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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PBBM holds Cabinet meeting to tackle proposed 2023 budget

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 29, 2022, 1:21 pm



(Screengrab from RTVM)

MANILA – President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Friday held a special meeting with his Cabinet to discuss the proposed 2023 budget, Malacañang announced.

"President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will be holding a special Cabinet meeting today, July 29, to discuss the 2023 budget," the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) said in a statement sent to Palace reporters.

State-run Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) also released a short video clip of Marcos' meeting with his Cabinet.

The meeting was held at Malacañan Palace's Aguinaldo State Dining Room, RTVM said.

Malacañang has yet to provide additional details about the meeting.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman earlier said her office aims to pass on time the proposed PHP5.268 trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2023.

The proposed national budget for 2023 is 4.9 percent higher than this year's PHP5.024 trillion national budget.

Pangandaman said Marcos wants to stick to the timeline and pass the proposed budget before December this year.

Sectors that will receive the biggest funding in the 2023 budget plan include education, health, infrastructure, and agriculture, Pangandaman said.



PBBM holds Cabinet meeting to tackle proposed 2023 budget

Under the 1987 Constitution, the NEP should be submitted to Congress within 30 days after the opening of the regular session of Congress, which coincides with the delivery of the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The Constitution provides that the SONA must be held every fourth Monday of July.

Marcos' first SONA was held on July 25. (PNA)



Special meeting na ipinatawag ni PBBM sumentro sa usapin ng budget

by [Mara Valle](#) July 29, 2022



Inihayag ng Palasyo na sumentro sa usaping budget ang special meeting na ipinatawag ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr.

Ayon kay Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, nagpresenta ang Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ng panukalang pambansang budget para sa susunod na taon sa Pangulo at nagbigay naman ng input ang iba't ibang mga kalihim sa kani-kanilang mga ahensya.

Dagdag pa rito ay natalakay rin aniya ang tungkol sa rightsizing, pinakamalaking paglalaanan ng pondo at sektor ng edukasyon alinsunod sa nakasaad sa konstitusyon.

Samantala, sinabi pa ng kalihim na napag-usapan din sa naturang pagpupulong ang unang kaso ng monkeypox sa bansa at kung ano ang mga ipatutupad na mga hakbang para maagapan ang pagkalat ng monkeypox.



Submission of 2023 budget to Congress eyed Aug. 22: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 29, 2022, 3:02 pm Updated on July 29, 2022, 4:50 pm



Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles (*NIB photo*)

MANILA – The proposed PHP5.628-trillion national budget for 2023 will likely be submitted to Congress on August 22, Malacañang said on Friday.

This developed after President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. held a special meeting with his Cabinet at Malacañan Palace to discuss the proposed 2023 budget spending.

"DBM (Department of Budget and Management) is scheduled to submit the Budget Documents to the President on 19 August 2022, not next week as mentioned earlier on the press briefing, and the same is expected to be submitted to Congress on August 22, 2022," Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said in a press statement.

She added that after Friday's special Cabinet meeting, the DBM shall "undertake the printing of the Budget Documents, which includes the printing of the National Expenditure Program (NEP), Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing, Staffing Summary, and the President's Budget Message."

In a Palace briefing, Cruz-Angeles said the 2023 budget plan is being fine-tuned after several Cabinet secretaries gave their inputs during the meeting.

"*May mga kaunting input galing sa iba't ibang mga kalihim para sa fine-tuning na ito.* (Different secretaries gave some inputs for the fine-tuning)," she said.

On Monday, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman vowed to submit to Congress the proposed PHP5.628-trillion General Appropriations Act on time to ensure its passage before year end.



Submission of 2023 budget to Congress eyed Aug. 22: Palace

The 1987 Constitution mandates the executive department to submit the proposed National Expenditure Program to Congress within 30 days from the opening of the regular session of Congress.

The Marcos administration's top priority sectors in the budget spending include education, health, infrastructure, and agriculture.

The education sector, Cruz-Angeles said, will receive the biggest budgetary allocation for next year.

Quizzed as to how much will be allocated for the country's coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) response, Cruz-Angeles said: "We don't have details *kasi pina-fine tune pa* (because it's still being fine-tuned)." (PNA)



Bill raising gov't workers' economic allowance urgent: CHR

By Lade Jean Kabagani July 29, 2022, 2:51 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Ensuring the welfare of government workers is a vital component of nation-building, especially in times of crisis, hence the full support of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on a bill that targets to increase the economic relief allowance of government workers.

Senate Bill No. 60, authored by Senator Francis Escudero, seeks to double the amount being received by some 1.8 million government employees under the Personnel Economic Relief Allowance (PERA).

Raising the PERA amount from PHP2,000 to PHP4,000 will help state workers cope with the higher prices brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and oil price hikes.

Jacqueline Ann de Guia, CHR Executive Director, said the measure also proposes to provide automatic yearly adjustment -- equivalent to any increase in the annual inflation rate.

She asked lawmakers to support the urgent passage of the bill that will "ensure timely economic relief for all government workers and their families."

"Government workers are expected to be responsive, to prioritize their public duties at all times, and to make necessary sacrifices in the exigency of service, particularly during times of crisis and disaster," she said in a statement on Friday.

De Guia added that the measure will encourage more government workers to continue rendering their services with the assurance that their financial needs during inevitable economic changes and other crises.



Bill raising gov't workers' economic allowance urgent: CHR

"It is notable that the bill also seeks to be responsive to the annual inflation rate through equivalent and automatic yearly adjustment," she added.

The bill is a form of "genuine recognition of the contribution and sacrifices of all government employees" and will "uphold the value and dignity of state workers" during this critical period of recovery from the pandemic, de Guia said. (PNA)



P5.268-T 2023 nat'l budget isusumite na ng Palasyo sa Kongreso

Ipapadala na ng Malakarpang sa Kongreso ang panukalang P5.268 Trilyon 2023 national budget sa Agosto 22.

Shabini Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, tinatakoy ang panukalang pondo sa special Cabinet meeting na ipinatawag ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., kahapon.

Ayon kay Angeles, iniharap ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang panukalang pambansang budget at dito nagbigay ng lahat ng input ang ilang miyembro ng gabinete.

Paglalaanan ng pinakamataking budget ang edukasyon habang pagtutunan din ang nais ng Pangulo na righting ng gobyerno.

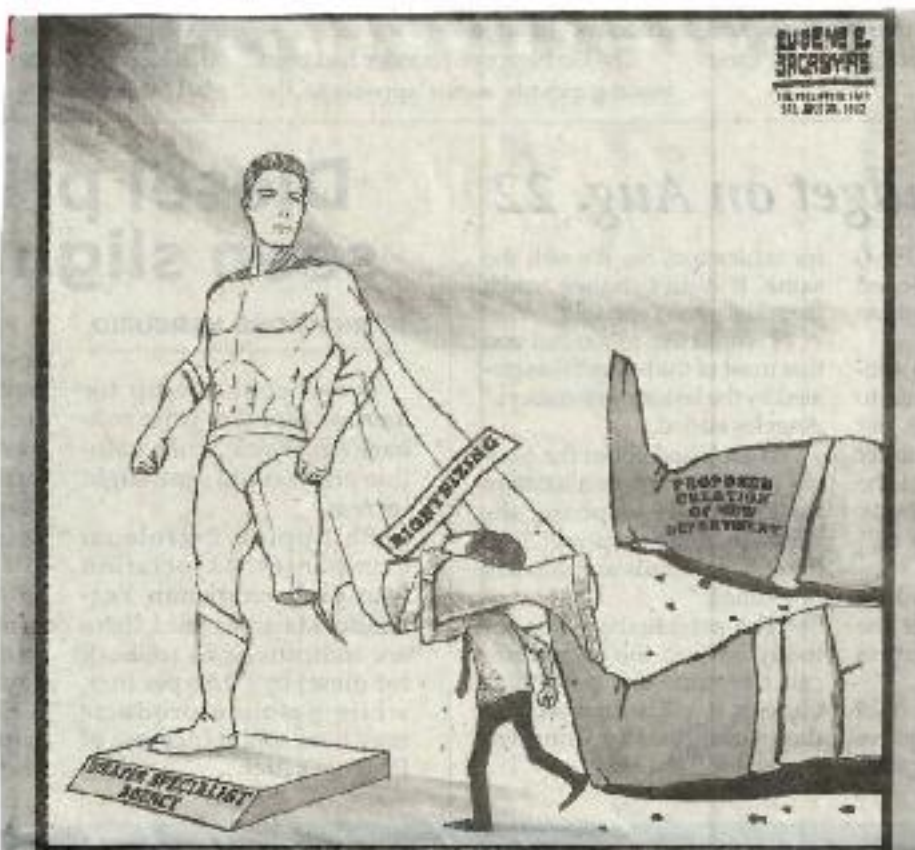
Sa Agosto 19 ay isusumite ng DBM ang latag ng budget sa Pangulo at saka ito papadala sa kasunod na arago.

Nilitaw-haman ni Angeles na hindi nala-

layo ang 2023 budget sa pagdaang budget na ginawa ng nakaraang administrasyon.

Nauna ng shabini ng DBM na nasa P5.2 Trilyon

ang panukalang budget para sa susunod na taon mas mataas ng halos P200 milyon kumpara sa national budget na P5.024 trilyon. (Genwin Garcia)



Efficiency, not bloat

With the rightsizing program at the top of his legislative priorities, it's good to know that President Marcos has dumped proposals to create a Department of Disaster Resilience. The President announced his decision last Thursday as he met with officials involved in the disaster response efforts in earthquake-hit Northern Luzon.

The proposed department was supposed to consolidate under one roof all agencies involved in prevention, emergency response and mitigation efforts during natural calamities and other major disasters. But any new department will still require its own offices with satellites nationwide, its own bureaucracy as well as "five undersecretaries and so many assistant secretaries" with their own staff, as pointed out by the President's sister, Sen. Imee Marcos.

Agreeing with his sister, the President said that instead of "another whole department," he preferred "a specialist agency" that will oversee the various aspects of disaster response and mitigation. The country has the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council,

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which is supervised by the Office of Civil Defense under the Department of National Defense. The NDRRMC works with the regional DRRM offices nationwide.

In recent years, there has been a growing propensity, in both the executive and legislative branches, to respond to a problem by creating a new executive department. The new office is then packed with people benefiting from political patronage, with little improvement in services and in addressing the problem.

Even if an entirely new executive department is created for disaster resilience, other state agencies will continue to carry out their own programs for disaster prevention, emergency response, relief and recovery. These include local government units as well as the departments of environment and natural resources, the interior and local government, social welfare, national defense and health.

What has always been needed is better coordination to improve disaster prevention, response, relief and mitigation. The objective must be efficiency, not additional bureaucratic bloat.



Cordillera supports war on waste in PH waters

Published on: July 29, 2022

By Redjie Melvic Cawis





Cordillera supports war on waste in PH waters



BAGUIO CITY (PIA) -- Regional line agencies and local government units in the Cordillera region expressed support to the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) in the Philippines to ensure a “zero waste” waters.



Cordillera supports war on waste in PH waters

The Environmental Management Bureau - Cordillera spearheaded the regional launch of the (NPOA-ML) in a ceremony coinciding with the Regional Environmental Summit in Baguio City recently.

Among those who expressed support include MGB-CAR Regional Director Fay Apil, DOST-CAR RD Nancy Bantog, DTI-CAR RD Juliet Lucas, DILG-CAR Assistant Regional Executive Director Ruperto Maribbay, Jr., Watershed and Water Resources Research Development and Extension Center TTPEU Chief Chita Hidalgo, DA-CAR Research Division Chief Luis Lang-oy, and LTO-CAR Transportation Regulation Officer Chiki Gano.

From the LGUs, Benguet Governor Melchor Diclas represented by Executive Assistant Dave Cabuten, Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong represented by Engr. Marivic Empizo of the CEPMO, Pudtol Mayor Hector Reuel Pascua, Liga ng mga Barangay Chairman Michael Lee Lawana represented by Holy Ghost Proper Punong Barangay Murphy Maspil, Sr.

EMB-CAR Regional Director Ma. Victoria Abrera explained that the NPOA-ML is developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management and to bring additional lens to marine litter issues and the control of additional leakage of waste into bodies of water.

The commitments of the different stakeholders will bring opportunities to fill the gaps on the current efforts in the solid waste management particularly reduce, reuse, recycle or 3Rs approaches, and eventually, help localize the NPOA-ML in the Cordillera, she said.

“By the principle of “Ridge to Reef,” we are aiming to provide a holistic intervention for protecting our coastal areas by targeting environmental degradation in the uplands, an integrated management approach. Thus, we need you. You are here, we are here. Our commitments will definitely help reduce, if not stop marine litters from reaching marine waters,” said Abrera.

In his message, DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo through Assistant RED for Technical Services Maximo Soriano, Jr., called and challenged his fellow executives to continue the partnerships with the DENR in environmental activities.

“To my fellow directors, the challenge to go beyond what our position requires of us is calling. It has already been clear with our various partnerships in other environmental activities that the DENR cannot do this alone. Your expertise in various areas and your influence in the different sectors of the community remain to have an impeccable contribution to meeting our goals of a cleaner environment,” Pablo stated.

During the same event, the EMB-CAR recognized LGUs, individuals and other groups for “Best Practices on Ecological Solid Waste Management.”



Cordillera supports war on waste in PH waters

Awardees for the Outstanding Practices in Upcycling and Crafts Production are Marion Codeo from Atok, Benguet for the individual category, and the Mayag National High School in Bauko, Mountain Province thru Principal Daisy Taganas and Teacher Zaira Bulasoy for the group category.

The Municipality of Paracelis in Mt. Province was recognized for the Outstanding Practices of Composting Operations, the city government of Tabuk for the Outstanding Practices in Sanitary Landfill Operations, and the municipality of Pudtol in Apayao for Outstanding Practices of Materials Recovery Facility Operation. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)



DENR, EMB IV-A gears up for solid waste and marine litter management

Published on: July 29, 2022

By Christopher Hedreyda



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) CALABARZON joins the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) CALABARZON in launching the National Plan of Action for the prevention, reduction, and management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) and the Environmental Summit on July 14, 2022.

EMB CALABARZON Regional Director Noemi Paranada emphasized that the regional launch of the NPOA-ML is the region's contribution to the national effort in the prevention and reduction of waste at the source and an aim in curbing the problems of improper solid waste management, as well as air and water pollution.

Corazon Gasapos, Regional SWM Coordinator, meanwhile urges the national government agencies, local government units, and all partner organizations to step out of their comfort zones and join their effort in caring for the environment.

Gasapos believes in the importance of understanding the concepts of the NPOA-ML and other relevant policies to ensure its smooth and thorough implementation.

According to a study conducted by the World Bank Group in 2021, the Philippines is classified as the 3rd largest contributor to mismanaged plastic waste that ends up in waterways.

To further mitigate the solid waste problem, the Natural Solid Waste Management Commission issued last year Resolution No. 1441, moving the adoption of the National Plan of Action.



DENR, EMB IV-A gears up for solid waste and marine litter management

The NPOA-ML will be a collaborative effort from all the NGAs and LGUs concerned, and other stakeholders with the goal of raising the current efforts on waste management to further reduce waste and other marine litter issues in the country.

The goal of the NPOA-ML is to achieve “zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040”, with its vision being “A Philippine free of marine litter through shared responsibility, accountability, and participatory governance.”

During his speech, DENR Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria said that even though implementing agencies are already doing their part in implementing the law, he admitted that there is still a long way to go in solving solid and liquid waste problems.

“We are still faced with the looming problems of both solid and liquid waste. As we launch our NPOA-ML, let us use this as our guide in improving our responsiveness to marine litter that threatens our country’s waters.”

Tamoria added that initiating new and out-of-the-box initiatives and keeping the communities engaged may bring public participation and enthusiasm and positive behavioral change to the people.

“We know that the battle for SWM and marine litter is far from over, so we challenge you to be part of the change. Be your own environmental champions. — Christopher Hedreyda, PIA4A (with reports from DENR CALABARZON)



MGB conducts vulnerability, risk assessments in Guimaras

Published on: July 29, 2022

By Lilibeth French



ILOILO CITY (PIA) - - The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) VI of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is currently assessing the vulnerability and risk of the municipalities to landslides and floods in the province of Guimaras.

Two teams composed of geologists and GIS staff were dispatched by MGB 6 to Buenavista and Nueva Valencia towns for the vulnerability and risk assessment (VRA).



A technical team will also proceed to Sibunag town to complete the VRA this year.



MGB conducts vulnerability, risk assessments in Guimaras

MGB VI has already completed the VRA of San Lorenzo town including that of the municipality of San Joaquin in Iloilo province in the first semester this year.

The VRA is a continuing program of the MGB in line with the agency's geological risk reduction and resiliency program.

Mae Magarzo, chief of the Geosciences Division of MGB VI, explained that the VRA is an assessment of the degree of vulnerability and potential risks of an area given the exposure of the three factors – population, built-up areas, and roads – to rain-induced landslides and floods.

According to Magarzo the 1:10,000 geohazard maps of MGB as a reference

give the data on the vulnerability of barangays and sitios to rain-induced landslides and floods. The level of vulnerability may be low, moderate, high, or very high.

Exposure maps from the VRA give data on the population (potential), the extent of built-up areas, and roads considering their exposure to the varying levels of vulnerability to landslides and floods.

MGB VI is working closely with the local government units in Western Visayas in the conduct of its field activities, she said. (JBG/MGB VI/laf-PIA6-Iloilo)



NBI arrests 7 persons for 'illegal quarrying'

Published July 29, 2022, 6:10 PM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)



National Bureau of Investigation (2)

Seven persons allegedly engaged in illegal quarrying in Rizal province have been arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

In a statement issued on Friday, July 29, the NBI identified those arrested last July 26 in Barangay Mascap in Rodriguez town as Alexander Bando, Rochelo Austral, Raul Navarro, Alber Epanto, Kenneth Cornelia, Berny Del Rosario, and Menardo Maligaya.

"The arrested subjects were presented for inquest proceeding before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, San Mateo, Rizal for violation of Section 103 of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the 'Philippine Mining Act of 1995,'" the NBI said.

It said the information received by the NBI revealed that "a group of individuals are extracting and disposing minerals without the necessary permit from the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) of the Province of Rizal and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region IV-A (DENR-MGB Region IV-A)."

It said its agents from the Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) conducted surveillance operations in the area which revealed "that there was indeed an ongoing quarrying activity in the target area being conducted by Amiterra Aggregates Corporation."

But it said "an updated list of Quarry Permit Holders and Transport and Hauling Permit Holders in the Province of Rizal revealed that Amiterra and its contractor (San Rafael Far Eastern Resources, Inc.) were not included on the said list."



DENR works with UNDP to save endemic trees in CL



Department of Environment and Natural Resources

[Ian Ocampo Flora](#)

July 29, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here convened an inception workshop on Tuesday, July 26 aimed at strengthening benefit-sharing and conservation of the country's genetic resources, particularly its endemic flora.

The event was in partnership with experts from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

BMB deputy director Natividad Bernardino, who is also chair of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) National Project, said the multi-sectoral initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility is an opportunity to advance the inclusion of endemic and abundant genetic resources in the value chain, consequently increasing their market value.

"The ABS Project is a step forward to developing at least two bio-products from local genetic resources of Banaba in Region 3 (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) and Pili tree (*Canarium ovatum* and *Canarium luzonicum*) in Region 5," Bernardino explained.

The workshop held in Lubao, Pampanga served as an avenue to establish strategic collaboration and partnerships among local government units, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Health, Pharmalytics Corporation, Herbanext Laboratories Inc., indigenous peoples, and other key stakeholders who are both beneficiaries and



DENR works with UNDP to save enedemic trees in CL

advocates of the project's full implementation in Region 3 for the next six years.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. welcomed this initiative as an opportunity to boost conservation efforts of indigenous trees in Central Luzon, which would likewise be supplemental to the government's existing reforestation program, as well as in the efforts to sustain the population of native trees that prevent them from potential extinction.

"This will improve the value chain of Banaba and soon, all species, ensuring that we are ever more conscious of our dependence on nature for our survival through the challenges of climate change and economic stress," Moreno said.

He added that this project resonates fully with the guidance of Environment Secretary Ma. Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga to protect indigenous species as part of natural heritage and harness these resources for the benefit of the country.

Moreno notes that with the medicinal properties of Banaba—an indigenous tree species to the Philippines and Southeast Asia—its market potential offers high profitability and accessibility as the tree is found all over Central Luzon where it is typically planted along roadsides.

Research shows that a tea made from boiling the leaves of Banaba is used to maintain kidney health and lower blood sugar. Its bark is said to be good for diarrhea, while its root extracts act as a pain reliever.



Mimaropa cops to plant 1 million trees by end of 2022

By: [Madonna T. Virola](#) - Correspondent / [@mvirolaINQ](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 10:04 PM July 29, 2022



CITY OF CALAPAN – At least one million seedlings of trees are being targeted for planting by police in the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region by the end of 2022, an official said on Friday, July 29.

In a statement, Brig. Gen. Sidney Sultan Hernia, chief of Mimamaropa police regional office, said they would involve all police units in the region to achieve the target.

“They (policemen) are all tasked with planting a total of 572,976 seedlings by December 2022, or 95,496 seedlings per month within a period of 5 months,” said Hernia.

Dubbed “eco-warriors,” the policemen had planted 427,024 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit-bearing trees with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and stakeholders in the region.

“Aside from intensifying our tree-planting efforts, we will also be more aggressive in our campaign against illegal logging activities and violations of environmental laws,” said Hernia.

Mimaropa policemen conducted 188 police operations which resulted in the arrest of 195 people and the confiscation of 39,313.80 board feet of illegally cut lumber worth P1,485,022.64 since January this year, according to the Regional Operations Division.

“Part of our efforts to protect our natural resources is the strict enforcement of environmental laws. I urge all unit commanders and fellow eco-warriors to be relentless in our campaign against illegal logging activities and other violators of environmental laws,” said Hernia.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1637481/mimaropa-cops-to-plant-1-million-trees-by-end-of-2022#ixzz7aTegYEvN>

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5 towns still isolated; quake deaths hit 10

By Valerie Damlan
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—Government workers and emergency responders struggled to bring aid to at least five towns and 13 villages in Abra and Kalinga provinces that were cut off from the rest of the country by the magnitude 7 earthquake in northern Luzon on Wednesday.

The death toll continued to rise on Friday afternoon with the discovery of four bodies buried in a landslide in Luba town in Abra. Initially reported missing, the victims were found in the rubble along Kayadlakad Road, authorities said.

Based on the official tally of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) as of Friday evening, the quake has claimed 10 lives with more than 130 others wounded.

Two days after the temblor, villagers were still camping out in parks and open spaces in some areas, pleading for food and temporary shelter and enduring aftershocks since the quake struck the Cordillera, Cagayan valley and Ilocos regions.

Some road sections leading to the remote Abra towns of Boliney, Rueloc, Daguisman, Laco and Malbrong were damaged and communication lines in these places were still down, according to the provincial disaster risk reduction and management office (PDRRMO).

Also isolated from the rest of the province were the far-flung villages of Tabacda in Tubo town; Poblacion and Sabnangan in Luba; Buhiling, Tuquib, Calao, and Tamar in Villaviciosa; and Ud-udlao in Sallapadan.

The PDRRMO said five sub-villages in Sallapadan also could not be immediately reached by teams distributing food and relief items.

Water, food scarce

"Most of these places have no electricity and have poor communication signals. There are currently no passable roads we can use [to reach them]," Cathy Mann, PDRRMO first responder, told the Inquirer by phone on Friday.

In a separate phone interview, Daniel Cayaco, 50, Tuquib village chair in Villaviciosa, said a mountain near his barangay had eroded, preventing emergency responders

from reaching them. Tuquib is 36 kilometers from the capital town of Dangued.

He said the intense ground shaking had damaged water lines, forcing the villagers to collect water from a spring for their household use.

"We're buying drinking water from stores that are still open because we cannot drink from the spring. Drinking water is already becoming scarce," he said.

Cayaco worried that the barangay would run out of food supplies for 278 families soon. "We need food that can easily be prepared since it's more convenient for families who are camping outside their homes," he said.

The military on Friday said it airlifted supplies to seven isolated towns in Abra.

Some 3,000 food packs were delivered by helicopter to the communities, a spokesperson for the Department of Social Welfare and Development told dzMM radio.

Relief on the way

In Kalanga province, the villages of Lower Uma, Upper Uma, Western Uma, and Tan-



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continue 5 towns still isolated

glag in Lubuagan town were also isolated after quake-induced landslides and rock slides blocked the roads leading to them.

On Thursday, Lubuagan Mayor Joel Pagactao said clearing operations were underway to allow relief goods to reach the villages with a population of 536. Lubuagan is a neighboring town of Abra's Lagangilang town, the epicenter of the earthquake.

In Abra's Luba town, authorities identified the landslide victims as Marcos Barreyro, 38; Louis Balais Dining, 21; Jack Balais Gamengan, 17; and Angelo Badi, 15, all Manabo residents.

They were riding a "kalalaw" or an improvised tricycle when the temblor hit, triggering a landslide that engulfed the group, according to their relatives.

The NDRRMC has accounted for six other quake-related deaths, but the last case, reported in Ilocos Region, is still being validated.

The five other fatalities verified by the agency were all from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and iden-

tified as Jemalyn Sigganay, 23, of Bangued, Abra; Aron Cullireng, 25, of La Trinidad, Benguet; Kesty Tabas, 31, of Tuba, Benguet; Jefferson Basar, 24, of Balhalan, Kalinga; and Andres Sagayo, 59, of Ranko, Mt. Province.

The NDRRMC also tallied 136 injured persons in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and CAR.

About 7,300 persons were displaced by the earthquake, of whom more than 5,800 were staying in evacuation centers.

Agricultural losses stood at P3.8 million while infrastructure damage was at P296 million, according to Mark Timbal, NDRRMC spokesperson.

The official said damage to roads was estimated at P104 million, and bridges at P292 million.

Some 1,400 houses were damaged per the NDRRMC's tally, but an estimate from the Department of Social Welfare and Development suggested the actual number could be closer to 4,000.

Survivors

In Mountain Province, the tremor almost killed a team of chefs and tourist guides traveling in two vans on Wednesday, said Jovita Ganongan, director of the Department of Tourism in CAR.

A rumbling sound gave the drivers enough warning to stop before massive boulders rolled down the highway near Bauko town, said Harley Palanghac, editor of Baguio Midland Courier, who managed to take dramatic photos of the rock slide.

"You can't mistake that sound. So I alerted the driver of our front vehicle. A few meters more and they would have been buried," he told the Inquirer. —WITH REPORTS FROM REPORTERS, DEXTER CABALZA, REXSON CORRALES, VINCENT CARRERA, WILLAMOR VIRAYA JR. AND JOHN MICHAEL MURRIAN



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BLOCKED — A section of Mt. Uta Cliff in Bauko, Mt. Province is closed due to landslide caused by the Intensity 7 quake on July 27, 2022. (DPWH Cordillera Administrative Region)



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Quake damage breaches P400 M; death toll rises to 6

By AARON B. RECENCO
and MARTIN A. SADOINGDON

The cost of damage wrought by the 7.0-magnitude earthquake in Northern Luzon is now over P400 million, while the death toll rose to six, officials said on Friday, July 29.

Quoting initial assessment report as of 6 a.m. Friday, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan bared the damage breakdown — P104.53 million on national roads and P292.05 million on national bridges in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region and the

Cagayan Valley Region.

Bonoan said most of the roads that were blocked by landslides during the tremor were already cleared and are now passable to motorists.

But he said five remaining impassable road sections in CAR and Ilocos Region are still being cleared by the DPWH Quick Response Teams.

They are the Lubuagan-Batang Buhay Road K0463+700, K0464+000 sections in Puapo, Dangtalan, Pail and K0464+600, K0464+700, K0464+800 sections in Colong, Lower Una, Lubuagan, in Kalinga Province which were hit by landslide and rock collapse; the Ragudo-Bontoc Road K0347+090 - K0347+180, and K0347+280 - K0347+340 Mt. Data Cliff, Bauko, Mountain Province which were blocked due to soil collapse; and the Tagudin Cervantes Road K0350+950, and K0353+100 section in Ilocos Sur, also due to landslide and rockslide.

The Santiago-Barayoyo-Lidioda-San Emilio-Quirino Road K0393+000 Brgy. Cayos, Quirino, Ilocos Sur and the Cervantes-Auling-Bontoc Road K0387+(-950), Barangay Auling, Cervantes, Ilocos Sur (due to landslide and rockslide) are also being cleared.

Bonoan said the target reopening of affected roads in CAR is by 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

Damage to agriculture

Damage to agriculture has already

reached P3.88 million in the Cordillera region alone.

Although no dam was significantly damaged in CAR, Regions 1 and 2, the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) reported that an irrigation facility in CAR was destroyed which costs P4.5 million.

Death toll rises to six

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), meanwhile, said the quake death toll rose to six with the report of another fatality in Ilocos Sur.

NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal said five of the fatalities — all recorded in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) — have already been confirmed. Most of them died after being hit by fallen debris.

In Benguet, two people died in the municipalities of La Trinidad and Tuba. They were identified as Aron Cul-iteng, 35, and Resty Tabas, 31, respectively. They perished after being hit by fallen house debris.

In Bangued, Abra, Jonalyn Sigganay, 23, died of hemorrhage after also being hit by fallen debris at the height of the quake.

In Balbalan, Kalinga, Jefferson Baser, 24, was buried alive due to a rock fall.

In Bauko, Mountain Province, Andres Sagayo, 59, died at the hospital after being victimized by a



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Quake damage reaches 400M? page 2

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landslide.

The sixth fatality was the one reported in Ilocos Sur. However, the NDRRMC is still in the process of validation.

Meanwhile, the fatality earlier reported by the NDRRMC in Gattaran, Cagayan, in Region 2 was stricken off the tally after it was confirmed that no such incident was recorded by the local authorities.

There were also 116 persons injured during the quake and four others who went missing in CAR.

Relief efforts

Relief operations were ongoing in the affected areas, particularly in CAR where 7,331 individuals were temporarily sheltered in 26 evacuation centers.

"Our countrymen have nothing to worry about because our response efforts are continuous. Our local government units are on the scene and they are supplying everything that they need: food, water, and non-food items," Timbal said.

"The Food and Non-food Items Cluster of the NDRRMC has a standby fund of ₱323 million which includes ₱247 million in quick response funds which may be disbursed to support the operations of LGUs. We also have a standby fund of ₱1 billion for food and non-food items that are ready for distribution," he added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as well as other concerned government agencies have also deployed additional personnel to help in the distribution of relief items.

Around 200 troops and reservists under the 14th Regional Community Defense Group (14RCDG) of the Reserve Command, Philippine Army were deployed to haul aid for families affected by the destructive quake in Abra.

The troops and reservists worked with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to repack relief supplies that were distributed to families in quake-stricken communities in Zone 7, Bangued, Abra.

The Philippine Air Force also deployed multiple aircraft such as S701 Blackhawk, P71 W-34 SOROL, Super Huey, Huey 2, and UH-1H helicopters to transport relief items in the isolated municipalities of Boliney, Bucloc, Daguioman, Luba, Tubo, Malibcong, and Lacub in Abra.

Meanwhile, Col. Medel Aguilar, acting AFP spokesperson, advised troops to remain vigilant against possible attacks from communist rebels while they deliver aid to quake-hit areas.

"As we all know, our troops were immediately mobilized to shift from internal security to humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that jolted Northern Luzon. Our HADR troops will be ready to defend themselves from any hostile act," he said.

Over 1,000 aftershocks

Meanwhile, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) continues to detect more aftershocks, two days after earthquake hit northwestern Luzon on

July 27.

As of 7 a.m., Friday, July 29, Phivolcs had recorded 1,059 aftershocks, with magnitudes ranging between 1.5 and 5.0.

Of the 1,059 aftershocks, Phivolcs plotted 263 earthquake events close to the epicenter of the main shock in Abra province.

However, only 26 of the recorded aftershocks were felt.

Citing the 1985 report of the Southeast Asia Association of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Phivolcs said at least 40 historical earthquakes were reported between 1589 and 1935 that significantly affected Abra, Ilocos Norte, and nearby provinces.

"Ten of these earthquakes had magnitudes ranging from magnitude 3.8 to magnitude 5.6 that reported to have affected Abra province and vicinity," it added.

Two major earthquake events have occurred in September 1862 (6.2-magnitude) and Sept. 12, 1877 (5.6-magnitude).

Phivolcs explained that northwestern Luzon is one of the seismically active regions in the country because of the presence of active faults that include the northern segments of the Philippine Fault, Abra River Fault, West Ilocos Fault System, and Naglibacan Fault.

"There are other nearby local faults, some of which may now be covered by recent deposits, and offshore active faults that are potential sources of minor to strong earthquakes," it added. (With a report from Ellalyn de Vera Ruiz)



THE QUAKE THREAT

By ROY NGUYEN

On July 27, 2022, Wednesday, at 8:43 a.m., a Magnitude 7 earthquake jolted an otherwise sunny and casual morning for the people of the province of Abra.

The powerful tremor left four people dead and about 64 people injured, and damaged hundreds of establishments and homes, including centuries-old churches and heritage sites. More than 50 landslides occurred in the area.

According to the Ateneo de Manila University Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), as of 11 a.m. of July 28, 2022, there were 895 total numbers of recorded earthquakes, 100 landslides, and 24 aftershocks, all within a Magnitude range of 1.5 to 5.

The Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters, the country being located in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, and regularly experiences earthquakes of varying magnitudes.

Survival and disaster management expert Dr. Ted Esquivel said that when preparing for a disaster before it strikes, there are two things that have to be considered: behavioral and structural.

Shift in response

Dr. Esquivel said that the concept of "old paradigm" that no longer applies to today's setting is "you should be helped."

He said that the new paradigm

is "I am responsible for my own safety." He said that the concept of "old paradigm" is "you should be helped."

When it comes to these, he said that these involve all regards. It can be acts of preparation, structural collapse, or earthquakes or hydro-meteorological events. So, whether it's natural or man-made disasters, they have to understand what the situation is like there, and what they have to do. Dr. Esquivel included emergency preparedness forum for CEOs and senior executives held at the SkyDome of SM City North EDSA in Quezon City.

The forum, which was organized by SM City, discussed the social responsibility and CSR of the company, and how to lead the company to become prepared and resilient in times of emergencies and disasters.

One, Dr. Esquivel said, it has to be determined first whether the individual has a real responsibility, then something must be done about it.



Continuing The Evacuee Threat - ✓

Dr. Esquivela also stated these basic tips in terms of disaster preparedness, not just for the differently-abled and the elderly but for the general population as well.

One is to increase one's situational awareness by watching out for one's work, especially for the differently-abled or those with problems on mobility who may not be able to move as fast as the others.

Two, have what Dr. Esquivela called an "everyday carry" kit that contains basic essentials: first-aid kit, maintenance medicines for those who need it, or even simple over-the-counter medication, portable water, flashlight, signaling device like a whistle.

Three is what Dr. Esquivela calls "life skills" such as basic life support, how to administer first aid, fire handling, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), earthquake fighting.

Fourth is a contract that lists contact details of important and relatives. The police have a list of person wanted, use of fire, a small hand book preferably wrapped in waterproof or resistant material, or it can be reading materials, stored in strategic places such as schools, churches and of course, even homes, or transport vehicles like jeeps, buses or tricycles.

People can store this list in their wallets, like what many

people do, but what if the phone rings or it obstructs or falls into water? It'll be useless already, so this list has to be separate and carried by the person in his/her kit like in a bag or in a case you are, or in a case-bound, it can be placed in the pouch behind the wheelchair.

Dr. Esquivela said, people in wheelchair or anyone or other in place, especially the child with mobility problems or have emotional disorders, which should be done repetitively since they can't discern, watch to evaluate or shelter in place so they would understand.

More to learn

It was 32 years ago, on July 16, 1990, when a powerful magnitude 8 earthquake in Philippines, mainly in Luzon, and left an estimated 2,422 people dead, severely injured, with damage worth an estimated P24 billion.

So many that was the longest 45 seconds in their lives, while many Filipinos called prayers to every god and saint in their capability and prayed fervently for survival.

And of course, there's the big One that many have been talking about: Does the country already have a people's disaster preparedness which should be all about preparedness? It will certainly fall for shake.

The Singapore should not allow population persons individually, be site-specific hazard-focused, adopt culturally amenable practices, and everything should be time-bound.

YOYO

THIS means a one-size-fits-all approach will not work, it should be customized. How can a person who is hearing-impaired understand instructions verbally unless a form of sign-visual communication is adopted? How would people with developmental disabilities, like those with Down's Syndrome, understand instructions and all you have to be repetitive there's a process and we review before doing and so on.

When empowering people, it should include a primary support group and the community. For awareness, he said, and the no-his talk at the recent Dr. Esquivela

mentioned that in disaster, one should learn, you are an angoutaw or YOYO.

When a person is empowered to learn, what is doing a crisis, an event, what is it alone, that person will survive on his or her own. It's what is called the Spanish Principle, where 1,000 out of 1000 portion of the staffs, it will come back, unlike the Spider Principle, where 1,000 out of 1,000, it will die. I believe that an empowered person is a very dynamic person, he explained.

When it comes to teaching people disaster preparedness, Dr. Esquivela said there has to be a champion who will propagate the message of being prepared, mentally and physically for disasters. It can be the government or the private sector, but the best part is for these two institutions to collaborate adding that such will certainly reap benefits.



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DHSUD intensifies post-earthquake shelter assistance program in Ilocos and Cordilleras

BY GAIL G. ORTIZ-KARLO

NEARLY 2,000 families stricken by Ilocos and Cordillera earthquakes are being helped to repair and rebuild their homes after the July 27, 1990 earthquake, according to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD).

DHSUD has a total of 4,989 families of the affected areas. About 20,000 persons have been living in 358 temporary shelters. About 400 were completely destroyed, particularly in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan, Abra and Mountain Province.

At least half of 2,312 families or 8,314 households are currently living in temporary shelters in 31 evacuation centers, while 473 families are staying in the affected areas. The affected areas are Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Abra and Mountain Province.

Under the leadership of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMC) to establish the shelter cluster assistance July 27 and now, DHSUD is intensifying its shelter cluster assistance program. It is currently releasing 100,000 pesos in relief supplies to help the affected families to repair and rebuild their homes and to assist them in their recovery. DHSUD Director General Melissa Aranda said.

The new shelter assistance program of Shelter Centers in the Ilocos, Pangasinan, Abra and Cordillera regions was initiated by DHSUD in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The program is being implemented in the affected areas at the end of the year. DHSUD is the lead agency in the program.

The response measure, Assistant Secretary Aranda said, DHSUD is also cooperating with the National Organizational and Planning Office to provide a 100 shelter cluster centers for the affected families. The program is being implemented in the affected areas at the end of the year. DHSUD is the lead agency in the program.

The regional shelter cluster centers were funded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The program is being implemented in the affected areas at the end of the year. DHSUD is the lead agency in the program.

DHSUD is currently releasing 100,000 pesos in relief supplies to help the affected families to repair and rebuild their homes and to assist them in their recovery. DHSUD Director General Melissa Aranda said.



ABRA NOW UNDER STATE OF CALAMITY

ABRA Gov. Dominic Valera approved a resolution by its Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Thursday declaring the entire province under a state of calamity due to the massive destruction caused by a magnitude 7 earthquake that hit Northern Luzon on Wednesday.

Resolution 190, series of 2022, was unanimously signed by all of the province's officials in a special session on Thursday to enable the provincial government to immediately address the needs of its people.

"Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to declare the Province of Abra under the State of Calamity to mobilize the Provincial and the 27 LCU's to respond to the immediate needs of Abrazans and for other purposes," the resolution read.

"Resolved further, commitment to this destruction the 58 percent Calamity Reserve Fund is available and authorized

to be utilized for the purpose and for other related purposes," it added.

Meanwhile, the province is also requesting immediate assistance from the national government and the different concerned agencies for proper disaster response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction support.

The magnitude 7 earthquake that jolted Northern Luzon on Wednesday had its epicenter recorded in Tayum, Abra.

The provincial government reported massive destruction in the entire province due to the earthquake.

"Initial progressing report from PDRRMO on damages caused by the earthquake has affected 80 percent of the total population of Abra and major infrastructure facilities both private and government properties were severely damaged," the resolution stated.

The resolution added that a province-wide

power outage is being experienced as power lines have been destroyed.

"Destruction of houses, buildings, and bridges have paralyzed the operation of business establishments likewise, displacing a lot of Abrazans as they stay out of their homes without food," it further said.

On Thursday morning, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. flew to Abra with Special Assistant to the President Secretary Antonio Lagdameo Jr., Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Defense OIC Undersecretary Jose Faustino and Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulio.

Marcos personally checked on the situation of the affected individuals as he conducted a security briefing with concerned national and local officials, and led the distribution of relief goods to the victims. (PNA)



Lindol sa Abra: 6 na patay, 136 sugatan, 9,500 iskul nasira, 54 health facilities wasak

UMAKYAT na sa anim ang nasawi sa magnitude 7 na lindol na tumama sa Abra noong Miyerkules, Hulyo 27, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) nitong Biyernes.

Sa pinakabuting ulat ng NDRRMC, 6:00 ng umaga, sinabi ng konseho na ang katagdagang nasawlay natulat mula sa Ilocos Region, bahang lima ang natulat at kalsuran ay nakuupirma sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Sinabi pa ng NDRRMC na apat kamo ang natulat sa nawawala sa CAR at 136 ang nasugatan sa Ilocos, Cagayan, at Cordillera dahil sa lindol.

May kabuuang 79,260 katao o 19,485 pamilya sa 246 barangays sa Ilocos at CAR ang inaapektuhan ng lindol, sabi ng NDRRMC.

Ilinagdag nito na nasa 5,819 indibidwal o 1,622 pamilya ang nananatili sa loob ng 26 evacuation centers, habang 1,512 katao o 360 pamilya ang nananatili sa labas ng evacuation centers.

Ayon sa NDRRMC, may kabuuang 1,583 bahay ang nasira ng lindol — 1,535 partially at 48 totally — sa Ilocos at

CAR.

Sinabi rin ng NDRRMC na nasa P48.5 milyon halaga ng pinsala ang natulat sa Ilocos, Cagayan, at CAR.

Ang National Irrigation Administration ay nag-ulat ng P4.5 milyon halaga ng pinsala, sinabi ng NDRRMC; habang ang Kagawaran ng Agrikultura ay nag-ulat ng higit sa P2.8 milyong halaga ng pinsala sa CAR.

Sanaatsala, naibalik na ang kuryente sa 38 lungsod at munisipalidad, sabi ng NDRRMC. Isa ng lugar ang nakinasasapagka-jutel ng suplay ng tubig na hindi pa nasabuhuk.

Nasa 94 na klase at 183 na skedyal ng trabaho ang nakausela sa Ilocos, Cagayan, at CAR dahil sa lindol.

Sa ngayon, nasa P396,560 ang tulong na natibig sa mga biktama sa CAR, ayon sa NDRRMC.

Hansi sa bagong imponentasyon ng Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), sinabi ng DepEd mula sa inisyat na ulat na 8,027, nasa 9,539 na ngayon ang mga apektadong paaralan mula sa 58 dibisyon.

"Accordingly, from

P228.5-million in the estimated cost of repair and reconstruction in the initial announcement, the figures have ballooned to P940M, covering the repair and reconstruction of totally and partially damaged classrooms," ayon sa DepEd.

May kabuuang 3,536 na paaralan sa 16 na dibisyon ng Ilocos Region at Cordillera Administrative Region ang nagsuspense ng trabaho simula Hulyo 27. Wala pang inilabas na polsa para sa pagbabalik ng pasok.

Ayon sa DRRMS, apat na paaralan na ang nagbukas upang magalibing evacuation center ng mga nabiktama ng lindol.

Initalat din ng Department of Health (DOH) ang kabuuang 54 nasira na healthcare facilities.

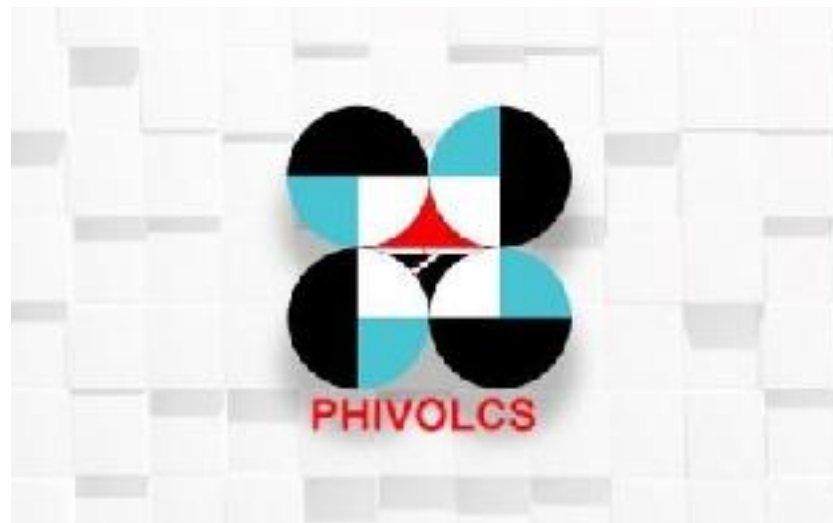
Sa nasosibuhang wala rito ang mga ospital, 28 rural health units, at 18 barangay health stations.

Sinabi ng Centers for Health Development ng DOH mula sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CHD CAR), nasa 272 indibidwal ang nasugatan, kabilang ang 19 pasyente na naka-entire sa mga ospital. Mayroon ding limang namatay at apat na nawawalang kaso.



Over 1K aftershocks recorded 2 days after Abra quake

By Ma. Cristina Arayata July 29, 2022, 1:45 pm



MANILA -- More than 1,000 aftershocks were recorded two days after a magnitude 7 earthquake jolted Abra and other parts of Luzon, based on the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's (Phivolcs) record on Friday.

Of the total 1,071 aftershocks recorded, 263 were plotted or located, and 26 were felt. The magnitudes of these aftershocks ranged from 1.5 to 5.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum Jr. earlier said the strong quake, which was caused by the movement along the Abra River Fault, would generate many aftershocks in the first two to three days.

The number would gradually decrease.

Solidum advised the public to inspect the damaged infrastructure, houses, buildings, and to refrain from staying there for the meantime.

He noted that those in urban areas -- where there are more people, investments, and infrastructures -- should be more prepared.

"Kailangan nating pag-igtingan ang ating kahandaan nito pero huwag nating kalimutan iyong malalakas na paglindol, in less than one minute ay pwedeng makasira ng ating mga gusali, mga bahay, imprastraktura at ng ating ekonomiya (The public needs to strengthen preparedness. Remember that strong earthquakes, for instance, could destroy a building, house, infrastructure and the economy in less than a minute)," he said.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 79,260 individuals in 246 villages in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and the Ilocos Region were affected by the strong quake.



Over 1K aftershocks recorded 2 days after Abra quake

It added that earthquake-affected houses in the Ilocos Region and the CAR reached 1,583. Of these, 1,535 were classified as "partially damaged" and 48 as "totally damaged."

Severe damage to cultural and heritage sites were also reported. (PNA)



Higit 1K aftershocks naitala sa Abra quake

Inihula kahapong ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) na mababait na sa mahigit 1,000 aftershocks ang naitala nasasapit ang magnitude 7 na lindol sa Abra.

Sinabi ng PHIVOLCS na may kabuuang 1,074 aftershocks ang natukoy sa mga spektadong lugar simula alas 10:00 ng umaga.

Ang pinacamatatag na intensidad na naramaman dahil sa lindol ay intensity VII.

Namamamit ito sa mga bayan ng Abra kabilang ang Tayum, Bangueed, Bucay, Riche, Dangas,

Dolores, La Paz, Lagangilang, Ligonson, Bnay, Lubo, Malibano, Muna, Pinar, Pinar, Salapadan at San Juan.

Sinabi ni National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson Mark Timbal na ilang

mga spektadong residente ang nagtukamp sa labas ng kanilang mga tahanan dahil sa bangis ng aftershocks. - *Angie dela Cruz*

Sarado muna sa publiko ang Calle Crisologo sa Vigan, Ilocos Sur dahil sa potuloy pa ang pag-uuri sa mga lumang bahay at heritage sites kung maayos pa ang gawali kasunod ng magnitude 7.0 lindol sa Northern Luzon noong Miyerkules. - Jesse Bustos





Quake-hit families climb to 19K: NDRRMC

By Priam Nepomuceno July 29, 2022, 10:15 am



(OPS photo)

MANILA – The number of families affected by the magnitude 7 earthquake that rocked Abra and other northern Luzon provinces has climbed to 19,486, which is equivalent to 79,260 individuals.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said this figure was recorded as of 6 a.m. on Friday, significantly higher than Thursday's 4,969 families.

These families reside in 246 villages in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Ilocos Region.

The number of evacuation centers are placed at 26 and around 1,622 families or around 5,819 persons are being aided inside with the remainder being assisted by their families and friends.

Five people were confirmed dead, all from CAR while 116 were reported injured -- 115 from CAR and one from Cagayan Valley.

Undergoing validation are reports of another fatality in Ilocos Region; 20 injured (18 in Ilocos Region and two in CAR); and four missing in CAR.

Earthquake-affected houses in Ilocos Region and the CAR were placed at 1,583 where 1,535 were classified as "partially damaged" and 48 as "totally damaged".

Infrastructure damage was estimated at PHP48.3 million in CAR, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon and the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army (PA) will deploy two teams with collapsed structure search-and-rescue capabilities in severely-affected areas.



Quake-hit families climb to 19K: NDRRMC

In a statement Thursday night, Army spokesperson Col. Xerxes Trinidad said the teams will be coming from the 525th Engineer Battalion of the 51st Engineer Brigade.

The 525th Engineer Battalion is also known as 'Mandirigtas' (a possible contraction of 'Mandirigma' (Warrior) and 'Manliligtas' (Savior)). The 525th Engineer Combat Battalion is the Army's primary humanitarian assistance and disaster response unit that played a crucial role in saving lives in the aftermath of natural calamities.

"(The unit has) prepared two search and rescue teams equipped with collapsed structure search-and-rescue (CSSR capabilities) that can be deployed on a moment's notice to assist in the disaster-response efforts for quake-stricken communities in Northern Luzon on July 28, 2022," he added.

CSSR refers to knowledge and skills that are needed in stabilizing and extricating victims trapped in collapsed structures using the safest and most appropriate procedures.

Trinidad said these teams and their equipment are now on standby and ready for deployment at Camp General Rigoberto J. Atienza in Libis, Quezon City and the "Mandirigtas" Training Area in Western Bicutan, Taguig City. (PNA)



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SEN. IMEE SEEKS TO UPLIFT PHL DISASTER RESPONSE

By Regina Reyes-Kincaid

SEN. IMEE Marcos is pushing to lift the disaster response level. She is pushing Marcos to speed up approval of the National Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Program (NDRMP) and to give the power to the Office of the President to be the sole authority in the disaster response.

She is pushing for the Senate to pass a law back in October 2010 for a provision to pass. She is also pushing for the creation of a National Disaster Management Authority in the 19th Congress and to lift the Senate Bill 136 in July 2010 when she is in the 19th Congress.

She is pushing for the President to be the sole authority in the disaster response. She is pushing for the President to be the sole authority in the disaster response. She is pushing for the President to be the sole authority in the disaster response.

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Disaster resilience office, not department, will do - Zubiri

By PAOLO ROMERO

Senators pressing for the creation of a department of disaster management and resilience are willing to support a bill downgrading it to an agency under the Office of the President as long as it would address the unresponsiveness of the current setup, Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri said Thursday.

Zubiri noted he is the principal author of the bill seeking to create the Department of Disaster Resilience, which he filed because of his 25 years of experience in the Philippine Red Cross.

"A full-fledged department would have been ideal as there would be accountability and that (disaster) would be its focus because that's its only job," the Senate President told "The Chiefs" on Signal TV's *One News*.

But Senate President Marcos' latest pronouncement that he prefers a "specialist agency" instead of a department can be acceptable to co-proponents of the bill in the Senate, Zubiri said.

Whatever agency that will be created by law, it should strengthen the existing National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), he said.

"I'm all for that. Maybe we can go that way, what's important is strengthening whatever needs to be strengthened in terms of disaster response," he said.

The senator agreed to suggestions that the new entity would be patterned after the

United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, but should still be headed by a Cabinet-rank official.

Zubiri said the Senate will closely coordinate with Malacañang to make sure whatever it will pass will not be vetoed.

Sen. Imee Marcos, who convinced her younger brother to scale down his preference for a department, recommended an upgrade of the NDRRMC, with enhanced powers under the Office of the President and a more significant budget in her Senate Bill 186, the same bill she filed in 2019 in the 18th Congress.

The senator's proposal was taken up during Thursday's public meeting presided over by the Chief Executive with national and local officials in Abra.

"Let's move forward from chaotic disaster response to year-round resiliency," she said, adding that the presence of the President, social welfare secretary, Armed Forces, Department of Public Works and Highways and Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology in disaster zones "simply to coordinate adequate assistance and repairs underlines the urgency of empowering the NDRRMC."

The upgraded agency will exercise command and control over concerned departments, agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), to provide immediate response in times of disaster, armed conflict and other man-made hazards.

She noted the delay in mobilizing resources during times of disaster was due to the current practice of having to go through different government agencies, various chains of command in the PNP and branches of the AFP, often even requiring the President to personally mobilize frontline departments.

She cited the evolution of the Department of Budget and Management which started out as a mere office, until it was elevated afterwards to a commission during the term of their father, former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

Only many years later, when its workload necessitated its enlargement and personnel had received extensive training, did it finally become the department it is today.

Yesterday, Office of Civil Defense administrator Ricardo Jalad expressed full support for the creation of the new government agency for disaster preparedness and resiliency.

Proposing another alternative, Jalad said transferring all disaster-related functions to the Department of the Interior and Local Government is also an option that can be considered.

"My position is that I support a National Disaster Resilience Authority (NDRA)-type agency separate from Department of National Defense," Jalad told *The STAR*.

"With that, that agency is therefore put directly under the President," he said, noting that under such, there will still be the NDRRMC chaired by the NDRA head. - With Michael Punongbayan



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LOCAL GOV'TS ON TOP OF DISASTER SITUATION

Water woes

President Marcos, in a situation briefing in Abra, said water purifying systems are very helpful during disasters.

"One of the things that we have found useful in all of the disasters when the water supply is a problem, are the water purifying systems that are very simple. You've seen them before, the ones in pails and then they have a filter," Marcos said.

"We should procure more of those because immediately water is always going to be a problem so we won't have, you know, things like cholera, diphtheria will come into play," he added.

Abra Vice Governor Maria Jocelyn Barnos reported that soil movement may have caused problems in the province's water system lines.

The chief executive has asked officials and authorities water supply in the province should be restored immediately.

"Well, that again is actually even more of a priority than communications and power. That's something that has to be restored immediately," he said.

The Office of Civil Defense Cordillera Administrative Region has reported that the whole province of Abra needs 300,000 bottles of drinking water.

In addition, Senator Imee Marcos, the President's sister, will send a purifier to Abra province.

"We've found in Ilocos Norte that those are very helpful. You don't have the disposal of plastic and all the other issues that surround distilled water," she said.

The President said the government could source the water purifying system from non-governmental organizations that also provided the device when super typhoon "Yolanda" struck in 2013.

"It's sufficient to supply 100 people per day. So if the barangay has four, five, six of them at least there's water already," Marcos said.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority provided Abra with 10 water purifiers.

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AD MELIORA
MARGARITA
GUERRERZ

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction defines disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: Human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

WE CAN LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCES AND ADOPT THE BEST PRACTICES THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED.

With the onset of the rainy season, we have frequent storms and typhoons. It begs the question: Are we ready for floods and strong winds that cause tremendous damage? The location of our country just above the equator and facing the western Pacific and near the tectonic plates makes us prone to earthquakes, typhoons, floods and volcanic eruptions.

But disasters do not select which areas to devastate. They hit anywhere. In 2010, 14,000 lives were lost in a Haiti earthquake. Myanmar was devastated by a cyclone in 2008, resulting in the death of 121,000. The extreme drought in Somalia left 280,000 dead. The hurricane "Katrina" struck New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2005 flooding 90 percent of the city, destroying 850,000 homes and damaging 2,400 ships and vessels.

In 2013, typhoon "Yolanda" shocked the world, being the most powerful typhoon ever recorded that hit land. The destruction of communities in Tacloban and other parts of Eastern Visayas and Northern Luzon brought catastrophic losses amounting to almost \$13 billion.

Just a few days ago, a powerful earthquake that jolted the northern part of Luzon brought fear and destruction once again.

Because of our experience in disasters, we must always be ready with plans, programs and projects to be implemented, so that we can recover fast from the onslaught and destruction they bring.

The World Bank, in cooperation with disaster-prone countries, has been assisting in the implementation of disaster-focused programs involving communities, national and local governments, including the private sector. Other international bodies that also help include USAID (United States Agency for International Development) through its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, which realigns its core mission with assistance to children who are victims of natural disasters.

Locally, groups in the private and religious sectors also help, such as radio and television network-run foundations, Caritas Manila and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, composed of a group of private corporations that not only assist in increasing public awareness of disaster prevention and management, but help in the rehabilitation of the victims of disasters.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, chaired by the Secretary of National Defense, is in the forefront of disaster prevention and recovery efforts. It is composed of other agencies such as the Departments of Interior and Local Governments, and Environment and Natural Resources, the military and police. The council gathers together all these involved in disaster management and relief, and coordinates their activities for maximum effect on target beneficiaries.

While effective long-term planning and collaboration between government and the private sector are essential, there is no single model for disaster prevention, management and recovery that may be fully emulated, as not all countries are similarly situated. But we can learn from other countries' experiences and adopt the best practices that they have already developed.

We can also heed recommendations coming from the specialized organs of the UN and those of the World Bank, such as the Global

Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The latter's mission is to see to it that affected communities become more resilient to natural hazards, climate risks and other environmental shocks, and so that the human and economic costs of disasters are reduced.

Aside from BECAUSE OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN DISASTERS, WE MUST ALWAYS BE READY WITH PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

coordination among agencies involved in disaster prevention, there is a need to revisit Republic Act 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, to determine if there is a need to amend it for an improved response to disasters that is the responsibility, not just of government, but ours as well.



Senators prodded on disaster dep't bill

By Jester Manalastas

A HOUSE leader challenged the senators to expedite the passage of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill this 19th Congress.

The DDR bill was approved in the House of Representatives during the 18th Congress but did not make it to the Senate.

House Ways and Means chairman and Allay Rep. Joey Salceda dared his counterparts in the Senate "to discuss and pass its version of the DDR without waiting for the House, since this proposal does not have to originate in the House," in response to calls for more disaster preparedness in the wake of recent earthquakes in North Luzon.

"We're lucky because disaster response is now quick, and the government was able to preposition resources. That is to the credit of this government—especially in light of PBBM's SCINA instructions, which proved very appropriate for this situation. But disaster response is the least our institutions can and should do. An ounce of prevention is always better than a ton of cure, and resiliency is much more than a good response," Salceda said.

"We know disasters will always come our way. The annual cost—real damage and opportunity costs—of disasters amount to between 2.5 to 5 percent of GDP every year," he added.

Over the past decade, from 2010 to 2019, official statistics record 12,097 deaths from disasters, which means that disasters

killed around 1,200 people every year.

"This will be the third time we are trying to get this done. It was transmitted under Speaker PGMA—with more than a year for the Senate to consider. The House again approved DDR under Speaker Cayetano, with more than 2 years for Senate consideration. Still no Senate action," Salceda said.

The solon is optimistic that under the leadership of Senate President Zubiri, the bill will be passed.

"It does not have to be a Department as the House wants. It can be something closer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA, as Senator Ison recently pointed out. But we just hope the Senate will send us something so that we can hammer out a bicameral version," he stressed.



BILL PUSHES FOR READY DISASTER SHELTERS By Ryan Pacpaco

WITH the Philippines being constantly hit by catastrophic disasters, members of the House of Representatives, at the onset of the 19th Congress, filed a measure that would make temporary shelters always available for Filipinos.

Speaker Martin G. Romualdez, House Committee on Accounts chairperson Lingog Party-list Rep. Yedda Maria K. Romualdez and Rep. Jude Adore (Lingog Party-list) filed House Bill (HB) No. 16, establishing evacuation centers in every city and municipality that would offer accommodation for people who have been displaced from their homes due to natural or man-made disasters. Meanwhile, the explanatory note to HB 16 stated that "seeking temporary solutions to the displacement of families by using schools as evacuation centers must be stopped."

There should be no tradeoff between protecting lives and the education of students.

The provision of adequate evacuation centers is of invaluable importance during cataclysmic times.

To save government expenses, the measure provides that existing structures that could be upgraded to effectively serve as evacuation centers would be designated as such in compliance with the local government unit concerned.

The LGUs would be responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of these evacuation centers.

Additionally, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Science and Technology, would determine the design specifications, cost estimates, and construction details of the evacuation centers.

HB 16 has already been referred to the Committee on Disaster Resilience to be deliberated upon by the legislators.



Bislig City employees boost disaster preparedness capabilities

By Alexander Lopez July 29, 2022, 4:59 pm



RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS. Employees of the city government of Bislig in Surigao del Sur undergo Basic Life Support training on July 26, 2022. The training aimed to hone the knowledge and skills of the employees in life support and readiness to respond in times of calamities and disasters. *(Photo courtesy of Bislig CIO)*

BUTUAN CITY – At least 30 employees of the city government of Bislig in Surigao del Sur have completed their Basic Life Support training conducted by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) from July 26 to 28.

In a statement Friday, the city government said it wants its employees to be equipped with knowledge and skills on life support.

The training also aimed to boost the capabilities of the employees to respond to emergencies, especially in times of natural or man-made disasters.

During the course, the employees were trained on the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, physical examination, and pre-hospital care.

The participants were also trained in bandaging, proper lifting and moving, and mass casualty incident and triage.

“A return demonstration and simulation exercises were also performed by the participants to assess their skills,” the statement said.



Bislig City employees boost disaster preparedness capabilities

It said the program is among the priorities of Mayor Florencio Garay, who emphasized the importance of the readiness of local government employees as responders in times of calamities and disasters.

Aside from the CDRRMO, the activity was also supervised by personnel of the Bislig 911 Team and Emergency Medical Services. (PNA)



LRay hails PBBM's 'green' agenda

By RYAN PONCE
PACFACO

CAMARINES SUR Representative LRay Villafuerte has welcomed the commitment of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s economic team to put its "green" agenda at the forefront of the administration's top priorities, saying the new government could take ardent steps in tapping a new credit line offered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with an initial amount of \$45 billion for low and middle-income economies like the Philippines to better deal with the worsening global climate crisis.

Villafuerte said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary-designate Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga could take the lead in pushing climate action and disaster resilience on top of the Marcos Cabinet's concerns, "considering that this is right up her alley as a long-time advocate of climate adaptation and disaster risk management in civil society."

The Camarines Sur legislator issued this statement following Yulo-Loyzaga's oath-taking before the President as secretary of DENR, even as Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Benjamin Diokno announced that climate change mitigation and adaptation would top the Marcos presidency's priorities alongside economic growth.

A former technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), Yulo-Loyzaga stressed during the turnover ceremony at the DENR

the need "to combat the climate emergency through practical climate change adaptation measures, the use of science to approach national scale as well as local scale impacts of climate change."

Villafuerte said the DENR secretary should play a lead role in the Marcos government's apparent commitment to strike a balance between pushing sustainable development and disaster mitigation, on the one hand, and pursuing high and inclusive growth in the post-pandemic era, on the other.

Speaking before G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, Diokno said the Philippines is determined to be a world leader in the fight against climate-related disasters and has set an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% in 2030 despite contributing only 0.3 percent to global emissions.

Diokno further said the government aims to cut energy costs by developing clean and renewable energy (RE) sources and will "work together" with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other institutions in the international community in "quickening" our transition from coal to clean energy.

Villafuerte said the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), which was approved last April by the IMF Executive Board and which took effect the following month, presents our economic managers and the DENR secretary with the available assistance it needs in pursuing a "green" agenda, given that this new facility, which will have an initial amount of \$45 billion, is

meant to help developing economies cope with protracted challenges like pandemics and climate change.

According to an IMF statement, its Executive Board approved the RST last April 13 to "complement the IMF's existing lending toolkit by focusing on longer-term structural challenges—including climate change and pandemic preparedness—that entail significant macroeconomic risks and where policy solutions have a strong global public good nature."

The IMF said it will channel Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) contributed by countries with strong external positions in countries where the needs are the greatest, providing policy support and affordable longer-term financing to strengthen members' resilience and sustainability and thereby contributing to the prospective balance of payments stability. "It will be a loan-based trust, with resources mobilized on a voluntary basis. About three-quarters of the IMF's membership will be eligible for longer-term affordable financing from the RST, including all low-income countries, all developing and vulnerable small states, and lower middle-income countries."

The Philippines belongs to the Vulnerable 20 (V20) group of countries threatened by the highest risks from climate change.

Villafuerte recalled that the Philippine delegation expressed its "disappointment" during last year's United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, over the failure of wealthy economies to fulfill their pledge of providing at least \$1.0 billion combined in climate

financing to the Philippines and other highly vulnerable countries.

He commended the then Duterte administration for committing to start implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground despite the delayed financing commitment of affluent countries.

"The DOF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust could provide the financing that [vulnerable climate] countries like the Philippines badly need to meet the enormous resources necessary for them to fulfill their climate change commitments effectively," Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte cited Camarines Sur as among the country's climate-vulnerable provinces, which was why he had requested additional funding from the previous government to replace or repair facilities heavily damaged by super typhoons that struck the local region in 2018.

The IMF said the goal of the RST is to redistribute funds from wealthier countries to more vulnerable ones as members look to support global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around three-quarters of the IMF's 190 members will be eligible to borrow from the new tool.

The RST will be a loan-based trust, with resources mobilized on a voluntary basis.

The loans will have a 20-year maturity and a ten and half year grace period, with borrowers paying an interest rate with a modest margin over the three-month SDR rate, with the most concessional financing terms provided to the poorest countries.



Most countries 'woefully unprepared' for changing climate — analysis

By PAITHICK GALEY

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

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

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

temperatures rise.

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

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

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

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

Africa also fell into this grouping.

Risks will spill over

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

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

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

"A slight change could see it drop into that bottom group and we are cer-

tainly seeing the erosion of environmental and social protections under (President Jair) Bolsonaro.

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

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

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

"Even if you have your house in order, if your neighbour is a basket case that can seriously undermine your

ability to protect yourself."

Don't have resilience

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

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

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

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



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Climate change made Britain heatwave 10 times more likely — study

PARIS, France (AFP) — Climate change caused by human activity made this month's record-shattering heatwave in Britain at least 10 times more likely to occur, according to research released on Friday.

Eastern England recorded an all-time high temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius (104.5 degrees Fahrenheit) and the hot spell sparked fires that destroyed dozens of homes in London.

Overall, at least 34 locations in Britain registered record highs on July 20, when the heatwave peaked over western Europe.

An international team of researchers modeled how likely such an extreme hot weather event would have been before the industrial era began in the mid 19th century.

They then compared this likelihood with that of a heatwave occurring in the current climate — that is, with the planet nearly 1.2C hotter on average than in pre-industrial times.

They focused on maximum temperatures in Britain's most affected region — central England and east Wales — and found that the record-breaking heat was made at least 10 times more likely due to the human-generated greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

The study found that extreme heat events across Europe had increased even more than had been

estimated by climate models.

Computer-generated models estimated that greenhouse gas emissions increased temperatures in the July heatwave by 2C. But in actual fact, the heatwave was 4C hotter than it would have been without manmade warming.

"In Europe and other parts of the world we are seeing more and more record-breaking heatwaves causing extreme temperatures that have become hotter faster than in most climate models," said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer in climate science at the Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change.

"It's a worrying finding that suggests that if carbon emissions are not rapidly cut, the consequences of climate change on extreme heat in Europe, which already is extremely deadly, could be even worse than we previously thought."

"Even with a conservative estimate, we see a large role of climate change in the UK heatwave," said Mariam Zachariah, research associate at the Grantham Institute.

"Under our current climate that has been altered by greenhouse gas emissions, many people are experiencing events during their lifetime that would have been almost impossible otherwise. And the longer we take to reach net zero, the worse the heatwaves will become."



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Climate change worsened UK's heatwave, scientists find

LONDON — The heat that demolished records in Britain last week, bringing temperatures as high as 104.5 degrees Fahrenheit to a country unaccustomed to scorching summers, would have been “extremely unlikely” without the influence of human-caused climate change, a new report issued on Thursday found.

Heat of last week's intensity is still unusual for Britain, even at current levels of global warming, said Mariam Zachariah, a research associate at Imperial College London and lead author of the report. The chances of seeing the daytime highs that some parts of the country recorded last week were 1-in-1,000 in any given year, she and her colleagues found. — NYT



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CARTOON

30 JUL 2022

Climate migration growing but not fully recognized by world

By JULIE WATSON
The Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico—Worsening climate from the burning of coal and gas is intensifying a range of disasters and uprooting millions of people, with wildfires overrunning towns in California, rising seas overtaking island nations and drought exacerbating conflicts in various parts of the world.

Each year, natural disasters force an average of 21.5 million people from their homes around the world, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

And scientists predict migration will grow as the planet gets hotter. Over the next 30 years, 143 million people are likely to be uprooted by rising seas, drought, searing temperatures and other climate catastrophes, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel



WORKERS walk to work at an export process the Mongla River in Mongla, Bangladesh, Monday, July 3, 2022. This Bangladeshi town stands alone to offer new life to thousands of climate migrants. (AP Photo/John J. Murnaghan)

one early in the morning after crossing the Mongla River in Mongla, Bangladesh, Monday, July 3, 2022. This Bangladeshi town stands alone to offer new life to thousands of climate migrants. (AP Photo/John J. Murnaghan)



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continue Climate migration

on Climate Change report published this year.

Still, the world has yet to officially recognize climate migrants or come up with formalized ways to assess their needs and help them. Here's a look at climate migration today.

WHO ARE CLIMATE MIGRANTS?

MOST climate migrants move within the borders of their homelands, usually from rural areas to cities after losing their home or livelihood because of drought, rising seas or another weather calamity.

Because cities also are facing their own climate-related problems, including soaring temperatures and water scarcity, people are increasingly being forced to flee across international borders to seek refuge.

Yet climate migrants are not afforded refugee status under the 1951 Refugee Convention, which provides legal protection only to people fleeing persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or particular social group.

DEFINING CLIMATE MIGRATION

IDENTIFYING climate migrants is not easy, especially in regions rife with poverty, violence and conflicts.

While worsening weather conditions are exacerbating poverty, crime and political instability, and fueling tensions over dwindling resources from Africa to Latin America, often climate change is overlooked as a contributing factor to people fleeing their homelands.

According to the UNHCR, 90 percent of refugees under its mandate are from countries "on the front lines of the climate emergency."

In El Salvador, for example, scores each year leave villages because of crop failure from drought or flooding, and end up in cities where they become victims of gang violence and ultimately flee their countries because of those attacks.

"It's hard to say that someone moves just because of climate change. Is everyone who leaves Honduras after a hurricane a climate migrant?"

Elizabeth Ferris, a research professor at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "And then there are non-climate related environmental hazards—people flee earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis—should

"There is still this idea in the Global North [industrialized nations] that people come here because they are fleeing poverty and seeking a better life, the American Dream. In Europe, it's the same spin of the same story. But no one wants to leave their home. We've got to approach climate displacement as a human security issue and not a border security issue."

—AMALI TOWER, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE REFUGEES, AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOCUSED ON RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT PEOPLE DISPLACED BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

they be treated differently than those displaced by weather-related phenomena?"

Despite the challenges, it's vital that governments identify climate-displaced people, Ferris added.

"The whole definitional issue isn't a trivial question—how can you develop a policy for people if you aren't clear on who it applies to?" she wrote.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

WHILE no nation offers asylum to climate migrants, UNHCR published legal guidance in October 2020 that opens the door for offering protection to people displaced by the effects of global warming.

It said that climate change should be taken into consideration in certain scenarios when it intersects with violence, though it stopped short of redefining the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The commission acknowledged that temporary protection may be insufficient if a country cannot remedy the situation from natural disasters, such as rising seas, suggesting that certain climate displaced people could be eligible for resettlement if their place of origin is considered uninhabitable.

An increasing number of countries are laying the groundwork to become safe havens for climate migrants.

In May, Argentina created a special humanitarian visa for people from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean displaced by natural disasters to let them stay for three years.

Shortly after taking office, President Joe Biden ordered his national security adviser to conduct a months-long study that included looking at the "options for protection and resettlement of individuals displaced directly or

indirectly from climate change." A task force was set up, but so far the administration has not adopted such a program.

Low-lying Bangladesh, which is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, has been among the first to try to adapt to the new reality of migration. Efforts are underway to identify climate-resilient towns where people displaced by sea level rise, river erosion, cyclonic storms and intrusion of saline water can move to work, and in return help their new locations economically.

TRANSFORMING DEBATES ON MIGRATION

POLICY debates on migration have long centered on locking down borders. Climate change is changing that.

With hundreds of millions of people expected to be uprooted by natural disasters, there is growing discussion about how to manage migration flows rather than stop them, as for many people migration will become a survival tool, according to advocates.

"One problem is just the complete lack of understanding as to how climate is forcing people to move," said Amali Tower, founder and executive director of Climate Refugees, an advocacy group focused on raising awareness about people displaced because of climate change.

"There is still this idea in the Global North [industrialized nations] that people come here because they are fleeing poverty and seeking a better life, the American Dream. In Europe, it's the same spin of the same story. But no one wants to leave their home. We've got to approach climate displacement as a human security issue and not a border security issue."



Benguet miners seek gov't help in construction of retaining walls

Published July 29, 2022, 4:40 PM

[by Comanda Rizaldy C.](#)



JOHN Lantungan, president of the Luneta Miner's Association Inc. in Itoгон, Benguet, points to the area where a concrete retaining wall must be built.

ITOGON, Benguet – Residents of this town, mostly pocket miners, have asked the government for help in repairing and constructing concrete retaining walls on the banks of the Antamok River which will protect their livelihood against calamities.

More than 5,000 residents in Sitio Luneta, Barangay Loacan-Antamok, mostly miners who are members of the Luneta Miner's Association (LMA) Inc., made the appeal following last Wednesday's magnitude-7 earthquake.

Several parts of the decades-old concrete retaining wall collapsed in the earthquake. This was only one meter away from houses and poses great danger to the lives of the residents.

Residents also found some cracks in the foundation of a foot bridge which was built a few years ago.

"This is our problem especially during the rainy season, the large volume of water from the upstream river (Antamok) can completely destroy the hanging walls (rip-raps) causing widespread destruction in the community," said John Lantungan, president of the Luneta Miner's Association Inc.



Benguet miners seek gov't help in construction of retaining walls

Lantungan said they were no longer able to mine after the earthquake because of the constant aftershocks. He prohibited miners from performing any mining operation and entering the tunnel to avoid any disaster.

A few years ago, a public school in the community and several houses were damaged and many were injured when a combined mud and rock slide caused by a typhoon occurred.

A 13-hectare relocation site intended for the victims of the tragedy was offered by the government and Benguet Corp. but it was not fulfilled.

According to Ernesto Delia, one of the elders of the community, who also serves as an adviser to the LMA, residents in the area have been living for decades and mining is part of their lives.

He said this upcoming face-to-face class, one of their big problems is when open pit mining overflows with cascading water from the Antamok River and when the downstream no longer passable, school children and others cannot pass and no longer able to go to school.

"And when isolated, the supply of food and other basic needs is reduced. People in the area experienced difficulty in transporting patients with emergency cases," Delia said.



Coalition of small miners wants access to all kinds of minerals

BAGUIO CITY—Pocket or small-scale miners are pushing for changes in the People's Small-scale Mining Act (Republic Act No. 7076) to allow them to dig up all types of minerals found in accredited Minahang Bayan (People's Mines) to help them recover from income loss amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gil Indino, president of the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines, on Friday said over 500,000 small-scale miners in the country want the law to be more explicit about granting them the opportunity to extract every mineral that would put food on their tables.

Indino expressed the small-scale miners' aspiration during the coalition's third general assembly here that was attended by its members from the prov-

inces of Benguet, Davao de Oro, South Cotabato, Camarines Norte and Agusan del Sur.

The call was backed by the government's technical experts in the Soccsargen region, said Efrea Carido, the regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), noting that the areas to be opened up to small scale miners could include iron deposits "which are needed for industrialization."

The region, formerly called Central Mindanao, is composed of the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and the cities of General Santos, Cotabato, Koronadal, Tacurong and Kidapawan.

Mineralized areas

According to Section 11 of Executive Order No. 79, which was issued in 2012 by the late

President Benigno Aquino III to jumpstart reforms in the metals industry, "small scale mining shall not be applicable for metallic minerals except gold, silver and chromite, as provided for in RA 7076."

The law, which took effect in 1991 under the administration of Aquino's mother, the late Corason Aquino, defines "mineralized areas" as lands "with naturally occurring mineral deposits of gold, silver, chromite, kaolin, silica, marble, gravel, clay and (similar types of) mineral resources."

The coalition's set of proposed amendments and new provisions were scheduled to be tackled at the assembly's plenary on Friday night, said Arlene Honrade, a member of environmental group BAN Toxics and who serves as secretary

general of the coalition.

Honrade said the proposal would be transmitted to senators and congressmen who offered to sponsor the measure.

Skills, expertise

She acknowledged that some minerals may require specialized skills and that part of their proposal is for MGB to make their experts and resources available to all Minahang Bayan, particularly in conducting geological mapping and feasibility studies, so pocket miners can have access to commercial loans.

Currently, many of the small-scale mining sector's financiers belong to the black market, which absorbs most of the gold generated by small-scale mines that should have been sold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), as required

by RA 7076, said Honrade.

She said BAN Toxics has encouraged miners to sell to the BSP and help "build the country's gold reserves."

The most fundamental changes to the law, which the coalition is advancing are the inclusion of occupational safety and health features, and a prescription banning children and adolescents from being employed in the tunnels, Honrade said.

She said they would also push for a ban on dangerous chemicals like mercury, which was instituted in EO 79, and a redefinition of small-scale mining.

Legitimize

Although artisanal miners (workers who still use hammers and mortars to break through rocks) still exist, most small-scale workers have been oper-

ating with heavy equipment in the last few decades, said Alfredo Genetlao, chief of the MGB mine management division in the Cordillera.

Some pocket miners were former employees of large-scale mines and were familiar with modern extraction methods, said the MGB official, who said he used to be a pocket miner.

The coalition's main objective is for the government to legitimize all small-scale mining activities, which is not a commercial venture but their livelihood, the miners said.

Throughout the lockdown and subsequent quarantines in 2020 and 2021, most businesses were closed, so some people in Mindanao turned to pocket mining just to get by, said one of the mine leaders at the news conference. —VINCENT CARRERA/INQ



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30 JUL 2022
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LOGGERS TURN TOUR GUIDES IN SAMAR

THE JOBS
GENERATED
BY
SUSTAINABLE
AND ETHICAL
TOURISM
ACTIVITIES
ACT AS
ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
SAFETY NETS
FOR LOCALS
WHO MIGHT
OTHERWISE
TURN TO
ILLEGAL
MEANS TO
SUPPORT
THEIR
FAMILIES.

We're shooting through a wild, wild washing machine — paddling, cursing, laughing and getting absolutely crunched inside a torpedo-shaped canoe.

We're on the Ulot River, a 92-kilometer waterway which snakes its way across Samar. The third largest island in the Philippines, Samar is a rough country, hewn from limestone which over a millennia have been transformed into some of the most dramatic rock formations and cave systems in the Philippines, such as the Langun-Gobingob Complex.

Revenge tourism is a social phenomenon where people who have been stuck at home, often for months at a time, rush to tourist sites to appease their lockdown fatigue. With easing lockdown and flight restrictions, more and more tourist destinations are experiencing waves of visitors out to reexperience paradise — but what about the people who guide them? The people who themselves work in paradise?

"I used to help cut and transport logs illegally," Epifanio "Panying" Obidos, our boat guide shares. "Per generations,

we used traditional torpedo-shaped canoes called *balugo* to transport timber. We would get orders to cut down hardwood trees like *banuyo*, narra or *kamagong*. One *balugo* can transport over 100 board feet of wood."

Samar is among the poorest provinces in the country. In 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed that 45 percent or nearly half of all families in Samar lived below the poverty line.

"The hardest part was that





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Loggers Turn Tour Guides in Samar

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JNDF
EPIFANIO 'Panying' Obidos, father of two and an ecotourism guide for visitors to Samar's Ulot River, once worked to illegally cut down and transport logs. He now helps promote the Ulot River as a sustainable ecotourism site.



Wet and wild! The Ulot River adventure features 10 kilometers of roiling white-water rapids sandwiched between tranquil, picturesque waters. Participants can expect to get drenched time and again.

even when we'd risk run-ins with the law by transporting illegally-cut timber, we'd still have barely enough cash to survive. Often, we'd borrow money from financiers to buy gas and other provisions to transport the logs they ordered. Even after getting paid, we'd still be in debt," Panying recalls.

Things have steadily improved. Samar's poverty incidence dropped to 30 percent by 2018, mostly because of small businesses, one of which is the Ulot River Torpedo Extreme Boat Adventure, where boats go bow-to-bow with raging rapids.

"In 2008, to veer away from illegal activities, we started

using our torpedo-shaped *balago* for tourism to showcase the natural beauty of Samar. We mostly employed locals who formerly worked as illegal loggers or log handlers," Panying explains. "Back then we only had 12 people and a few old boats – but traversing rivers was a way of life for us, since we've been using them for transportation long before Samar's road network was developed."

"Now our once-small operation has over 20 boats and employs 70 local people," Panying beams.

In 2018, their group, Tour Guides and Boat Operators for River Protection and Environmental Development Organization was recognized by the Department of Tourism for its responsible, community-based operations.

The Ulot River is part of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), the country's largest land-based Protected Area (PA).

"The Philippines hosts 247 PA and practically all of them give locals employment,"

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau director Natividad Bernardino explains. The stories of many of these PA are similar to Panying's – of loggers turned into tour guides, hunters turned into rangers, blast fishers transformed into dive guides.

"For all this to continue, there must be a steady stream of clients," SINP superintendent Eires Mate points out. "The Covid-19 lockdowns hit the world's PA hard, generating all-time visitor revenue lows. Many people were laid off and operations were drastically scaled-down. With our parks again open for business, we invite adventurers to visit the Ulot River and our country's other beautiful PA."

Launched in May 2022, the Year of the Protected Areas, or YOPA, aims not just to educate people on the need to conserve PA, but to encourage them to visit the sites themselves. YOPA hopes to generate funds from tourists to ensure continued management for areas hard-hit by Covid-19 budget cuts.

Declaring natural sites as PA is among the best ways to protect natural capital.

"The jobs generated by sustainable and ethical tourism activities act as economic and social safety nets for locals who might otherwise turn to illegal means to support their families," United Nations Development Programme resident representative Selva Ramachandran says.

With illegal activities, nothing is certain – but with legal, safe and sustainable tourism, then there truly might be forever.

"You know, if not for ecotourism, I would most probably be dead," Panying reflects, as he quietly glide back to shore. "The authorities would have definitely caught me, like they caught others. I might have starved to death, been shot by the cops or been hauled off to jail."

"In a very real way, ecotourism saved my life."



Possession of chainsaw requires government registration

Dear PAO,

I intend to purchase a chainsaw to be used on my parents' farm in the province. I was told that I need to apply with the government for the registration of the chainsaw that I plan to buy. Is this really necessary even if the chainsaw will not be used for large scale logging? Is there really a law requiring such registration? We hope for your advice. God bless!



Name

Dear Nate,

To answer your question, we shall refer to Republic Act 9175 (RA 9175), known as the "Chain Saw Act of 2002." This law was passed as part of the policy of the State to regulate the ownership, possession, sale, transfer, importation, and/or use of chainsaws to prevent them from being used in illegal logging or unauthorized clearing of forests, among others. (Sec. 2)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Administrative Order 2003-24, which lays out the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9175. Under this IRR, only persons duly authorized by the DENR shall be allowed to purchase, transfer ownership, import, manufacture, and/or re-sell chainsaws. (Sec. 5) A certificate of registration will be issued by the DENR to qualified applicants, which shall serve as the permit to own, possess, and/or use the registered chainsaw. (Sec. 6,7)

For your information, the law defines chainsaw as referring to any portable saw or similar cutting implement rendered operative by an electric or internal combustion engine or similar means that may be used for, but is not limited to, the felling of trees or the cutting of timbers. (Sec. 3(a), RA 9175) Portable rotary lather, mobile/ portable band saw, wood chipper, wood mixer or wood edger are also included in the definition of chainsaws. (Sec. 1,

DENR Administrative Order 2018-09) As such, all chainsaws falling within the above-definition must be registered regardless of whether the same is new or secondhand, or the same will be used for large-scale logging or not.

To register a chainsaw, DENR Administrative Order

2003-24 requires an applicant to submit his/her application for registration to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) and pay a registration fee. The documentary requirements for the application of certificate of registration of chainsaws vary depending on the nature of its intended use and classification of the applicants such as for holders of timber license agreement, industrial tree farmers, licensed wood processors, and other persons who can prove that the use of chainsaw will be for legal purpose. (Sec. 8)

A certificate of registration of a chainsaw used for legitimate purpose shall be valid for two (2) years upon issuance, renewable for the same period. However, registration for non-commercial orchard and fruit tree farmers and similar entities whose line of business are not related to wood and/or timber production and trade shall be valid for a period of five (5) years and renewable for the same period thereafter. (Sec. 7)

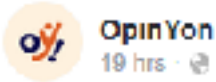
Lastly, it is important to note that the IRR provides for imposition of penalty in the form of a fine or imprisonment, or both, for the sale or purchase without the necessary permit and for unauthorized use of the chainsaw in addition to confiscation of unregistered chainsaw after due process. (Secs. 12-14)

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



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Legarda renews call for disaster preparedness programs

By OpinYon News Team

The 7.0-magnitude quake in northern Luzon should motivate the government to strengthen measures to mitigate damages from major disasters, Senator Loren Legarda stressed.

Read more

<https://opinyon.net/national/legarda-renews-call-for-disaster-preparedness-programs>

#disasters, #disasteriskreduction, #LorenLegarda



OPINYON.NET

Legarda renews call for disaster preparedness programs

The 7.0-magnitude quake in northern Luzon should motivate the government to strengthen measures to m...

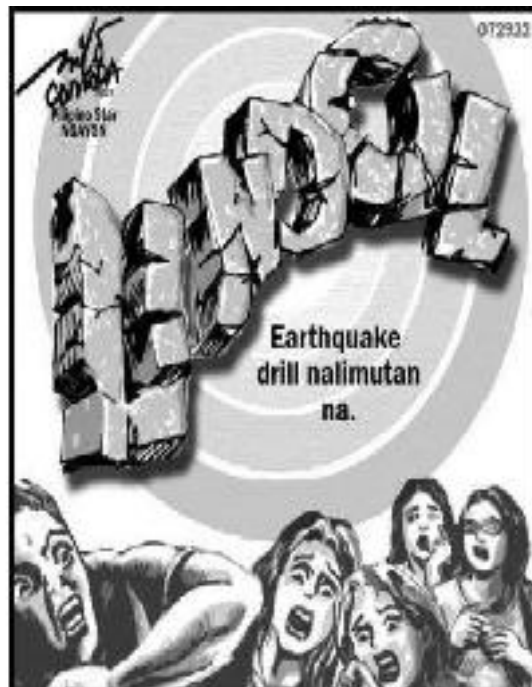
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EDITORIAL - Earthquake drill, idaos nang regular

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- July 29, 2022 - 12:00am



Lima ang namatay sa magnitude 7.0 na lindol na tumama sa mga probinsiya sa Hilagang Luzon noong Miyerkules ng umaga. Sa huling report, lima ang namatay at 60 ang nasugatan. Pinakamatinding tinamaan ang Abra na maraming nawasak na bahay, simbahan at nagkaroon ng landslides. Malakas din ang pagyanig sa Benguet, Baguio City, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Viscaya, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga at Bulacan. Bahagya namang naramdaman ang lindol sa Metro Manila, Cavite at Laguna.

Ang naganap na lindol ay nagpasariwa sa alaala ng malakas na lindol na naganap noong Hulyo 1990 na tinamaan din ang Northern Luzon. Maraming namatay nang gumuho ang mga gusali at isang hotel sa Baguio City.

Maraming nag-panic nang lumindol noong Miyerkules. Hindi alam ang gagawin. May babae uma-nong tumalon mula second floor ng bahay dahil sa pagkabigla sa lindol. Nakaligtas naman ang babae. Marami rin ang nag-unahan sa pagbaba sa ilang gusali. Mayroon ding gumamit ng elevator na hindi naman nararapat sa ganoong sitwasyon.

Ang huling malagim na lindol na naganap sa bansa ay noong Abril 2019 kung saan, 11 katao ang namatay. Grabeng tinamaan ng magnitude 6.1 na lindol ang Porac, Pampanga kung saan isang supermarket ang naguho. Nagpanic ang mga tao sa supermarket at hindi malaman kung saan susulong sapagkat hindi alam ang EXIT. Nagpapakita lamang na walang kahandaan ang mga tao sa pagtama ng lindol. At ang resulta, ang mga namatay ay hindi sa pagyanig namatay kundi nabagsakan at natabunan ng gumuhong istruktura.



EDITORIAL - Earthquake drill, idaos nang regular

Ang nangyaring lindol sa Hilagang Luzon ay nagpapaalala sa mga awtoridad para magdaos ng earthquake drill. Dati nang nagsasagawa ng regular earthquake drills sa Metro Manila subalit nakapagtataakang hindi na ito ginagawa ngayon. Nalimutan na ba ang banta ng "The Big One"? Ang Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang nangangasiwa sa earthquake drill bilang paghahanda sa malakas na lindol na tatama sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Mahalaga ang pagdaraos ng regular na earthquake drill at sana hindi lamang ito sa Metro Manila gawin kundi maging sa mga probinsiya. Nararapat maihanda ang mamamayan sa pagtama ng lindol. Hindi sila dapat mag-panic para makaiwas sa kamatayan.



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War on plastic waste makes headway in Negros

SPECIAL REPORT

(First of two parts)

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
@MariejoRamosINQ

BACOLOD CITY—It is easy to spot Lilian Gordoncillo's cafe, with its paintings of sea waves and whales on bright blue walls attracting passersby.

Her adopted home in Pink Nani-nani, Barangay Banago, is a high-density community like many other areas in this coastal capital of Negros Occidental province.

The 55-year-old Gordoncillo, a native of Zamboanga Del Norte, married a Negrense and settled here. She used to run a sari-sari store, but now manages a small "kapehan," or coffee shop, frequented by truck drivers at the harbor named after the barangay.

Having lived here long enough, she has observed a major problem in the community: Residents would often throw used plastic bags and other trash on the streets, which have caused clogged drainages and flooding.

Waste audit

In 2018, more than 1,200 volunteers of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI)—a group focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the whole of Negros Island—conducted 16 coastal cleanups in three cities and five municipalities.

PRRCFI also did a waste audit, or a study and classification of the garbage collected, of more than 3 metric tons of trash.

These endeavors were carried out under the foundation's Sea Waste Education to Eradicate Plastic (Sweep) program.

The audit results showed that plastic packaging for processed food, including thin plastics for ice and condiments, made up most of the trash collected in coastal cleanups.

In Banago, where Gordoncillo took part in the cleanup drive, the biggest chunk of waste collected—33 percent—were plastic bags commonly used in buying household items such as rice and vegetables from sari-sari stores.

"I thought, why is waste management not a big deal in our community? Although we have waste segregation policies, they are not addressing the source of

the problem," she said.



Although we have waste segregation policies, they are not addressing the source of the problem

Lilian Gordoncillo
Cafe owner, environmentalist

"Nothing wasted"

"Wala usik," or "nothing wasted," in the local language, Hiligaynon, is a familiar phrase to communities that have been involved in PRRCFI's Sweep program, and it refers to a grassroots-based effort to reduce single-use plastic waste in Negros.

The foundation also expressed concern about the local and global trends of fish decline, amid increasing plastic pollution in the world's oceans. According to the most dire forecast of that trend, there may be more plastic than fish in the sea by 2050.

Environmentalists warn that the current data already affirms that projection. In the Philippines, mismanaged plastic waste threatens the country's ecology and economy, PRRCFI said, as it noted that 80 percent



WAR ON plastic waste makes headway in Negros

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REDUCING WASTE 'N OUR OWN WAY' The Kapipat Café (left) in Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City, is one of several establishments that have been inspired by the efforts of Lillian Gordoncillo (above left) and other entrepreneurs to promote environmental awareness in their business ventures. Another establishment, Timplada Restaurant in Barangay 1, has a segregation system (above) that follows a waste program being pursued by a group monitoring garbage disposal and other environmental concerns in the whole of Negros Island. —PHOTOS BY MARIJO S. RAMOS

of plastic waste come from plastics used in "fast-moving consumer goods" such as toiletries, beverages and processed food.

Furthermore, at least 74,000 microplastic particles are ingested every year from the air people breathe, the water they drink and the food they eat, according to global movement Break Free from Plastic.

This situation has prompted the campaign here and abroad against the use of plastics to be more innovative in its approaches.

Problem solving

In Negros, the foundation's Sweep program, in partnership with US-led development agency US Agency for International Development (USAID), helped Gordoncillo and seven others to put up community-based "wala usik" sari-sari stores in the cities of Bacolod and Sigalay and the munic-

ipalities of Cauayan, Hinobanan and Sta. Catalina in Negros Occidental, and in the city of Bayawan, and the municipalities of Basay and Siaton in Negros Oriental.

Sari-sari stores have contributed to the proliferation of single-use plastic packages that go with many of their items. This led PRRCFI to do a bit of problem solving: Could these products be sold without their wrappings?

Gordoncillo's solution was to sell her products using dispensers and reusable containers. She said she was able to sell rice, coffee, condiments, detergent and other items with those implements.

She also collected used straws on the streets, sanitizing them and turning them into mats or pillow fillings "kesa magkakat lang sa kalsada (instead of leaving them littered on the streets)," she said.

Initial enthusiasm

Princess Bala-an, project manager of Sweep program's Wala Usik Economy component, said: "We put up Sweep stores in communities to show that it is the people who should call out the government on waste management and express their needs."

Storekeepers said their neighbors were initially open to the "wala usik" concept and were eager to try it.

But this initial enthusiasm soon gave way to old habits, as some customers became tired of having to sanitize and return the refillable containers lent to them for their purchases, or they would go back to buying the popular brands with single-use plastics.

These "wala usik" stores persisted for as long as they

could—until the COVID-19 pandemic forced them to close. The foundation estimated that the stores were able to prevent 45,000 pieces of plastic sachet waste from entering the ocean.

"We couldn't [keep these stores] obligated to the model of zero waste, especially if they're economically in crisis. And we also have to revisit our messaging on plastic use when, during the pandemic, people were dependent on it," said Dave Albao, PRRCFI executive director.

Gordoncillo said: "[W]e had to close [the stores because] no one buys from us, because people have no money to buy our goods, considering our environment here—many are living hand to mouth."

But she said: "As soon as I'm financially capable again, I will revive my 'wala usik' store. Even if we won't be able to totally eradicate plastic waste, at least, in our own way, we can reduce them."

Gov't support

But the small "wala usik" initiative had also eventually inspired restaurants, coffee shops and other establishments to adopt that idea.

"Building on the sari-sari store experience, we continue[d] our work with [other] stores, some of them ... *carinderia* (eateries), while we [used what we learned] into a technical implementing framework or a 'wala usik' guide for zero-waste models," Albao said.

But these efforts also need the government's support, said Aisel Moyani, herself a public official who heads the Green Business Development Sector of the Department of Trade and Industry office in Negros Occidental.

"With the green business development framework, we [guide the businesses on] how to limit their carbon emissions, carbon footprint, and then reducing environmental risks. We start with small steps," she said.

Yet even as that approach helps change "cultural behaviors," she also noted that "we still have issues [to resolve] with solid waste management." It pays to see the bigger picture first: Where are we coming from and where do we [go] to?" ■

Reporting for this story was supported by Internews' Earth Journalism Network.



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"Tumulong sa wastong pagtatapon ng basura" - Mayor Honey

NANAWAGAN si Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna sa mga residente ng lungsod na tumulong sa kanilang lokal na pamahalaan sa wastong pagtatapon ng basura upang maresolba ang pagbaha sa kabisa ng bukas.

Sinabi ni Lacuna na itatasa sa ibay ang Department of Public Services (DPS) na magagawa ng panuloy na declogging at paglilinis ng laral ng waterways upang maiwasan ang pagbaha.

Inatubos din ni Lacuna na paangiang makipagkaloos sa ankipaglocodasyon sa Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) kung saan samasailalim ang

hurisdiksiyon ng flood control program sa lungsod.

"Irista, saho ang taloy-talay na paglilinis ng mga estero para maiwasan ang pagbaha. Gandito ang continuous coordination with the MMDA na pag-aaralan ang mga pumping station pag may malakas na ulan and flash flooding," sabi ni Lacuna.

Ayon pa sa alcalde, ang declogging ng drainage at cleanup ng mga esteros ay ginagawa sa pakikipagkaloos ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Kaugua pa dito ay bininyag din ni Lacuna ang planong pag-upgrade sa

mga valve, partikular sa mga kalye na lumalabas sa mga kalye ng naitawanan nang ilaw ang mga national roads.

"Yun naman pong mga kalye na luma at inadequate na ang size ng drainage at yung ibay pong salyo na naitawanan sa paglilas ng mga national roads ay isinasama natin sa proposed upgrading, drainage improvement and emergency projects," ibigay pa ng alcalde.

Tinyak ni Lacuna na ginagawa ng pamahalaang lungsod ang lahat ng paraan upang matugunan ang mga problemang kinakaharap ng mga residente at motorists sa tawing may baha at makas sa bukas ng ulan.

(ANDI GARCIA)



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RIVER CLEANUP. Marikina City personnel remove water lilies and other debris stuck beside a portoon bridge at the Marikina Riverpark in Marikina City on Friday. **Joey O. Razon**



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SANITATION INFRA FOR PANAQUE ESTERO. West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad), together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the local government of Parañaque, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) recently broke ground to install a sewer interceptor line that will catch wastewater generated by communities along Estero de Tripa de Gallina, thus helping to reduce pollution load to waterways that drain out to Manila Bay. Besides installing this sewer line, Maynilad will also maintain, through regular desludging, the communal septic tank that the DENR and Parañaque LGU will construct for the use of more than 1,000 people living along the estero.



Pinoy driver creates robot out of recycled materials

Published July 29, 2022 9:53pm

A Filipino driver has created a small robot which can walk, talk, and "urinate" using mostly recycled materials.

According to Kuya Kim on Friday's "24 Oras," Friday, Omar Cruz, a driver from Taguig City, has long dreamed of having a toy robot.

This year, he made his dream a reality after finishing his very own robot named Well-O. The robot is a simple box-type with wheels, but it looks like it came out of a science fiction film.

"Self-studying lang ang ginawa ko. Ginawa ko siya nung 2016, nung March ko lang natapos. Halos wala akong ginastos dahil 80% made from scrap 'to," he said about his work.

("I made it by self-studying. I started building it in 2016, I finished it just in March. I spent almost nothing because this is 80% made from scrap.")

While Well-O is far from Japan's Gundams and other robots, Omar said he wants to improve his robot and add more functions.

"Gusto kong ipakita 'yung mga kaya kong gawin [I want to show what I can do]," he said.

The Department of Science and Technology is offering direct funding to aspiring Filipino inventors who wish to build their own robots and other gadgets.

"Ito ay naglalayong matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga innovative startups upang ma-translate ang kanilang early stage technologies into market-ready products," said Edward Apigo, Senior Science Research Specialist.

("This aims to provide the needs of innovative startups to translate their early stage technologies to market-ready products.")

—MGP, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/technology/839881/pinoy-driver-creates-robot-out-of-recycled-materials/story/?fbclid=IwAR0z6ybkC1SUKCLhVPoXuBjGDpq91IVWWhpJRJ-58uEMhzszuZJMWsIkZedA>



Peña: Another problem with microplastics

[Rox Peña](#)

July 29, 2022

MICROPLASTICS, small plastic pieces less than five millimeters in size, are everywhere. They have penetrated our food chain. Even the deepest part of the oceans has been contaminated by this menace. Hermit crabs, squat lobsters and sea cucumbers have been found to have ingested microplastics even at that depth and thousands of miles away from the land-sourced base of the pollution.

Microplastics have also been discovered in table salt and in supposedly clean products like bottled water and beer. A study published in the journal *Environmental Research* also found that fruits and vegetables absorb microplastics particles from the soil and translocate them through vegetal tissues where they remain until eaten, thus getting transferred to human bodies. The World Health Organization called for a further assessment of microplastics in the environment and their potential impacts on human health.

Now there's one more danger. In addition to the possible negative effect of the material itself, viruses can also hitchhike into microplastics and pose danger to human health. There are three separate studies done by universities in different countries on this potential health concern.

In the study done by the University of Stirling in Scotland, United Kingdom, scientists have proven for the first time that viruses can survive and remain infectious by binding themselves to plastics in freshwater. Rotavirus, which causes diarrhea and an upset stomach, was found to survive for up to three days in lake water by attaching itself to the surfaces of microplastics. Note that microplastics are so small that they could potentially be ingested by someone swimming.

Another research done by scientists at Rice University's George R. Brown School of Engineering in Houston, Texas found out that microplastics can contribute to anti-biotic resistance. Discarded polystyrene broken down into microplastics provides a home not only for microbes and chemical contaminants but also for the free-floating genetic materials that deliver to bacteria anti-biotic resistance. The study also showed chemicals leaching from the plastic as it ages increase the susceptibility of vectors to horizontal gene transfer, through which resistance spreads.

The third study was done by Tel Aviv University researchers and was published in the journal *Chemosphere*. It found that in a marine environment, microplastics absorb and concentrate toxic organic substances and thus increase their toxicity by a factor of 10, which may lead to a severe impact on human health.

In this study it was shown that even very low concentrations of environmental pollutants, which are non-toxic to humans, once adsorb to the microplastic result in significant increase in toxicity. This is because microplastics are a kind of 'magnet' for environmental pollutants, concentrating them on its surfaces, 'ferrying' them through the digestive tract, and releasing them in a concentrated form in certain areas, thus causing increased toxicity.



Peña: Another problem with microplastics

With all these research pointing to the danger of plastic pollution, it's time to take drastic actions. I hope that congress will finally pass the plastics regulation bill that was approved by the lower house in the previous administration but did not make it into a law.



Data scientist calls coal power unreliable, backs 'flexible' renewables

July 28, 2022 | 8:58 pm



PEXELS-PIXABAY

RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) plants can be counted on to reliably service power demand more than coal-fired facilities, even though RE is saddled with a reputation for being intermittent because of the variability of solar and wind sources, a data scientist representing the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) said on Thursday.

In a virtual forum hosted by the Department of Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Jephraim Manansala, chief data scientist of the ICSC, called coal “unreliable” and that it is time for the Philippines to shift to renewables and wean itself from depending on coal, which is “unreliable” and not sufficiently flexible.

“When we have too many baseload power plants (powered by coal), we will have too much power when we do not need it and not enough when we do. What we need is flexible generation to have enough power whenever we need it,” Mr. Manansala said.

He noted that the Philippines is rich in wind and solar resources, and needs to focus on distributed energy generation to achieve the desired flexibility.

The Department of Energy estimates that the Philippine power mix is 47% coal-fired. Natural gas accounts for 22% and renewables 24%, including hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar. Oil-based sources account for 6.2%. — Ashley Erika O. Jose

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064329023551/posts/pfbid02k27MxwVhea8HjkX1sWrWR A4h9Tc5aFY9SvzHwT8LsLGLctZz9BHq4dxzoYcJCN8fl/?app=fbl>



Pantabangan Dam, other irrigation facilities in Nueva Ecija safe

By Marilyn Galang July 29, 2022, 5:36 pm



PANTABANGAN DAM. The mammoth Pantabangan dam and other irrigation facilities within the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), were spared from damage of the magnitude 7.0 quake that hit most parts of northern Luzon. This was based on the initial assessment made by the field engineers. *(Photo courtesy of NIA-UPRIIS)*

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija – The mammoth Pantabangan dam and other irrigation facilities within the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), were spared from damage by the magnitude 7.0 quake that hit most parts of northern Luzon.

This was based on the initial assessment made by the field engineers as instructed by UPRIIS department manager Rosalinda B. Bote.

These facilities include Masiway Dam in Pantabangan (under Dam and Reservoir Division), Tayabo Dam in San Jose City, Torre and Cojuangco dams in Talavera, Macanae Dam in Lupao (Division I); Vaca Da in Llanera, Murcon in Talavera, Rizal Dam in Rizal (Division II), Atate and Aulo dams in Palayan City, Upper Tabuating Dam in Gen. Tinio (Division III); and Peñaranda dam in Peñaranda (Division IV).

Bote, however, said that further site inspection and evaluation of the dam and its appurtenant structures, irrigation facilities, and office buildings along with other in-progress rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure projects, are being conducted.

"Initial analysis on data are categorized as intensity IV, perceived shaking as light," she said in an interview on Friday.

Bote instructed all UPRIIS engineers to strictly monitor the dams and major irrigation facilities so as not to impede the delivery of irrigation water.



Pantabangan Dam, other irrigation facilities in Nueva Ecija safe

Meanwhile, the proposal to put up an aquaculture park in the Pantabangan dam is now underway.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), as well as other concerned agencies and the local government of Pantabangan, have conducted a meeting on the harmonization of operational guidelines on the proposed aquaculture park.

BFAR Regional Director Wilfredo Cruz said among the issues discussed during the meeting were the proposed guidelines of operation, activities, and structures to be allowed, technical conditions to be followed as well as the requirements to be submitted by technical users and other pertinent matters.

He said most issues were settled and all agency representatives agreed to make adjustments at their end and to come up with one unified manual for the users.

Once harmonized and finalized, Cruz said this will be presented to the Protected Area Management Board for review.

Pantabangan Dam is a multi-purpose dam mainly used for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation for the rice fields of the province but nearby communities have also made a living out of fishing in the reservoir.

Considered one of the largest in Southeast Asia and one of the cleanest in the Philippines, the construction of the dam began in 1971 and was inaugurated in 1977 by then President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos. (PNA)



Lawmaker seeks better water services

A PARTY-LIST representative has refiled two bills that would establish new agencies to oversee the responsible use and management of the country's water resources.

Ragong Henerasyon Rep. Bernadette Herrera filed House Bill (HB) 1013 and 1014, which respectively propose to establish the Water Regulatory Commission (WRC) and the Department of Water, Sewage and Sanitation (DWSS).

Herrera said that the two measures will assist the country in providing all Filipinos with access to sanitary facilities and safe, sufficient, cheap and sustainable water services.

"The Philippines is a water-

rich country, yet despite an overflowing capital, many Filipinos experience deprivation from affordable, safe drinking water and a working sanitation system," Herrera said.

"The perennial problem has seriously affected the lives of our citizens in terms of health, sanitation, food security and livelihood, in addition to negatively impacting the environment," she added.

HB 1013, or the "Water Regulatory Act," seeks to simplify the financial and administrative control of water companies by creating the WRC, a separate, quasi-judicial agency.

Its duties also include issuing permits; setting, evaluating, and approving rates; reviewing and suspending contracts; and starting investigations against corrupt officials due to its quasi-judicial position. It also sets policies for water supply, sewerage and sewage management.

"The WRC can be empowered to level the playing field for both consumers and service providers and can be authorized to penalize the franchise holders for prolonged and large-scale service interruptions," Herrera said.

HB 1014 seeks to streamline the management of water, sewage, and sanitation resources

through the establishment of the DWSS.

The DWSS is responsible for establishing the guidelines for water supply, sewage management and septic disposal. It also oversees the management of the country's water resources to ensure their best use, including the preservation of both water and land.

It also builds, maintains, and checks on water-related infrastructure to ensure its quality and accessibility, participates in international discussions about policies to achieve universal access to water and sanitation.

MOISES CRUZ



Pilipinas top 7 sa 'best snorkeling destination' sa mundo, sabi ng pag-aaral

(Philstar.com)

- July 29, 2022 - 2:00pm



Tourists walk along a beach on the Philippine island of Boracay on October 25, 2018. The Philippines re-opens its crown jewel resort island Boracay to holidaymakers on October 26, after a six-month clean up aimed at repairing the damage inflicted by years of unrestrained mass tourism.

MANILA, Philippines — Kinilala ang Pilipinas bilang ikapitong best snorkeling destination sa buong mundo, base sa isang pag-aaral.

Sa [report](#) na isinagawa ng Bounce, isang kumpanya ng luggage storage, nagkasa sila ng pananaliksik sa dagat sa buong mundo at sinuri ang kanilang coral reef areas, bilang ng species ng isda at mga available na snorkeling tour na silang magiging basehan para makapasok sa naturang kategoriya.

Dagdag pa rito, sinuri rin ang iba pang salik tulad ng porsyento ng global plastic waste emission at sea temperature.

"The sea is one of the most beautiful views in the world. Exploring under the ocean is even more spectacular. There are stunningly bright coral reefs to swim through and excitingly unique animals to discover," saad nila sa kanilang website noong ika-18 ng Hulyo.



Pilipinas top 7 sa 'best snorkeling destination' sa mundo, sabi ng pag-aaral

"Snorkeling allows us to recreationally observe and explore the alien worlds just under the ocean surface and it can also leave us with some lifelong memories."

Makikita ang mga pinakasikat na snorkeling destination sa bansa sa Palawan, Cebu, Batangas, Bohol, atbp.

Sa ginawang pananaliksik, nakakuha ang Pilipinas ng 36.38% sa global plastic waste emission at 3.03 sea temperature spread dahilang para makakuha ang bansa ng 6.69/10 score sa kanilang snorkeling rating.

Samantala, nanguna naman sa naturang listahan ang Australia na nakakuha ng 8.23 snorkeling rating.

Pasok din sa Top 10 ang bansang Maldives, United States of America, Cuba, Bahamas, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Fiji, at Micronesia. — PhilStar.com intern Vivienne Audrey Angeles



Palawan a model island for green energy, eco-industrial park dev't – DOST-MIMAROPA

Published July 29, 2022, 3:20 PM

[by Dhel Nazario](#)

The Province of Palawan was promoted as a model island for green energy and eco-industrial park development in a recently-conducted forum organized by the Department of Science and Technology – MIMAROPA (DOST-MIMAROPA).



El Nido is a municipality on Palawan Island. It is one of the most popular destinations in the Philippines thanks to its absolutely stunning islands and beaches. (Photo by Erwin Lim, courtesy of the Department of Tourism)

The forum dubbed as “Island Green Energy Eco-Industrial Park Development Planning Masterclass Series: Second Session”, the activity, was conducted in collaboration with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and the Western Philippines University (WPU) in a hybrid setup at the Municipal Lagoon, Brgy. Maranggass, Bataraza, Palawan and via ZOOM.

“As an island for green energy, Palawan will showcase and utilize cleaner, sustainable, and environment-friendly technologies and practices that will help in attracting investors and visitors in the province,” DOST-MIMAROPA said.

According to the agency, the second session of the said masterclass series focused on the Fundamentals of Green Energy Resource Mapping, Introduction to Eco-Industrial Park Development Planning, Fundamentals of Technology Management in the Context of Eco-Industrial Park Development, and the Palawan Island Power Development Plan 2014-2035.



Palawan a model island for green energy, eco-industrial park dev't – DOST-MIMAROPA

It was attended physically by 13 participants from Palawan State University (PSU), WPU, Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Municipal Planning Development Office of Bataraza (MPDO-Bataraza), PEZA, and Municipal Economic Enterprise Development Office of Bataraza (MEEDO_Bataraza); and virtually by 21 participants from WPU, Department of Energy (DOE), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), TUP-Manila, and TUP-Visayas.



Representatives from PSTC-Palawan, Palawan State University, Western Philippines University Provincial Government of Palawan, and LGU-Bataraza during the forum on "Island Green Energy Eco-Industrial Park Development Planning Masterclass Series: Second Session" (Photo courtesy of DOST-MIMAROPA)

The masterclass series is composed of five phases or sessions which will serve as preparation for the formulation of a project concept paper for the use and reference of the adopters, agents, and enablers of green energy and eco-industrial park development in the country.

The other four sessions are designed for other areas in Palawan that have the potential to engage and adopt the green energy and eco-industrial park framework. The first session was held in El Nido on June 22. Sessions include discussions on geoeconomics endowments and sociocultural characteristics of Palawan, Palawan energy and power demand and supply forecasts, fundamentals of green and smart energy, and managing green power technology.

The third to the fifth session that will fortify the strategies of promoting Palawan as a model island for green energy and eco-industrial park development will be conducted in Puerto Princesa City and San Vicente, Palawan this coming September to October 2022.



Masungi Georeserve

10 hrs · 🌐

JINGGONY COMMENDS HARD WORK, PASSION OF MASUNGI RANGERS [via Senate of the Philippines, July 28, 2022]

A resolution commending and congratulating the internationally renowned Filipino forest rangers of Masungi Georeserve in Ifiral for their exemplary dedication in service has been filed by Sen. Jinggony Estrada.

"It's only but appropriate that we pay tribute to these remarkable Filipinos for bringing pride and honor to the country, for their extraordinary passion, commitment and courage in protecting forests and conservation sites, endangered wildlife and their habitats," Estrada said in Senate Resolution No. 511.

The Masungi-Hayog Ranger Team of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation were among the awardees of the second International Ranger Awards presented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in a hybrid ceremony held in Kigali, Rwanda last July 20, 2022.

The Philippine team, represented by Kulkam Maas, John Paul Magana, and Monica Inoceng, were among the 12 winners in the IUCN-WCPA International Ranger Awards this year.

Maas, who hails from Cotabato, has survived a gunshot wound in the neck following an armed attack believed to have been perpetrated by illegal resort owners encroaching in the area in April last year. Magana and Inoceng, on the other hand, have been subjected to physical and legal intimidation, and received threats to their lives and safety to discourage them from performing their jobs.

"Despite all these risks, they remain steadfast and unbrained in their advocacy and vocation. These guardians and patrollers of the Upper Mankins River Basin Protected Landscape against illegal encroachment and destruction have demonstrated exceptional resilience and dedication to duty despite harsh working conditions, personal discrimination, intimidation and violence," Estrada said.

In seeking Senate commendation for the three forest protectors, Estrada said the State recognizes the important role of forest rangers, environment defenders and conservation advocates in looking after and taking care of nature and its resources, as such are essential elements not only in economic growth and inclusive development but most importantly, in human survival.

http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2022/0728_estrada2.asp



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/masungigeoreserve/posts/pfbid0LCPJC1VHMABDJoDQdqGDArR9bGeuf1SqDKNqXuxdkDoSLBXwxUTApK5FazGBTxpl>



PBBM suportado ng socmed group vs anti-corruption

Nagpahayag ng suporta kay Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos ang grupo ng social media practitioners upang labanan ang talamak na problema ng graft and corruption sa pamahalaan.

Sa ginanap na Kapitan sa Manila Hotel, sinabi ni Kapitan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas, Incorporated (KSMBPI), chairman Dr. Michael Raymond Aragon na handa silang tulungan si Pangulong Marcos na sugpuin ang katwalian sa larangan.

Blang tulong sa pahayag ni Sen. Fisa Hontiveros, sinabi ni Aragon na bukas ang kanilang samean na tulungan si Marcos sa solusyon ang malawakang katwalian sa ilang tanggapan ng gobyerno.

Git ni Aragon, malaki ang natutulong ng mass media upang ibunyag ang katwalian at mapanatag ang may sala.

Hindi maikakaila na malaking tulong ang social media kaya plano rin nilang kumaha at magsanay ng mga mamamahayag sa barangay level na maglalathang watchdog.

"If the corrupt can pay-off the influence of a few surely they can not afford to buy out millions of the social media citizenry watching over and protecting our national treasury versus corruption", ani Aragon.

Ipinalitanag naman ni KSMBPI president at veteran radio reporter Andy Vital na nabuo ang organisasyon noong 2017 upang labanan ang fake news at iburo ang tamang peraan ng pagbabalita. (Ludy Dermudo)



Editorial

Dapat maputol ang katiwalian

GINANAP ang unang State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. noong Lunes. Mahigit isang oras siyang nagtalumpati. Marami siyang prayoridad na batas na kinabibilangan ng Budget Modernization Bill, Tax Package 3: Valuation Reform Bill, Department of Water Resources Act, Internet Transaction Act, E-Government Act, National Land Use Act, Medical Reserve Corps Act, Bill on Mandatory ROTC at marami pang prayoridad na batas na ayon sa presidente ay malaki ang matutulong sa pag-usage ng bansa.

Pero sa haba ng kanyang talumpati, wala siyang nabanggit ukol sa mga gagawing hakbang upang maputol ang namamayaniing korapsiyon sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan. Wala siyang naihayag kung paano lutusin ang walang katapueang pag-kekemal ng pera ng mga "buwaya" sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan. Hindi siya nagbanta sa mga gagawa ng katiwalian.

Kabilang sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan na talamak ang nagaganap na korapsiyon ay ang Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Department of Education, Department of Agriculture at marami pa.

Dago manumpa si Marcos noong Hunyo 30, umalingasaw ang katiwalian sa BOC at Department of Agriculture dahil sa smuggling ng gulay at iba pang agri products. Magkakutsaba ang mga taga-BOC at DA sa agri smuggling. Ang katiwalian sa DA ang isa marahil sa dahilan kaya si Marcos ang namuno rito.

Talamak rin ang katiwalian sa Bureau of Immigration (BI). Hindi pa natatagalan nang kasuhan ng katiwalian ang 30 opisyal ng BI dahil sa "pastillas scam".

Sinabi minsan ni Marcos na tututukan ng kanyang administrasyon ang BOC at BIR sapagkat ang mga tanggapan ito ang nangungulekta ng buwis. Tama ang kanyang hakbang sapagkat kapag nabigo sa koleksiyon, apektado ang bansa.

Sana may narinig sa kanyang talumpati na nagbababala sa mga tiwali para naman mapanatag ang kalooban ng mamamayan. Masarap pakinngan na may glyera ang pamahalaan laban sa mga korap.



Strategic
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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30 JUL 2022

DATE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CHIT U. JUAN

Taking it slow

When people hear about Slow Food, they think it's about slow cooking and use of recipes for a slow stew or a *titola*. These recipes using native chicken that need a lot of boiling and stewing due to its inherent muscular toughness are chickens that are free range or roam freely. In a way, slow food may include such native fowl as these are now endangered and need to be exposed to be saved from extinction. Yes, these native breeds are being replaced by foreign species that can lay eggs on command, grow to full size in 21 days instead of 55-60 days. And that's a scary thought – losing our native species of fowl and other animals.



Due to increased imports of food like chicken, pork and beef, our local farmers are no longer interested in saving native varieties like our native chicken, local yellow cattle and wild black pigs. This is what we advocate in the Slow Food movement (www.slowfood.com). We need to preserve food cultures, traditions and ingredients that are originally ours and not introduced varieties.

Have you seen local cattle? They are slim, small but resilient against extreme weather conditions. How about black pigs or the local variety and not the Japanese *kumbuta*? They eat mostly vegetables, roam around the farm and are not the white mestizo kind we often see in crowded piggeries or small piggens. We need to save these species if we are to preserve our food culture.

At our recent Slow Food Congress held in Pollenzo, Italy, about 50 councilors representing about 160 countries, indigenous peoples and the youth discussed how to communicate these worrisome conditions of food around the world. We are losing original heirloom species to hybrids that yield more and whose intellectual property are now mostly owned by private companies, not by farmers or indigenous groups. If we must really address climate change and food insecurity we must go back to basics: Biodiversity, Education and Advocacy.

Biodiversity. Let's go back to how Nature intended it to be. We had many kinds of plants and animals that co-existed and allowed the planet to be a cool and productive one. We had many fish species, a lot of diverse kinds of flora and fauna. That is a biodiverse world that evolves but preserves original species. And we were OK until man started to be greedy, started to mess with natural food and started to think of yields and scale. That is how the problem started: modified plant species to yield more to feed our growing global population. Everyone harped on food security as a reason to make hybrids, "better" seeds and simply tampered with Nature for personal gain. Look what happened. This is probably the most food insecure time we presently are in.

Education. We must teach our children where food comes from. We should use different media to reach the young as they are our hope to return food systems to what were natural and pristine. We must preserve food traditions innate to cultures – how to use bamboo pith, banana trunks and coconut for many recipes to feed our people. We can look around and stop importing processed and adulterated food.

Children must know how to tend gardens for real food security as we did in the past. Let us bring back school gardens and backyard plots to know where our food comes from. This must be our Department of Education (DepEd)'s role: teach food security to get our demographic sweet spot working on the future of food. Our population is young, a condition which we can leverage on—teach the young how to grow food and not be dependent on imported food.

And finally, **Advocacy.** We must be relentless in our desire to help our elected officials lead in preserving biodiversity, in promoting laws for food security and including education of the young about good, clean and fair food production. We can start with the smallest unit of the government, which is our own barangay or village. And also start in the smallest social unit which is the family.

I see comments on Facebook about those who still believe that inorganic fertilizers are important. Until the government changes its policies on agriculture, it will always be an uphill battle for organic practitioners. The agriculture department is aware about organic food production and this pandemic is helping us fast track conversion to more eco-friendly ways. How? With fuel prices ever-increasing, petroleum-based fertilizers will be more expensive, too. This may force our farmers to make their own inputs and not be dependent on imported chemicals and fertilizers.

So ultimately, this pandemic is actually helping us go back to how Nature intended it to be. The Universe used this pandemic to make us go back to old ways of farming, old ways of securing our food supply and avoiding our exposure to harmful chemicals and pesticides. With the peso devaluation it will become more expensive to use imported inputs, too.

The pandemic disrupted supply chains and prevented long chains that used more fuel and caused fruits to be picked when still unripe due to the long distance it has to travel. So now we are forced to look for suppliers closer to our point of use. We are learning to buy local and support our local farmers and producers. We may soon be eating better fruits picked when ripe or in season. Vegetables that will survive will be the local sturdy ones vs vegetables that are geared for temperate climates. We can go back to eating healthier *kangkang*, *talbos ng kamote* and *malunggay* – and this is food security.

The world is in a state of flux with economics in a topsy-turvy mode. The best way to meet these challenges is to take it slow. Go back to Slow Food. Go back to local food. And let Nature take its course, slowly but surely.



Flooded NoCot town placed under state of calamity

By John Andrew Tabugoc July 29, 2022, 5:49 pm



Google map of Kabacan, North Cotabato.

KABACAN, North Cotabato — The town government here has placed the entire municipality under a state of calamity as floods caused by inclement weather damaged PHP13 million worth of crops.

David Don Saure, the municipal disaster risk reduction management officer, said the declaration was based on the resolution submitted by the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC).

The series of flash floods brought by the rainy season has spoiled PHP13.6 million worth of valuable crops in several low-lying villages here.

Based on data, 424 hectares of rice fields of 383 farmers were damaged by floods.

"It also forced some 2,117 families to temporarily vacate their houses and find shelter at the evacuation center for safety," Saure said.

The affected villages include Cuyapon, Lower Paatan, Magatos, Kilagasan, Bannawag and Kayaga.

Saure assured that the LGU has enough disaster funds to provide for the necessities of families affected and interventions for farmers to overcome their financial losses.



Flooded NoCot town placed under state of calamity

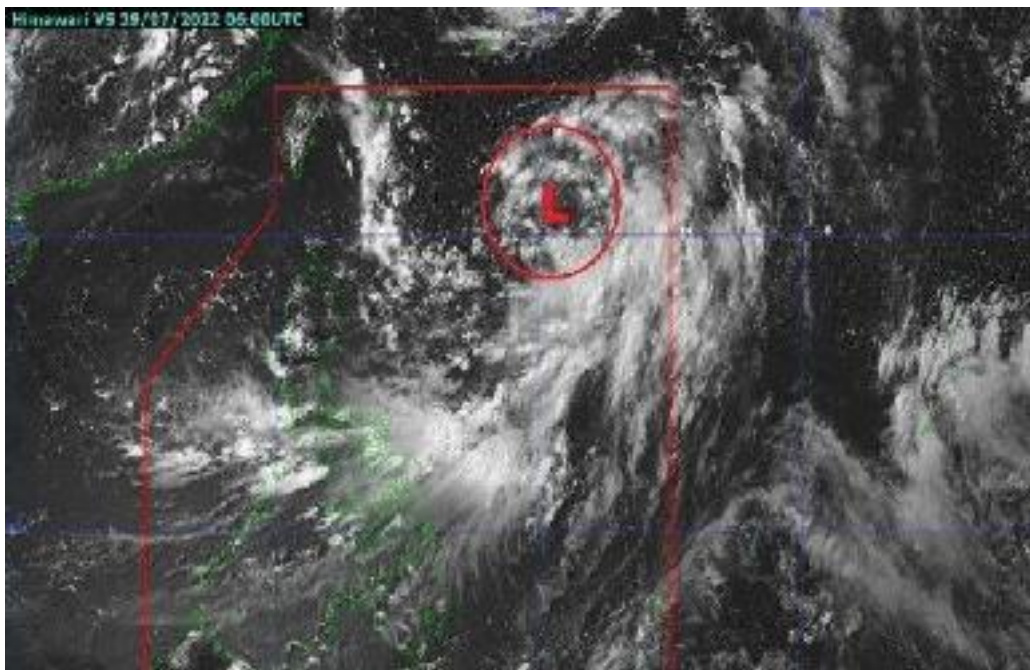
"We have coordinated with the Department of Agriculture to assess these farmers and to give appropriate assistance," he said.

The mayor is also set to meet the affected families and residents in flood-prone areas to discuss their possible proposed relocations. (PNA)



LPA lumakas, ganap nang naging bagyong 'Ester' sa silangan ng Luzon

Philstar.com)
- July 29, 2022 - 11:49am



Satellite image ng bagyong "Ester" sa silangan ng Extreme Northern Luzon, ika-29 ng Hulyo, 2022

MANILA, Philippines (Updated 3:22 p.m.) — Ganap nang naging Tropical Depression Ester ang isang low pressure area sa gawing silangan ng Luzon, ito ilang araw lang matapos tamaan ng magnitude 7.0 na lindol ang Cordillera at Rehiyon ng Ilocos.

Bandang 2 p.m., Biyernes, nang tuluyan itong maging bagyo sa loob ng Philippine area of responsibility sa silangan ng Extreme Northern Luzon.

"At 2:00 PM today, the Low Pressure Area east of Extreme Northern Luzon developed into Tropical Depression #EsterPH," ayon sa weather advisory ng state meteorologists ngayong umaga.

"Tropical Cyclone Bulletins will be issued starting at 5:00 PM today."

Una nang sinabi ng PAGSA na ang pinagsamang epekto ng noo'y LPA at Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) ay magdadala ng kalat-kalat hanggang katamtaman at minsanang pag-ulan at thunderstorms sa:



LPA lumakas, ganap nang naging bagyong 'Ester' sa silangan ng Luzon

- CALABARZON
- MIMAROPA
- Metro Manila
- Bicol Region
- Samar Provinces
- Zambales
- Bataan
- Antique

Dahil dito, posibleng makaranas ng kalat-kalat na pagbaha at ilang pagguho ng lupa dulot ng ulan, lalo na sa mga lugar na "highly" o "very highly susceptible" sa mga panganib na ito batay sa hazard maps at sa ilang lugar na may significant antecedent rainfall.

Patuloy namang maglalabas ang PAGASA Regional Services Divisions ng thunderstorm at rainfall advisories batay sa pangangailangan.

"The public and disaster risk reduction and management offices concerned are advised to take all necessary measures to protect life and property," patuloy pa ng PAGASA kanina.

Miyerkules lang nang [gumuho rin ang lupa, mawasak ang ilang kabahayan, imprastruktura at magbitak-bitak ang daan](#) sa probinsya ng Abra at ilang lugar sa Ilocos, parehong nasa hilagang bahagi ng Pilipinas, dulot ng nagdaang lindol. — James Relativo



MONKEYPOX REACHES PH; DOH TURNS TO US FOR JABS

REPORT BY KATHLEEN DE VILLA AND NILES LORCORRALES

FROM A1

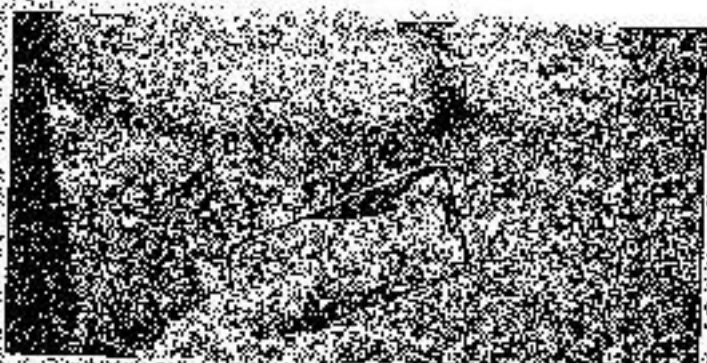
By Kathleen de Villa
and Niles Corrales
@Palm-Inquirer

The Department of Health (DOH) reported the first monkeypox case in the Philippines on Friday and officials said they were trying to obtain vaccines and medicines against the viral disease from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The 37-year-old Filipino who returned from abroad early on July 19 had already recovered but was still isolating at home according to health Undersecretary Beverly Bin. She said 10 people identified as close contacts, including three from the patient's household, had been ordered to quarantine.

The person had previously traveled to countries with documented monkeypox cases, she added without elaborating.

Around 20 countries where monkeypox is not endemic have reported outbreaks and confirmed cases topped 20,000, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) on July 23 to declare a global health emergency. WHO reported the deaths from Jan. 1 to July 22



GLOBAL EMERGENCY A man in New York who has recovered from monkeypox shows scars from rashes on his skin in a photo taken July 19. Lower photo shows a vial of the Imvanex vaccine used to protect against monkeypox at a special center in Paris, France, on July 27. —AP/WIDEWORLD



This Philippine case was confirmed positive on Thursday, and his close contacts had not shown any symptoms. He said an infected person would have a chickenpox-like rash or sores on his skin and also experience flu-like symptoms.

He said the DOH was planning to get a compassionate

special permit (CSP) for monkeypox vaccines and medicines.

She told reporters on Thursday that the DOH was in constant communication with its counterparts and USAID to secure jabs and medicines for monkeypox.

These vaccines would only be for a select population group that is most at risk in contracting the disease.

It's not like COVID that all of us need to be vaccinated, Ho said.

Mode of treatment

The main mode of treatment, she said, was still supportive therapy. This involves relieving symptoms to prevent one patient's condition from worsening.



MONKEYPOX IN PH: 1ST CASE FOUND

FROM A2

The medicines will come in handy just in case the case is not a simple one, HRT said.

During a briefing at Malabon on Friday, the health official said current regulations for emergency use of vaccines and medicines covered only COVID-19. Vaccines for monkeypox would have to get a CSP from the Food and Drug Administration so these could be used as soon as possible, she said.

After disease was detected in countries where it was not endemic in early May, the DOH issued interim technical guidelines for monkeypox surveillance, screening, management and infection control.

This was followed by the creation of the Philippine Inter-agency on Committee on Zoonosis (PHICZ) chaired by the DOH with the departments of Environment and Agriculture as members.

By June, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), which had been designated as the national laboratory, was able to optimize its testing force to detect monkeypox virus.

But the RITM said that it would process only those that satisfy the definition of a suspect monkeypox case — one who has skin rashes accompanied by fever, intense headache, lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes), back pain, myalgia (muscle aches) and intense asthenia (lack of energy).

Sexual contact

The DOH guidelines on the management of monkeypox, which is used by health-care providers and local governments to follow, insist that those responsible to locate, advise and report suspected cases of monkeypox rule out other disease and test for the virus; treat symptoms and isolate for 21 days; advise households and establishments on common public health standards; and increase monkeypox awareness with verified information.

Health authorities say that disease transmission can occur through contact with skin lesions caused by the virus, as well as body fluids, large respiratory droplets and contaminated bedding.

"Our public health surveillance systems are in place. But we all need to work together. We need also the public to be vigilant," Ho said.

Based on what we know about monkeypox, there is a very clear need to be more careful about who we interact with, particularly sexual intimate contact," she said.

Press Secretary Tina Cruz Angeles said the "primary concern" of President Marcos was



Date:

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Amignol Monkey fox rearing Pit

getting information on so that people would be aware.

Countries where monkeypox is not endemic but with confirmed cases include China, India, Europe, seven in the Middle East and Africa, and 18 in the Americas.

Monkeypox is a disease that is zoonotic or one that can be transmitted from animals. Animals associated with it are squirrels, African dormouse, Gambian pouched rat and sooty mangabey.

It is endemic in the African nations of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

Not hard to handle

Dr. Romgene Solante, head of San Lazaro Hospital's highly infectious diseases unit, told the inquirer that the disease was not too difficult to handle because it was not as complicated as COVID-19.

"Our experience with COVID will help us in terms of room allocations for isolation and clinical management diagnosis but there are important points that we need to know about this monkeypox and why it is not difficult to handle," Solante said.

"Most patients will only have mild to moderate symptoms, mostly skin lesions," he said.

Caring for patients needed lesser use of equipment for large COVID-19 like mechanical ventilators. Monkeypox patients may not isolate themselves at home and may not need hospital treatment, he added.

But Solante said more effort should be given to building health care capacity or detection and treatment such as expanding testing capacity and including specialty centers like clinics for sexually-transmitted diseases (STD), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and dermatology to administer patient care and treatment.

"[The] effective outbreak is 10 percent are from who have sex with men and the most common transmission is an STD-like skin lesions," Solante said.

He also emphasized the need to raise awareness to prevent stigma and discrimination among gay men who are the segment of population most affected in the ongoing global outbreak.

In a statement on Friday, the DOH said an investigation of recent cases indicated "essential transmission through sexual contact."

Minimize close sexual contact with suspected cases, especially those with visible sores or open wounds. Keep hands clean. Wear a face mask and cover coughs using the elbow, and choose areas with good airflow. Avoid

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Monkeypox

The World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency on July 23.



A member of the Orthopoxvirus genus, which includes smallpox.

Origins

First identified in humans in 1970 in DR Congo.

Most historic cases reported from rainforest regions of the Congo Basin.



Mostly transmitted to people from wild animals such as rodents and primates.



Person-to-person transmission possible by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials.

Not considered to be highly contagious between people

Current outbreaks

As of July 27

- More than 18,000 confirmed cases reported to WHO
- In 78 countries across 5 WHO regions

WHO removed the distinction between endemic and non-endemic countries on June 23.

Previously non-endemic countries with confirmed cases

Previously considered endemic

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found 98% of infected people were gay or bisexual men and 95% of cases were transmitted through sexual activity.

But transmission can occur via any close physical contact and could affect anyone.

Source: ECDC, WHO, UNICEF

Photo: iStockphoto.com, S. Goldsmith / Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



30 JULY 2022, Saturday



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NCR positivity rate increases to 14.5%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 29, 2022, 2:58 pm



MANILA – The positivity rate or the number of individuals who tested positive for Covid-19 in the National Capital Region (NCR) slightly increased from 14.3 percent on July 23 to 14.5 five days later.

In a tweet Friday, OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said NCR's average daily attack rate is 7.80 cases per 100,000 population while its reproduction number is at 1.28.

The health care utilization rate is at 36.9 percent, with 2,180 beds occupied.

Nationwide, there are 10 areas with a positivity rate higher than 20 percent -- Aklan with 33.1 percent; Antique, 25.2 percent; Cagayan, 20.9 percent; Capiz, 48.8 percent; Cavite, 26.5 percent; Isabela, 31.7 percent; Laguna, 30.6 percent; Nueva Ecija, 23.4 percent; Pampanga, 25.2 percent; and Tarlac 33.1 percent.

On Thursday, the Department of Health reported 890 additional cases of the Omicron BA.5 subvariant of the coronavirus disease 2019, but 823 of them have already recovered.

Overall, the country has logged 1,997 cases of the BA.5 subvariant , 71 of BA.4, and 154 of BA.2.12.1.

Total active Covid-19 cases are at 29,897 as of Thursday. (PNA)



Pilipinas may 4,575 na bagong COVID-19 cases, pinakamataas sa nakalipas na limang buwan

By Angellic Jordan July 29, 2022 - 09:31 PM
Richard Reyes/PDI

Nakapagtala ang Pilipinas ng mahigit 4,000 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa magdamag.

Sa tala ng Department of Health (DOH) hanggang Biyernes, Hulyo 29, nasa 4,127 ang bagong napaulat na COVID-19 cases sa bansa.

Ito ang pinakamataas na daily tally ng COVID-19 cases sa nakalipas na limang buwan.

Umakyat na sa 3,768,474 ang kabuuang bilang ng naitalang kaso ng nakahahawang sakit sa Pilipinas.

Sa nasabing bilang, 32,637 o 0.9 porsyento nito ang nagpapagaling pa sa sakit.

Nasa 3,675,119 o 97.5 porsyento naman ang naka-recover sa COVID-19, habang 60,718 o 1.6 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/319018/pilipinas-may-4575-na-bagong-covid-19-cases-pinakamataas-sa-nakalipas-na-limang-buwan>

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