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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, bikers group gear up for 'National Bicycle Day' on Nov. 28

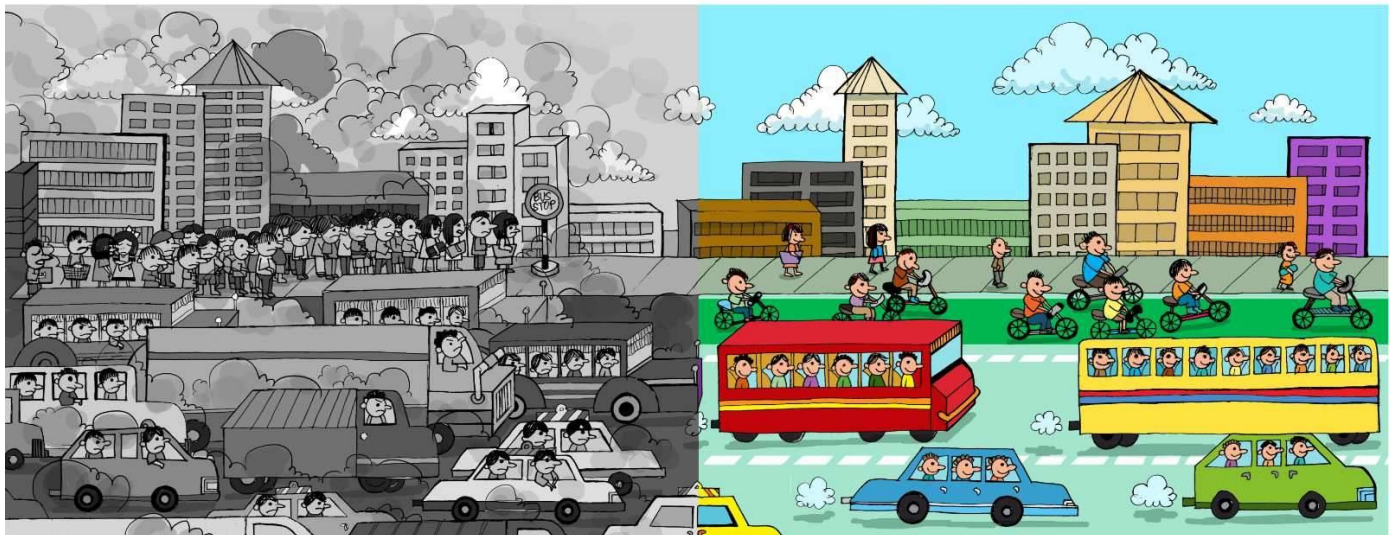
Published November 26, 2021, 3:45 PM
by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Bicycle Organization (NBO) will lead this year's celebration of the "National Bicycle Day" on Sunday, Nov. 28.

7TH NATIONAL BICYCLE DAY
CLEAN AIR THROUGH A BICYCLE FRIENDLY PHILIPPINES. JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 5:00AM @ DENR VISAYAS AVE. THIS IS A FREE ACTIVITY

PROCLAMATION 1052:
DECLARING THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL BICYCLE DAY"

Logos: DENR, MMDA, Lungsod ng Manila, National Bicycle Organization, TRAXIS, ROBINSONS PLACE Manila, THE TRACKS MNL AT ROBINSONS MALLS.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and National Bicycle Organization will lead the National Bicycle Day celebration on Nov. 28, 2021. (Photo from DENR)

This year's event has the theme "Cleaner air through bicycle-friendly Philippines" and will now be on its seventh iteration.

"With climate change, everything we do counts in large amounts and that the remarkable increase in Filipinos discovering the bicycle as a mode of transport and cycling as a way of life is a big boost to our climate change resiliency and adaptation under the mantle of [Presidential] Proclamation 1052," DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said Friday, Nov. 26.

In 2020, President Duterte signed Proclamation 1052 declaring fourth Sunday of November of every year as the National Bicycle Day to ensure ecological integrity and promote a clean and healthy environment.

As part of this year's celebration, a 26-kilometer bike parade called "A Celebration for the Presidential Proclamation 1052 Declaration" will be held.

The parade will start from the DENR grounds in Quezon City and end at the Centennial Park in Barangay Bagumbayan North in Navotas City where a short program will be conducted.

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda is expected to give a keynote address during the program.



Other activities that will highlight this year's celebration include coastal cleanup, lectures on bike road safety, and turnover of three free bike racks to the local government of Navotas City.

Unlike in the past years, only 300 bikers are set to participate in this year's celebration due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, Antiporda said.

"This is a far cry from the number of participants in the yearly DENR-NBO organized event before the pandemic, which averaged around 10,000 in Metro Manila alone," he said.

During its launch in 2014, around 30,000 bikers joined the celebration of the National Bicycle Day.



DENR, bikers organization mangunguna sa National Bicycle Day sa Nob. 28



November 26, 2021 @ 5:00 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Upang ipromote at isulong ang cleaner air sa pamamagitan ng bicycle-friendly, pangungunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasama ng National Bicycle Organization (NBO) ang pagdiriwang ngayong taon ng National Bicycle Day (NBD) sa darating na Nobyembre 28 na may temang “Cleaner air through bicycle-friendly Philippines.”

Sa press release ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, bagama’t nasa ikapitong taon na ang pagdiriwang, ang pangyayaring ito ay kauna-unahan pa lamang matapos ideklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong 2020 ang ikaapat na linggo sa buwan ng Nobyembre kada taon bilang National Bicycle Day.

Sa pag-isyu ng Presidential Proclamation 1052 noong Nobyembre 18, 2020 ay hinikayat ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga Pilipino na tangkilikin ang bisikleta bilang “sustainable and environment-friendly” na paraan ng transportasyon.

“With climate change, everything we do counts in large amounts and that the remarkable increase in Filipinos discovering the bicycle as a mode of transport and cycling as a way of life is a big boost to our climate change resiliency and adaptation under the mantle of Proclamation 1052,” saad ni Cimatu na siya ring chairperson ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Bilang bahagi ng 2021 NBD celebration ay magkakaroon ng 26-kilometer bike parade na tatawaging “A Celebration for the Presidential Proclamation 1052 Declaration” na sisimulan sa DENR grounds sa Quezon City at magtatapos sa Centennial Park, Barangay Bagumbayan North, Navotas City kung saan ay magkakaroon din ng maikling programa.

Samantala kaugnay nito inaasahang magbibigay naman ng keynote address si DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda bago simulan ang programa.

Ang iba pang aktibidad na kasama sa pagdiriwang ngayong taon ay ang coastal cleanup, lectures tungkol sa bike road safety, at turnover ng tatlong free bike racks sa pamahalaang lungsod ng Navotas.

Hindi katulad ng mga nakalipas na taon, sinabi ni Antiporda na aabot lamang sa 300 bikers mula sa DENR at NBO ang makikibahagi sa selebrasyon ngayong taon na gaganapin sa Metro Manila.



“This is a far cry from the number of participants in the yearly DENR-NBO organized event before the pandemic which averaged around 10,000 in Metro Manila alone,” ani Antiporda kasabay ng pagsasabi na tanging 300 bike participants lamang ang pinayagan ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority base na rin sa pagsunod sa health at safety protocols na itinakda ng Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases o IATF.

Ayon pa dito, umabot sa 30,000 bikers ang nakilahok sa nationwide NBD celebration noong 2014. **Santi Celario**



DENR mangunguna sa National Bike Day

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Nov 26, 2021

NEWS



Pangungunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasama ng National Bicycle Organization (NBO) ang pagdiriwang ngayong taon ng National Bicycle Day (NBD) bukas, Nobyembre 28, na may temang 'Cleaner air through bicycle-friendly Philippines'.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, bagama't nasa ikapitong taon na ang pagdiriwang, ang pangyayaring ito ay kauna-unahan pa lamang matapos ideklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte noong 2020 ang ikaapat na linggo sa buwan ng Nobyembre kada taon bilang National Bicycle Day.

Magugunita na hinikayat ni Duterte ang mga Pilipino na tangkilikin ang bisikleta bilang 'sustainable and environment-friendly' na paraan ng transportasyon sa pag-isyu ng Presidential Proclamation 1052 noong Nobyembre 18, 2020. (Riz Dominguez)



Top responsible miners to get presidential award

By Catherine Teves **November 26, 2021, 11:49 am**



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) recognized on Friday mining companies with exemplary efforts in promoting environmentally and socially responsible mining operations in the country.

According to DENR, such companies will receive the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) in a ceremony that will be aired online.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and other government officials are expected to grace the event.

Conferring the annual award aims to further promote private sector participation in and enhance public awareness on protecting the environment and ecology.

Executive Order 399 series of 1997 established PMIEA which have categories, including mineral exploration, quarry operation, surface mining, underground mining, mineral processing as well as research and development.

Citing results from the final deliberation of the awards selection committee, MGB earlier said nine mining contractors and permit holders are the 2021 PMIEA awardees.

The presidential awardees are Republic Cement & Building Materials, Inc.-Bulacan, Agata Mining Ventures, Inc., Berong Nickel Corporation, Hinatuan Mining Corporation-Tagana-an, Platinum Group Metals Corporation, Taganito Mining Corporation, Coral Bay Nickel Corporation, Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corporation, as well as Taganito HPAL Nickel Corporation. **(PNA)**



A grand slam in responsible mining

BYBMPPLUS NOVEMBER 26, 2021



A grand slam win for a mining company simply means being the best in class in its responsible conduct of business; in its forest management and environment enhancement and protection; its social responsibility programs and in providing safety in the workplace and the communities.

Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) sweeps major honors this year from the country's most prestigious award-giving body in the mining industry – the **Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA)**.

"It's our first time and it's a grand slam! We still can't believe it but that these awards were accorded to us during this most difficult time of the pandemic, makes this moment doubly exulting, everyone was emotional when the news first broke, this is the reason for our existence, says Engr. Francis Arañes, HMC's Resident Mine Manager.

HMC, with operations in Hinatuan Island, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte, takes home the **Presidential award** for surface mining operations; the **Best Mining Forest** in the Metallic category; the winner of the **Safest Surface Mining Operations**; and the winner of the **Safest Mining Operation**; plus, the individual awards of **Best Surface Safety Inspector** and **Best Surface Miner** accorded to HMC's employees, Aldrin L. Resullar and Jennifer Q. Inting, respectively.

The PMIEA is the highest accolade awarded to a mining company. The evaluation and assessment for this year's awardees encountered extra challenges with the threats of COVID-19 in the backdrop where movements were limited, the economy threatened, operations delayed, and bringing services to the communities were among the biggest challenge to the company's community workers.

HMC had set its eyes on these awards for years.

The company remains steadfast, focusing on specific goals that the award giving body monitors and measures, such as the actual number of hectares to be rehabilitated as mandated by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), even going outside of their areas of responsibility in supporting the Philippine National Greening Program (NGP); building a robust forest within the mine site, highlighting eco-tourism programs; setting up its host and neighboring communities to sustainable economic development programs; among other things. And to ensure that compliance is above and beyond its mandate, HMC underscores the efficiency of reporting, of transparency, giving importance to its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programs.

"The bar in honoring mining companies has been set even higher, what with the added focus on the principles of ESG – Environment, Social and Governance – in the midst of ongoing debates about climate change," says Engr. Aloysius C. Diaz, NAC SVP and Head of Production.



Diaz says the miners, HMC in particular, are now even more cognizant of peer reviews because the world has become more critical in holding the industry accountable for a greener, healthier, and safer future.

PMIEA evaluates all facets of a mining company's responsible and sustainable business practices, keenly focusing on environmental protection and management; and ensuring the health and safety of employees and the total wellbeing of the people in the communities that they serve.

The Hinatuan mine site, also known as the "Tagana-an Nickel Project", is located in Hinatuan Island, Barangay Talavera, municipality of Tagana-an, province of Surigao del Norte. Its area of operations is within the Surigao Mineral Reservation.



Quarry operator na sinabing land grabber inireklamo

Ed Moreno November 26, 2021 Local, News

NAHAHARAP sa asunto ang tinukoy na quarry operator ng isang residente sa Sitio Upper Bangkal, Brgy. San Isidro, sa bayan ng Rodriguez, lalawigan ng Rizal, na puwersahang anila'y nagpapasok ng armadong mga guwardiya sa kanyang lupain.

Sa reklamong inihain sa tanggapan ni P/Lt. Col. Marcelino Pipo. Jr., hepe ng Rodriguez PNP, sinabi ni Roselo Espenera, nabili niya ang ang rights ng 9,000 square meters na propiedad mula sa isang matanda may 10 taon na ang nakalilipas.

Aniya, bigla umanong pinasok ang kanyang pribadong pag-aari ng mga guwardiya ng Silver Griffin Security Agency sa utos umano ng isang Allan Cruz, dakong 10:00 am nitong Lunes, 22 Nobyembre.

Una rito, gusto umanong bilhin ang lupa ni Espenera ni Cruz na nago-operate ng malawak na quarry katabi ang kaniyang lupain ngunit kanyang tinanggihan.

Gayonman, agad sinaklolohan ng Rodriguez PNP ang reklamo at pinayohang magsampa ng kasong trespassing at threat sa korte.

Ayon sa ilang residente sa lugar, matagal na itong gawain ng quarry operator na puwersahang nananakop ng lupa ng may lupa gamit ang impluwensiya.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan ang complainant kay Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu na imbestigahan ang malawak na quarry operations sa lugar. **(EDWIN MORENO)**

Source: <https://hatawtabloid.com/2021/11/26/quarry-operator-na-sinabing-land-grabber-inireklamo/?fbclid=IwAR3jPFT9I2YRZN77UaHVIpyzliUFxIAHKMkKmWGA16Y3c86hfp73gxDW8CQ>



US announces P800-M environmental conservation fund for PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora November 26, 2021, 3:40 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is scaling up its support to the Philippines' biodiversity conservation efforts as it announced a five-year grant facility worth PHP800 million that would directly support civil society organizations' (CSOs) environmental programs in the country.

Under the new Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE) project, the US funding will help CSOs promote wildlife protection, natural resource management, and local climate actions in the Philippines.

It will also support media organizations covering key natural resource governance issues and help local communities better manage natural resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

“As advocates for better governance and partners of the public sector, civil society plays an important role in protecting the environment and addressing climate change,” USAID Philippines Acting Mission Director Sean Callahan said Friday.

“Through the INSPIRE project, USAID is pleased to support the Philippines' efforts to conserve the country's rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change while making sure that the environment continues to benefit many Filipinos whose incomes depend upon these natural resources,” he added.

The US Embassy in Manila said the USAID will work closely with the Philippine government and other relevant stakeholders to implement the new program.

The USAID has so far provided more than USD157 million to support the country in conserving biodiversity and protecting its landscapes and seascapes. **(PNA)**



US establishes P800-M program for environmental efforts in PH

Published November 26, 2021, 5:54 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

The United States (US) government has established an P800-million five-year program to fund various environmental efforts by civil society groups in the Philippines.



(Photo courtesy of the US Embassy in the Philippines)

These target projects include biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection, natural resource management, and local climate actions in the country.

In a statement Friday, Nov. 26, the US Embassy in the country said the environmental conservation fund, which is implemented through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), will be launched through the new Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE) project.

It will support civil society organizations in advocating for, and participating in, good natural resource governance, promoting natural resource conservation and community resilience.

Furthermore, the project will help local communities better manage natural resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

It will also support media organizations covering key natural resource governance issues.

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“Through the INSPIRE project, USAID is pleased to support the Philippines’ efforts to conserve the country’s rich biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change while making sure that the environment continues to benefit many Filipinos whose incomes depend upon these natural resources,” Callahan added.

The USAID director stressed that they will work closely with the Philippine government and other relevant stakeholders to implement the INSPIRE project.

Since 2008, USAID has provided more than \$157 million to support the Philippine government in conserving the country’s biodiversity and protecting its landscapes and seascapes.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/26/us-establishes-p800-m-program-for-environmental-efforts-in-ph/>



Bateria Program continues with Motolite, Ford, and PBSP as spearheaders

posted November 19, 2021 at 10:05 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

One large concern in the battery production industry is the proper disposal and recycling of such products once used. To help address this problem, Ford Philippines together with Ford dealers nationwide, Motolite, and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) forged a collaboration to recycle used lead-acid batteries (ULABs) through the Balik Bateria Program.

The partnership aims to promote environmental sustainability by recycling used batteries.



Launched in 2006, the Balik Bateria Program is Motolite's flagship CSR initiative advocating for the proper disposal and legitimate recycling of ULABs to protect the environment from hazardous wastes. The collected used batteries are reprocessed and recycled for commercial use. The proceeds from the used batteries are then used to fund development projects for communities in need such as provision of new classrooms, school desks, books, and supplemental feeding for children.

“Through the Balik Bateria Program, we are able to bring to life Ford's global commitment on environmental sustainability in the Philippines, and work with our Ford dealers and like-minded partners such as Motolite and PBSP to reinforce this advocacy. At the same time, the program provides an opportunity for our dealer partners to create and even expand their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs to support more beneficiaries,” said Ford Philippines President and Managing Director Michael Allen Breen.

To date, the program has generated around P147 million pesos which has supported and implemented around 169 projects nationwide. These projects have benefitted at least 115 public schools and communities.

“Around 5,825 tons of ULABs is what the Balik Bateria Program partnership with PBSP has been able to recycle. More so, these wastes transformed to the greater goal of advancing communities through funding social development programs,” said Corporate Citizenship and CSR Manager Khairon-Niza Magundacan.



Face masks continue to be found along Panigan-Tamugan watershed



Contributed photo

[IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA](#)

November 26, 2021

THE Bantay Bukid forest guards noted that disposable face masks are among the many discarded non-biodegradable waste they regularly find and collect along the banks of the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed.

During a river clean-up drive done by the Bantay Bukid forest guards on November 26, 2021, the most common waste found along the river banks were disposable face masks, junk food wrappers, and shampoo and soap bar wrappers.

“Karon lagi na pandemya, daghan kayo mask makita diri bale 45 kabuok naa karon (During the pandemic we saw that there were a lot of face masks being collected. Today we collected 45),” said Allen Roy Cordero, one of the Bantay Bukid forest guards.

He said Bantay Bukid is responsible for the monthly clean-up drives in the watershed where they conduct brand auditing of the different plastic wastes they collect.

The data collected during brand auditing are then submitted by the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) to the International Waste Coalition where they consolidate the data.

Yvette Balayon, of the Knowledge Management of Idis, said the purpose of brand auditing is to alert capitalist giants regarding the different wastes they produce.

Idis coordinates with Bantay Bukid forest guards for clean-up drives, reforestation, and water monitoring at the Panigan-Tamugan river site in order to protect the next watershed of Davao City.

Lemuel Manalo, Idis program coordinator, said they are urging their partners and stakeholders from the Watershed Management Council from the local government unit to urgently address the ongoing issues at the river site.

“Kining watershed dinhi, halos tanan kay conservation zone sa atoang zoning map of Davao city (Most of the watershed is within the conservation zone based on the zoning map of Davao City),” said Manalo. “Environmental critical area at the same time, bawal gyud diri ang prohibited land uses.”



According to Manalo, the current water resource zones of the city in barangay Dumoy and Cabantian are all underground water resources, which are susceptible to vulnerabilities such as seepage and seawater intrusion.

“Dapat dili mag depend ang coastal cities sa groundwater kay mag subsidize siya (Coastal cities should not depend on groundwater because it is running out),” Manalo added. “Ipa-recharge pud nato balik ang mga aquifers (We have to allow the aquifers to recharge).”



'Climate justice' weighs heavily on Duterte's mind during ASEM Summit

Published November 26, 2021, 10:18 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

President Duterte renewed his call for “climate justice” from developed nations during the second plenary session of the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit on Friday, Nov. 26.



President Rodrigo Duterte speaks to his fellow Heads of State during the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting on Nov. 25, 2021 (Screenshot from Facebook live)

“In the light of Glasgow, the Philippines repeats its call for climate justice. The world transition to clean energy cannot be at the expense of the developing world’s progress. This simply isn’t right,” said Duterte in his intervention.

By “Glasgow”, the Philippine leader was referring to the Glasgow Climate Pact. All of the attending countries in the just-concluded United Nations (UN) climate conference in Scotland agreed to the pact.

Duterte, who attended ASEM via video conference, reminded developed nations that Asia continues to suffer from the worsening effects of climate change.

“Our islands are sinking four times faster than the global average. This is true in Asia more than any where else,” he said.

“To stay relevant, ASEM partners must work together for inclusive recovery and climate change. And we must do so, guided by the principles of justice, fairness, and equality,” he said.



(Screenshot from Facebook live)



According to Duterte, the Philippines contributes less than one percent to the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, “but like other developing countries, we suffer the most from climate change”.

“As I’ve said before, the main burden of climate action must fall more on those most responsible for this existential crisis, past and present,” he said, [echoing his talking points during the 16th East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#) held last month.

“Human rights, justice and fairness are principles all our countries pledged to live by. May ASEM partners have gone farther (sic) and may these principles be a guide post and a goal of their foreign policies.

“If there is one issue where these principles should be front and center, it is climate change,” Duterte stressed.

High volumes of GHGs act as a sort of blanket that trap heat close to the earth’s surface, thus accelerating climate change.

“It is a problem 200 years in the making from which some countries benefited more than the others. Now we are all in this crisis past the point of no return.

“We call on our developed ASEM partners to stay true to their share values, fulfill commitments in climate financing technology transfer and capacity-building without political predictions,” Duterte said.

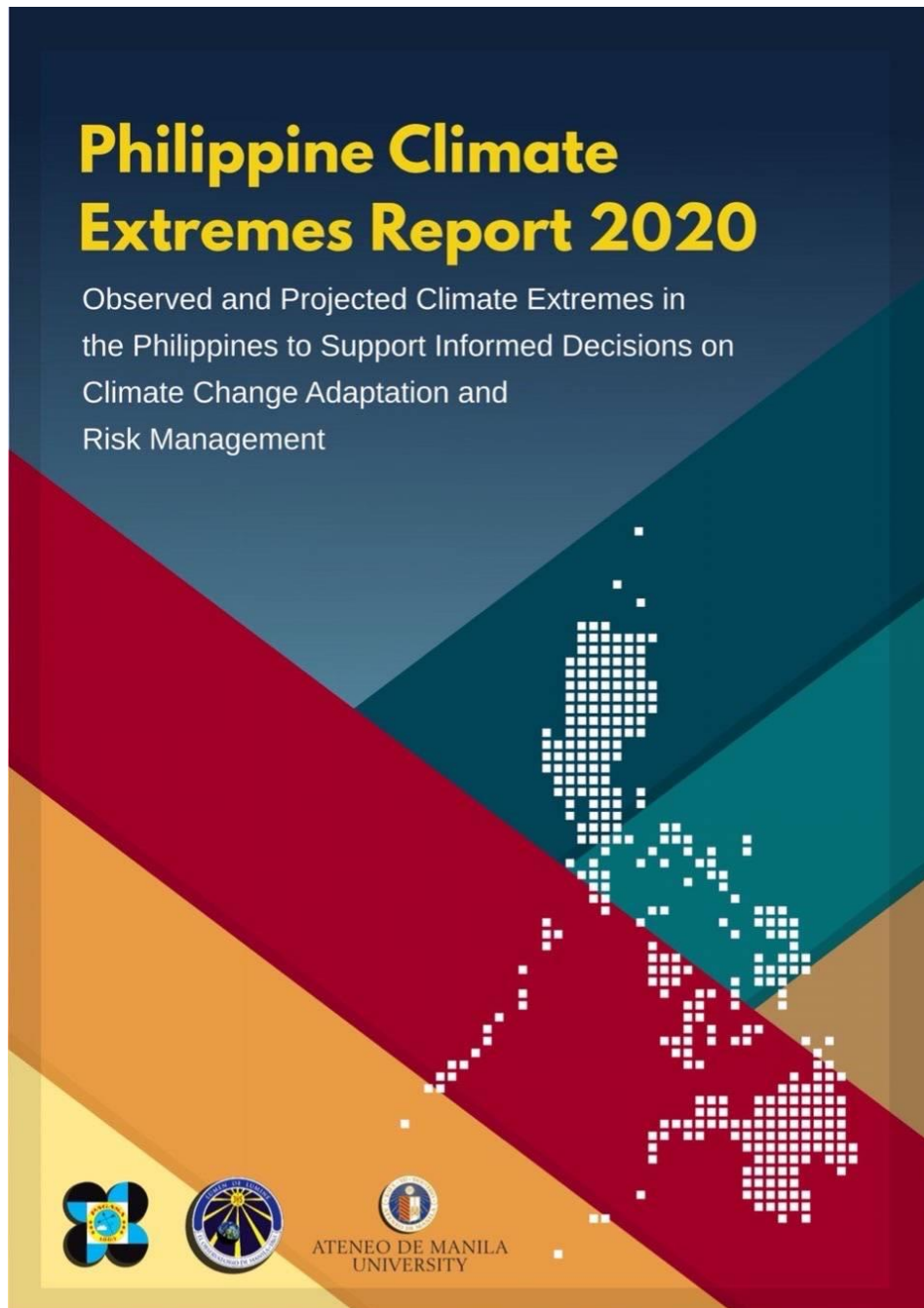
He guaranteed that the Philippines will do its part, “but those who benefited from our planet the most must do more”.



New report shows even warmer, drier future PH climate scenarios

Published November 26, 2021, 6:12 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



Philippine Climate Extremes Report 2020 (PAGASA)

Filipino climate experts on Friday, Nov. 26, released a new report, which showed that the Philippines may experience warmer and drier climate in the future due to climate change.

The study titled the “Philippine Climate Extremes Report 2020: Observed and Projected Climate Extremes in the Philippines to Support Informed Decisions on Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Management,” outlined the collective findings on historical climate conditions and projected changes in climate extremes in the future.

It is a collective effort of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Ateneo de Manila University, and Manila Observatory to provide climate change adaptation planning and disaster risk reduction and management.



Dr. Francia Avila of the Manila Observatory, also one of the study authors, said that the report focused on the projected changes in the climate extremes events which are historically rare but usually have high devastating impacts on the communities.

During the report launch, Avila presented some of the highlights of the Philippine Climate Extremes Report 2020.

Based on the research, Avila said the “extreme temperature indices are all pointing towards a warmer climate for the Philippines as we go further into the future, with the RCP8.5 scenario showing warmer temperature increases than the RCP4.5 scenario.”

The RCP or representative concentration pathway is a greenhouse gas concentration trajectory adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. RCP8.5 is the basis for worst-case climate change scenarios.

“The variations in the change in diurnal temperature range could indicate a larger increase in the daytime temperature and a subsequent increase in the nighttime temperature due to overall heat storage,” she said.

Moreover, Avila noted that the fraction of cold days and cold nights are expected to decrease, while the fraction of warm nights and hot days are expected to increase.

“The projected increase in the warm spell duration index is particularly alarming to many sectors of society (e.g. health, energy, agriculture, ecosystem, etc.),” she pointed out.

As regards the projected changes in rainfall, Avila said it varies throughout the Philippines with some areas expected to have increased daily and five-day accumulated rainfall.

“However, the amount of rainfall (on very wet and extremely wet days), number of (very wet and extremely wet days) and the total rainfall from (very wet and extremely wet days), such heavy rainfall days are expected to decrease contributing to a generally dry climate,” Avila said.

“The number of continuously wet days is also expected to decrease in the future. And while the number of continuously dry days is expected to decrease, this does not necessarily indicate that sufficient rain would fall during the wet days, which interrupt these dry spells,” she said

However, despite the “gloomy” projections, Avila said, “We still do have a bit of time to reduce the impact of future climate extremes.”

In the report, the researchers also presented the Climate Extremes Risk Assessment Matrix or CERAM to “help LGUs (local government units) with the planning process,” which also provided adaptation options to address the impacts of climate extremes.

Avila said the CERAM will “help LGUs get some headstart in searching for alternative solutions.”

The Philippine Climate Extremes Report 2020 is also the third installment of a series of climate change reports produced by the PAGASA.

“PAGASA released the first climate change report in 2011 and it contains information on the observed climate change in the Philippines,” Avila said.



“The second report in 2018 contains the observed trends on Philippine climate as well as climate change projections. It also introduced a decision-making tool called CLIRAM or the Climate Risk Assessment Matrix,” she also said.

To ensure that the results are robust, Avila said that data from 12 Global Climate Models (GCMs) were downscaled using three Regional Climate Models (RCMs) by different institutions to create a 12-member ensemble of data for the Southeast Asian region.

From this dataset, daily temperature and rainfall data over the Philippines are analyzed.

“Each model has three simulation periods. First, is the historical period which spans from 1971 to 2005, second is the RCP 4.5 projection which spans from 2006 to 2099, and third is the RCP 8.5 projection which also spans from 2006 to 2099,” Avila said.

The baseline period is set to 1986 to 2005, coinciding with the available observational gridded dataset.

She said the projected time periods are 2020-2039 for the “early future,” 2046-2065 for the “mid-future,” and 2080-2099 for the “late-future.”



Collective efforts needed to address climate change – experts

Published November 26, 2021, 7:35 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Filipinos must plan smartly, use technology-driven solutions, and foster multi-stakeholder collaborations to address environmental threats and achieve a green and sustainable way of living.



A file photo shows houses which were wrecked after a storm surge caused by super-typhoon Yolanda ravaged Tacloban City. (MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

This was the consensus reached by a panel of experts during the Stratbase ADR Institute (ADRI)'s "Pilipinas Conference" held virtually last Wednesday, November 24.

Stratbase ADRI President Dindo Manhi noted that sustainability and environmental concerns have to be among the priorities of new political leaders as the election season nears.

"They have to understand the risks of failing to understand what it means to give green and circular measures in their policies, frameworks, and operations," he said.

As such, the Stratbase ADRI — an international research organization — gathered a group of experts who are most respected in their field of specialization to discuss ways on how to design climate-resilient and sustainable communities towards green economic recovery amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The panel was composed of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno; Dr. Mahar Lagmay, director of the University of the Philippines' Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (UP-NOAH) Center; Renato Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate & Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Dr. Carlos Primo David, Trustee and Program Convenor of Stratbase ADR Institute and Convenor of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST); Rene Meily, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF); and Guillermo Luz, Chairman of Liveable Cities Philippines (LCP).

In his keynote speech, BSP Gov. Diokno said that there is a need for banks to have a clear and comprehensive understanding of environmental and social risks.

He said banks must also understand the impact of environmental and social risks on their operation and business viability before they can take the necessary actions to address it.

As part of the BSP's efforts to go green, Diokno said the central bank remains committed to guide the financial system and promote a conducive backdrop for sustainable finance to flourish.



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As such, the Stratbase ADRI — an international research organization — gathered a group of experts who are most respected in their field of specialization to discuss ways on how to design climate-resilient and sustainable communities towards green economic recovery amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The panel was composed of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno; Dr. Mahar Lagmay, director of the University of the Philippines' Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (UP-NOAH) Center; Renato Constantino, executive director of the Institute for Climate & Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Dr. Carlos Primo David, Trustee and Program Convenor of Stratbase ADR Institute and Convenor of the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST); Rene Meily, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF); and Guillermo Luz, Chairman of Liveable Cities Philippines (LCP).

In his keynote speech, BSP Gov. Diokno said that there is a need for banks to have a clear and comprehensive understanding of environmental and social risks.

He said banks must also understand the impact of environmental and social risks on their operation and business viability before they can take the necessary actions to address it.

As part of the BSP's efforts to go green, Diokno said the central bank remains committed to guide the financial system and promote a conducive backdrop for sustainable finance to flourish.



The BSP Chief added that they aim to raise awareness and build capacity to address numerous environmental and social risks, enable a regulatory environment through policy issuances, and engage stakeholders to act in recognition of the fact that these risks “are not just business risks, but risks that affect everyone and the future generations to come.”

Further, he said the BSP wants to “navigate a path towards a post-COVID-19 economy and Philippine financial system that is more stable, resilient and inclusive.”

Disasters

Meanwhile, UP-NOAH director Lagmay said in his presentation that disasters are actually “manifestations of unresolved problems of development.”

He said Filipinos “need to be smart” and “must incorporate scientific knowledge and the use of technology to be able to visualize these scenarios and mainstream them into the planning process of communities.”

To be able to adapt to climate change, Lagmay said that “we must be able to change our life, specifically to find alternatives to the traditional way of making engines run.”

Boosting economy

As for ICSC executive director Constantino, he stressed that climate change should drive the Filipino people to boost the country’s economy.

“If we are to face dire risks squarely, we must upgrade everything, not just the power sector, but upgrade urban services to logistics, food supply, and supply chains, including transport infrastructure that should be designed to move people instead of cars,” he said.

He warned that Filipinos cannot afford to tackle climate change with a narrow approach. He said any emissions reduction strategy must be part of a larger transition initiative that is focused on achieving sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic development.

Extreme seasonal changes

Climate change is also expected to “bring drier dry seasons and wetter wet seasons,” according to PBEST convenor Dr. David.

He explained that large parts of the archipelago will be more prone to extremes, such as droughts on one hand and flooding on the other due to the rapidly progressing climate change.

Therefore, David proposed the use and development of farms with smallholder farms working in tandem with industrial scale farms, and the revival of the agriculture sector through farm schools in a bid to train the next generation of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. Optimizing technological advancements

The last presenters were PDRF president Meily who said that they were relying on technology to build disaster resilience among communities, while LCP chairman Luz stressed that open spaces “are not just a luxury but an important aspect of resilience, disaster risk reduction, and disaster response.”

“Urbanization brings with it a lot of benefits but also carries with it a lot of weight of environmental impact,” Meily said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/26/collective-efforts-needed-to-address-climate-change-experts/>



All hands on deck for net zero emissions—UN climate expert

BY LORENZ S. MARASIGAN NOVEMBER 26, 2021

By Lorenz S. Marasigan @lorenzmarasigan

Nations will fail to achieve their climate goals if power and energy companies are indifferent in committing to net zero emissions, a United Nations official said on Thursday.

During the Conference of the Electricity Power Supply Industry (CEPSI), UN Compact Executive Director Sanda Ojiambo challenged the private sector to “use your influence for good” and help in the battle against the “terrifying impact of climate change.”

“National climate goals will never be met if business doesn’t play part. Public and private sectors must reinforce each other. Government policies adopt clarity and market confidence for Asian companies are critical to drive business action and to incentivize companies to move towards net zero,” she said.

She said the world may be able to achieve a 1.5-degree future, if “all hands are on deck.”

“A rapid move towards renewable energy requires local governments, unions, and the private sector to get involved, supporting affected communities and people by generating green jobs. A just transition is an integral part for people-centered climate action and will benefit sustainable long-term growth,” she said.

As companies and all sectors work to halve global emissions by 2030, Ojiambo said, they must simultaneously ensure that there will be positive impacts for their employees and their communities.

“One positive impact is the opportunity for green jobs, and according to the International Labor Union, 25 million jobs can be created in a green transition with a loss of only 7 million,” Ojiambo added.

She explained that the recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), the UN Global Compact, together with the ILO and the International Trade Union Confederation, launched a think lab on just transition to partner with businesses and shape thought leadership in this area.

“For Asian companies, technology transfer and finance are essential to achieve a just transition. To future proof businesses and protect communities, it is also essential for the private sector to work with governments on climate resilience solutions and infrastructure,” she said.



Dud bud

Published 7 hours ago on November 27, 2021 12:10 AM

By **WJG**



Fighting global warming by planting trees is easier said than done. It showed at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, UK where 110 world leaders chose stopping deforestation in the next 10 years instead of intensifying reforestation.

While the goal of the two strategies are the same, to help absorb too much carbon dioxide that drives life-threatening climate change, protecting forests could be a step in the wrong direction as the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests — a voluntary and legally non-binding agreement by 40 governments to halve deforestation by 2020 and halt it by 2030 — failed to slow down the destruction of forests and even accelerated it, according to Prof. Simon Lewis, an expert on climate and forests at University College London.

Nevertheless, there are concerned people who still continue to focus on planting trees to help restore severely denuded forests or create new ones from barren lands.

Instagrammer Zack Saadioui, 23, of Boca Raton, Florida had a novel way of gathering support for his tree-planting campaign. Saadioui used the new sticker feature of the photo-sharing site.

The interactive “Add Yours” sticker on Instagram allows users to reply to it with photos. Under his account named Plant A Tree Co., Saadioui posted a dare that he would plant a tree for every pet picture shared via the sticker.

Saadioui did not really know how the sticker works when he launched his tree-planting call on 1 November. He was expecting a few followers to reply by sharing a photo of their pet and thought he could plant a maximum of 200 trees for them.

Soon, however, Instagram Stories was flooded with photos of dogs, cats and other household pets. Saadioui deleted his post 10 minutes later.

In a message the next day to followers who were asking Plant A Tree Co. who would be planting the trees and where, Saadioui admitted he didn't have the resources to do it.

“We simply wanted to check out a new Instagram sticker and thought we'd use it in a fun way that can benefit the environment. So, we made the post not really understanding how ‘Add Yours’ works,” read his post, according to NBC News.



It's definitely impossible for Saadioui to fulfill his invitation that went viral and out of control. His post was shared 4.1 million times in a matter of few minutes before it was deleted.

It was the right decision as when he checked the post from other Instagram users last 8 November, it was reposted a million times. Unfortunately, there won't be that many trees that will be planted.

27 NOVEMBER 2021, SATURDAY



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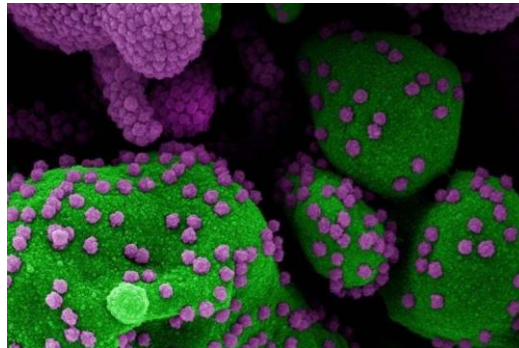
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Philippines 'intently' monitoring new COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa

Philstar.com November 26, 2021 | 5:26pm



This undated handout image obtained March 28, 2021, courtesy of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID), shows a colorized scanning electron micrograph of an apoptotic cell (green) heavily infected with Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 virus particles (purple), isolated from a patient sample, at the NIAID Integrated Research Facility (IRF) in Fort Detrick, Maryland.

Handout / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is keeping a close watch on a new COVID-19 variant that was detected in South Africa, Malacañang said Friday, as the country prepares to welcome back foreign tourists.

Acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said the government is monitoring developments about the variant found to have a large number of mutations.

“We are intently monitoring the situation. Our genomic surveillance is ongoing and we are coordinating with the World Health Organization,” Nograles said in Filipino.

“We are in constant communication with the WHO and awaiting their advisories on whether it will be considered a variant of interest or a variant of concern,” he added.

The detection of the variant, which scientists said could be more resistant to current vaccines, has prompted several Asian and European countries to tighten travel restrictions.

Bureau of Immigration spokesperson Dana Sandoval said the agency is ready to implement possible changes in border control protocols should the government find it necessary to adjust regulations.

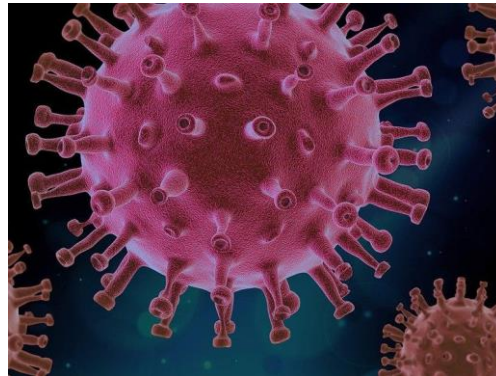
The government announced Friday that foreigners who do not need a visa to enter the Philippines may come to the country, provided they are fully-vaccinated, come from a “Green List” country and present a negative RT-PCR test taken 72 hours before departure.

The decision to ease border restrictions comes as COVID-19 cases continue to decline. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



South Africa detects new COVID-19 variant with many mutations

[Susan Njanji](#) - Philstar.com November 26, 2021 | 9:23am



Artist's rendition of the coronavirus disease.
Image by PIRO4D from Pixabay

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Scientists in South Africa said Thursday they had detected a new Covid-19 variant with a large number of mutations, blaming it for a surge in infection numbers.

The number of daily infections in Africa's hardest-hit country has increased tenfold since the start of the month.

In response, Britain banned all travel from the country and five other southern African nations as concerns grow about the new variant, which scientists say could be more infectious than Delta and more resistant to current vaccines.

"Unfortunately we have detected a new variant, which is a reason for concern in South Africa," virologist Tulio de Oliveira told a hastily called news conference.

The variant, which goes by the scientific label B.1.1.529, "has a very high number of mutations," he said, adding that the World Health Organization may give it a Greek variant name -- like the dominant Delta strain -- on Friday.

"It's unfortunately causing a resurgence of infections," he said.

The variant has also been detected in Botswana and Hong Kong among travellers from South Africa, de Oliveira added.

The WHO said it is "closely monitoring" the reported variant and is expected to meet on Friday to determine if it should be designated a variant of "interest" or of "concern".

"Early analysis shows that this variant has a large number of mutations that require and will undergo further study," the WHO added.

'A major threat'

South African Health Minister Joe Phaahla said the variant was of "serious concern" and behind an "exponential" increase in reported cases, making it "a major threat".

The country's daily number of infections hit 1,200 on Wednesday, up from 106 earlier in the month.



Before the detection of the new variant, authorities had predicted a fourth wave to hit South Africa starting around the middle of December, buoyed by travel ahead of the festive season.

The government-run National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) said 22 positive cases of the new variant have been recorded in the country.

The NICD said the number of detected cases and the percentage testing positive are "increasing quickly" in three of the country's provinces including Gauteng, home to the economic hub Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria.

A cluster outbreak was recently identified, concentrated at a higher education institute in Pretoria, the NICD added.

Last year, the Beta variant of the virus first emerged in South Africa, although until now its infection numbers have been driven by Delta, which was originally detected in India.

South Africa has the highest pandemic numbers in Africa with around 2.95 million cases, of which 89,657 have been fatal.

Ten mutations

Scientists said the new variant has at least 10 mutations, compared to two for Delta and three for Beta.

"The concern is that when you have so many mutations, it can have an impact on how the virus behaves," Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, said at a virtual press briefing.

"It will take a few weeks for us to understand what impact this variant has on any potential vaccines," she added.

27 NOVEMBER 2021, SATURDAY



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



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