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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR lauds declaration of 5 new protected areas

Published on: May 27, 2022

By DENR



QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has welcomed the enactment of laws establishing five more protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which brings to 112 the total number of legislated protected areas nationwide.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte recently signed into law Republic Act (RA) 11684 or the Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape Act; RA 11685 or the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Act; RA 11686 or the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape Act; RA 11687 or the Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Act; and RA 11688 or the Banao Protected Landscape Act.

With the legislation of new protected areas, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna believes that “more people are realizing the importance of placing biologically important areas under the intensified protection of the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.”

“We welcome these recent developments in additional protected areas from our legislators. May this be the impetus of further environmental protection in more biologically important and related conservation areas,” Sampulna said.

It will be recalled that in 2018, RA 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992 was amended by RA 11038 or the E-NIPAS Act, which also legislated 94 protected areas under the System.

Meanwhile, DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Bernardino reminded the community and the local government units near the concerned sites to “cooperate with the DENR in the sustainable management and effective administration of these newly legislated protected areas.”



## DENR lauds declaration of 5 new protected areas

The potentially active stratovolcano, Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape is located in Pampanga, while Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape, a dormant volcano and the third highest mountain the Philippines, straddles the provinces of Benguet and Ifugao.

Located in Mindanao, the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape is a parcel of land with a vast area of mangroves between the towns of Naga and Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay.

The Tirad Pass Protected Landscape is a historically important landmark in Ilocos Sur as the site of the heroism of Gen. Gregorio del Pilar during the 1899 Philippine–American War.

The Banao Protected Landscape in Kalinga is a merger of the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park and Banao watershed area, and is home to the Banao tribe.

“Our laws would be futile if people near these areas would violate them, so we urge those who live near these areas to help the DENR in its mission to conserve these sites for the benefit of their children and grandchildren,” Bernardino said. (DENR)



## Cheers, jeers on PHL's biodiversity conservation



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 29, 2022



[Kyaw Kyaw Winn, ACB](#)

With key biodiversity information and knowledge, we can protect and conserve biodiversity and aim for a better, shared future for all life.

The Philippines joined the world in celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 22.

With the theme "Building a Shared Future for all Life," the celebration also marked the launching of the Year of the Protected Areas (YoPA) campaign.

Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and in partnership with the United Nations Development Program's Biodiversity Finance Initiative, the YoPA campaign online launching focused on the importance of setting aside areas for conservation in the face of massive species extinction amid the global pandemic caused by the dreaded Covid-19.

### Essential to human survival

In his speech during the event, Environment Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna highlighted the establishment of protected areas and national parks as essential to the survival of humanity because they serve as critical habitats for wild animals and plants.



## Cheers, jeers on PHL's biodiversity conservation

“Protected areas prevent the spread of diseases if left undisturbed. Intrusion into protected areas increases the chances of wildlife coming into contact with human beings, thereby allowing the spread of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19 people,” said Sampulna, a forester.

He also highlighted the role of protected areas in providing livelihood to the communities that act as stewards of conservation.

Protected areas, Sampulna added, also bring income to communities, including to Indigenous People, through ecotourism, plus its role of providing food and medicine.

### Building a resilient future

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), said that in the IDBD, the call to act fast together and to build a more resilient future has become even clearer.

According to Lim, in such an endeavor, biodiversity is the foundation upon which the world can build back better.

“This year, we are bound to make history as we are set to finalize and eventually implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: an ambitious plan composed of 21 targets and 10 milestones that will serve as a guide to transform and mend our broken relationship with nature,” Lim said in a press statement.

“The road to living in harmony with nature is never without bumps, but every step we will take, from this day forward, counts. Raising people’s awareness of today’s challenges is of paramount importance as all our efforts will be futile if the root causes are not known and identified,” she added.

### Asean Biodiversity Dashboard

The ACB, which acts as a regional center of excellence for biodiversity and mandated to facilitate cooperation in the region, has recently launched the Asean Biodiversity Dashboard, to provide up-to-date biodiversity knowledge that can be used for informed and science-based decisions- and policy-making.

The online platform presents trends and geographic differences in biodiversity data and indicators used worldwide in a visual format.

“Through this interactive and ergonomic platform, shareable biodiversity information relevant to Asean can be accessed easily with just a few clicks,” Lim explained.

In the dashboard, she said, „You will be able to view trends in the status of biodiversity in the Asean region through time.”

The platform serves as a repository of biodiversity data and information from the Asean member states (AMS), thus, underscoring the importance of comprehensive transboundary information



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and knowledge sharing among the AMS to better understand the status of the region's biodiversity, Lim said.

By having the means to measure and approximate the state and health of ecosystems and species, Lim said Asean can develop concrete and more practical solutions and actions toward achieving national targets and contributing to regional and a more ambitious global biodiversity targets.

### Significant gains

The Philippines, a country blessed with rich biodiversity, is faced with preventing biodiversity loss amid the pandemic.

Over the past three years, the community lockdowns that led to restricted movement have resulted in positive or significant gains for the environment and biodiversity in general.

Lim noted that the passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act of 2018 and additional protected areas legislations—such as Republic Acts 11684, 11685, 11686, 11687 and 11688—that added Mount Arayat in Pampanga, Mount Pulag in Benguet, Naga-Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay, Tirad Pass in Ilocos Sur, and Banao in Kalinga to the list of areas protected under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, are worth mentioning.

Such development, Lim noted, is paving the way for increased investments in protected areas and biodiversity in the country.

### 'Anthropause'

Lim noted that the effects of the global pandemic led to an "anthropause," or the a global reduction in modern human activity, especially travel, that gave people an opportunity to re-examine their relationship with nature.

"Biodiversity was given time to recover a bit, and the increased awareness on zoonosis [disease caused by germs that spread between animals and people] seemed to have resulted in more caution on handling wildlife species implicated in viral transmissions... and increased vigilance in combating illegal wildlife trade," she said.

More importantly, Lim said because of the pandemic, more people are now appreciating the outdoors and nature, especially after the long lockdowns, including the appreciation for urban biodiversity, backyard planting and gardening.

### Increased awareness

For Emerson Sy, a wildlife conservation advocate and illegal wildlife trade watchdog, the past three years have taught Filipinos a lot about the importance of protecting and conserving biodiversity.

Specifically, he said the campaign against illegal wildlife trade became stronger amid the pandemic, noting that despite the community lockdowns that restricted the movements across the country, law enforcers, including that of the DENR, were able to score big in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.



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“Despite the pandemic, the campaign against illegal wildlife trade never stopped. Right now, you will notice that people, even in social media, are really helping out and they know which agency to report the illegal activities now, unlike before,” Sy told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on May 25.

### Something is lacking

Lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, an ocean advocacy nongovernment organization, agreed that there's increased awareness, especially among the younger generation, but said policy-makers lack positive action to truly protect and conserve biodiversity.

For one, Ramos said policy-makers should prioritize biodiversity conservation and protection in terms of budget allocation.

“In terms of awareness, we gained a lot, especially the youth. But [from] our policy-makers, we need action,” Ramos said in mix of English and Filipino in a telephone interview on May 25.

### Cheers and jeers

Ramos also criticized the DENR for “entertaining” and even issuing environmental compliance certificates for environmentally critical projects like the massive land reclamations in Manila Bay and other areas in the country.

“Why are we still entertaining them while we should be protecting the integrity of our marine habitats, because of climate change and the pandemic? All they think of is profit, profit, profit,” she said, citing the multi-billion airport project in Bulakan, Bulacan.

Nevertheless, she lauded the DILG led by Secretary Eduardo Año for issuing Memorandum Circular 2022-018.

“The circular is now requiring LGUs [local government units] to sign under oath that they have ensured compliance with all the mechanism and safeguard to protect the environment before allowing any projects. That is very good! Kudos to the DILG!” she said partly in Filipino.

### Challenges ahead

According to Lim, the challenge posed by protecting and conserving biodiversity amid the global pandemic like the loss of jobs and revenues, particularly from community-based tourism activities is daunting.

She said some affected individuals around nature tourism areas were driven to resort to poaching and illegal collection of plants, birds and insects as livelihood and source of income.

Another big challenge, she said, is what she described as “revenge” travel and the desire to recoup lost income from tourism during the pandemic which has already resulted in overcrowding in some nature areas, possibly exceeding carrying capacities.

One more serious concern is the notable increase in the use of PET bottles and plastics, and improper disposal of masks and face shields which is affecting waterways and marine biodiversity.



## Cheers, jeers on PHL's biodiversity conservation

Lastly, the recent lifting of the ban on open-pit mining to hasten economic recovery is likely to result in a possible setback in terms of biodiversity conservation and protection.

“Without biodiversity-focused safeguards and due regard to impacts on unique vegetation and habitats, and adjacent coastal and marine biological resources, this is going to be a serious concern in our efforts to protect and harness the potential value of our biodiversity,” Lim explained.





## Locsin names UN sea body bet

Published 5 hours ago on May 29, 2022 03:22 AM

By [Gab Humilde Villegas](#)



Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said National Mapping and Resource Information Authority Deputy Administrator Efren Carandang will be the country's candidate for the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

In his keynote message, he said that Carandang is the "foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea," where Locsin also noted that, in addition to his technical and management knowledge, the Philippines would be joining the Commission for the first time, which will benefit the CLCS operations.

"Efren is the Philippines' foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea, which is to say that he is one of the very best in the world," Locsin said.

### **Presented to diplomats**

Carandang was introduced during a diplomatic reception held at the Delegates Dining Room at the headquarters of the United Nations on 17 May in New York City.

The CLCS is a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) organization entrusted with reviewing and making recommendations on coastal governments' requests for enlarged continental shelves. The outer limits created via this method serve as permanent borders between seabed zones under state jurisdiction and international seabed areas designated as common heritage.

The mineral resources on the enlarged continental shelf, which the Commission established, will directly help several coastal states. They will share in the proceeds from the exploration and exploitation of resources on the international seabed.

The Philippines, as one of the coastal states, stands to benefit from these riches. The Philippines, as an archipelagic state, presented its nomination to the CLCS to contribute significantly to the Commission's greater efficiency.

Carandang emphasized the Philippines' successful involvement with the Commission when he and his team submitted the Benham Rise proposal in 2009.

"It was a very productive seven month-engagement with the Commission, wherein my team and I made oral presentations and submitted 18 written responses to the queries of CLCS members," he said.



Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Enrique Manalo said the country's candidacy to the CLCS demonstrates the country's compliance with international law.

## Climate Change Commission highlights Duterte administration's achievements in climate fight

Published on: May 25, 2022  
By PND



MANILA -- The Climate Change Commission spelled out the legacy of the Duterte administration in addressing climate change from extensive beach clean ups, tracking emission levels to pushing legislations aimed at building climate change resilient communities.

In his report to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Monday, Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje said the Duterte government demonstrated strong political will in its pro-environment initiatives.

These include the closing of Boracay, undertaking the comprehensive Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, and imposing a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

The government also operationalized the National Greenhouse Gas inventory to generate data and track emissions essential in decision and policymaking, including the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, according to Borje.

At the same time, the government also came up with the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), pegging it at 75 percent, which is more ambitious than other countries.

“And we’re saying, Mr. President, na hindi tayo nanghihingi ng dole out. Hindi tayo namamalimos. What we are asking for is a responsible partnership because we are least responsible for climate change,” he said.

Under the present administration, climate policies were formulated such as the National Climate Risk Management Framework to be used by different government agencies to increase the resiliency and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.



## Climate Change Commission highlights Duterte administration's achievements in climate fight

The administration also advocated relevant laws that protect the people and communities. These include R.A. 11201, the act that created the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD).

Borje said that under the Duterte administration, the government considers climate change adaptation in building shelters so that houses could withstand the challenges posed by changing weather.

Another climate-related law is R.A. 11285 or the Energy Efficiency Act, which provides incentives for energy conservation efforts.

These legislations, Borje said, are steps in the right direction, adding the government also opened access to international climate finance through the Green Climate Fund.

The government has also scaled up domestic public budget and investments in climate change. Under President Duterte's leadership, the National Climate Public Budget from 2019 to 2022 was increased from P199 billion to P282 billion in 2022, Borje reported.

And from 25 national government agencies in 2020, the country now has 145 participants in the Climate Change Expenditure Tag Compliance that assesses government expenditures.

"Kasama din po dito ang pag-empower sa ating local governments through capacity building and technical support. Ang Communities for Resilience Program or CORE ay nagaganap na sa 167 LGUs at ngayon po ay kasama ng 124 state universities and colleges," the Climate Change Commission chief said.

At the same time, the present administration also strengthened climate resilience through adaptation and mitigation interventions. These include local indigenous knowledge to learn best practices in climate change adaptation.

The Climate Change Commission head also made recommendations in the transition to green development and a low-carbon economy.

Borje suggested taking a three-pronged approach: policy; programs and projects; and promotions. According to him, there must be a change in paradigm, with the country focusing firmly on the present and the future.

Climate information must also be enhanced and it must be embedded in climate information for policy coherence using ICT, Borje said.

Relevant policies on impact valuation of climate change and disasters must be issued, and pending bills increasing knowledge to combat climate change must be supported.

The government must also push policies increasing renewable energy share in the energy mix. In the 2020 Philippine Energy Plan, renewable energy accounts for 19.29 percent of the total primary energy supply, Borje said, stressing the country has to do more.



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## Climate Change Commission highlights Duterte administration's achievements in climate fight

Also, the country should develop local science and technology for climate change adaptation and mitigation and the People's Survival Fund for local climate adaptation solutions must be mobilized.

"One billion pesos po ito, Mr. President. Right now, the utility rate is 31 percent, gusto ho naming i-akyat ito para sa 100 percent para magamit na ho ng ating mga LGUs," he said. (PND)



## Developed nations must make real commitment to reduce carbon emissions — President Duterte

Published on: May 25, 2022

By PND

MANILA -- Industrialized countries must truly commit to reduce their carbon emissions, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said on Monday, stressing sanctions must also be imposed to force nations honor their climate change obligations.

Unless developed nations come to their senses, they cannot expect the smaller states with the least carbon emissions to follow agreed international commitments, President Duterte said during his weekly Talk to the People aired on Monday evening.

“That has always been the equation between the rich and poor nations, between the industrialized countries and those that are lagging behind. Unless they come up with sanctions but that is very hard to do. Unless may mga sanctions kasi medyo mahirap ‘yung magpasunod,” he said.

“So ganoon ang prayer ko. Kailangan they should participate and participate with all their commitment really to do their thing. Kasi kung walang sanctions at all — ang ginagawa ng mga mayayaman and the industrialized countries heavily ‘yung ano, they just pay a lip service, nothing more.”

Overall, it’s the poorer nations that suffer, as the devastating effects of changing weather impact on the economies of developing counties, he said.

In his report to the President, Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje said it’s important for the country to continue with its call for climate justice.

“Essentially, it’s climate justice to those who are least responsible for climate change, to those with the least resources, to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We need to do more,” he said.

“And when we say we need to do more, it’s really on the part of the developed nations because they have been largely responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, which is the object when it comes to climate change mitigation.”

In line with the President’s call for participation, cooperation, and good faith, Borje said the Climate Change Commission works with its global partners not just to shed a light, but also to hold accountable the developed countries for what they’ve done.

During his participation to the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Japan last month, Borje said he had the opportunity to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who committed huge amount of money to assist Asia-Pacific countries for efficient water management.

And during his meeting with former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon, Borje said the South Korean leader mirrored President Duterte’s position, who underscored nations must act and not just make commitments.

The Climate Change Commission secretary also reported that during the water summit in Japan, the President gave a very strong call in a video message, challenging people and governments that business-as-usual approach cannot prosper and must not be countenanced in the midst of the current climate emergency.



## Developed nations must make real commitment to reduce carbon emissions — President Duterte

Borje vowed to air the country's sentiment in the upcoming climate meetings in Sweden, Germany, and at the COP 27 meeting in Egypt.

“We will continue to do that po whether in Stockholm or in Bonn, Germany, if not even with a stronger sense of urgency and stronger language para po malaman ng mga tao na talagang importante at talagang we hope to account those who are most responsible for climate change,” he said. (PND)

### Philippine Information Agency

The Philippine Information Agency is the official public information arm of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. It is an attached unit of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO). The PIA works with the Office of the President through PCOO, national government agencies, and other public sector entities in communicating their programs, projects, and services to the Filipino people. The agency has a regional office in all 15 regions and has an information center in 79 provinces across the Philippines.



## Cagayan, Cordillera rivers cleanup drive gets support

By [Vince Jacob Visaya](#) and [Leander C. Domingo](#)

May 28, 2022



Volunteers picking up trash at the Magat reservoir in Ramon, Isabela. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**RAMON, Isabela:** Renewable energy solutions SN Aboitiz Power-Magat Inc. (SNAP-Magat) has supported [Cagayan Valley](#) and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) fisheries bureau with cleanup drives to commemorate this year's Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month.

The [Bureau of Fisheries](#) and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Field Office-CAR and BFAR Region 2 organized cleaning operations at the Magat reservoir on May 20 and May 24, 2022, respectively.

Due to pandemic restrictions, SNAP-Magat showed support by providing diesel fuel for motor transport haulers as well as additional pack meals for volunteers.

Truckloads of mixed garbage collected by motorboats were hauled to Ramon and Alfonso Lista Sanitary Landfills for disposal and proper segregation.

Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month aims to honor and recognize agricultural laborers for their outstanding contributions to the development of the local agriculture sector as well as the preservation and protection of water resources such as the Magat dam reservoir.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/28/news/regions/cagayan-cordillera-rivers-cleanup-drive-gets-support/1845298>





## Kilo-kilong basura, nakolekta sa ilalim ng dagat sa Samal

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 28 2022 05:36 PM



Larawan mula sa BFAR XI

Nagsagawa ng "Scubasurero" activity ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)

Region XI sa ilalim ng dagat sa Island Garden City of Samal (IGACOS) sa Davao del Norte bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Farmers and Fisherfolk Month at Ocean Month.

Sa aktibidad na nangyari noong Miyerkoles at Huwebes, nagtulong-tulong ang mga Bantay Dagat, lokal na pamahalaan ng IGACOS, city agriculture office, at BFAR sa paglilinis ng dagat sa pamamagitan ng scuba diving.

Umabot sa 54 kilo ng basura ang nakuha mula sa ilalim ng dagat at 75 na piraso ng crown of thorns starfish o dap-ag, na nakakasira umano sa coral reefs.



## Kilo-kilong basura, nakolekta sa ilalim ng dagat sa Samal



*Larawan mula sa BFAR XI*

Sa obserbasyon ng BFAR XI, kabilang sa mga nakolektang basura ang mga face mask at face shield.

Layon ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno na mabigyan ng pansin ang kasalukuyang suliranin sa kapaligiran at maudyok ang mga tao na huwag magtapon ng mga basura sa dagat.

Ibinigay nila ang mga nakolektang basura sa LGU para sa wastong pag-dispose ng mga ito.

—**ulat ni Hernel Tocmo**

## EDC's first geothermal brine recovery plant now operational in the Philippines



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May 27, 2022

- Designed and supplied by EXERGY in less than 12 months the ORC system exploits the geothermal brine of two flash power plants on Mindanao island to generate 3.6 MWe additional electricity.
- The inauguration ceremony took place on April 27, led by EDC's deputy chief operating officer Jerome H. Cainglet, in the presence of director Mario C. Marasigan of the Department of Energy's Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB) and government authorities.

Exergy International, an Italian leading provider of advanced geothermal ORC plants participated last month in the inauguration ceremony of EDC's first geothermal brine recovery power plant on Mindanao island, in the Philippines.

The event was led by EDC deputy chief operating officer Jerome H. Cainglet, head of business development Marvin Kenneth S. Bailon, and Mount Apo Geothermal Project facility head Romy Kee, in the presence of director Mario C. Marasigan of the Department of Energy's Electric Power Industry Management Bureau (EPIMB), other government authorities, and representatives from EDC's Indigenous Peoples host community, the Manobo Apao Descendants Ancestral Domain Claim of Mount Apo (MADADMA).

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## EDC's first geothermal brine recovery plant now operational in the Philippines

The new ORC unit, which started up in March, was designed and supplied by EXERGY in less than 12 months complying with strict deadlines and successfully passing the performance test. The plant also passed the compliance testing by the system operator, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, and is now delivering 3.6 MWe additional power harnessing a resource from the Mindanao geothermal field.

The ORC cycle operates by recovering the waste geothermal brine available from Mindanao 1 and 2 existing steam power plants and converts it into electricity through a turbine before reinjecting it into the reservoir. Exergy's technology utilises the unique Radial Outflow Turbine configuration, a first in the Philippines, which can produce geothermal power at higher efficiency, and proved to be very effective and reliable in more than 450 MWe geothermal fleet installed worldwide.

EDC is the world's largest vertically integrated geothermal energy producer, boasting over 40 years of history and over 1,180 MW of geothermal capacity in its portfolio. EDC has made the Philippines the third largest geothermal energy producer in the world and an acknowledged leader in wet steam field technology for over four decades.

The new ORC installation will enhance the efficiency and productivity of the existing geothermal field and help save around 25,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission per year without any additional environmental impact.

While attending the inauguration ceremony Marco Frassinetti, Exergy's sales director commented:

"We are very proud of the successful completion of the first brine recovery power plant in the Philippines for EDC. This project demonstrates how pushing innovation, both in exploitation technologies and power plant design and technologies, can provide more sustainable and efficient solutions to better harness geothermal resources and improve the economics of geothermal projects. We see many opportunities of application for geothermal brine recovery considering a potential of more than 10 GW of flash steam turbine power plants installed worldwide"

"Thank you, Exergy and all our other partners, for being enablers of our decarbonisation mission by helping us deliver our Mindanao-3 binary project after only 13 months," said Jerome H. Cainglet, EDC's deputy chief operating officer.



## Filipino scientist receives UN Sasakawa award for disaster risk reduction

Published May 28, 2022, 10:21 PM

by [Jaleen Ramos](#)

A Filipino scientist received the United Nations' Sasakawa Award for his initiatives in disaster risk reduction on May 26.



PHOTO FROM UNRRD/ MANILA BULLETIN

Glenn S. Banaguas, founder of the Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute (ECCRI), leads the Climate Smart Philippines program which tackles disaster risks reduction and prevention of damage and losses from climate change.

“I extend my thanks and gratitude to the organizers of the UN Sasakawa Award for recognizing Climate Smart Philippines’ efforts to empower people from all walks of life to develop evidence-based, humane, and gender-responsive solutions,” he said during the awarding ceremony in Bali, Indonesia.

Banaguas bested over 200 nominations worldwide.

Banaguas is a scientist, a diplomat, and an expert in the areas of environment, climate change and disaster risks, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNNRRD) said in its website.

“He has created a “Climate Smart” program to support vulnerable communities in the ASEAN region in building resilience and adapting to the climate change through sustainable practices,” it added.

Save the Children – Philippines also won the award in the Organization category.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/05/28/filipino-scientist-receives-un-sasakawa-award-for-disaster-risk-reduction/>



## PLDT, Smart champions climate-smart farming



BYBUSINESSMIRROR

MAY 29, 2022



[PLDT, Smart photo](#)

The farmer-recipient of FarmSmart Farm of PLDT and Smart Communications Inc. in Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, in partnership with Farmvocracy for climate-smart farming.

PLDT and Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) recently piloted the #FarmSmart Farm program in Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, in partnership with social agri-enterprise Farmvocracy in celebration of the National Farmers and Fisherfolk Month this May,

“In our mission to help improve the livelihood of Filipino farmers, PLDT and Smart are also committed to promoting sustainable farming practices. The #FarmSmart Farm program fits perfectly in our organization as we further embed sustainability in our core business and corporate shared value programs,” said Stephanie Orino, assistant vice president and head of Stakeholder Management at Smart.

In line with the PLDT group’s sustainability agenda, #FarmSmart Farm aims to increase the income of small-holder farmers by creating a climate-smart farming ecosystem where rice growers use environment-friendly inputs to boost their produce while preventing damage to nature.

“Technology has allowed us to fight pests and diseases without harming beneficial microorganisms. In three to five years, we will see our farmers use the Internet in their daily activities,” said Vincent Roy Mendoza, founder and CEO of Farmvocracy.



## PLDT, Smart champions climate-smart farming

Under the program, PLDT and Smart will sponsor partner rice growers' farm inputs, which include organic fertilizers, farm machineries, and other items, saving them from high-interest loans.

Romulo Halili, 53, of Barangay Kurtingan attested to the benefits of environment-friendly materials.

"Organic fertilizers not only help ensure a bountiful harvest, they also prevent soil damage which helps sustain good yield in succeeding planting seasons," Halili said.

PLDT and Smart also provided Farmvocacy access to the Smart Infocast platform which they will use to quickly send out information and instructions to farmers.

One key activity under the program is a field experiment showing rice growers that sustainable materials and practices aided by timely reminders via Smart Infocast will result in a more abundant harvest.

PLDT, Smart and Farmvocacy have teamed up with the Philippine Rice Research Institute, Occidental Mindoro State College, Enviro Scope Synergy Inc. and the local government unit of Santa Cruz through the Municipal Agriculture Office to guide farmers throughout the project.

Come harvest season, PLDT and Smart will connect beneficiaries directly with consumers through the Buy Local initiative, eliminating the need for middlemen and ensuring fair market price for their goods.

The #FarmSmart Farm initiative emphasizes the PLDT group's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals #2 on Zero Hunger, and #3 on Good Health and Well-Being.

Image credits: [PLDT, Smart photo](#)



## Deforestation surges in Brazil Atlantic Forest -- report



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

May 28, 2022



File photo taken on October 23, 2012 of a general view of the [Atlantic](#) rainforest near [Salto Morato Nature Reserve](#), in Guaraquecaba, in the southern state of Parana, [Brazil](#). The deforestation in Brazil's Atlantic Forest increased 66% in 2021 regarding the previous year, informed on May 25, 2022 an NGO that warns this coastal biome faces a 'high' risk. AFP PHOTO

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:** Deforestation surged 66 percent last year in Brazil's Atlantic Forest, according to a new report, compounding fears over the rampant destruction of the [Amazon](#) rainforest further north.

The "[Mata Atlantica](#)," which stretches down Brazil's eastern coast, lost 21,642 hectares (53,479 acres) of forest cover from November 2020 to October 2021, up two-thirds from the year before, according to the report, which was based on satellite monitoring data and published late Wednesday by an environmental group.

Cutting down that forest -- the size of more than 20,000 football fields -- released the equivalent of 10.3 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, said the group, SOS Mata Atlantica.





## Deforestation surges in Brazil Atlantic Forest -- report

"We weren't expecting such a huge increase. We thought the Atlantic Forest would be a bit more immune to the explosion of deforestation (in other parts of Brazil), as a region with more governance and policing," spokesman [Luis Guedes Pinto](#) told [Agence France-Presse](#) (AFP).

"It shows the Atlantic Forest is also suffering from the dismantling of environmental policies and legislation."

Deforestation has surged in Brazil under President [Jair Bolsonaro](#), whom critics accuse of gutting environmental protection programs to benefit Brazil's powerful agribusiness industry.

Since the far-right president took office in 2019, average annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has increased by 75 percent from the previous decade, according to official figures.

Like the Amazon, the less-known Atlantic Forest is a critical buffer against climate change, and a key ecosystem without which Brazil's supplies of food, water and hydroelectric power would be threatened, experts say.

Its destruction "is a disaster not just for Brazil, but for the world," Pinto said.

"Research shows the Atlantic Forest is one of the biomes that will have to be urgently restored if we are to reach the goal of holding global warming to 1.5 degrees C in line with the Paris climate accord."



## PH hospitals prepare for monkeypox outbreak

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora May 28, 2022, 4:54 pm



**MANILA** – Hospitals in the Philippines are preparing for a possible outbreak of monkeypox in the country.

President of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PHAPI) Rene Jose de Grano said on Saturday that although no case has so far been reported in the Philippines, their members and relevant government agencies are now on high alert.

"*Binabantayan po natin diyan ay fever, muscle pain, pagkakaroon ng kulani at rashes na typical sa supposedly na monkeypox* (What we are monitoring are such symptoms as fever, muscle pain, swollen lymph nodes, and rashes, which are typical of monkeypox)," de Grano said in a Laging Handa briefing.

"*(N)aghahanda na po ang lahat ng ating local government units (LGUs), ang Department of Health na kung sakali mang magkaroon tayo ng kasong ganito ay ma-contain agad natin* (The LGUs and DOH are boosting efforts to prepare for monkeypox so that they can contain it immediately if it enters the country)."

If there is a reported case, the patient would be immediately isolated in a separate ward and given supportive care, he said.

"*(Dahil) wala pa namang vaccine for this thing, ang gagawin natin ay isolate then supportive treatment* (Because we don't have a vaccine for this disease yet, what we will do is isolate and provide supportive treatment)," he added. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1175350>

29 MAY 2022, Sunday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Cheers, jeers on PHL's biodiversity conservation

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**T**HE Philippines joined the world in celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 22.

With the theme "Building a Shared Future for all Life," the celebration also marked the launching of the Year of the Protected Areas (YoPA) campaign.

Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and in partnership with the United Nations Development Program's Biodiversity Finance Initiative, the YoPA campaign online launching focused on the importance of setting aside areas for conservation in the face of massive species extinction amid the global pandemic caused by the dreaded Covid-19.

## Essential to human survival

IN his speech during the event, Environment Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna highlighted the establishment of protected areas and national parks as essential to the survival of humanity because they serve as critical habitats for wild animals and plants.

"Protected areas prevent the spread of diseases if left undisturbed. Intrusion into protected areas increases the chances of wildlife coming into contact with human beings, thereby allowing the spread of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19 people," said Sampulna, a forester.

He also highlighted the role of protected areas in providing livelihood to the communities that act as stewards of conservation.

Protected areas, Sampulna added, also bring income to communities, including to Indigenous People, through ecotourism, plus its role of providing food and medicine.

## Building a resilient future

DR. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), said that in the IDBD, the call to act fast together and to build a more resilient future has become even clearer.

According to Lim, in such an endeavor, biodiversity is the foundation upon which the world can build back better.

"This year, we are bound to make history as we are set to finalize and

eventually implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: an ambitious plan composed of 21 targets and 10 milestones that will serve as a guide to transform and mend our broken relationship with nature," Lim said in a press statement.

"The road to living in harmony with nature is never without bumps, but every step we will take, from this day forward, counts. Raising people's awareness of today's challenges is of paramount importance as all our efforts will be futile if the root causes are not known and identified," she added.

## Asean Biodiversity Dashboard

THE ACB, which acts as a regional center of excellence for biodiversity and mandated to facilitate cooperation in the region, has recently launched the Asean Biodiversity Dashboard, to provide up-to-date biodiversity knowledge that can be used for informed and science-based decisions and policy-making.

The online platform presents trends and geographic differences in biodiversity data and indicators used worldwide in a visual format.

"Through this interactive and ergonomic platform, shareable biodiversity information relevant to Asean can be accessed easily with just a few clicks," Lim explained.

In the dashboard, she said, "You will be able to view trends in the status of biodiversity in the Asean region through time."

The platform serves as a repository of biodiversity data and information from the Asean member states (AMS), thus, underscoring the importance of comprehensive transboundary information and knowledge sharing among the AMS to better understand the status of the region's biodiversity, Lim said.

By having the means to measure and approximate the state and health of ecosystems and species, Lim said Asean can develop concrete and more practical solutions and actions toward achieving national targets and contributing to regional and a more ambitious global biodiversity targets.

## Significant gains

THE Philippines, a country blessed with rich biodiversity, is faced with preventing biodiversity loss amid the pandemic.



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Over the past three years, the community lockdowns that led to restricted movement have resulted in positive or significant gains for the environment and biodiversity in general.

Lim noted that the passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act of 2018 and additional protected areas legislations—such as Republic Acts 11684, 11685, 11686, 11687 and 11688—that added Mount Arayat in Pampanga, Mount Pulag in Benguet, Naga-Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay, Tirad Pass in Ilocos Sur, and Banao in Kalinga to the list of areas protected under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, are worth mentioning.

Such development, Lim noted, is paving the way for increased investments in protected areas and biodiversity in the country.

### 'Anthropause'

LIM noted that the effects of the global pandemic led to an "anthropause," or the a global reduction in modern human activity, especially travel, that gave people an opportunity to re-examine their relationship with nature.

"Biodiversity was given time to re-

cover a bit, and the increased awareness on zoonosis [disease caused by germs that spread between animals and people] seemed to have resulted in more caution on handling wildlife species implicated in viral transmissions... and increased vigilance in combating illegal wildlife trade," she said.

More importantly, Lim said because of the pandemic, more people are now appreciating the outdoors and nature, especially after the long lockdowns, including the appreciation for urban biodiversity, backyard planting and gardening.

### Increased awareness

FOR Emerson Sy, a wildlife conservation advocate and illegal wildlife trade watchdog, the past three years have taught Filipinos a lot about the importance of protecting and conserving biodiversity.

Specifically, he said the campaign against illegal wildlife trade became stronger amid the pandemic, noting that despite the community lockdowns that restricted the movements across the country, law enforcers, including that of the DENR, were able to score big in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

"Despite the pandemic, the campaign against illegal wildlife trade never stopped. Right now, you will notice that people, even in social media, are really helping out and they know which agency to report the illegal activities now, unlike before," Sy told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on May 25.

### Something is lacking

LAWYER Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, an ocean advocacy nongovernment organization, agreed that there's increased awareness, especially among the younger generation, but said policy-makers lack positive action to truly protect and conserve biodiversity.

For one, Ramos said policy-makers should prioritize biodiversity conservation and protection in terms of budget allocation.

"In terms of awareness, we gained a lot, especially the youth. But [from] our policy-makers, we need action," Ramos said in mix of English and Filipino in a telephone interview on May 25.

### Cheers and jeers

RAMOS also criticized the DENR for

### Challenges ahead

ACCORDING to Lim, the challenge posed by protecting and conserving biodiversity amid the global pandemic like the loss of jobs and revenues, particularly from community-based tourism activities is daunting.

She said some affected individuals around nature tourism areas were driven to resort to poaching and illegal collection of plants, birds and insects as livelihood and source of income.

Another big challenge, she said, is what she described as "revenge" travel and the desire to recoup lost income from tourism during the pandemic which has already resulted in overcrowding in some nature areas, possibly exceeding carrying capacities.

One more serious concern is the notable increase in the use of PET bottles and plastics, and improper disposal of masks and face shields which is affecting waterways and marine biodiversity.

Lastly, the recent lifting of the ban on open-pit mining to hasten economic recovery is likely to result in a possible setback in terms of biodiversity conservation and protection.

"Without biodiversity-focused safeguards and due regard to impacts, on unique vegetation and habitats, and adjacent coastal and marine biological resources, this is going to be a serious concern in our efforts to protect and harness the potential value of our biodiversity," Lim explained.

"entertaining" and even issuing environmental compliance certificates for environmentally critical projects like the massive land reclamations in Manila Bay and other areas in the country.

"Why are we still entertaining them while we should be protecting the integrity of our marine habitats, because of climate change and the pandemic? All they think of is profit, profit, profit," she said, citing the multi-billion airport project in Bulakan, Bulacan.

Nevertheless, she lauded the DILG led by Secretary Eduardo Año for issuing Memorandum Circular 2022-018.

"The circular is now requiring LGUs [local government units] to sign under oath that they have ensured compliance with all the mechanism and safeguard to protect the environment before allowing any projects. That is very good! Kudos to the DILG!" she said partly in Filipino.



STRATEGIC  
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# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*

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**With key biodiversity information and knowledge, we can protect and conserve biodiversity and aim for a better, shared future for all life.** PHOTO BY KYAW KYAW WINN, ACB



# Forget about the Bataan Nuclear Plant

President-elect Bongbong Marcos on 23 May told media he has discussed with South Korean Ambassador Kim Inchul whether the Philippines will revive the inoperable Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), or just build a new one to help solve the country's power supply problems.

South Korea has offered to rehabilitate the BNPP for \$1.1 billion, Marcos said in an interview in March 2022.

The BNPP had been mired in controversy from the start. Constructed in 1976 on orders of then President Ferdinand Marcos, the plant's original cost rose from \$700 million to \$2.3 billion by the time it was completed in 1984.

Two nuclear plant incidents, the Three Mile Island incident in the United States in 1979 and the Chernobyl disaster in the then Ukrainian Soviet Union in 1986, spelled doom for the BNPP.

“  
*It would be prudent for Bongbong to listen to the experts and to think twice before deciding to go nuclear.*”





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Following the Three Mile Island incident, construction of the BNPP was stopped, and a safety inquiry by the government revealed an astonishing over 4,000 defects – aside from the plant’s location near a major geological fault line and close to the then dormant Mount Pinatubo.

“Here’s what then President Marcos wrote in Letter of Instruction 957 (<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1979/11/13/letter-of-instruction-no-957-s-1979/>):

“The Commission on Nuclear Reactor Plants, which I created on 15 June 1979, has submitted a report to me containing the facts found and the conclusions drawn by it in the course of its official inquiry.”

“Among other things, the Commission has come to the conclusion that, as designed, the Bataan Nuclear Plant is not safe, and therefore is a potential hazard to the health and safety of the public.”

“In view of these findings, it will not be possible to continue with the construction of the Bataan Nuclear Plant unless the contractor, Westinghouse, introduces fundamental changes in design and adapts additional, adequate and acceptable safeguards to ensure its safety and protect the health of the public.”

Yet even as it has never been operated, the plant remained intact, including the nuclear reactor, and has continued to be maintained. The Philippine government completed paying off its obligations on the plant in April 2007.

There is a strong argument to no longer touch the BNPP. “It’s not flexible. It is the most inflexible, the most rigid type of power plant. To build a nuclear power plant, we operate it at its capacity and you don’t ramp it up [and] you don’t ramp it down... That’s not what our grid needs,”

Alberto Dalusung III, the energy transition adviser of Manila-based policy group Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), told ANC in a recent interview.

“What our grid needs is [a] more distributed... flexible generation, and I think that a lot of other options are available to the Philippines today,” he added, referring to solar and wind, which are classified as renewables. “Nuclear... is a resource that takes time to develop. What we need in the Philippines is an additional quick infusion of new capacity...and you do that by other sources [like] solar, wind and geothermal.”

Dalusung III worked at the Ministry of Energy for four years during the administration of Bongbong’s father.

It would be prudent for Bongbong to listen to the experts and to think twice before deciding to go nuclear.

In fact, it would be best for him to consider developing renewable sources of energy – just like the Bangui Wind Farm in Ilocos Norte, which figured prominently in the TV commercials of his presidential campaign.

“  
The BNPP  
had been mired  
in controversy  
from the start.”





# Help stop climate change, cut your carbon footprint

**CLIMATE** change is real, and really overwhelming at times. The impact on people's lives, agriculture and daily living could be massive.

Science and environment experts have been advocating global effort and cooperation to minimize the impact, if an immediate solution is not yet available.

In fighting climate change, each and every one of us can make a significant impact in fighting climate change by reducing our carbon footprint.

Each individual and every household has its own carbon footprint. The most commonly emitted greenhouse gases by humans include methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. The dangers these poses include trapping heat inside the atmosphere, causing global warming, and subse-



quently making oceans levels rise through the melting of the polar ice caps.

Most of a person's carbon footprint would come from three primary sources: transportation, food, and housing.

\*Traveling. Travelling has become part of peo-

ple's lives, whether it may be a necessity, for leisure or vlogging. Traveling often includes the use of motorized vehicles (including planes) which all give off greenhouse gases through their processing of fossil fuels. Due to this, one of the most effective ways to be-

gin your path towards creating a smaller carbon footprint would be to re-think the way you travel, and how much you travel between places.

Driving less would be one of the simplest yet most effective ways to lower your carbon emissions. Alternatives to get you to your destination include taking public transportation such as a bus or train, and even better, riding a bike. Not only would you contribute to saving the environment, but you would get a healthy dose of cardio exercise as well.

\* Food. They say you are what you eat. Did you know that something as common as the food that you eat could actually make a big difference in the size of one's carbon footprint?

This is especially pertaining to the consumption of red meat because

the production of this type of food uses up a lot of feed, water, and land. The cows themselves give off methane gas as part of their digestion process, and this is one of the most dangerous greenhouse gases out there. Thus, reducing the demand for red meat would also decrease the number of cows needing to be bred and fed, which impacts one's carbon footprint to a large degree.

There are many options you can shift to if you're a lover of red meat though. Fish and vegetable diets have been on the rise in recent years not only because of the low carbon footprint involved in these but mainly because these are very healthy for your body. Come to think of this, if you can save the environment, you can also make yourself a better person.



## Ambag ng mag-utol sa Masungi Georeserve sinaluduhan

NAKASAMA sa prestihiyosong Asia 2022 'Forbes 30 Under 30', si Masungi Georeserve Foundation's advocacy officer and trustee Billie Dumaliang.

Si Dumaliang ay napili sa ilalim ng social impact

category para sa "systemically and sustainably transforming education, business and beyond."

Sa taunang Forbes' seventh annual '30 Under 30 Asia', kasama ni Dumaliang sa listahan ang may 300 young entrepreneurs, leaders at trailblazers sa buong Asia-Pacific region, na pawang nasa edad 30 na nagsilbing inspirasyon sa mga pagbabago sa kani-kanilang larangan.

Ang 300 napili ay bahagi ng may 4,000 nominasyon.

"This select group of relentless individuals are disrupting industries and tackling major global issues," ayon sa Forbes.



Ibinahagi naman ni Dumaliang sa kanyang buong team

at mga rangers ang tinamong pagkilala.

"It shows that our work and innovative approaches continue to be recognized and supported by the international community," ayon kay Dumaliang.

Siya at ang kanyang kapatid na si Anne ay utak sa likod ng regenerative tourism sa Masungi, na naglalayong palakasin ang sektor ng turismo sa Rizal habang naprotektahan ang mga kagubatan dito. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



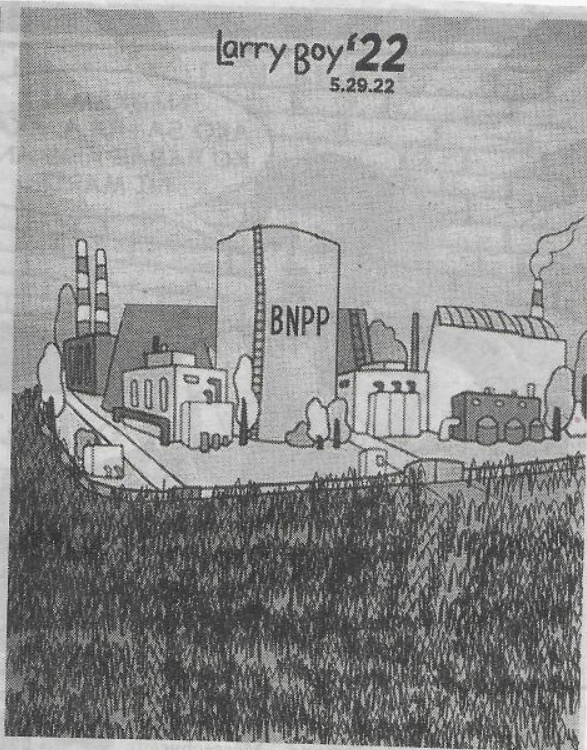
Editorial

## Pagbuhay sa BNPP pag-aralang mabuti

**P**INAG-UUSAPAN na ang pagbuhay sa Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Malaki raw ang maintutulong ng nuclear energy para sa pangangailangan sa kuryente. Nag-aalok na ng tulong ang South Korea kay president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ukol sa pagbuhay sa BNPP. Malaki raw ang magagawa ng Sokor sa BNPP kung bubuhayin ng bagong administrasyon.

Ipinatigil ng gobyerno ni President Corazon Aquino ang BNPP noong 1986 dahil sa maraming isyu at unang-una na ang kaligtasan ng mga residente sa paligid ng BNPP sa Morong, Bataan. Ang lugar umano ng BNPP ay nasa fault area na lubhang delikado kapag lumindol. Posibleng magkaroon ng leak.

Ikalawang isyu ay ang corruption. Nakatanggap umano ng kickback si dating President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. sa Westinghouse, ang kompanyang gumawa ng BNPP. Nang ginagawa na ang BNPP noong 1976,



maraming tumututol at sunud-sunod ang pagra-rally. Malaking disaster umano ang lilikhain ng BNPP kapag nag-leak ang planta. Marami umano mamamatay kaya hindi dapat ipagpatuloy ang BNPP. Layunin sa pagpapatayo ng BNPP ay ang magkaroon ng sapat na suplay ng kuryente. Mas mura umano ang kuryente mula sa nuclear energy.

Si President Duterte ay pabor na buhayin ang BNPP. Darating daw ang panahon na mauubos ang langis samantalang ang nuclear energy ay forever na. Hinihiling niya sa bagong administrasyon na buhayin ang BNPP. Tingnan daw mabuti ang kahalagahan sa pagbuhay sa BNPP. Bagama't delikado raw ito gaya ng magkaroon ng leak sa nuclear plant sa Chernobyl sa Ukraine ilang taon na ang nakararaan, makaasa naman nang pangmatagalang source ng kuryente.

Pag-aralang mabuti ng bagong administrasyon ang pagbuhay sa BNPP. Tingnan ang mga maaaring mangyari kapag nag-ooperate na. Ligas ba talaga ito at hindi magkakaroon ng leak. Nararapat dumaan sa mahigpit na pagsusuri kung ipagpapatuloy ang BNPP. Hindi ito maliit na bagay kaya nararapat pag-isipang mabuti kung nararapat nga bang ipagpatuloy. Kunsultahin ang mga eksperto sa ibang bansa na gumagamit ng nuclear energy. Sila ang may kasanayan na sa paggamit ng nuclear energy kaya marami silang nalalaman ukol dito. Kung matitiyak ang kaligtasan ng BNPP, ito na ang hudyat para buhayin ang natulog na proyekto.



MAYO 29, 2022

**BULGAR**  
No. 1 SA PAMILYANG PINOY

## SA SUSUNOD NA 500 TAON, BALIK-MISYON, BALIK-KALIKASAN



NATAPOS noong nakaraang ika-22 ng Abril ang isang taong pagdiriwang ng 500 taon ng Kristiyanismo sa Pilipinas.

Hindi ko alam kung sinadya ng Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) ang pagpili ng ika-22 ng Abril o ang "Earth Day" para sa pagtatapos ng pagdiriwang ng unang pagdating ng mga Misyonerong Katoliko sa Pilipinas at ang pagpapalaganap ng pananampalatayang Kristiyano-Katoliko.

Kung hindi man nila naisip, maganda pa ring isipin ang malalim na kaugnayan ng ating pananampalataya sa pagpapahalaga kay Inang Kalikasan.

Sa kabila ng magagandang ginawa at sinimulan ng mga unang misyonero, hindi makakaila ang mga pagkakamali at kalabisang nagawa ng mga ito sa ating kultura maging sa kapaligiran at kalikasan.

Sa pagpapalaganap ng pananampalatayang Kristiyano-Katoliko nagkaroon ng tagisan ito sa mga relihiyon ng mga katutubong Pilipino sa iba't ibang bahagi ng ating bansa. Maraming katutubong relihiyon ang napalitan at nawala. Marami-rami na rin tayong mga sinaunang literatura na nakasulat sa Baybayin (misan tinatawag ding Alibata) o ang sinaunang alpabeto ng mga Pilipino.

At dahil kinailangan ng mga unang misyonaryo kasama ang mga Kastilang Opisyal ng Hari at Reyna ng Espanya, na magtayo ng mga simbahan, paaralan at mga poblacion, napakarami ring nasirang mga gubat at bundok, mga tabing dagat na pinagkunan ng mga materyales sa paggawa ng mga malalaki at matitibay na istraktura para sa gamit ng mga simbahan at ng Pamahalaang Sibil.

Inilabas ni Papa Francisco noong ika-3 ng Oktubre 2020 ang Fratelli Tutti. Sinundan nito ang unang libro ni Papa Francisco tungkol sa pagmamahal sa kalikasan, ang Laudato Si (ika-24 Mayo 2015). Hango sa mga turo ni San Francisco ng Assisi ang "Fratelli Tutti". "Magkakapatid tayo," sabi ng santo. Dahil dito, kailangan nating magmahalan at kilalanin ang bawat isa bilang mga anak ng iisang Ama. Ito ang dalawang pag-ibig na tila magkahiwalay at kulang sa pagpapahalaga.

Kung pinagsasamantalahan ang kalikasan, ganun din ang ginagawa sa mga karaniwan at mahihirap na tao.

Kung sinisira ang kalikasan ng mga kalakal na

lumalason, labis na kumukuha at sumisira sa mga likas yaman, hindi malayong ganun din ang turing sa tao.

Inabot ng 29 na taon (mula 1993) bago magtagumpay ang kaso ng mga taga-Marinduque sa Marcopper Mining Corporation. Dahil sa kapabayaan, bumigay ang "siltation dam" ng Marcopper noong ika-6 ng Disyembre 1993, kung kaya't binaha ang mga bayan ng Booboc at Magapua.

Noon namang ika-24 ng Marso 1996, bumigay naman ang plug ng drainage tunnel ng Taipan pit ng Marcopper. Ito ang dahilan ng pagragasa ng 200 million toxic tons ng lason (toxic mine tailings) na nagtapos sa mga ilog ng Makulapnit at Boac.

Pinatay ng lasong tubig ang ilog ng Boac.

Ang pangyayaring ito ang isa sa pinakamalaking "industrial pollution disaster".

Babayaran ng Marcopper ng danyos ang 30 naghain ng kaso noong 2001.

Bakit inabot ng 29 taon ang desisyon sa kasong ito? Meron kayang ginawa ang Marcopper para ituwid ang idinulot nitong kapahamakan sa kalikasan at tao?

Hindi sinabi sa mga ulat kung meron ngang ginawa ang nakasuhang korporasyon ng mina. Hindi malayong umiwas na magbayad at tumulong sa mga apektadong tao.

Ngayong nagmamadaling umupo ang anak sa tronong dating inupuan ng kanyang ama, magandang tingnan niya ang isang halimbawa ng mga abuso at kapabayaang nagawa ng isang mahalagang ahensiya noong panahon ng kanyang nasirang ama.

Maaari nating itanong ngayon, kung saka-sakaling umupo ang anak ng pinaalis na ama, maging prayoridad kaya niya ang pagkalinga at pagtatanggol sa kalikasan? At ganun din sa usapin ng mga maliliit na madalas maging biktima ng abusadong mga ahensiya at walang pakundangang mga korporasyon tulad ng Marcopper, may gagawin kaya ang susunod na administrasyon para sa mga mamayanang nasaktan, naargabyado at namatayan?

Balikan natin ang tanong na "bakit inabot ng 29 na taon ang desisyon ng korte?"

Ano kaya ang gagawin ng susunod na administrasyon sa sistema ng katarungan sa ating bansa?

Bibilis kaya ang mga desisyon ng korte o aabutin muli ng siyam-siyam bago makapagdesisyon ang mga ito?

Natapos ang pagdiriwang ng 500 taon ng Kristiyanismo sa Pilipinas noong ika-22 ng Abril 2022, Earth Day. Natapos ba talaga? O ngayong tapos na ang nakaraang 500 taon, dapat lang na tingnan natin ang susunod na 500 taon... at sabihing Balik-Misyon, Balik-Kalikasan...



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## EDITORIAL

### It's the rainy season

The rains are here.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) had announced on May 18 the start of the rainy season after heavy rains during the past days of that week.

The rainy season comes earlier than the past few years. Records show that PAGASA usually declares the rainy season to start between the second half of May and the first half of June. Based on past records, last year, in 2021, the state weather agency declared the start of the rainy season on June 4. In 2020, it came on June 12; in 2019, it was declared to start on June 14. But it was in May 2009 when the rainy season came the earliest — on May 3.

Publications where general weather conditions in the Philippines are announced, such as in travel brochures, say that the rainy season here is from June to November, while the dry season is from December to May.

According to a report, "most rainy days are in June, July, August, September and October. Manila has dry periods in February, March and April. On average, August is the most rainy with 22 days of rain." It reads like it had been posted before someone defined weather changes as part of climate change.

Last April, the Philippines had two tropical cyclones— Agaton (Megi) and Basyang (Malakas). Agaton lingered inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and caused the death of more than 200 people, mostly in Eastern Visayas, and some P3 billion in damages to crops and infrastructure.

The early coming of the rains, though, has benefited the source of Metro Manila's water supply.

PAGASA on Wednesday, May 25, said the water level in Angat Dam may no longer dip below its 180-meter minimum operating level until the end of June, following the rains in the past few months. As of 6 a.m., Wednesday, Angat Dam's water level was at 190.60 meters, down 0.15 meters from Tuesday's 190.75 meters, but still within the rule curve elevation of 184.14

meters.

PAGASA defines the rule curve as the minimum reservoir elevation needed to be maintained by dam operators to ensure the availability of water for irrigation, power generation, and domestic supply.

"It has already surpassed the rule curve so we can say that the water level in Angat is safe. We have already passed the dry season without the water level falling like in previous years," Edgar dela Cruz, weather facilities specialist of the PAGASA's Hydro-Meteorological Division, said.

Given the forecast rainfall of 316 millimeters and dam allocation of 75 cubic meters per second, Angat Dam's water level will be at 188.27 meters by the end of June, and will be above its 181.90-meter rule curve elevation, the state weather agency said.

Angat Dam supplies 98 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements.

With the rainy season here, it's also time to take stock of things that can be affected by the heavy rains, like portions of a community, a private residential lot, a house, or even one's motor vehicle. Some preparedness will do much to prevent damage and a lot of inconvenience. Start with small personal initiatives that directly affect you, like checking on the condition of a vehicle's wipers, or cleaning canals in the garden. It will create a ripple effect to shield your family from the rains.

29 MAY 2022, Sunday



**DENR**

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**COVID-19  
NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## PH records 199 new COVID-19 cases in latest tally

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 28 2022 08:33 PM



Residents buy basic goods at a wet market in Tatalon, Quezon City on April 8, 2022, *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/file*

MANILA - The Philippines on Saturday logged 199 new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, based on the Department of Health's latest tally dated May 28.

The new cases brought the country's total COVID-19 caseload so far to 3,690,055. Of the new cases, 97 come from Metro Manila.

Based on the latest count, 3,627,166 COVID-19 cases in the country have recovered, while number of deaths remain at 60,455 from last week.

The positivity rate or the rate at which individuals test positive for the disease remains at 1.2 percent - quite lower than the 5 percent benchmark set by the World Health Organization.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) recently scrapped mandatory COVID-19 testing requirements for passengers arriving in the Philippines so as long as they have been inoculated with booster jabs.

Private hospitals group Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc. (PHAPI) said on Saturday they noted a "slight" increase in hospital admissions due to COVID-19.

29 MAY 2022, Sunday



**DENR**

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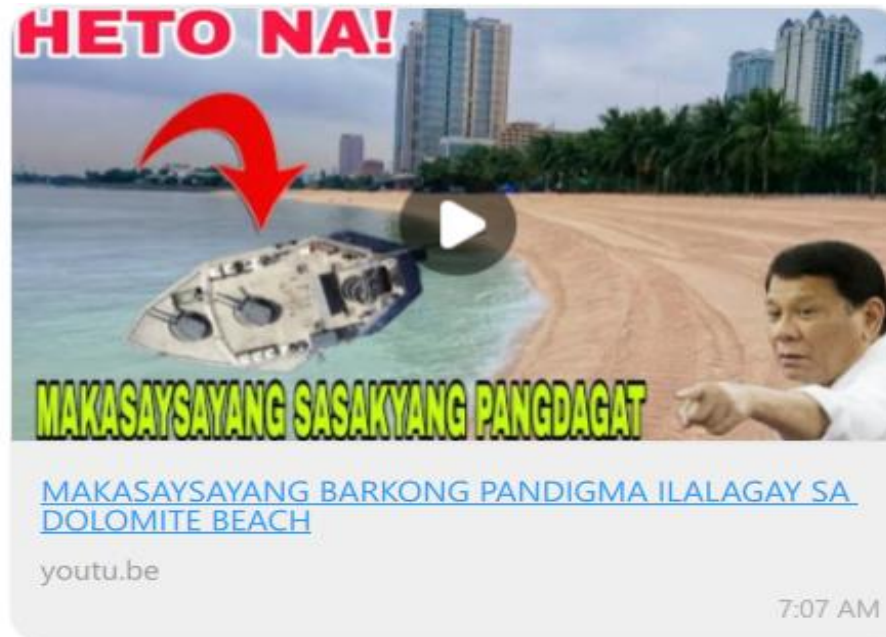
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