she said.

"It's really everywhere."

Cunsolo is one of the authors of a major UN report on climate impacts due to be released on Monday.

It is expected to underscore the severe global health implications -- physical and mental -- of warming and the need to adapt to the challenges ahead.

But unlike the spread of disease by growing numbers of ticks or mosquitoes, Cunsolo said the effects on people's minds are myriad and overlapping.

In Labrador, "it's slow, it's cumulative. It's about identity", she said.

Cunsolo calls this ecological grief, one of a range of new terms for environmental emotions that also includes solastalgia -- "the homesickness that you have when you're still at home".

Overall impacts range from strong feelings -- sadness, fear, anger -- to anxiety, distress and depression, while people caught in an extreme event might suffer post-traumatic stress disorder.

Canada alone has seen a catalogue of disasters in recent years, including floods, wildfires and what used to be a once-in-a-thousand-year heatwave.

"How do we support more and more people who are coping with this type of trauma? They're not isolated events anymore," said Cunsolo.

Climate anxiety

There is growing concern about

climate anxiety in children and young people worldwide. One survey of 10,000 16 to 25-year-olds in 10 countries, published in the journal *The Lancet Planetary Health* in December, found almost 60 percent were very worried about climate change.

In the Philippines that rose to 84 percent.

Manila-based researcher and psychologist John Jamir Benzon Aruta, who was not involved in the survey, said concerns are highest among young people with access to the internet and social media.

"They worry about how much stronger the typhoons will become, whether it's a safe place for them and their future children," said Aruta.

His research includes support for environmental defenders, in a country with one of the world's highest rates of murders of these campaigners.

Climate anxiety can be seen as a "normal response to the actual threat", he said, calling for therapies and responses that counteract feelings of helplessness.

People around the world are faced with a barrage of negative news and a popular culture saturated with dystopian visions of the future.

What they need, experts say, is hope.

Earth emotions

"There is a need to maintain a sense of meaningfulness in life and that's really the core of my interpretation and emphasis of hope," said Finnish researcher Panu Pihkala, an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pihkala, who stopped presiding over weddings and funerals in 2010, says his religious background has helped him contemplate these "deep existential issues" and host ecological grief workshops in Finland.

Even the creator of the term solastalgia, Glenn Albrecht, is looking to shift the focus away from the grief-laden term he created in 2003 as a response to the environmental destruction of coal mining in Australia.



Defending children's rights against global warming

IN a special report on climate change more than a decade ago, *Time* magazine warned: "Be worried. Be very worried because climate change is not some vague future problem." Today, it is already damaging the planet at an alarming rate — polar ice caps are melting faster than ever; more and more land is being devastated by drought; rising waters are drowning low-lying communities; and worse, global warming is going to lead to a rise in human sickness and death among the world's old and young population alike.

True enough, as average temperature climbs, frequent and longer heat waves resulted in higher mosquito populations in the tropics which contributed much to the spread of malaria, dengue and other insect-borne infections. Industrial and traffic pollution, detrimental to air quality, brought forth lung ailments like asthma and allergy attacks. Heavy downpours led to floods and the bigger issue of water quality.

Toxic truths

Of late, two toxic truths have been reported by the World Health Organization (WHO):

1. E-waste affects the health of millions of children. The global electronic waste industry



AMBASSADORS' CORNER

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employs and exposes children to over 1,000 harmful chemical substances that e-waste contains, e.g., mercury, nickel, brominated flame retardants, etc. on account of the fact that they absorb more pollutants relative to their size and are less able to discharge toxic substances from their young bodies. Child health impacts linked to e-waste include, but are not limited to, changes in lung function, DNA damage, impaired thyroid function, and increased risk later in life to cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

2. Exposure to lead pollution causes irreparable damage to children's brains. Sources of childhood lead exposure include: substandard recycling of lead-acid batteries, lead in water from use of loaded pipes, lead-based paints, lead in cosmetics and toys, etc.

3. In all this, children around the world suffer the most, with many equating the climate crisis with a children's rights crisis.

Children have an indispensable but often overlooked role in the crisis. It encroaches upon many basic rights protected by the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child among which are: the right to life and development (Art.6), the right to the highest attainable standard of health (Art. 24), the right to education (Art. 29.1), and the right to appropriate, living conditions (Art. 27). Save the Children, Earth Guardians and other international NGOs are calling on governments to prioritize the interests of minors and adolescents and involve them in decision making and to take their proposals seriously.

Landmark suits

In that connection, since the emergence of the climate initiative Fridays for Future three years ago, it became clear to everyone that climate change is particularly important to children or the young ones. As adults, after all, they will have to cope with the worst consequences of global warming.

In the past few years, minors have asserted their rights in courts, tribunals or any legal forum available to them. In Alaska, Carl Smith, 18 years old, and 15 other teens filed a landmark complaint with the UN Committee on Rights of the Child charging five countries with violating their rights as children by not doing enough to end the climate crisis

and the threat it poses to their future. The temperature rise in Alaska at a record 90 degrees saw dead salmon floating in rivers, melted the permafrost and eroded the frozen shoreline near their villages. "Nobody knows what is happening in rural Alaska but as long as everybody speaks out and keeps talking about it, there is hope," explained the young complainants.

Some regard the climate suit as a symbolic act on the big media stage. But truly such moves do have a media impact especially with the upgraded technology available nowadays. Increasingly, youth actions influence attitudes in society and politics.

In Portugal, six children and young adults between the ages of 8 and 21 submitted a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg accusing 27 EU countries of flawed climate policies. Portugal has been experiencing extreme heat waves and devastating wildfires in recent years and, for the young complainants, the governments have not taken appropriate measures to fight global warming despite having pledged to do so with the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015. Actually, forest fires in Portugal's Leiria region claimed

► TolentinoA5



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

A8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-25-2011

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TITLE:

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SOLAR VENTURE. Abotiz Power Corp. team members plant a narra tree sapling in Cayanga, Bugallon, Pangasinan, where the company's 94-megawatt peak solar power plant will soon rise. The sturdy and durable narra, considered as the Philippines' national tree, symbolizes AbotizPower's strong resolve to contribute to a more reliable, cost-efficient and sustainable power system for the country.



Defending children's rights against global warming

110 lives and caused hundreds of injuries in the summer and fall of 2017. The threat complained of is not only to the country's ancient pine forests but also to the young people's right to life and the respect for private and family life that are guaranteed by the European Human Rights Convention (Arts. 2 and 8). As a typical procedure for every complaint filed, the court in Strasbourg requested the defendant governments to respond. Civil society organizations joined the proceedings as "third parties," explaining and

detailing the destructive impacts global warming is having on children's rights.

In Oregon (US), 21 minors and young adults took the US government to a district court asserting that the government's unchecked exploitation of fossil fuels is exacerbating the climate crisis and therefore endangering their future. Making use of the US "public trust doctrine," they said that the government must protect all natural resources like water, air and soil for future generations.

The US Department of Justice wanted the case dismissed for lack

of jurisdiction, but the plaintiffs argued it is very much the court's role to demand that the government take measures to remove the pollutants that are contributing to global warming. In the end, the presiding judge directed both parties to come to an agreement in a settlement conference.

Children of prosecution

In Colombia, 25 youthful citizens brought a suit against their government for failing to stop the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, a threat to their

right to a healthy environment guaranteed by the Constitution. Colombia's Supreme Court ordered the government to present an action plan to reduce deforestation and to develop an International Pact for the Life of the Colombian Amazon.

In 2019, Fridays for Future co-founder Greta Thunberg with 15 other young ones filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice against five countries with high greenhouse gas emissions — France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Turkey — for violating plaintiffs' human

rights as guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The governments refused to have the matter argued before the court on the ground that the climate crisis requires "international relief."

Regardless of the final outcomes in the abovementioned cases, a basic pattern is evident. Young people no longer simply accept the sluggish pace of their countries' climate action. With the support of environmental lawyers and NGOs, the young have become "children of the prosecution," said Martina

Dase, the Save the Children climate spokesman.

As a young activist and now co-founder of Earth Guardians, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez predicted in a speech he delivered before the UN General Assembly when he was 15: "We are flooding the streets and we are now flooding the courts to show the world that a movement is rising and that our generation is leading that movement."

Hopefully, the judicial system everywhere will increasingly assume more responsibility for the legal protection of children from the disastrous effects of climate change.



MAGNITUDE 6.2 QUAKE KILLS SEVEN IN INDONESIA, DOZENS INJURED

PADANG, INDONESIA—Seven people died and dozens more were injured when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra island on Friday, with residents shutting loved ones to safety as buildings crumbled around them.

The quake came just minutes after a less violent tremor, as terrified residents had begun evacuating their houses.

"We all fled our home (after the first quake)," Yudi Prama Agustino, 36, told AFP. "I have a 1-year-old baby, so in panic, I pushed the stroller out of the house."

The quake hit the island's north at a depth of 12 kilometers, about 70 km from the town of Bukittinggi in West Sumatra province, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Agustino's hometown in Agam district is another 40 km



DESTRUCTION A mosque lies in ruins after two quakes hit Indonesia on Friday. —REUTERS

from Bukittinggi.

"I noticed there was an earthquake because my kids' toys fell over. I panicked because my in-laws were also in the house and they are quite old and sick," Agustino said of

the first tremor that was recorded at 5.0 by the USGS.

"Once we were outside, a much stronger 6.2 quake happened and everybody panicked," he added.

Seven people died and 85

were injured in West Pasaman and Pasaman—about 17 and 20 km respectively from the epicenter—according to Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

At least 5,000 people in the two districts have been evacuated.

Indonesian meteorological agency BMKG warned people to stay away from slopes over fears of landslides at the peak of the rainy season.

The quake was felt in the neighboring provinces of Riau and North Sumatra and as far away as Malaysia and Singapore. No tsunami warning has been issued.

Images shared with AFP from Pasaman city, near the quake's epicenter, showed partially collapsed houses with bricks lying on the ground and holes in the walls. —AFP



TITLE:

6.2-magnitude earthquake strikes Sumatra island

A 6.2-MAGNITUDE earthquake struck Indonesia's Sumatra island on Friday, the United States Geological Survey said, with residents sent fleeing from their homes.

The quake hit the island's north at a depth of 12 kilometers (7.5 miles), about 70 kilometers from the town of Bukittinggi in West Sumatra province, according to USGS.

No tsunami warning was issued and there were no immediate reports of serious damage, but the quake was felt in the neighbouring provinces of Riau and North Sumatra and as far away as Malaysia and Singapore.

Residents said the 6.2 quake – which struck just after 8:30 am – came minutes after a less violent quake recorded by USGS as 5.0 magnitude.

Alim Bazar, head of the disaster mitigation agency of Pasaman city near the quake's epicenter, told AFP some buildings suffered cracks.

"The mayor called and ordered all second and third floors in every building should be vacated," he said.

Bazar said there were reports of some injuries, but did not have any details.

Irpanda, a resident of Pasaman city who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told Metro TV that he felt both the first and second tremors.

"At first, the quake only lasted for a few seconds. People fled their homes and buildings nearby were

swaying," he said.

"But then another quake happened and it was so strong. More people fled their houses," he said, adding patients at a local hospital were moved outside.

Tremors were also felt in Singapore, witnesses and police said.

"Earth tremors were... felt in certain parts of Singapore at about 9:45 am," the police said in a statement. **AFP**



DEADLY BEAUTIFUL. Lighting strikes over the city of Lhokseumawe, Aceh on February 24, 2022. **AFP**



Disasters are not natural

COMMENTARY

RODEL D. LASCO

Whenever typhoons or earthquakes wreak havoc in our country, people quickly call these events "natural disasters." While this is true, such terminology hides dangerous assumptions that could impede resilience to future disasters. After all, if disasters are "natural," they are nobody's fault, and we can do little about them.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction defines a disaster as "A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts." This nuanced formulation identifies several factors that in combination lead to disasters.

First are the "hazardous events." These events include naturally occurring phenomena such as typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. True, disasters may happen because of natural hazards, but this is not always the case. Incidentally, human activities can also become hazards (e.g. nuclear power plants).

The second factor is exposure which refers to the number of people who will experience the hazardous event. Even if an earthquake strikes along a major fault line, but if there are very few people residing there, then there will be no disaster. (As an aside, there are also environmental or ecological disasters which refers to disruptions of the natural environment due to natural or human causes.)

The third factor for a disaster to occur is vulnerability. Even if people are exposed to a hazard, a disaster may not necessarily happen if they are not susceptible to damage. For example, if houses in a community are built to withstand strong winds, there will be minimal damage even if a typhoon passes through.

Finally, there is the capacity of the people to cope with a hazardous event. This is why a similar intensity typhoon causes much less damage in wealthy Japan than in the

Philippines. Similarly, even within a town, local communities have varying abilities to cope with the impacts of a hazard.

We can do little about the first of the above factors, but we can do a lot on the last three. For instance, proper land use planning and strict zoning regulations can minimize the number of people exposed to flooding, storm surges, and earthquakes. We can also reduce the vulnerability and enhance the coping capacity of our people through disaster preparedness training and, in the long term, by providing the right environment for sustainable development.

Given the geographical location of our country, natural hazards are a given. But whether disasters will occur depends mainly on what we do.

Dr. Rodel D. Lasco is a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) of the Philippines. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>)

26 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

New Covid-19 cases stay below 2K for 7th straight day

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 25, 2022, 4:56 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) recorded another 1,671 fresh cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) on Friday.

Friday's cases are slightly lower than 1,745 new cases reported on Thursday based on the latest Covid-19 tracker of the DOH.

This is the seventh consecutive day of new cases below 2,000, with the country logging its lowest daily cases for this year at 1,019 on February 22.

The DOH also reported 1,586 new recoveries from Covid-19, lower than Thursday's 2,045 new recoveries, bringing the country's total to 3,547,528 or 97 percent of 3,658,892 total confirmed cases.

The number of active cases has reached 55,140 or 1.5 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the active cases, about 91.8 percent have shown mild symptoms or asymptomatic.

More specifically, there are 49,988 cases with mild symptoms, those with moderate symptoms at 2,784, those with severe symptoms at 1,424, the asymptomatic at 645, and those in critical condition at 299.

It reported 59 new deaths, bringing the country's total to 56,224 or 1.54 percent of all confirmed cases.

Based on the latest testing data, there were 28,039 Covid-19 tests administered on Wednesday with a positivity rate of 5.6 percent.

The country's health care utilization rate is currently low, with about 3,800 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 28 percent occupancy, 20,400 isolation beds at 24 percent occupancy, 14,300 ward beds at 17 percent occupancy, and 15 percent of 3,100 ventilators are in use.

In the National Capital Region alone, there are 1,300 ICU beds at 27 percent occupancy, 4,600 isolation beds at 23 percent occupancy, 4,000 ward beds at 25 percent occupancy, and 17 percent of 1,000 ventilators are in use. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168578>



Alert level 1, 'wag muna – PHAPI

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- February 25, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Hiniling ng Private Hospitals Association Philippines (PHAPI) sa pamahalaan na maghintay muna ng dalawa pang linggo at subaybayan ang trend ng COVID-19 bago ilagay sa Alert level 1 ang National Capital Region.

Ang pahayag ay ginawa ng samahan bilang reaksiyon sa mga ulat na dapat nang ilipat sa Alert Level 1 category ang Metro Manila dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID.

Ayon sa samahan, oras na mailipat sa mas maluwag na alert level ang rehiyon maaaring isantabi ng mga tao dito ang pagsunod sa itinakdang minimum health protocols tulad ng pagsusuot ng face mask at physical distancing.

Anila, kailangang alamin muna ang magiging sitwasyon sa NCR sa susunod na dalawang linggo bago mag-shift ng alert level 1 category.

Gayunman, ayon sa PHAPI kung ilalagay na ng IATF sa alert level 1 category ang Metro Manila ay ito naman ay kanilang susundin.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/02/25/2163206/alert-level-1-wag-muna-phapi/amp/>

Duterte approval still needed for shift to Level 1

By [Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star)
- February 26, 2022 - 12:00am



Residents buy from the many pop-up stalls which offer an assortment of local or foreign food choices as they dine in alfresco along the Cristobal Food Street in Sampaloc, Manila on Sunday night, Feb. 13, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — Even as Metro Manila meets the parameters for a shift to Alert Level 1, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said President Duterte's approval is still needed for the de-escalation of alert level status in the National Capital Region (NCR).

"Of course the approval of the President is needed because it is a major shift, from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1. So we still haven't really finalized. We will know by Monday and the President may announce if he will approve or not the metrics for deescalation," he said during the EDSA commemoration day rites yesterday.

The head of the Department of the Interior and Local Government said that even if parameters are met, the readiness of local officials should still be gauged if they are prepared to combat another surge in transmission.

He noted that the inter-agency task force is finalizing metrics for the downgrading of NCR to Alert Level 1, and will depend on data analytics if these are met.

The proposal will then be brought to Duterte for approval.

Año said that Metro Manila has reached the vaccination target for its senior citizens and target population, and placed at very low risk the region's daily attack rate, two-week growth rate and health care utilization.

The DILG chief added that campaign rules for the 2022 elections, if NCR does shift to Alert Level 1, are still being discussed to avoid super spreader events.



Duterte approval still needed for shift to Level 1

“For Alert Level 1, campaign activities are allowed at 70 percent capacity both indoor and outdoor. What will be discussed there by the IATF are the details, if for indoors, will it be for vaccinated only or not? We still haven’t finalized that,” Año added.



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 713

PEBRERO 25, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
55,140

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,547,528

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,224

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,671**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,586**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **59**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,658,892**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 23
DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 25
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 23

5.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

28,039

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
91.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

645 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

49,988 Mild

WARD BEDS (14.3K TOTAL BEDS)
17% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

2,784 Moderate

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
15% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
17% Utilized

1,424 Severe

299 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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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

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KonsultaMD
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Report via SMS

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MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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26 FEBRUARY 2022, Saturday



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NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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