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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR wants to create new team to probe Boracay waters



by [Rio N. Araja](#)

[April 6, 2022, 10:40 pm](#)

in [National](#), [News](#)

Environment Secretary Jim Sapulna on Wednesday ordered the creation of a new team to conduct study on the coastal waters of Boracay Island's recurring algal bloom.

"I am still forming a team. I want the study conducted by the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We will work together to make the report credible," he said.

He justified that he wants another study with the help of UP-MSI to better understand the recurrence of algal blooms in Boracay's waters despite lower coliform levels brought about by the ongoing rehabilitation of the island.

He assured that the water in Boracay is very clean, saying he is focused on the completion of the rehabilitation of Boracay Island before his term ends in June.

UP-MSI is one of DENR's long-time partners in conducting research to protect the country's marine ecology and biodiversity.

In 2017, the DENR conducted its study of Boracay Island in before the island's rehabilitation in 2018.

Research by the DENR-Region 6 (Western Visayas), where Sapulna served as regional executive director, found that untreated wastewater was causing algal blooms in Boracay.

Soaps and detergents being flushed out to the sea have also been named as suspects behind the recurrence of green algae in the country's top tourist destination.

As of February, the coliform level in Boracay's front beach was measured at 11 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100mL).

He said that only showed that the island's waters meet the water quality standard suitable for swimming, skin diving and other recreational activities.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force and Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group are continuously monitoring the water quality in Boracay, and are strictly enforcing environmental laws to protect the world-class island resort.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/news/314219917/denr-wants-to-create-new-team-to-probe-boracay-waters.html>



DENR sa mga kandidato: ‘Wag magpaputok, ‘wag magsabit ng posters sa puno



April 6, 2022 @ 5:24 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Upang maprotektahan ang kapaligiran, pinaalalahanan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang mga kandidato at maging ang mga sumusuporta dito na isaalang-alang ang kapaligiran habang nagsasagawa ng campaign activities para sa May 2022 national at local elections.

Ang pahayag na ito ni Sampulna ay kasunod ng natanggap na ulat na gumagamit ng paputok at mga lobo sa ilang political rallies.

“Aside from prohibiting the posting of campaign materials on trees, we also urge the candidates to refrain from using fireworks and releasing balloons during their political rallies. We do not encourage using these materials because it harms the ozone layer,” aniya.

Ayon kay Sampulna, ang pagpapalipad ng lobo at paggamit ng paputok ay nakapipinsala sa kapaligiran.

Kaugnay nito sinabi naman ni DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino na ang pagpapalipad ng lobo sa kalawakan ay maaaring makapinsala sa wildlife at sa kapaligiran.

“When the balloons run out of air, their scraps come back to the ground and may end up in the oceans and become marine litter,” sabi ni Bernardino.



DENR sa mga kandidato: ‘Wag magpaputok, ‘wag magsabit ng posters sa puno

Ang marine litter ay binubuo ng iba’t ibang materyales at karamihan dito ay mga plastics tulad ng balloons, bags, sachets, wrappers, bottles at iba pa.

Samantala sinabi pa ng DENR na maaari din itong makain ng marine turtles, whales, dolphins at isda na magiging dahilan ng internal injuries at pagkamatay ng mga ito.

Ang marine litter ay nakapipinsala din sa marine habitats.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William P. Cuñado na ang fireworks ay nagtatapon ng kemikal at heavy metals sa kalawakan na maaaring makapinsala sa katawan ng tao kapag ito ay nalanghap.

Ang PM_{2.5} ay isang uri ng air pollutant na maliit na butil sa hangin na nagiging dahilan ng pagkabawas sa visibility at paglabo ng paligid kapag mataas ang lebel nito. **Santi Celario**



NWRB alarmed over low Angat supply



Published 7 hours ago
on April 7, 2022 12:20 AM

By
[Maria Romero @tribunephil_mbr](#)



The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) fears that Angat Dam, the main water source of Metro Manila, will reach its minimum operating level of 180 meters within the second quarter of the year.

In an episode of *Gising Na!*, an online show of the Daily Tribune, NWRB executive director Sevillo David Jr. said his agency is preparing to implement precautionary measures to avert a looming water crisis.

“According to the projections, we might reach the 180 meters minimum operating level in May or June, so this is what we are preparing for. When it reaches that level, we will prioritize the requirements of Metro Manila,” David said.

“For now, we rely on the rains to recharge our reserves such as the Angat Dam but rest assured that we have enough supply for now,” he added.

While it can still cover the water requirement of Metro Manila, the metropolitan cannot afford yet another water crisis amid the approaching summer months while the country battles a global pandemic.

Thus, NWRB will have to resort to cloud seeding operations to mitigate a looming water crisis amid the continuous decline of water elevation in Angat Dam.



NWRB alarmed over low Angat supply

Based on the monitoring of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the water elevation level of Angat Dam reached 190.92 meters on Wednesday, slightly higher than 190.59 meters recorded on Tuesday. Its spilling level is 217 meters.

“The rains we experienced on Tuesday are a big thing, and today we can say that the level of this dam is still a bit low compared to previous years but this rain we experienced has provided more water,” David said.

But before the dam reaches the normal water level of 212 meters, David said it would still need about ten times the amount of rain experienced on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the water level in Ipo Dam in Bulacan also marginally increased to 99.11 meters on Wednesday from 98.92 meters on Tuesday.

The La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, on the other hand, inched down to 78.66 meters on Wednesday from 78.57 meters the other day.

To recall, Angat Dam ended 2021 with 202.66 meters of water elevation — 10 meters lower than the 212 meters year-end target.



Rains elevate Angat Dam's water level by almost 2 meters

Published April 6, 2022, 9:42 AM
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The water level of Angat Dam in Bulacan has increased by almost two meters amid rains brought about by the shear line—a region where warm and cold winds converge.

Based on the monitoring of the Hydrometeorology Division of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on Wednesday, April 6, Angat Dam's water level has increased to 192.38 meters, from 190.60 on Tuesday, April 5.

The dam's current level is now 2.78 meters above its rule curve elevation of 189.60 meters.

It was just 0.87 meters above the rule curve elevation on Tuesday.

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

However, Angat Dam's water level remains below its normal high water level of 212 meters.

The dam's water level has been gradually decreasing due to lack of significant rains over the watershed area in the past few months.

PAGASA had stressed the need to conserve water to avert possible water shortage during the dry months.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/06/rains-elevate-angat-dams-water-level-by-almost-2-meters/>



Solid Waste Management summit begins in Cebu City

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Correspondent | April 06, 2022 - 08:51 PM



Mayor Mike Rama shares his vision for the City and the legacy he wants to leave behind, in the interview segment during the opening of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Summit held at SM Seaside City Cebu. | Photo Courtesy of Cebu City PIO

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The three-day Solid Waste Management (SWM) summit has begun in Cebu City and is expected to help the government craft the 10-year SWM plan.

Mayor Michael Rama opened the summit at the SM Seaside Sky Hall on April 6, 2022, which brings together the environment agencies, groups, and stakeholders for a forum to discuss the city's garbage management.

Rama said that it is the ultimate public service to admit that there is a problem, in this case, garbage, and to find a long-term solution.

“Is garbage a problem? Yes, it is the truth. Truth hurts. Is it fair to address the issue of solid waste management? Yes. I’ve been thinking for a long time to hold this summit. This is not for me alone, this is for your family, this is for my family,” he said.

The goal of the summit is to bring great minds together from different sectors to provide the city government with the tools to solve the perennial garbage problem.

One of the city’s major problems is the massive garbage production costing the city millions in collection and disposal.



Solid Waste Management summit begins in Cebu City

The summit aims to help create a system to reduce garbage production from the roots and establish a better system of collection and disposal.

For the first day, the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the City Environment and Sanitation Enforcement Team (CESET), and the Department of Public Services (DPS) discussed the realities of the city's garbage situation.

The Environment Management Bureau (EMB) also discussed the laws and general concerns of SWM in the Philippines.

One of the major discussions the summit hopes to tackle is the pros and cons of a Waste to Energy (WTE) plant in Cebu City especially since the city will be taking up a Joint Venture Agreement for a WTE facility with New Sky Energy Philippines.

The city government also plans to craft the 10-year SWM Plan so that its deficiencies over the matter will be resolved after it was flagged by the Commission on Audit in 2021.

The Summit is part of the Mayor's "21 gun salute" programs, which continue the legacy of the late Mayor Edgardo Labella to ensure that his projects will be completed. /rcg

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/434086/solid-waste-management-summit-begins-in-cebu-city#ixzz7PiYSt4lX>

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3-day 'waste summit' to tackle rehabilitation of Inayawan landfill

[IVAN REY R. TAN](#)

April 06, 2022

THE safe closure and rehabilitation of the 15.4-hectare Inayawan Sanitary landfill is one of the concerns that will be tackled during the three-day waste management summit organized by the Cebu City Government.

The three-day "waste summit" started on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at the SM Seaside City Cebu.

In his keynote message, Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama said when he first became mayor in 2011, he was able to order the closure of the controversial landfill due to "political will."

Rama's administration decided to close down the old landfill in compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. His move then was lauded by environmentalists.

But Rama lamented that his successor, Tomas Osmeña, reopened the landfill in 2016.

"There were a lot of environmentalists pounding, hammering, (me, saying) 'you should close the landfill' and I did it. But another mayor came in, for heaven's sake, why must it be opened?" Rama said.

"I cannot in conscience being a public servant that I will leave a legacy of incompetence, a legacy of deprivation, and a legacy of inaction and insensitivity," he added.

In 2016, Osmeña reopened the landfill after he secured permission from the national government agencies such as the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Osmeña then ordered the landfill reopened as a way to save City funds as Rama's administration had turned to the use of a private landfill then.

Aside from rehabilitating the Inayawan landfill, Rama said the three-day summit will also be an opportunity for the city to craft a 10-year solid waste management plan.

Rama added the summit will help him achieve his dream for Cebu City to become a "highly urbanized, smart, globally competitive, and environmentally-friendly city."

The issues on the sustainability of waste reduction and waste diversion programs at the barangay level will also be tackled together with the failure to properly and fully implement the "no segregation, no collection" policy.



3-day 'waste summit' to tackle rehabilitation of Inayawan landfill

Rama said these environmental issues should be talked about and solutions must be crafted to solve this.

The summit was attended by officials of national government agencies, non-government organizations, solid waste management solution companies, and solid waste generators like hotels and restaurants.



Algo: IPCC's guide to mitigating climate change for Filipinos

[JOHN LEO ALGO](#)

April 06, 2022

THE best way to solve a problem is to directly address the root cause.

In terms of the climate crisis, that root cause is the excessive pollution produced by human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas. This pollution is emitted in the form of greenhouse gases (GHG), which traps more heat in our atmosphere and oceans and triggers large-scale changes in our environment. It is the reason our world has warmed by around 1 degree Celsius.

On April 4, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the [final part](#) of its latest global report, focusing on mitigation or reducing GHG emissions from human activities. This aspect of climate action remains a tremendous challenge, considering that fossil fuels powers most of the global economy, including many of the daily activities we do in our homes and offices or on the road.

Yet the imperative is loud and clear: the era of fossil fuels must end.

The global narrative

Despite widespread knowledge of the effects of GHGs on global warming, the IPCC report shows that this pollution continues to increase. Of all emissions recorded from 1850 to 2019, 42 percent of them happened within just the past three decades. Around 64 percent of all GHG pollution is carbon dioxide produced from burning fossil fuels, which is especially prevalent in the energy and industry sectors.

To address this, mitigation efforts must be implemented across two fronts. The first involves preventing any more GHGs from being emitted. This is why it is important to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and start scaling up renewable energy (RE) development.

The second concerns with removing the GHGs that are already in the atmosphere and oceans; this is the pollution that has caused many of the disasters we have experienced so far, such as typhoons Ondoy and Yolanda. This includes preserving and enhancing natural "carbon sinks" that can absorb carbon dioxide, such as rainforests and mangroves.

There are positive developments worldwide on enhancing mitigation strategies, per the report. Costs of RE technologies such as solar, wind, and electric-vehicle batteries have sharply decreased in the past decade, which has allowed them to be deployed to more areas. Several countries have also improved their programs on energy efficiency, combating deforestation, and accelerating technology development.



Algo: IPCC's guide to mitigating climate change for Filipinos

Yet these actions are nowhere near enough to reverse global warming. In fact, if the current pledges of all nations for reducing emissions are successfully implemented, it would still result in 2.8 degrees Celsius of warming. This is way above the 1.5-degree target under the Paris Agreement, a figure that many experts consider the point when climate change impacts may become irreversible.

To limit warming to this level, GHG emissions must decrease by 84 percent by 2050 compared to 2019 levels. It requires the drastic reduction in fossil fuel use, virtually phasing out coal and lowering global use of natural gas by 45 percent. Almost all electricity worldwide needs to be supplied from RE sources. Emissions arising from the supply chains in the industry and transport sectors have to be reduced as well.

Achieving these goals requires governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to collaborate to speed up the adoption of large-scale technologies and making them more affordable. This can be done through more investments and other means of finance flowing into mitigation strategies, which has increased by 60 percent in recent years. However, funding for fossil fuels remain higher than that for climate action.

The Philippine imperative

The Philippines, one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change impacts, is responsible for only 0.3 percent of all GHG emissions. Hit with P506.1 billion worth of climate-related losses and damages from 2010 to 2020, its government has anchored its climate action strategies on adaptation to minimize negative impacts on millions of Filipinos.

However, this does not mean that the Philippines should ignore mitigation as part of its solutions. As a nation that champions climate justice during global negotiations, it cannot follow the same pollutive development pathway that industrialized countries took, which caused the climate crisis in the first place.

As a developing country, implementing effective mitigation actions provides co-benefits that could boost its pursuit of sustainable development. Some of these aspects include food and water security, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, and human security, which are among the priority sectors under the National Climate Change Action Plan.

Among the priorities should be scaling up RE development. The share of cleaner energy in the country's power generation mix has been decreasing for the past two decades, even with the enactment of the RE Act in 2008. The government has to ensure its plans for a 50 percent RE share in the power grid by 2040, or even earlier, will become a reality.



Algo: IPCC's guide to mitigating climate change for Filipinos

A swift just transition to RE must be prioritized by our leaders, including phasing out coal-fired power plants. Given that the IPCC reports that all types of fossil fuels must be left behind, current plans for building more natural gas facilities must be stopped. Proposals for false solutions, especially nuclear power, needs to be halted and have more resources poured into developing solar, wind, and other cleaner technologies.

The Philippines also needs to enable an economic environment that pressures more corporations to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest into RE and other sustainable endeavors. The recent decision of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation to abandon coal financing and boost lending to RE projects by 2031 is the latest addition to the developing trend of divestment among the country's biggest private entities.

We know what the problem is; we know how to solve it. We already have the choices to cut our pollution by at least 50 percent by 2030. Yet turning words into actions is a lot easier than done. This is why addressing the climate crisis needs us to invest in our future.



Plastic P1K soon flows

Published 3 hours ago on April 7, 2022 05:12 AM

By **MJ Blancaflor** @tribunephl_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte launched on Wednesday the new P1,000 polymer banknote with the Philippine Eagle.

Duterte inspected the banknotes in a brief ceremony in Malacañang with Bangko Sentral Governor Benjamin Diokno and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III.

The BSP said it is more secure against counterfeiting, more cost-effective and environment-friendly than the paper banknotes currently in circulation.

The new bills also have complex security features and less susceptible to viral and bacterial transmission.

These were also made with a smaller carbon footprint since its production required less resources than those used for paper bills.

The polymer banknotes could also be recycled and could be sanitized with minimal risk of damage, the BSP said.

Among those featured in the new bills were the Philippine eagle, sampaguita, the coat of arms of the country, and the BSP logo.

The BSP had assured the public that the polymer banknotes and the current P1,000 bills would co-exist for payments and transactions.

Produced by a Reserve Bank of Australia subsidiary, Note Printing Australia, the banknotes would be circulated this quarter as the BSP wanted to test the market's acceptance for plastic-based money and its impact on measures against counterfeiting, public health and environment.



Value-added plastic recycling

Wasi Ahmed | Published: April 05, 2022 21:51:46



So long we have heard of recycling plastic waste to make low-end products. This, in other words, means making products similar to the original plastic products before those were trashed, such as bottles, poly bags etc. Now, with technology doing the wonders, recycling is on the way to make products like yarns for fabrics. A spectacular development, as reported recently in the media, this move if pursued efficiently looks like a huge landmark in recycling technology. More so, it is the likely prospect of producing value-added products that inspires hope despite the well known havoc caused by plastic waste of all sorts.

Plastic waste, needless to say, has wrought havoc all over the world threatening life and livelihood of people by way of precipitating serious environmental degradation-- not all of which are simple and easily visible. In the developed West, management of plastic waste is a continuously evolving process, and many of those countries are in a position to curb the damage fairly well through various recycling methods with technology as their key aid.

In our case, the situation of plastic waste recycling is a grim reflection of severe environmental hazards posed by the plastic industry on the one hand and by the general masses on the other. Although the government is providing tax exemption for recycling, and reduced bank loans are also being availed of by some enterprises for the purpose, recycling is appallingly low. A study conducted in this regard sometime ago says that only a small volume of the plastic waste meant for recycling is actually recycled leaving the bulk of the harmful stuff to cause environmental



Value-added plastic recycling

degradation, soil erosion, water logging and so on. The study, however, mentions that with the facilities and technology currently available in the country, 50 per cent of the waste material could be recycled, if properly made use of.

Findings of the aforementioned study conducted by a private research body, Waste Concern, reveals that as much as 72 per cent of the plastic waste are not recycled. The study further mentions that this high volume of waste, not properly disposed of or recycled, deprives the country of substantial earnings which could be to the tune of Tk 61.50 billion annually. The yearly production of the country's plastic factories, from well over 5,000 units, is approximately 4.0 million tonnes, of which more than 1.0 million tonne turns into waste. But the volume of waste recycled, according to the study, is only around 28 per cent.

This, no doubt, is the flip side of the prospects of the plastic sector that explains the fact that efficient waste management is integral to exploiting the prospects of plastic manufacturing. It is this urgency that prompted speakers at a recently held webinar to stress upon collaborative efforts of the government and the private sector towards working on an effective waste recycling and management policy. This, experts believe, is the key to flourishing the prospects of the country's plastic industry. While improvements in infrastructure, product development are integral to the growth of the industry to desired levels, waste management and recycling are some of the critical areas in need of urgent attention. It has been found that of all kinds of waste accumulated on a daily basis in the country, the share of plastic is more than 60 per cent. However, doing away with the waste is relatively easier compared with that from other sources due to the user-friendly recycling technology. But in the absence of systematic methods of collecting the waste and recycling facilities, the bulk of the waste is left to pollute the environment.

One of the key benefits that most countries derive from recycled plastic waste is a substantial saving on procuring raw materials and increased earnings from recycled products. Findings of the aforementioned study say that if the waste of plastic factories in and around Dhaka alone is recycled with appropriate technology, 75 per cent of the waste could be tuned into fresh products, which would amount to saving around Tk 7.0 billion in foreign exchange. This indeed explains that recycling and growth of the country's plastic sector are mutually inclusive and reinforcing.

It is in this context that recycling plastic waste to make yarn for fabric is not only an exemplary move in better waste management but more importantly, in producing value-added products. The yarns from plastic waste can be used to make garment items such as outerwear, padding and quilting. It has been gathered from reports quoting Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) that a number of local companies have set up plants to make flakes from trashed plastic bottles to produce recycled yarns and fabrics. The move is potentially attractive for many more investors, especially garment manufacturers and exporters, as there is reportedly an increasing global demand for fabrics made out of a mix of cotton and yarn from discarded plastic products, particularly bottles. Observers hold that although this is a new phenomenon in waste management as well as in the making of value-added products, Bangladesh can ride high given its comparative advantage over most countries that are either producing the stuff or are mulling to do so. The government's support is indeed crucial at this nascent stage.

Global biodiversity deal running short on time and ambition

The first face-to-face negotiations on a new global deal for nature saw more support for protecting 30 per cent of the planet, but major obstacles remain.



The Yellow-knobbed Curassow found in forest and woodland in Colombia and Venezuela. The Latin American nation is paying for its conservation efforts through a combination of foreign aid, philanthropy and revenue from its carbon market. Image: [digitalART2, Flickr](#)

By Catherine Early, [China Dialogue](#)
6 minute read April 6, 2022

Negotiators and observers left the latest meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with renewed momentum but with many issues still unresolved, including how to find the missing US\$700 billion needed annually to protect and restore nature.

The two-and-a-half week session in Geneva saw the first purely face-to-face negotiations since before the Covid-19 pandemic began. With just a few months before COP15 – the major CBD meeting, to be held in China – it was also billed as the last chance to make significant changes to the draft text that came out of the [last CBD meeting in October](#), which had been widely criticised.

The Geneva talks saw many additions to the text, but most are in square brackets, meaning they have yet to be agreed upon. An extra meeting has now been scheduled for June in Nairobi to try and find consensus.

Global biodiversity deal running short on time and ambition

How to close the finance gap?

Finance remains a sticking point. Investment needed for biodiversity is estimated at [\\$844 billion](#) annually, which is \$711 billion more than is currently being spent.

On finance specifically from developed to developing countries, a coalition of environmental groups, including the Campaign for Nature, the Nature Conservancy, WWF and the World Resources Institute, had called ahead of the meeting for wealthy countries to support a target of at least \$60 billion annually.

The sum would help tackle the [impact](#) of wealthy country consumption habits on biodiversity, they argued. Some 30 per cent of global threats to biodiversity are generated by international trade, particularly in commodities produced in developing countries for use in richer nations, according to [research](#) by the University of Sydney.

The NGOs also called for a more holistic approach to finance, including by [redirecting harmful subsidies](#), in sectors such as agriculture and mining, and spending existing resources more efficiently. A group of countries including Argentina and Brazil, led by Gabon, called for developed countries to provide at least \$100 billion a year, rising to \$700 billion by 2030.

Though negotiators added language to the draft agreement about aligning financial flows to be nature positive, they are “still really far apart” on how to close the financing gap, according to Andrew Deutz, director of global policy, institutions and conservation finance at the Nature Conservancy.

“There’s a pretty wide range of expectations and positions. As a former negotiator, I think that’s okay. We’re still going through the process of figuring out where everybody is, and once that’s done, you can negotiate to a consensus,” he says.

Brazil in particular is “taking a hard line” in the finance discussions to try and maximise the foreign aid it receives, and is supported by other countries in Africa and Latin America, he noted. “It suits some countries’ interests to treat all the “developing” countries the same, but donor countries are refusing. The resource needs of Angola versus Brazil are very different, he said.

As a middle-income country, Brazil needs to recognise it will have to pay for most of its conservation efforts through domestic resources, he believes. Colombia is providing a good example of how this could be done, paying by combining foreign aid assistance from the Green Climate Fund with philanthropic finance and a portion of its carbon market revenue. “This is what a progressive middle-income country should be doing,” says Deutz.

There is currently a lack of leadership pushing towards higher ambition, he says. COP15 hosts China were mostly working behind the scenes, he notes. “They have not done the kind of global outreach to civil society and the private sector that the UK did in the lead up to the COP26 climate talks,” he says.

Global biodiversity deal running short on time and ambition

“The worry that we were hearing in the corridors, particularly around financing, is that it’s going to be harder to meet some of the financing commitments – aid budgets are being redirected because of the Ukrainian refugee crisis, and a likely increase in defence spending among European countries,” he says.

The war was also distracting world leaders, making it harder for negotiators to bring their attention to biodiversity, he says. Deutz hopes the G7 meeting in June will be able to provide some leadership on biodiversity finance, but acknowledges that it will be much harder to get the issue on the agenda now.

However, Brian O’Donnell, director of the Campaign for Nature, points out that leadership has always been lacking. “Nature can’t always be pushed to the second-tier of priorities, when it’s foundational to every issue on the planet and is the foundation of all of our livelihoods and economies. So it has to be issue number one, convenient or not.”

Progress on protecting 30 per cent of land and sea

More positively, Target Three, to protect at least 30 per cent of the planet’s land and ocean, continues to have significant support. There are now 91 members of the [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#), an intergovernmental group formed to champion the proposal.

During the Geneva meetings, several countries expressed their support for the target for the first time – some of whom had previously questioned it – as long as it was clear that countries could determine their contribution to the global target according to national circumstances.

Also in Target Three, new language was included to better indicate the importance of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in achieving the target, and to more explicitly protect their rights.

IPLCs have expressed mistrust in Target Three, due to the record of human rights abuses in the name of conservation. [A report](#) by Indigenous People’s Rights International outlines many recent examples, including harassment and torture of people collecting vegetables in Nepal’s Chitwan National Park in 2021.

Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, member and negotiator for the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, says it would have refused to support Target Three if there was no clear statement on respect for IPLC rights.

“Without safeguards, the risk is it would continue as before, with further evictions, killings and criminalisation of indigenous peoples,” she says. However, a caveat had been added to the new language – that IPLC rights must be “in accordance with national legislation”.

“There are many countries that don’t have legislation recognising indigenous peoples’ rights, so we feel that this is a big loophole for them,” according to Corpuz.

Global biodiversity deal running short on time and ambition

Business and the prospects for COP15

A positive development in Geneva was the engagement of the private sector. Some 35 businesses attended the meetings, including consumer goods giant Unilever and clothing retailer H&M, according to Eva Zabey, executive director of the Business for Nature (BfN) coalition.

“Some made statements in the official sessions, and that resonated well because it’s a newer, louder voice of progressive businesses engaging in the process,” she says. BfN is calling for mandatory assessment and disclosure of impact and dependencies on nature by business. Much of the text on this remains in brackets, but several countries support the idea, Zabey reports.

Feelings are mixed on the chance of success at COP15 in Kunming. Many fear that the session in Nairobi, and additional virtual meetings on finance, may not be enough to unlock agreement.

“Two years of virtual negotiations have made it impossible for countries to solidify their own positions, let alone start the real bare-knuckle negotiations,” says Deutz, adding that the Geneva session “got us over the hump” to where negotiators were actually discussing text on the table. “But there’s just not a lot of time to COP15.”

O’Donnell says: “We could have spent another week in Geneva, and I’m not sure it would have fully resolved the issues. Time alone isn’t the problem here, it’s the lack of a sense of urgency. Countries need to take an approach that is less about each trying to defend their individual priorities, more thinking about the systems on the planet as a whole, and how we can develop a biodiversity framework that will address this crisis.”



Youth volunteers revive neglected river in Pangasinan town

By Hilda Austria April 6, 2022, 5:03 pm



GLEE. Children in Barangay Cabanbanan Manaoag town, Pangasinan enjoy swimming in the now clean river following the clean-up drive initiated by residents, mostly young people. The river was neglected and became a dumping area prior to the clean-up drive efforts. *(Photo courtesy of Atty. Jong Aquino)*

MANAOAG, Pangasinan – Residents, mostly young people, in Barangay Cabanbanan in this town have united their efforts to clean and eventually rehabilitate a portion of a river system here to refresh their childhood memories and make a new one for the new generation.

Vince Bautista, 21, an engineering student and one of the youth volunteers, said the river system has been part of his early childhood however, it has become a dumping site of garbage and withered tree branches.

“Dati naglalaro lang kami ng cellphone habang nasa bahay. Pero nung nagkaroon ng paglilinis dun sa ilog, sumama na din kami. Nung unti-unti nang nalilinis, bumabalik ‘yong mga memories saka naging tambayan na din namin (We used to just play with our cellphones at home. But when there was a clean-up drive at the river, we joined. When finally the river was clearing up, the memories came back of what it used to be and it is now our hang-out area),” he said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

He added they collected tons of tree branches, bamboo, and plastic wastes.

Bautista said they found joy in the work they have volunteered in.



Youth volunteers revive neglected river in Pangasinan town

“This is better than doing nothing. It feels good to do something worthwhile and productive with our time,” he said.



BAYANIHAN'. Residents in Barangay Cabanbanan in Manaoag town, Pangasinan unite to clean a portion of a river system in their area. The river was filled with garbage and withered tree branches. *(Photo courtesy of Atty. Jong Aquino)*

Lawyer Amado Aquino III said the river system situated at the boundary of Manaoag and Laoac towns used to be a source of water irrigation for the farmlands, a bathing area for the farm animals, and at the same time a hang-out area for swimming of the residents here, especially during summertime.

“Whenever we visited Manaoag town when I was younger, we would always go to the river for a swim. Lately, when we visited the place, we were saddened by its condition as it was neglected,” he said in a recent interview.

Aquino, together with Michael Angelo Padua, launched last month the river clean-up drive with the youth volunteers, including Bautista.

“We wanted to raise environmental awareness among the young people and the residents and even those from other towns in the province of Pangasinan,” he said.



Youth volunteers revive neglected river in Pangasinan town

He added the clean-up started once a month and then became a regular activity for them as more volunteers came to help.

“We were already able to clean a kilometer of the river system but there is still a lot of work to be done to be able to fully revive the whole river system that traverses to the different barangays in the town,” Aquino said.

Following the success of the initial river clean-up drive, residents in the nearby barangays now flock to the cleaned portion of the river to reminisce the memories and make new ones with their children or nephews and nieces.

“We hope more would put efforts and volunteer to revitalize, clean, and maintain the river systems not just in this town but in their respective localities,” he said. *(PNA)*



Palace ensures ‘protection of national interest’ in Kaliwa Dam project

Published April 6, 2022, 3:10 PM
by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

Malacañang assured the public that the government would uphold the country’s interests as it defended the construction of the Chinese-funded Kaliwa Dam anew.



Acting Presidential Spokesman and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar. (Malacañang photo)

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar made this statement after vice-presidential aspirant [Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan said that the “rush to construct” the dam should not brush aside laws and the rights of communities affected by the project.](#)

In his press briefing on Wednesday, April 6, Andanar defended the project anew, saying it is seen as the answer to the water supply issues in Metro Manila and other areas.

“Inaasahan na 600 million na litro ng tubig ang maipinaglaban sa National Capital Region (NCR) at kalapit na mga probinsiya dahil sa Kaliwa Dam (We expect that the Kaliwa Dam project will deliver 600 million liters of water to NCR and nearby provinces),” he said.

While recognizing the need for additional water sources in the country, Pangilinan, on April 5, questioned the signing of the memorandum of agreement for the P12.2-billion Chinese-funded deal despite staunch opposition from the Dumagat-Remontado tribe occupying portions of the project site.

He likewise warned of a “Pharmally-like” outcome where the government was said to have been duped due to allegedly overpriced Covid-19 equipment during the height of the pandemic.



Palace ensures ‘protection of national interest’ in Kaliwa Dam project

According to Andanar, the public has nothing to worry about since the Kaliwa Dam project will undergo due process.

“The Duterte administration prioritizes national interest and the gains of the Filipino people from this infrastructure. We [ensure] that the Kaliwa Dam project undergoes the due process, noting that all stakeholders, including the Indigenous Peoples and the concerned local government units (LGUs), are involved in the negotiations,” he said.

“Sisiguraduhin natin na ang makikinabang mula sa proyektong ito ay walang sinuman kung hindi ang taumbayan lamang (We will make sure that no one but the public will benefit from this project),” he added.

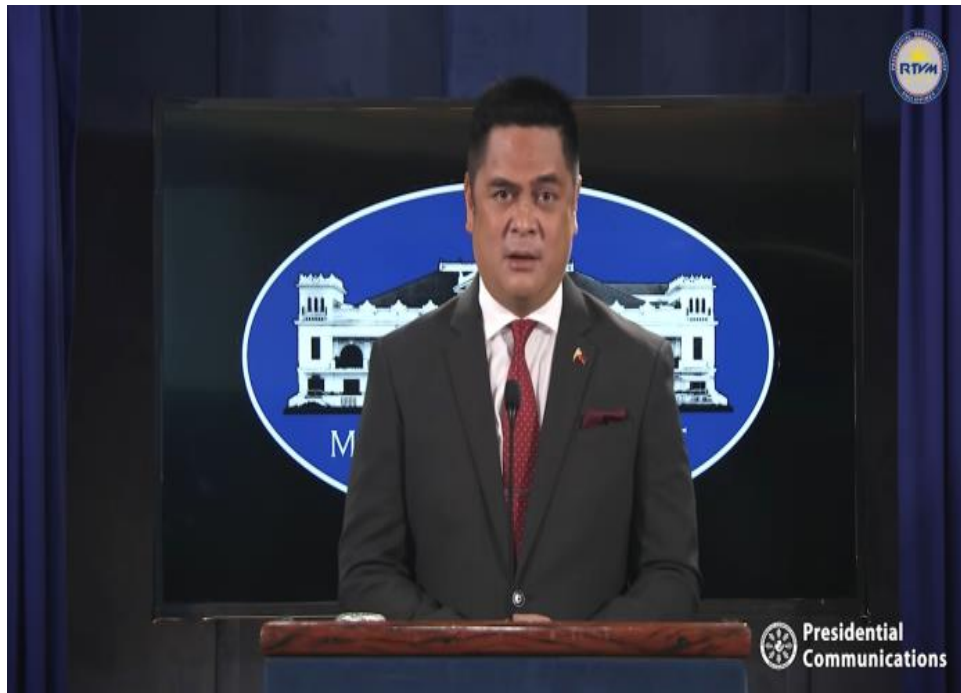
The 60-meter-high reservoir of the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project will cover 291 hectares of the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve and the adjoining ancestral domains of the Dumagat-Remontado communities in General Nakar, Quezon, and Tanay, Rizal.

A 28-kilometer-long conveyance tunnel will be built from the dam site in Barangay Magsaysay in Infanta, Quezon through several barangays in Tanay, Baras, Morong and Teresa towns in Rizal.



Palace: Kaliwa Dam to address water issues in NCR

April 6, 2022



Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary and Acting Spokesperson Martin Andanar. (Screenshot of RTVM live)

Malacañang on Wednesday (April 6) defended the construction of the Kaliwa Dam following a statement of Senator Kiko Pangilinan that it should not “brush aside laws” and the rights of communities affected.

In a Palace briefing, Acting Presidential Spokesperson Martin Andanar said the Kaliwa Dam is seen to provide solutions to the prevailing water supply and allocation problems in the National Capital Region (NCR).

“Inaasahan na 600 million na litro ng tubig ang maidi-deliver sa National Capital Region at kalapit na mga probinsiya dahil sa Kaliwa Dam,” he said.

“The Duterte administration prioritizes national interest and the gains of the Filipino people from this infrastructure. We assure that the Kaliwa Dam project undergoes due process noting that all stakeholders including the Indigenous People and the concerned local government units are involved in the negotiations,” he added.

The official said the government assures that only the people will benefit from the project.

In a new release on Monday, Pangilinan questioned the memorandum of agreement signing of the P12.2-billion Chinese-funded project despite opposition from a tribe located in the project site. **AG-gb**



Felled trees become shelter materials for 'Odette' victims

By Perla Lena April 6, 2022, 5:58 pm



CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. The 100-cubic meter woods currently in Barangay Alibunan, Calinog are being sliced into various wood measurements for housing materials for families displaced by Typhoon Odette. The materials are expected to be transported to Negros Occidental before the end of the month. *(Photo courtesy of Office of Civil Defense Western Visayas)*

ILOILO CITY – Trees knocked down to give way to the national government's dam project in Calinog, Iloilo will be converted into shelter materials and will be donated to families whose houses were damaged by Typhoon Odette that struck parts of Western Visayas in December last year.

“The splicing of mahogany and Gmelina trees already started on Tuesday. The trees were cut down to pave the way for the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project II (JRMP II),” said Cindy Ferrer, information officer of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), in an interview on Wednesday.

The 100-cubic meter woods currently stocked in Barangay Alibunan, Calinog were turned over by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the implementer of the JRMP II, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which the OCD urged to be donated to families heavily affected by the typhoon.

OCD has tapped the services of 10 chainsaw operators in Calinog and adjacent Lambunao town for the processing of the woods as ready materials for houses.

It is expected to be completed in 10 to 15 days depending on the weather condition and will be shipped tentatively on April 26.

It will also be the one to shoulder the expenses of transporting the materials to Negros Occidental, particularly to local government units of Kabankalan, Sipalay, Ilog, and Hinoba-an.



Felled trees become shelter materials for 'Odette' victims

“We will turn them over to the PDRRMO (provincial disaster risk reduction and management office) of Negros Occidental since they know who are the most in need. But the focus are the severely affected municipalities,” Ferrer added.

She said the provision of materials is their immediate intervention for the victims’ recovery and rebuilding of houses while waiting for the feedback of the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) that they submitted to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Data from the regional DRRMC showed that Hinoba-an has 11,884 damaged houses, while Ilog has 14,879, with 34,818 in Kabankalan, and 16,974 in Sipalay. (*PNA*)

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DENR wants to create new team to probe Boracay waters

By Rio N. Araja

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Jim Sapulna on Wednesday ordered the creation of a new team to conduct study on the coastal waters of Boracay Island's recurring algal bloom.

"I am still forming a team. I want the study conducted by the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We will work together to make the report credible," he said.

He justified that he wants another study with the help of UP-MSI to better understand the recurrence of algal blooms in Boracay's waters despite lower coliform levels brought about by the ongoing rehabilitation of the island.

He assured that the water in Boracay is very clean, saying he is focused on the completion of the rehabilitation of Boracay Island before his term ends in June.

UP-MSI is one of DENR's long-time partners in conducting research to protect the country's marine ecology and biodiversity.

In 2017, the DENR conducted its study of Boracay Island in before the island's rehabilitation in 2018.

Research by the DENR-Region 6 (Western Visayas), where Sapulna served as regional executive director, found that untreated wastewater was causing algal blooms in Boracay.

Soaps and detergents being flushed out to the sea have also been named as suspects behind the recurrence of green algae in the country's top tourist destination.

As of February, the coliform level in Boracay's front beach was measured at 11 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100mL).

He said that only showed that the island's waters meet the water quality standard suitable for swimming, skin diving and other recreational activities.



Boracay daily tourist arrivals hit 7,000

Tourist arrivals in Boracay increased this week as the local government recorded more than 7,000 visitors per day.

"We breached the 7,000 mark especially on Thursdays and Fridays because of the weekend," Aklan police chief Lt. Col. Don de Dios said in an interview over *dzBB*.

The tourism office in Malay, Aklan said 150,597 tourists visited Boracay last month.

Up to 146,000 are local travelers, 1,624 are returning Filipinos and 2,533 foreigners.

The tally of visitors in March at 150,597 was almost double compared to 80,882 in February.

While a majority of those who visited were local tourists, De Dios said more foreigners are expected this month after the government eased travel restrictions.

Data showed that most of the foreigners who visited Boracay last month were from the United States at 603 followed by the United Kingdom, 211; United Arab Emirates, 201; Germany, 161; Canada, 137, and Australia, 121.

About 80 percent of business establishments in Boracay are now operational.

Algal bloom recurrence

While giving assurance that the waters of Boracay remain "very clean," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will create a new team of experts to conduct studies on the recurrence of algal blooms.

"I am still forming a team. I want the study conducted by the UP (University of the Philippines) Marine Science Institute and the DENR. We will work together to make the report credible," acting Environment Secretary Jim Sam-pulna said yesterday.

The DENR said the coliform level in Boracay's front beach was measured at 11 most probable number per 100 milliliters.

"This shows that the island's waters meet the water quality standard suitable for swimming, skin diving and other recreational activities," the department said.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force and Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group are continuously monitoring the quality of water in Boracay aside from enforcing environmental laws to protect the world-class island resort. — Neil Jayson Servallos, Elizabeth Marcelo



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NWRB alarmed over low Angat supply

BY MARIA ROMERO
@tribunephil_mbr

EXCLUSIVE

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) fears that Angat Dam, the main water source of Metro Manila, will reach its minimum operating level of 180 meters within the second quarter of the year.

In an episode of *Gising Na!*, an online show of the *Daily Tribune*, NWRB executive director Sevillo David Jr. said his agency is preparing to implement precautionary measures to avert a looming water crisis.

"According to the projections, we might reach the 180 meters minimum operating level in May or June, so this is what we are preparing for. When it reaches that level, we will prioritize the requirements of Metro Manila," David said.

"For now, we rely on the rains to recharge our reserves such as the Angat Dam but rest assured that we have enough supply for now," he added.

While it can still cover the water requirement of Metro Manila, the metropolitan cannot afford yet another water crisis amid the approaching summer months while the country battles a global pandemic.

Thus, NWRB will have to resort to cloud seeding

operations to mitigate a looming water crisis amid the continuous decline of water elevation in Angat Dam.

Based on the monitoring of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the water elevation level of Angat Dam reached 190.92 meters on Wednesday, slightly higher than 190.59 meters recorded on Tuesday. Its spilling level is 217 meters.

"The rains we experienced on Tuesday are a big thing, and today we can say that the level of this dam is still a bit low compared to previous years but this rain we experienced has provided more water," David said.

But before the dam reaches the normal water level of 212 meters, David said it would still need about ten times the amount of rain experienced on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the water level in Ipo Dam in Bulacan also marginally increased to 99.11 meters on Wednesday from 98.92 meters on Tuesday.

The La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, on the other hand, inched down to 78.66 meters on Wednesday from 78.57 meters the other day.

To recall, Angat Dam ended 2021 with 202.66 meters of water elevation – 10 meters lower than the 212 meters year-end target.



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The Manila Times



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One-day rain slightly raised Angat water level

THE 24-hour rainfall recorded on Tuesday has slightly raised the water level at Angat Dam, where Metro Manila and some adjoining provinces depend for potable water.

However, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the threat of water rationing and brownouts in the coming months remains.

"From yesterday's 190.60 meters, today (April 6) we have our 6 a.m. measurement at 192.38 meters or an increase of 1.78 meters," Pagasa hydrologist Rosalie Pagulayan told The Manila Times.

"We need more rainfall like what

happened last Tuesday, especially within Angat watersheds, that's why we also need more prayers so that we can avoid water rationing and brownouts," she added.

Pagulayan said concerned agencies including the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) were implementing measures early to mitigate the impact of a possible water shortage.

"We have deep wells in many places that are regulated by NWRB as well as supply from the Laguna Lake which provides water to some nearby areas and, of course, the cloud seeding operations that are now being undertaken particularly at Angat

watersheds," she said.

Another Pagasa hydrologist, Elmel Caringal, said the water level in Angat Dam is still significantly lower than its 212-m normal high water level.

He said the water level is expected to continually drop particularly during the dry season where rainfall is scarce.

The weather bureau previously estimated that Angat would reach the critical 180 meters by the end of March or April.

Pagasa Administrator Vicente Malano said the drop in Angat's water level is expected.

Given the forecast rainfall of 67.1 millimeters, Pagasa expects

the reservoir water level to reach 182 meters by the end of April. It might further dip to 173-175 meters in May. If this happens, water rationing may be imposed and irrigation supply will be halted.

"We can also expect brownouts in some areas because the main turbine can no longer generate electricity and we would be dependent only on small turbines that cannot provide much power to much bigger areas," Caringal said.

Pagasa said the water in Angat Dam will be replenished in July when there is a high probability of rainfall.

ARLIE O. CALALO



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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The environment must be part of the election conversation

With more or less 30 days before the national elections, the campaign season is hotter than the rising temperature of summer. With the open space provided by social media, various online platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and even TikTok are filled with political content — some are true but most often than not, a lot are misinformation, deliberately done to sow false or inaccurate reports.

There is a lot of “noise” filling up our screens and everywhere we look, the noise sounds louder and more glaring. Of course, in an election cycle, these political antics and gimmicks are unavoidable. But, what if we momentarily shut off the noise and talk about issues?

One of the alarming things that a lot of civic-minded citizens and people’s organizations have raised is the lack of conversation about the environment. Right now, it seems that there is no one among the 10 presidential candidates who has laid down an encompassing environment agenda aimed at committing to the 1.5 degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement. To put it simply, the voters haven’t been fully informed by the presidential candidates of their plans to combat climate change and to make our country climate resilient.

In interviews and debates held in the past few weeks, some presidential candidates have already shared snippets of their stand on some environmental issues, such as open-pit mining, clean energy, or sourcing of water. Since these television or online interviews are targeting more viewers and higher ratings, questions to the candidates tend to be more TV-friendly in order to elicit answers that are ideal for soundbites and social media artcards.

Talking about climate is not “easy” — it is a complex and multifaceted issue that touches on economics, urban development, resource management, and, of course, our survival as a nation. Climate is not just about tree-planting, estero clean-up, and the use of an eco-bag. That is just the tip

of an iceberg. Below it is a whole spectrum of issues such as renewable energy, carbon emissions, mining inside a protected area, wildlife protection, land reclamation, even the legality of a dam in an ancestral domain and the feasibility of a dolomite beach.

Early this week, climate experts from the United Nations (UN) sounded an alarm that, hopefully, will reach the ears of our presidential candidates. The experts said that “humanity has less than three years to halt the rise of planet-warming carbon emissions and less than a decade to slash them by nearly half.” They warned that the world will face “a last-gasp race to ensure a liveable future.”

The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a 2,800-page report — the most comprehensive assessment of how to halt global heating ever produced — which showed the importance of government decisions.

“We are at a crossroads,” said IPCC chief Hoesung Lee. “The decisions we make now can secure a liveable future. We have the tools and know-how required to limit warming.” The UN panel cited some examples that can be done, first of which is to stop greenhouse gas emissions from rising any further.

The report also made clear that investments to cut emissions will be far less expensive than the cost of failing to limit warming. And scientists warn that any rise above 1.5 degree Celsius risks the collapse of ecosystems and the triggering of irreversible shifts in the climate system.

Since time is running out, whoever the electorate will choose as the next president should have an immediate plan to address climate change, and a clear policy on how to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The presidency is not for the faint-hearted, nor is it for the uninitiated. Only a fully informed president can make a wise decision for our future. With that, the electorate deserves to be fully informed right now of a candidate’s green agenda.



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EDITORIAL

The environment must be part of the election conversation

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There is a lot of “noise” filling up our screens and everywhere we look, the noise seems louder and more glaring. Of course, in an election cycle, these political antics and gimmicks are unavoidable. But, what if we momentarily shut down the noise and talk about issues?

One of the alarming things that a lot of civic-minded citizens and people’s organizations have raised is the lack of conversation about the environment. Right now, it seems that there is no one among the 10 presidential candidates who has laid down an encompassing environment agenda aimed at committing to the 1.5 degree goal of the Paris Agreement. To put it simply, the voters haven’t been fully informed by the presidentiables of their plans to combat climate change and to make our country climate resilient.

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Cebu City grants original proponent status for waste-to-energy facility

CEBU CITY's Joint Venture Selection Committee has approved an unsolicited proposal from New Sky Energy Philippines, Inc. for a waste-to-energy (WTE) facility, and invited competing proposals.

The WTE facility will process municipal solid waste using grate incineration technology.

In its notice, the committee granted New Sky Energy original proponent status, paving the way for rival groups to match or improve on New Sky Energy's proposal, which is for a facility with a waste processing capacity of 800 metric tons a day.

Grate incineration WTE technology heats non-recyclable waste, which generates steam that is used to generate electricity. This method does not require prior sorting or shredding of waste and can thus take in larger volumes of feedstock.

In a circular published by the Department of Energy in March, the development of WTE facilities using waste to generate renewable energy was recognized for its potential to improve solid waste management.

When the feedstock is biomass, "WTE is recognized as a relevant intervention in reducing methane emission by conversion of wastes into usable heat, electricity, or fuel," the department said in the document.

Third parties have 30 days to submit competing bids.

Prior to the construction and operation of a WTE facility, the proponent will need to submit an Environmental Technology Verification statement and report in compliance with Republic Act No. 8749 (the Clean Air Act), Republic Act No. 9275 (the Clean Water Act) and Republic Act No. 9003 (the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act). — **Ram Christian S. Agustin**

'Next admin should focus on renewables'

THE next administration must step up the promotion of renewable energy (RE) as well as the improvement of urban mobility and biodiversity protection, according to the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC).

ICSC made the comment following the release of the newest climate change mitigation report of the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The ICSC said the incoming government should realize that acting on the climate crisis will also affect food, water and energy

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security.

"For too long, governments including ours have equated climate change impacts with mere disaster response strategies or reducing carbon footprints. This new report confirms what our own experts have been calling for. Adaptation must remain the country's climate response anchor, because the pursuit of resilience objectives will establish if not accelerate the country's decarbonization agenda..." said Denise Fontanilla, ICSC associate for policy advocacy, in a statement.

The IPCC report said global greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 and be reduced by 43 percent by 2030 to limit warming to 1.5°C and avoid the worst projected climate impacts.

It said there are options in every sector including energy, transport, land use, agriculture, forestry,

industry, cities, buildings, demand and services, that can at least halve emissions by 2030.

The report said while current financial flows are three to six times lower than levels needed by 2030 to limit warming, there is sufficient global capital and liquidity to close investment gaps and that global gross domestic product would be just a few percentage points lower in 2050 if world governments will take the necessary actions.

"Shifting to renewables, investing in battery and storage, improving mobility, restoring our ecosystems – while all these contribute to decarbonization and the Paris Agreement goals, these same actions will likewise help stabilize food and energy prices, and improve access to energy and mobility while decreasing pollution," Fontanilla added.

The Department of Energy

(DOE) said studies made by the ICSC and German development agency GIZ initially showed priority dispatch of RE can pull down overall average cost of electricity in the spot market.

"Because of that study, we might issue a policy that (is) two-pronged. We will start with geothermal and biomass as priority dispatch and then we'll move towards other RE like impounding hydro so that the dispatch of the market will be coming from those RE technology," said Mylene Capongcol, director of the DOE Renewable Energy Management Bureau, in a virtual conference organized by the Meralco Power Academy yesterday.

Capongcol said public consultations for the issuance of a department circular have concluded and will likely be published in the third quarter of 2022.



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PHL joins call for early agreement on marine biodiversity in the high seas

NEW YORK—During the fourth Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Philippines pointed out the urgent need for a global regime to conserve and sustainably use marine-biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

According to the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo, who led the country's delegation, the continued exploitation of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) threatens the whole marine ecosystem. He said the international legally binding agreement on the BBNJ being negotiated under the UN's auspices could bring marine areas beyond national jurisdiction under common management and monitoring.



AMBASSADOR Enrique A. Manalo (left photo, center) led the Philippine delegation at the fourth Intergovernmental Conference; Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce (right) urged United Nations member-states to complete the final text of the agreement within the year. NYPM/DFA

The instrument is expected to address marine environmental degradation and climate change-related impacts on marine biodiversity.

In her statement at the conference, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office Maria Angela A. Ponce joined numerous delegations in supporting the immediate conclusion of the agreement as part of the global action to address pressures on the world's oceans.

Ponce expressed support "for the way forward," particularly on the convening of IGC5 in August 2022 provided by Ambassador Rena Lee,

who is the president of the conference. The former looked forward to the conclusion of the agreement.

"The urgency of protecting our high seas and its resources is rising. 2022 is, after all, a special year, for it is the 40th anniversary of UNCLOS: the foundation upon which this agreement is anchored," the assistant secretary stated. "We hope that, in the spirit of [such], we will be able... to reach convergence on all points, and come to a final text."

The Philippines also underscored the principle of the common heritage of mankind to guide the new legal regime for BBNJ. It stressed the im-

portance of giving due regard to the rights and jurisdiction of adjacent coastal states, and highlighted the special recognition that must be accorded to the archipelagic kind.

The unique geography of the Philippines, as archipelagic, makes the country entirely dependent on the sea, as the country's ecosystem is affected by changes in the larger ocean ecology. Thus, preferential treatment, such as access to capacity building and transfer of marine technology, must be taken into consideration by the instrument.

The conference was held from March 7 to 18 at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The Philippine delegation was composed of representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as its Biodiversity Management Bureau and Environmental Management Bureau.



Paano ba bumili ng lupa?

HALA BIRA!



NI ALLAN ENCARNACION

ISA sa una kong inaral ang mga sistema sa pagbili ng lupa noong magsisimula na akong magbukas ng sarili kong pakpak palipad sa pagpamilya.

Hindi ekta-ektarya ang ibig kong sabihin.

Iyong mga residential or commercial lot sana para sa mga panahong makaikaipon, makapagpupundar man lang ng mga real estate properties na wala akong nagsinang mana tulad ng mga kaibigan kong sina Zobel de Ayala de Araneta.

Ikukuwento ko sa inyo ito hindi para magyabang, ito ay para na rin sa kaalaman ng mga nagbabalak bumili ng lupa sa hinaharap.

Noong una akong makabili ng maliit na lote sa Novaliches, mga 108 square meters, hindi ko alam kung bakit ang naging instinct ko ay humingi ng kopya ng titulo ng lupa tapos humingi ako ng authorization sa may-ari para ma-verify sa Register of Deeds ang kanyang property.

Mga late 1990s pa siyuro iyon kasi mga 27 years lang ako. Tama nga pala ang ginawa ko dahil nagpunta ako sa RD sa Quezon City at doon ay nakakuha ako ng certified true copy ng titulo ng bibilhin kong lupa. Noong mga panahong iyon, P5,000 per

square meter lang ang halaga. Sabi ng kapitbahay kong Marites, P20K to P25K na raw per square-meter ang market value doon.

Ibig sabihin, kapag legitimate lot owner ang nagbebenta sa iyo, ang makukuha mong certified true copy at ang ibinigay sa iyong photo copy mula sa RD ay magtutugma or parehong-pareho.

Ang susunod na tingnan mo sa nakuha mong kopya ng titulo ay tingnan mo ang likod na bahagi dahil doon ay mababasa mo ang status ng property kung ito ay nakasanla kung saan mang banks of financial institution. Pag walang annotation, clear yan, hindi nakasanla.

Nang ma-verify ko na malinis ang titulo, nagsimula na ang pirmahan ng deed of sale pero may dapat pa rin kayong malaman sa bahaging ito. Kung married ang property owner, kailangan may pirma ang asawa sa Deed of Sale kahit sa isa lang sa kanila ang nakalagay sa titulo. Halimbawa, si Juan dela Cruz ang registered owner pero noong ibebenta na niya ay kasal na siya kay Juanita dela Cruz. Dahil kay Juan lang nakapangalan, kailangan doon sa deed ay may part na nakasulat "with my marital consent" na pipirmahan ni Juanita para may mutual understanding sila sa pagbebenta.

Hindi pa tapos yan, kalakip dapat ng deed of sale ay ang ID nilang mag-asawa na isyu ng gobyerno, like driver's license, passport, PRC or postal ID. Kailangan din ng attachment ng married certificate nila dahil importante yan sa legalidad ng

dokumento at bentahan.

Kapag na-notarized na ang mga ito, doon pa lang magsisimula ang tinawag na transfer of ownership. May isang buwan lang kayo para ma-transfer sa inyong pangalan ang titulo. Kapag hindi nyo nagawa ito in a month, may penalty charge na sa transfer.

Ito pa ang isang dapat nyong malaman, ang nagbabayad ng capital gains ay ang responsibilidad ng seller/property samantalang ang nagbabayad ng transfer tax ay ang buyer. Kapag sinabi ng seller na sa buyer ang capital gain, huwag kayong papayag maliban na lamang kung may arrangement kayo na mas mababa ang bentahan sa orihinal na presyo pero kayo ang sasagot sa capital gains.

May isa pang importante pala na dapat malaman sa bentahan, kailangan ng survey ng property para matukoy ang boundary, iyong tinatawag na muhon. Importante rin ito bago kayo magbakod at magpatayo ng anumang sa lupa.

Karaniwan, tatlong linggo hanggang dalawang buwan ay dapat lumabas na ang official transferred title na nakapangalan na sa new owner.

Natalakay ko lang ito dahil iyong anak ko ay nagtanong sa akin dahil may bibilhin daw silang lupa sa Rizal mula sa bagong developer. Sobrang mura ang halaga, P375K lang for 100 square-meter. Kapag may developer naman, iba rin ang proseso ng bilihan.

Kung bibili kayo ng lupa sa developer, hanapan nyo muna sila ng HLURB license number at ECC or Environmental Clearance Certificate mula sa DENR at mga permit mula sa local government bago magbitaw ng pera.

Sundan sa pahina 6...

PAANO

MULA PAHINA 5

Mahirap basta-basta magbayad na lang sa lupang bibilhin nyo na hindi sigurado ang ownership dahil maraming kaso na ang nangyari na kapag naibigay mo na ang pera, hindi mo na mahagilap ang taong pinagbayaran mo.

Lalo na sa mga prob-

insiya, talamak ang land grabbing at double titling kaya palagi tayong mag-iingat sa pagbili ng lupa.

By the way, hindi tayo eksperto ha, kung may iba pa kayong gustong malaman tungkol sa bentahan at bilihan ng properties, marami namang licensed brokers at mga dalubhasang abogado tungkol dito.

allanpungto@gmail.com

07 APRIL 2022, Thursday



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DOH raises alarm on possible Covid-19 surge in BARMM

By Lade Jean Kabagani April 6, 2022, 5:04 pm



(PNA file photo by Joey O. Razon)

MANILA – The government is keen to address the low daily vaccination output nationwide, particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

During the prerecorded Talk to the People of President Rodrigo Duterte aired late Tuesday night, National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. cited that BARMM has the lowest vaccination output among 17 regions in the country, with only 25 percent of its target population fully vaccinated.

Galvez said both the World Health Organization (WHO) and Department of Health (DOH) have raised alarm over the possible surge of Covid-19 cases in BARMM amid the start of the month-long observation of Ramadhan.

“So ang nakikita po namin talaga nagkakaroon po tayo ng demand issue at saka po ‘yung mga vaccine preference (We see that there is an emerging demand issue and vaccine preferences) in the area,” he said.

Galvez cited some Muslims refusing to get vaccinated over concerns that the Covid-19 vaccines are not permissible in their religious and cultural beliefs.

“Sabi kasi po ng iba na hindi po halal ‘yung ibang mga vaccine na ginagamit po natin. Iyon po ang ano po nila paniniwala po nila (Some are saying that the vaccines that we are using are not halal. That’s what they believed),” he said.

The geographical locations are also affecting the vaccination phase in BARMM, he said.

For instance, it would take six to seven hours of travel each time the vaccination team will go to the remote areas of Tawi-Tawi and Basilan for the inoculation of residents in the concerned areas.



DOH raises alarm on possible Covid-19 surge in BARMM

Galvez said the government is pushing a “strategic focus towards vaccinating the majority of BARMM residents.”

To date, there are 66,230,305 Filipinos who have already received two primary series of Covid-19 vaccines, with 12,208,931 eligible vaccinees having their booster shots or additional protection against the dreaded disease. (*PNA*)



Signs of Covid-19 endemicity seen in PH despite Omicron XE threat

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 6, 2022, 4:48 pm



(PNA photo by Joey Razon)

MANILA – The Philippines is seeing some signs of Covid-19 endemicity despite the new threat posed by the recombinant variant Omicron XE, according to an infectious disease expert on Wednesday.

In a televised public briefing, Department of Health – Technical Advisory Group member Dr. Edsel Salvaña said endemicity is a gradual process a country goes through.

“Nakikita na naman natin ang signs ng endemicity dito – na hindi nape-pressure ang health system, manageable na, meron tayong mga lunas para dito (We can see the signs of endemicity here – the health system is not pressured, [admissions are] manageable, we have cure [for cases]) and we know how to prevent [cases] it with masks and vaccines. In a way, it’s becoming endemic,” Salvaña said.

Daily coronavirus cases remain low, a step forward toward endemicity, he added. However, the public has to remain vigilant in utilizing safeguards like the minimum health protocols to avoid possible surge in infections.

Health experts said endemic phase means that the pandemic will not end with the virus disappearing. Even as the virus continues to circulate, enough people will gain protection from vaccination and from natural infection, resulting in less transmission and less Covid-19-related hospitalization and death.



Signs of Covid-19 endemicity seen in PH despite Omicron XE threat

In his presentation to President Rodrigo Duterte Tuesday night, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the country logged only 2,548 cases for the period of March 30 to April 5 – lower than last week's tally at 2,643.

The country's average cases per day is 364 per day with only one case added to the severe and critical cases count.

The case fatality rate remains low at 1.61 percent while the recovery rate is high at 97.47 percent.

The positivity rate is also low at 1.8 percent out of the seven-day moving average testing output of 20,990.

Duque added that the healthcare utilization rate remains low with only 17.7 percent of non-intensive care unit (ICU) and 15.6 percent of ICU beds used.

Out of the 6,327 total admissions, only 785 or 12.4 percent are classified as severe and critical. **(PNA)**

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
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