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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR, Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. Partner for Mangrove Rehab

Thursday, April 7, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (middle) with DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones (left) and Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. President Reinaldo A. Bautista, Jr. (right) show the newly-signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the restoration and rehabilitation of 143 hectares of mangrove in Siargao Island damaged by typhoon Odette. Under the MOA, DENR Region 13 will lead the three-year project and JVOFI will allocate the Php10 million funding. The MOA signing was held at the [DENR](#) Central Office on March 15, 2022.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-jaime-v-ongpin-foundation-inc-partner-for-mangrove-rehab/>



PH 1st Sewage and Solid Waste Treatment Plant in EL Nido, Palawan

Thursday, April 7, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (**DENR**) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (3rd from left) receives a briefing from Palawan Governor Jose Chavez Alvarez and El Nido Mayor Edna Gacot Lim (2nd and 1st from right) on the operation of the country's first Sewage and Solid Waste Treatment Plant (SSTP) which can clean and treat wastewater, septage, and biodegradable solid waste from 17 barangays in the municipality of El Nido in Palawan. Sampulna lauded Alvarez and Lim for the construction of the SSTP during the World Water Day celebration held in Brgy. Villa Libertad, El Nido, Palawan on April 2. Also in photo are **DENR**-MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Lormelyn E. Claudio and Engr. Ann Michelle Y. Cardenas of Palawan Water (2nd and 1st from left).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/ph-1st-sewage-and-solid-waste-treatment-plant-in-el-nido-palawan/>



Candidates told to be environmentally-conscious

APR 7, 2022, 1:19 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

Acting DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna told candidates-- both national and local-- and their supporters to be environmentally conscious in their campaign sorties.

When campaigning candidates-- local and national-- should be environmentally-conscious by avoiding the use of fireworks and balloons and from harming trees by hammering nails to hold their banners and placards.

This was the plea of Acting Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim O. Sampulna following reports on the wide-spread use of fireworks and balloons in several 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,” he said.

Sampulna said releasing balloons and using fireworks are “both detrimental to the environment.”

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino said that releasing balloons into open air may cause harm to wildlife and the environment.

“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,” Bernardino said.

While marine litter comprises many materials, most of these are plastics, such as balloons, bags, sachets, wrappers, and bottles, among others.

DENR said Marine turtles, whales, dolphins, and fishes can ingest these and may cause internal injuries and mortality. They can also damage and degrade the marine habitats.

Meanwhile, DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William P. Cuñado said that fireworks propel chemicals and heavy metals in the air, which if inhaled may cause adverse effects on human health.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/candidates-told-to-be-environmentally-conscious?fbclid=IwAR3HpY4HFcuuJVUdsLpA8fRcfTfAwV7lkLkGWDjimb199pOi5EPFaVHbF0A>



DENR to create team to probe Boracay's algal bloom

April 7, 2022 [Cory Martinez](#)

A TEAM of experts will be formed to conduct additional studies on the occurrence of algal blooms in the coastal waters of Boracay island.

This was disclosed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, saying that the experts might be coming from the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) in collaboration with the DENR experts.

"I am still forming a team. I want the study conducted by the UP (University of the Philippines) Marine Science Institute (MSI) and the DENR. We will work together to make the report credible," Sampulna said.

The team will be formed after the DENR-Region 6 (Western Visayas) 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.

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

The DENR conducted its study of Boracay Island in 2017 before the government launched its rehabilitation in 2018.

Sampulna said that another study with the help of UP-MSI is 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 and said he is focused on completing the rehabilitation of Boracay Island, among other priority programs, before his term ends in June.

As of February 2022, the coliform level in Boracay's front beach was measured at 11 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100mL).

This shows 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.



Planting Mangroves for a Strong Envi Partnership

Thursday, April 7, 2022 Journal Online



Volunteers from Brgy. Lagadlarin in Lobo, Batangas plant the mangrove species *Avicennia marina* characterized by its low root system and twisted branches during the World Water Day celebration held at the Lagadlarin [Mangrove Forest](#) on March 30, 2022. The site is one of the wetlands found in the province of Lobo, Batangas that caters to waterbirds and migratory birds. Prior to the activity, the municipality of Lobo signed the Environment and Natural Resources Partner's Commitment with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service](#) (SCIS) in support of best practices to preserve the province's vast natural resources. A total of 81 volunteers joined the ecotour and tree planting activity conducted by the SCIS.



El Nido Controls and Lessen Water Pollution through SSTP

by [Village Connect](#) about 12 hours ago



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna commended the local government of Palawan province and El Nido town for their efforts to control and lessen water pollution through the establishment of a sewage and solid waste treatment plant (SSTP).

"I am calling all the governors around the Philippines to replicate what the Palawan and El Nido local governments have done here to improve the water quality and protect our coastal bodies," Sampulna said during a site visit to the SSTP on April 2.

The SSTP in Barangay Villa Libertad was designed and built to address water pollution from untreated sewage discharge and garbage waste disposal.

It has been benefitting the residential and commercial establishments from at least 18 barangays in the municipality of El Nido.

The facility has a capacity to generate about 2,400 cubic meters of wastewater per day, which makes it more efficient than any other STPs in Palawan.

It could also process biodegradable solid waste and sludge through anaerobic digestion, thus generating electricity from biogas production.

The state-of-the-art facility is a P490-million joint project of the provincial government of Palawan and the municipality of El Nido.

Palawan Water, a water utility infrastructure by the provincial government, generated savings of P170 million because of the office's pro bono technical service.

In 2018, the DENR ordered a six-month rehabilitation of El Nido after finding out that improper sewage discharges from residential and commercial establishments significantly contributed to the degradation of the island's water quality.

The facility was inaugurated in September 2021.

Source: https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/el-nido-controls-and-lessen-water-pollution-through-sstp/9071?fbclid=IwAR09oy4BB2LWTxFbSjqFJeZoI7lOJbpjV0FnFtx_kWQjuOYarSA-ejtBo0

EMB 7 urged to cancel power plant's ECC over pollution, noise issues



PROTEST VS. POWER PLANT. Residents of Barangay Bato in Toledo City held a protest in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Visayas office in Banilad, Mandaue City on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The group, assisted by the members of Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and Sanlakas, then filed a complaint against Therma Visayas Inc. for its alleged failure to address pollution and noise that affect residents living near their coal-fired power plant in Bato. / PMCJ FB page

April 07, 2022

NINE individuals, seven of whom are residents of Barangay Bato in Toledo City, have filed a complaint against the company that runs a coal-fired plant situated in the southwestern Cebu village over pollution issues that it allegedly didn't address.

The complainants have asked the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB 7) to issue a cease and desist order against Therma Visayas Inc.

(TVI) for allegedly not addressing the pollution from its coal-fired power plant.

The group also called for the cancellation of TVI's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for failing to address the problem on several occasions.

The complainants said this was the fourth complaint they filed against TVI.

They filed the complaint before EMB 7 on Wednesday, April 7, 2022, and were assisted by lawyers Marianne Cabacungan-Esbra and Aaron Pedrosa of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and Sanlakas.

SunStar Cebu tried to get TVI's side on the matter Thursday but the company declined to comment. TVI is a joint venture of Aboitiz Power Corp. and Vivant Corp.

The complainants led by Ranulfo Honoridez said that all of them have been affected by the plant's black dust emissions caused by a destroyed conveyor, which they said was not repaired by TVI ever since Typhoon Odette (Rai) hit their barangay last December.

Honoridez said most of them have gotten sick because of the black dust being emitted by the plant.

According to Honoridez, black dust coming from the plant has reached their homes.



“Every morning when I wake up, my throat itches, there is rasping like fine sand. My skin also itches, there is fine dust when I wipe it with a rag every morning and you can see the black dust,” Honoridez said, in his affidavit.

Some of the residents have also claimed that TVI has not addressed the noise coming from its plant which has prevented them from getting a good night’s sleep.

They have also claimed that aside from noise, vibrations from the plant’s conveyors would often wake them up especially during dawn.

This was not the first time that TVI had faced such a complaint.


In 2019, TVI officials were ordered by Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia to install an online emission data transmission system to improve its air quality monitoring after she received complaints from residents who were allegedly suffering from skin and respiratory illnesses due to the plant’s operations.

Following the meeting with Garcia, TVI had vowed to improve its operations. **(PAC / TPT)**







 **DZRH News** 2d · 🌐 ⋮

Makatutulong sa Angat Dam ang nararanasang pag-ulan sa Metro Manila. Ito ang sinabi ni Dr. Seville David, pinuno ng National Water Resources Board sa pag-ulan sa NCR dulot ng northeasterly windflow surface. Pero sabi ni David na hindi agad masusukat ang dami ng ulan na bumababa o napunta sa Angat Dam. #SamaSamaTayoPilipino



**NARARANASANG PAG-ULAN
MAKATUTULONG SA ANGAT
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Proteksyunan ang biodiversity sa gitna ng climate crisis panawagan ni Legarda

Published 9 hours ago on April 7, 2022 10:00 PM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



Hinimok ni Senatorial bet Loren Legarda ang mga lider at mamamayan na gumawa ng mas malawak na aksyon sa pagprotekta sa biodiversity ng Pilipinas — na itinuturing na isa sa pinakamayaman sa mundo — sa gitna ng tumitinding banta na dulot ng global warming at climate change.

Hinikayat din ni Legarda ang publiko na tumulong na protektahan ang biodiversity at labanan ang climate change sa pamamagitan ng pag-iwas sa single-use plastics, paggamit ng reusable bags at containers, pagbabawas ng food waste, composting ng mga tirang pagkain, at pag-promote ng local at indigenous food and products.



Legarda urges strong wildlife trade regulation

Published 17 hours ago on April 7, 2022 01:17 PM

By **TDT** @tribuneph



Senatorial aspirant Loren Legarda said illegal smuggling, trafficking, and poaching of wild animals are still operational and remain rampant across many Asian countries and across the globe.

“This ongoing public health crisis is only one of many that will beset us if we continue to ignore the warnings of scientists. If we continue on the path to a warming planet as we seem to be doing, we could use this crisis in three ways: as a test of our current coping mechanisms, as a drill for future crises, and as a wake-up call to the connection of this public health crisis to the destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems on which we all depend,” Legarda said.

Legarda also emphasized that overcoming threats like the COVID-19 will require functioning local ecosystems, local sufficiency of prime commodities, avoidance of mass hysteria and the ability to survive lockdowns.

She also encouraged the international organizations and communities to make the necessary shift and step up efforts toward successfully regulating the trade in wildlife.

Legarda also backed the development of science-based standards, guidelines and recommendations on disease prevention, detection, and control that will enable governments to safeguard biodiversity and public and animal health worldwide.

“We have many laws in place already but we need to treat them as measures for survival rather than mere obstacles to the relentless pursuit of an economic future that will be mired in new dangers,” she added.



‘Better environment means better health’ — CHR

Published April 7, 2022, 11:10 AM

by [Czarina Nicole Ong Ki](#)



Commission-on-Human-Rights

“A better environment leads to better health” said the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as it joined the international community in today’s, April 7, observance of the “World Health Day 2022.”

It pointed out that this year’s theme “Our Planet, Our Health” highlights the interconnectedness between the environment and people’s health.

“A heating world caused by climate change and the increased burning of fossil fuels have led to the environmental degradation that affects the life of our ecosystems — from the loss of animal habitat to soil, air, and water pollution that impacts the health of people and lead to diseases and injuries worldwide,” it said in its social media post.

In the Philippines, the CHR noted that environmental pollution has sadly led to an increased risk of the contraction of respiratory illnesses due to poor air quality and other water-borne diseases such as typhoid and cholera. This is also due to Filipinos’ lack of access to clean drinking water, it said.

Since good health is a basic human right, the CHR stressed that it is high time Filipinos become more mindful of the environment and take care of the ecosystems because this will, in turn, translate to their wellbeing

This World Health Day reminds us of the ties that bind us humans and the environment as part of nature’s ecosystem,” the CHR said.

“In protecting and promoting our right to health, let us not forget the importance of a sustainable and resilient environment for the benefit of our health and the future generations,” it stressed.



Protecting our one planet through One Health

BY DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

APRIL 8, 2022

Today is an auspicious day to commemorate World Health Day, as the number of cases and severity of Covid-19 have been reduced to manageable levels, thanks to global efforts, especially in vaccine rollouts. However, we are not in the clear yet and emerging variants and infectious diseases compel us to turn to longer-term strategies for building resilience.

The theme Our Planet, Our Health particularly resonates with the Asean. As a region endowed with abundant and unique biodiversity that is crucial to our socio-economic development, the Asean is at the same time vulnerable to new and emerging diseases.

Studies indicate that biodiversity loss appears to be associated with the increasing occurrence of zoonotic diseases. Historically, the region has suffered from outbreaks such as the Nipah virus in 1998, the SARs virus in 2003 and the highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza in 1997.

Implicated in these outbreaks are bat species, wild birds, and pangolins known to be natural reservoirs of these viruses. The Southeast Asian region is known to be rich in this wildlife that, if protected and maintained in healthy populations, can keep zoonotic diseases in check.

The Covid-19 crisis surfaced the reliance of public health and well-being on healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity. In response to Covid-19, Asean leaders have underscored the significance of cross-sectoral cooperation in recovering and building resilience. The Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework articulates broad strategies and identifies measures for recovery in line with sectoral and regional priorities. It enjoins communities and various sectors to collaborate in key areas including ecosystem-based approaches to increase resilience against future pandemics.

The pandemic likewise brought to the fore the need to integrate nature and biodiversity into health plans and programs and a holistic approach to achieving better outcomes for human, animal, and environmental health. Across the region, Asean member states have been implementing species-specific conservation actions, promoting urban biodiversity to build resilience and enhancing synergies—steps that contribute to achieving an integrated approach to address public health issues. Policies and mechanisms for implementing wildlife laws are also in place to help address the illegal and unsustainable use of wildlife at the local, national, and international levels.

Some of the Asean member states' initiatives include the wildlife disease surveillance program of Malaysia that monitors wildlife diseases through their One Health framework. The links between the human, domestic animal, and wildlife health sectors are coordinated through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Control of Zoonotic Diseases. Similarly, the Philippine Interagency Committee on Zoonoses recognizes the importance of strong coordination between the animal-human-health and environment sectors to prevent and control zoonotic diseases at the national and local levels.

In Vietnam, the Vietnam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP) was established even before the Covid-19 pandemic, enhancing their capacity and preparedness against zoonotic diseases. Meanwhile, in Singapore, information dissemination is among the priority of the One Health Protocol to ensure that medical practitioners, stakeholders, and the public can make informed decisions and participate in prevention and control.



The One Health approach is now being welcomed as it opens more potential for the Asean—a biodiverse region—to exemplify leadership in underscoring nature's central role in bouncing back better and building resilience to reduce risks of future pandemics.

As the regional center of excellence, the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) stands to continually support the Asean member states in advocating for an integrated approach toward recovery. With the help of our dialogue and development partners, we contribute to the efforts of the countries in ensuring that biodiversity, including wildlife species and critical ecosystems, is effectively managed to achieve long-term benefits for the health of the people and the planet.

The road toward full recovery will be long and arduous. We draw strength and inspiration from this year's Asean Summit theme ASEAN ACT: Addressing Challenges Together under the Chairship of Cambodia, which also reflects our symbiotic relationship with nature. We are only strong as we are together, thus we must continue to forge robust linkages to ensure the health of our people and our planet.

The author is the Executive Director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity.

WHO Philippines urges united fight against ‘silent killer’ climate change

By GISELLE OMBAY, GMA News

Published April 7, 2022 7:20pm



Unlike COVID-19, which is a loud killer, everybody knows it, climate change continues to kill silently and we might not even realize it,” acting WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Rajendra Yadav said.

As part of its observance of World Health Day 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines on Thursday [called on the government, private corporations, and the public alike to work together to address climate change.](#)

Acting WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Rajendra Yadav explained in a webinar that climate change is a “silent” killer.

“Unlike COVID-19, which is a loud killer, everybody knows it, climate change continues to kill silently and we might not even realize it,” he said.

“We are in the midst of a pandemic still but we should not forget that we have another major issue. COVID-19 may get controlled in many ways in the coming months, but this problem of planet or climate change has been there for many years now,” he added.

Yadav noted that the WHO estimates over 13 million deaths around the world annually due to “avoidable” environmental causes including climate change.

He said nine out of ten people also breathe polluted air especially because of burning fossil fuels like oil, coals, and natural gas.

Thus, if the people will not act on solving the climate problem immediately, there might come a tipping point that could cause the Earth to get hotter, have violent typhoons and floods, and worse diseases, he explained.

To protect the planet and the people’s health simultaneously, Yadav underscored that the government should stop the fossil fuel subsidies and instead reinvest in renewable energy, tax the polluters, and tax tobacco and highly processed food more. He also called on local chief executives to engage in low-carbon public transport.

Further, he said corporations should support teleworking, while the public must continue raising their voice and demand climate actions from the government.



“We have one planet—planet A, but no planet B. We better take care of it because it will then take care of us,” Yadav said.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III pointed out that the health of the people depends on the health of the planet.

“No one in this world can actually be healthy if our planet is not. Universal healthcare is not possible without equitable environments for health which could only be achieved if each and everyone on this planet will walk the path to transformation through our way of living, working, producing, consuming, and governing,” he said.

To help protect and promote the people’s right to health, Duque said that they will work closely with the international community, government and non-government sectors, academe, youth, and environmental health professionals.

“Together, let us celebrate the World Health Day with a firm resolve to work together towards a green recovery where people enjoy improved lives and well-being because they live on a greener, cleaner, and more resilient planet,” he added. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/827762/who-philippines-urges-united-fight-against-silent-killer-climate-change/story/?fbclid=IwAR0X9YJo4627Tv4wbKU3bcI_W95oQovnNGRvlccEJ7M7KaF8vmSgQj6_jNA



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

BY BUSINESSMIRROR APRIL 6, 2022



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.

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.

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 importance 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.

Image credits: [NYPM/DFA](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/06/phl-joins-call-for-early-agreement-on-marine-biodiversity-in-the-high-seas/>



Environment group urges government to focus on climate change

The Philippine Star April 8, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — An advocacy group for environmental stewardship wants the country's next set of leaders to adopt new policies and push legislation that would build resilience to disasters, both natural and man-made.

Felix Vitangcol, co-convenor of Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), said the incoming administration should focus on the upgrade and modernization of infrastructure and services in the context of sustainable development.

"They have their work cut out for them," he said. "They face the daunting job of dealing with the effects of climate change and pursuing measures to address it."

Modern grids, for instance, should address not only the short-term needs of providing power to communities and industries, but also people's need for a healthier and safer environment, he said.

"Reforms in competition policy should help bring about energy transition faster. For example, PBEST supports proposals to make fixed-price bids, carve-out clauses and uniform force-majeure provisions mandatory in power purchase contracts," Vitangcol said.

The group said it was also pushing for more efficient transport systems as they build efficiency, encourage prosperity and harness the resilience of urban communities.

Vitangcol said that some private companies, driven by their commitment to a more resilient Philippines, have been integrating technology driven processes to make their operations more sustainable.

"We call on business groups to engage in pro-active interventions such as Globe's ramping up of its sustainable modernization program by transitioning its facilities to renewable energy to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The company is also scheduled to establish a green and low-carbon optical access network which is expected to cut power consumption and heat dissipation by 50 percent," Vitangcol said.

Globe intends to allow its cell sites to be powered by renewable energy, to encourage investments – including in local electric cooperatives – in the Mindanao region.

These adjustments will give other major enterprises and MSMEs the option to shift to sustainable energy sources for their infrastructure and operations. According to data released in March by the Department of Trade and Industry, MSMEs make up 99.51 percent of businesses.

"Circular economy initiatives are already in the works for big enterprises like Mondelez Philippines, modernizing operations to address plastic waste and transition to renewable power sources, and Coca-Cola Beverage Philippines Inc., sourcing more than half of energy consumption from solar energy," Vitangcol said.

"Notable is the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) built in Clark, Pampanga – the world's first ever private sector-led national level emergency operations center that can track tropical weather patterns in the region, and storms, volcanic and earthquake eruptions around the world," said Vitangcol.



Initiatives from other organizations include renewable energy initiatives, low-carbon investments, modern fuel cell and cooling systems, direct current hybrid generators and storage batteries, to name a few.

Many other companies have also invested in the training and upgrading of people's skills – human capital – so they could better respond to the changing demands of the times and participate better in the future of work.

“The new administration should take advantage of this momentum and collaborate with the private sector in institutionalizing these initiatives across the archipelago, and across various industries,” Vitangcol said.



BAN Toxics calls on Philippine candidates to prioritize environmental issues

Thursday, April 7, 2022 Journal Online



QUEZON CITY, April 7 – In light of today’s commemoration of World Health Day, environmental watchdog group BAN Toxics calls on the Philippine electoral candidates to address sound chemical and waste management in their platform to protect the health of Filipinos and the environment.

Environmental issues surrounding illegal waste importation, plastic and e-waste pollution, and proliferation of [mercury-added products](#) have long plagued the country.

Electoral candidates should look into the long overdue ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment to prevent the Philippines from becoming a dumping ground of toxic and hazardous wastes again. The country has long been a victim of illegal waste trading, with the Canada waste issue in 2013 being a prime example.[1] The government should take a stronger stance against waste trading to prevent this from happening again.

The next set of government officials should prioritize the strict regulation and monitoring of mercury-added products that are being sold illegally on site and online. While the Food and Drug Administration constantly flags mercury-added products, online monitoring and test buy operations show that it’s still widely available in the market. Stricter measures to control products containing mercury should be implemented to protect Filipino consumers from the chemical’s harmful effects.

Another issue plaguing the Philippines is its plastic and e-waste pollution. The plastic pollution crisis is one of the Philippines’ biggest waste challenges. In 2015, the country ranked third as the world’s greatest plastic waste producer, with 2.7 million tons of plastic waste produced each year.[2] Despite the Philippines’ having one of the highest garbage collection rates among Southeast Asian countries, a 2018 study on waste management practices revealed the country’s problem with the proper disposal of garbage.[3]

“We have yet to see concrete platforms and action plans on health and environmental issues from most of the national electoral candidates. Our government officials and aspirants should also prioritize addressing health and environmental issues among other things,” says Reynaldo San Juan, executive director of BAN Toxics.

Founded in 2006, BAN Toxics is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mandate is to promote sound chemicals and wastes management. The organization was established to respond to urgent waste and chemicals issues besetting the Philippines.



“Unless the government develops and implements concrete action plans to address environmental issues, Filipinos will continue to be vulnerable to the adverse effects of pollution and toxics. Our right to a healthy environment should not be overlooked. The protection of the environment will also protect the health of the Filipino people,” San Juan added.

By **BAN Toxics**



The environment must be part of the election conversation

Published April 7, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



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 presidentiables 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 presidentiables 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 cleanup, 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 presidentiables. 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.”

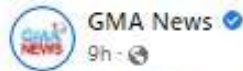


The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a 2,800-page report — the most comprehensive assessment of how to halt global heating ever produced — which showed the importance of government decisions.

“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.



GMA News

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NAHULING PAWIKAN, NALIGTAS!

Narescue ang nahuling pawikan sa Bacacay, Albay matapos ibenta ng isang mangingisda. Tinum-over ang pawikan sa Municipal Agriculture Office matapos mabawi sa barangay captain na pinagbentahan.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, isang babaeng juvenile green turtle ang pawikan na may bigat na 10 kilo. Ibinalik na rin agad sa gat ang pawikan matapos na matiyak na ligtas na itong pakawalan.

COURTESY: GMA Regional TV Balitang Bicolandia

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Donors secure \$100M to benefit minorities on climate change

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS APRIL 6, 2022

NEW YORK—A group of financial donors committed to racial equity plans to announce Tuesday that it has secured at least \$100 million annually to benefit minority groups that are disproportionately harmed by extreme weather events.

The group, the Donors of Color Network, will also announce that 10 of the nation's top 40 donors to environment causes have now signed on to at least a portion of a pledge the network established last year. The Climate Funders Justice Pledge commits the donors to make their climate-related grants transparent and to direct at least 30 percent of their donations to groups that have Black, Indigenous or other people of color as their leaders.

"That's a great start," said Isabelle Leighton, the network's interim executive director. "But there's still a lot of work to do."

Twelve national environmental grant makers awarded \$1.34 billion to organizations in the Gulf and Midwest regions in 2016 and 2017, according to a 2020 study by The New School's Tishman Environment and Design Center. But only about 1 percent of it—roughly \$18 million—was awarded to groups that are dedicated to environmental justice.

In its 2020 "State of the Air" report, the American Lung Association found that people of color were 1.5 times more likely to live in an area with poor air quality than white people were.

For this reason, environmental justice groups have pursued solutions with racial equity in mind. If minority communities receive help in achieving long-term solutions to perennial problems like flooding or erosion, for example, the projects can benefit both the environment and the community.

Leighton said donors have sometimes avoided explaining they are underfunding minority groups that are disproportionately hurt by extreme weather.

"We've had funders who just really spend a lot of time PR-wise, talking about their commitment to racial equity and racial justice, yet they haven't been responsive to us at all," she said.

Mark Magaña, founding president and CEO of the environmental nonprofit GreenLatinos, says the Climate Funders Justice Pledge should be seen as the equivalent of the National Football League's Rooney Rule, which requires teams to interview candidates from underrepresented demographic groups for all top jobs. By encouraging donors to seek out minority-led environmental groups for their grants, Magaña said, they will naturally find more programs that they want to fund.

"Instead of surviving off of pennies on the dollar and still doing some amazing work, these groups really could thrive off of 30 cents off of the dollar," he said. "Imagine what they could do, how effective they could be if we were spending hundreds of millions of dollars instead of just playing defense the prior four years. We really could move the ball forward and build a base that is stronger by making the distribution of funds and resources more equitable."

ClimateWorks Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation and Energy Foundation all committed to the transparency portion of the pledge on Tuesday.

Lois DeBacker, managing director of The Kresge Foundation's Environment Program, says the responses often depend on the donors' strategies.



“There’s been a long history in environmental philanthropy of thinking of climate change as largely a technical problem with technical solutions,” DeBacker said. “As a sector, we’ve underestimated that it’s a social issue as well, that we need to be thinking about political will, that we also need to be thinking more about how to center people in our grantmaking around climate change.”

The Kresge Foundation, among the first donors to sign the Climate Founders Justice Pledge, has already reached the 30 percent threshold in its giving to minority-led groups.

“We were already on a trend to be doing it,” DeBacker said, adding that Kresge plans to further increase that percentage. “The pledge is on our mind every day as we are making decisions about recommending grants.”

DeBacker and Magaña say they think the new \$100 million baseline that the Donors of Color Network has established will help persuade other donors to consider the growing support for environmental justice.

Magaña said major donors should recognize that climate change has already reached many minority communities and that action needs to be taken immediately.

“We’re the most affected by climate change,” he said. “It’s already where we live—Texas, California, Florida, New York, New Jersey. Our workers in agribusiness are so affected by climate change, so affected by extreme heat that it’s costing them their lives, at times, and definitely their health. As we saw during the pandemic, the service industry is extremely affected by weather-related incidents. We are on the frontlines.”

But Magaña said the main reason why funding to minority-led environmental groups should increase is that many are succeeding in their communities.

“The real reason funders should care is because we have the answers, and we have the grassroots power,” he said. (AP)

UK denies climate retreat despite rethink on fossil fuels

Agence France-Presse / 09:57 PM April 07, 2022



An activist from the Extinction Rebellion protest group, wearing a mask depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin, holds a 'Gazprom' branded fuel container, as they demonstrate against fossil fuel use, outside of the Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh on April 1, 2022. (Photo by ANDY BUCHANAN / AFP)

LONDON — Britain insisted Thursday it was sticking to its climate change goals despite announcing plans to drill for more North Sea fossil fuels as a way of preventing energy “blackmail” by Russia.

After weeks of cabinet infighting, the government finally released a long-promised energy strategy as Britons struggle with soaring prices, following Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine.

The plan envisions eight new nuclear stations, a five-fold increase in solar generation and enough electricity from offshore wind to power every UK home by 2030.

But to the dismay of environmentalists, the politically charged issue of onshore wind turbines — cheaper and quicker to build than offshore — was left on the back burner.

And campaign groups said plans to offer new licences to drill for North Sea oil and gas made a mockery of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s legally enshrined commitment to make Britain carbon net zero by 2050.

Johnson, however, said he was taking a “sensible and pragmatic view” on hydrocarbons “in the interim to the transition to net zero” — a goal that he had proclaimed at November’s COP26 climate summit in Scotland.

“This is about tackling the mistakes of the past and making sure that we are set well for the future,” he told reporters.

“And we are never again subject to the vagaries of the global oil and gas prices and we can’t be subject to blackmail, as it were, from people such as Vladimir Putin, we have energy security here in the UK.”

The prime minister was speaking on a visit to a giant nuclear plant under construction at Hinkley Point in southwest England — which is years overdue and billions over budget.



Johnson vowed that “instead of a new reactor every decade, we will have a new reactor every year” — including both large plants and smaller “modular” ones, although these have yet to be tested at industrial scale.

If all the bets come off, according to the strategy, Britain could derive 95 percent of its electricity from low-carbon sources by 2030.

The government acknowledges that the strategy will do little to curb household energy bills in the near term, which Johnson said had “absolutely soared” after the Russian president’s invasion of Ukraine.

Rebecca Newsom, head of politics at Greenpeace UK, said: “This strategy comprehensively fails to stand up to Putin’s violence, to take the sting out of soaring energy bills, or take control of the spiralling climate crisis.”

‘Madness’

The government plan flagged a new competition to find UK manufacturers of electric heat pumps — which are much more efficient than gas-fired household boilers, but also much more expensive.

Otherwise, as critics noted, it had nothing to say about cutting down on energy wastage and improving efficiency in homes, after the finance ministry reportedly vetoed new spending on that front.

“The first line of any new energy policy in the UK should read ‘insulate, insulate, insulate’,” commented Jon Gluyas, director of the Durham Energy Institute.

Instead, he said, the strategy was “an uninspiring mix of more of the same and ... does very little to meet the nation’s zero-carbon mantra shouted so loudly at COP26”.

United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres, marking the launch Monday of the latest UN report on climate change, said it was “moral and economic madness” to invest any more in fossil fuels.

The 3,000-page report warned that countries risk ending up with trillions in worthless assets such as offshore platforms and pipelines when demand for fossil fuels wanes in coming decades.

For the UK government, however, political pressure to tackle the energy crisis has been heating up ahead of nationwide local elections on May 5.

Ed Miliband, climate spokesman for the opposition Labour party, said Conservative backbenchers opposed to onshore turbines in rural England were “holding the government’s energy policy to ransom”.

“And people are paying higher bills as a result,” he told BBC radio.

Climate change does not have to mean more insect-borne disease

As the world warms, diseases transmitted by insects may spread. For World Health Day, we look at how certain prevention strategies can break the link between climate change and animal diseases which spread to humans.



Residents look on as a dengue prevention worker sprays mosquito repellent in a street outside Bangkok, Thailand.
Image: [Vaccines at Sanofi](#) / Flickr

By [Ilan Kelman](#)

Human-caused [climate change](#) has a complex effect on insect-borne diseases. Many may be spreading more, but effective strategies exist to manage this risk. These strategies are available to all countries, rich and poor.

Illnesses carried and transmitted by mosquitoes, such as [malaria, dengue fever and encephalitis](#) (the latter also spread by ticks), are likely to spread more widely in a warming world. Other insect-borne diseases such as [Lyme disease](#) (spread by ticks), [leishmaniasis \(spread by sandflies\)](#) and [West Nile fever \(spread by mosquitoes\)](#) should be closely watched so the impact of climate change on them can be assessed — especially in tandem with the effects of urbanisation and expanding human encroachment into ecosystems.

As the world's temperatures increase, summers are lasting longer and the life cycles of many insects — and the microbes or parasites they carry — are [speeding up](#). Many insects and parasites mature earlier and breed more often. They can also go through more life cycles in a year, and the insects might bite more frequently.

Yet the relationships between life-cycle timings and environmental temperatures are not linear. For one dengue-carrying mosquito, [both its survival rate and its ability to complete a blood meal decline as temperatures rise above 28 degrees Celsius](#).

Where rising temperatures support insect survival, [their number within a geographic area increases](#), providing more opportunities for insects and humans to meet. The insects also extend their territories, moving up slopes to higher elevations as well as north and south to higher latitudes. People living in these places are not used to these insects, pathogens or diseases, so they might lack immunity and be less aware of symptoms and possible countermeasures.

Other animals contribute to the transmission of insect-borne diseases. For example, birds host the West Nile virus, helping mosquitoes to spread it to humans. And so the influence of climate change on the birds and their ecosystems is part of the overall [impact of climate change on the disease](#).



Altered ranges of insect-transmitted diseases [are not just about changing climates but also about possible countermeasures](#). Some worry that malaria may appear in [Europe](#) and [North America](#) due to climate change, but the disease has already made its way there in recent times for other reasons.

Isolated cases are frequently identified, from mosquitoes hopping off aircraft [in Frankfurt, Germany](#), to people returning from malarial areas and then becoming sick in [Ontario, Canada](#). The disease has a long history in places such as [England](#) — until it started declining noticeably in the 19th century — and Colorado, United States, where [mosquitoes with parasite-carrying potential remain](#).

Measures to eliminate malaria and keep it from returning include draining wetlands, using netting on porches and windows, and using insecticides. But insecticides can lead to other problems, notably [cancer](#).

The effect of [one mosquito species](#) that spreads chikungunya, dengue fever, mayaro fever, yellow fever and Zika can be limited by effective management. In less developed economies, improved hygiene, sanitation and healthcare reduced vulnerability to these diseases by [34 per cent from 2000 to 2017](#). Simultaneously, more developed economies reduced their populations' vulnerability to the diseases [by more than 61 per cent](#). This is despite more suitable environmental conditions for transmitting these diseases since the 1950s.

For instance, the number of months suited to malaria transmission increased by 15 to 39 per cent in the highland areas of less-to-medium developed countries. [China's Hainan Island](#) is highly prone to malaria, and more so as the climate warms, yet it eliminated the disease through interventions including medications and insecticide-permeated bed nets.

The lesson is that diseases transmitted by insects can be controlled, even as social and environmental conditions become more amenable to their spread. And not all of climate change's impacts support the spread of insects and the diseases they carry.

In many places, rainfall is becoming more intense due to climate change. This means [more areas might get wet, promoting insect breeding, but it also means eggs and larvae can be washed away](#), breaking the insects' life cycles.

Drought impacts are equally complex. [Mosquitoes appear to adapt to drier conditions by finding all available water sources, while ticks tend not to](#) — although there must be survival limits when most moisture disappears.

Rising sea levels are adding salt to coastal waters. [Some mosquitoes carrying malaria and Ross River virus thrive in brackish waters](#), while [those carrying dengue and yellow fever can manage, depending on the salt concentration](#). [Ticks in the US](#) showed much poorer survival in brackish water and saltwater than in freshwater.

Irrespective of the insects' ability to survive, measures to control them can be put in place. [Proper drainage of irrigated land](#) significantly reduces the risk of disease transmission, including when fields become saltier. [Sealing rainwater collection and storage containers](#) prevents insects from using them as breeding sites — although financial and technical support is required for this practice to become widespread.

Ultimately, [health measures available to everyone](#) are the most effective ways to limit the spread of insect-borne disease. Prevention-focused social and medical changes include reducing human–insect contact, developing vaccines, and improving health systems for disease detection and treatment.



In these ways, the links between insect-borne diseases and human-caused climate change can be severed.

Ilan Kelman is Professor of Disasters and Health at University College London, England, and a Professor II at the University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway. His overall research interest is linking disasters and health, including the integration of climate change into disaster research and health research.

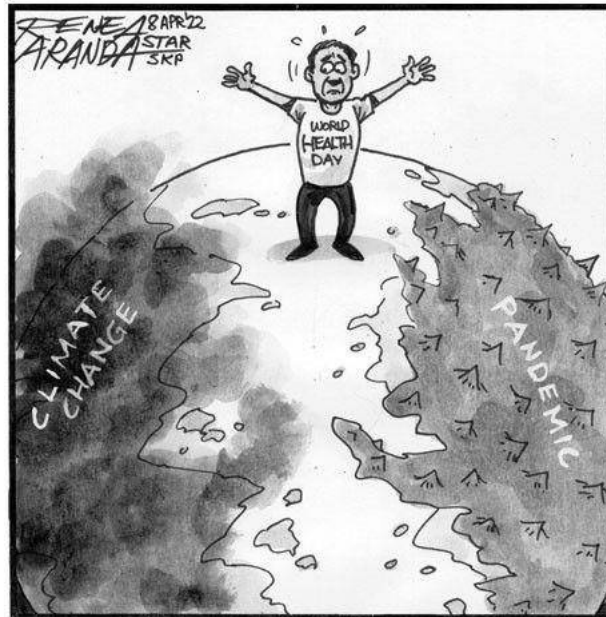
The author declares no conflict of interest.

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EDITORIAL - Our planet, our health

The Philippine Star April 8, 2022 | 12:00am



World Health Day is marked on April 7 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage for the third year. Scientists are monitoring the latest sub-variant of the highly contagious Omicron variant. Even as the so-called stealth sub-variant BA.2 of Omicron has led to the worst COVID outbreaks in China and Hong Kong since the start of the pandemic, an even more infectious mutation called XE has emerged.

The special day celebrates the founding of the World Health Organization on April 7, 1948, when there was low global awareness of environmental issues and the need to protect the health of the planet. This year, observance of World Health Day is focused on the COVID pandemic, an increasing incidence of diseases as well as the impact of pollution on human and environmental health.

With the theme “Our Planet, Our Health,” the WHO is pushing for a movement to create societies that are focused on well-being. The WHO estimates that every year, over 13 million deaths worldwide are due to avoidable environmental causes such as air pollution.

Human health is also adversely affected by land degradation, the lack of clean water, extreme weather events and the spread of disease-causing mosquitoes due to a warming planet. The WHO also warned that production chains for highly processed and unhealthy foods and beverages were not only driving obesity and increasing incidences of cancer and heart disease but also generating a third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The WHO noted that the COVID pandemic has highlighted the inequities worldwide and weaknesses in all aspects of society. To develop a well-being economy whose goals are human well-being, equity and ecological sustainability, the WHO is calling for long-term investments, sufficient funding, legislation, corporate reforms, and measures to encourage people to make healthy choices. These are doable proposals that governments can commit to pursue for the health of people and the planet.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2022/04/08/2173036/editorial-our-planet-our-health>

08 APRIL 2022, FRIDAY



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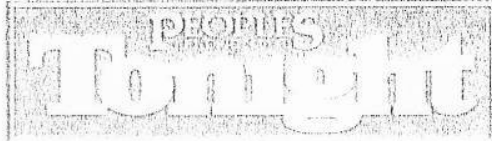
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DENR to create team to probe Boracay's algal bloom

By CORY MARTINEZ

A TEAM of experts will be formed to conduct additional studies on the occurrence of algal blooms in the coastal waters of Boracay Island.

This was disclosed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, saying that the experts might be coming from the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) in collaboration with the DENR experts.

"I am still forming a team. I want the study conducted by the UP (University of the Philippines) Marine Science Institute (MSI) and

the DENR. We will work together to make the report credible," Sampulna said.

The team will be formed after the DENR-Region 6 (Western Visayas) 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 recur-

rence of green algae in the country's top tourist destination.

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

The DENR conducted its study of Boracay Island in 2017 before the government launched its rehabilitation in 2018.

Sampulna said that another study with the help of UP-MSI is 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 and said he is focused on completing the rehabilitation of Boracay Island, among other priority programs, before his term ends in June.

As of February 2022, the coliform level in Boracay's front beach was measured at 11 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100mL).

This shows 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.



MAS MABABA ANG LABEL NG TUBIG NGAYONG TAON KUMPARA SA TAONG 2019

PATULOY na nakikipag-ugnayan ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno, mga water concessionaire, lalo sa mga kababayan, upang mapamahalaang mabuti ang limitadong suplay ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Kasabay nito ang panawagan sa mga kabahayan at industriya sa Metro Manila at mga karatig-probinsya na gamitin nang tama ang tubig at mag-recycle kung kinakailangan.

Akin ding nalaman mula kay Dr. Seville "Bill" David,

Executive Director ng NWRB na ang pagpapadala ng tubig sa mga nasalanta ni bagyong Odette noong naka-raang Disyembre 2021, Enero 2022 at Pebrero 2022 ay mula sa water refilling stations sa National Capital Region (NCR) kaya dagdag sa kasalukuyang mataas na water demand sa Angat Dam.

Kahit pa NCR ang pangunahing gumagamit ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam, mahalagang tulungan ang mga kababayang natin kung sila'y naapektuhan nang malalakas na bagyo sa Visayas at Mindanao. Malaki man ang epekto nito sa water demand, mas angkop na tugunan ang



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

kanilang pangangailangan sa malinis na tubig.

Hindi kaila sa NWRB ang pangangailangan ng karagdang water sources o pagkukunan ng tubig. Kaakibat ang pribadong sector, may planong bumuo ang pamahalaan ng mga water infrastructure project, ngunit maaari itong tumagal nang mula 3 hanggang 5 taon. Masimulan lamang ang mga proyektong ito, malaki ang maitutulong nito sa seguridad ng tubig sa NCR at karatig-probinsya.

Sa panayam ng inyong lingkod, binanggit ni Director David, "ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa

190.75 metro noong ika-4 ng Abril 2022, (6:00am), masasabi medyo mas mababa kung ikukumpara natin sa mga naunang taon, pero bumagal ang pagbaba ng lebel ng Angat Dam."

Noong taong 2019, nagkaroon tayo ng water interruption at water rationing, sana hindi maulit dahil mas mababa ang lebel ng tubig angat dam kung ikukumpara sa taong 2019.

Kinakailangan magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig habang nagtutulungan ang pamahalaan at ang kunsesyunaryo upang makapagbigay ng tulo-tuloy na supply ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-init.



Environment group urges gov't to focus on climate change

An advocacy group for environmental stewardship wants the country's next set of leaders to adopt new policies and push legislation that would build resilience to disasters, both natural and man-made.

Felix Vitangcol, co-convenor of Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), said the incoming administration should focus on the upgrade and modernization of infrastructure and services in the context of sustainable development.

"They have their work cut out for them," he said. "They face the daunting job of dealing with the effects of climate change and pursuing measures to address it."

Modern grids, for instance, should address not only the short-term needs of providing power to communities and industries, but also people's need for a healthier and safer environment, he said.

"Reforms in competition policy should help bring about energy transition faster. For example, PBEST supports proposals to make fixed-price bids, carve-out clauses and uniform force-majeure provisions mandatory in power purchase contracts," Vitangcol said.

The group said it was also pushing for more efficient transport systems as they build efficiency, encourage prosperity and harness the resilience of urban communities.

Vitangcol said that some private companies, driven by their commitment to a more resilient Philippines, have been integrating technology driven processes to make their operations more sustainable.

"We call on business groups to engage in pro-active interventions such as Globe's ramping up of its sustainable modernization program by transitioning its facilities to renewable energy to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The company is also scheduled to establish a green and low-carbon optical access network which is expected to cut power

consumption and heat dissipation by 50 percent," Vitangcol said.

Globe intends to allow its cell sites to be powered by renewable energy, to encourage investments - including in local electric cooperatives - in the Mindanao region.

These adjustments will give other major enterprises and MSMEs the option to shift to sustainable energy sources for their infrastructure and operations. According to data released in March by the Department of Trade and Industry, MSMEs make up 99.51 percent of businesses.

"Circular economy initiatives are already in the works for big enterprises like Mondelez Philippines, modernizing operations to address plastic waste and transition to renewable power sources, and Coca-Cola Beverage Philippines Inc., sourcing more than half of energy consumption from solar energy," Vitangcol said.

"Notable is the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) built in Clark, Pampanga - the world's first ever private sector-led national level emergency operations center that can track tropical weather patterns in the region, and storms, volcanic and earthquake eruptions around the world," said Vitangcol.

Initiatives from other organizations include renewable energy initiatives, low-carbon investments, modern fuel cell and cooling systems, direct current hybrid generators and storage batteries, to name a few.

Many other companies have also invested in the training and upgrading of people's skills - human capital - so they could better respond to the changing demands of the times and participate better in the future of work.

"The new administration should take advantage of this momentum and collaborate with the private sector in institutionalizing these initiatives across the archipelago, and across various industries," Vitangcol said.



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Removing CO2 from air, sea no longer optional, says UN

By MARLOWE HOOD

PARIS, France (AFP) - However quickly the world slashes greenhouse gas emissions, it will still need to suck CO2 from the air and oceans to avoid climate catastrophe, a landmark UN report said this week.

Long seen as marginal or an industry ploy to avoid curbing emissions, carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is today a necessary weapon in the battle against global heating, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"This is the first IPCC report to state clearly that carbon dioxide removal is needed to achieve our climate targets," said Steve Smith, head of Oxford Net Zero at the University of Oxford.

The Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming below two degrees Celsius, and most countries have signed on for a more ambitious limit of 1.5C.

Even under the most aggressive carbon-cutting scenarios, several billion tonnes of CO2 will need to be extracted each year from the atmosphere by 2050, and an accumulated total of hundreds of billions of tonnes by 2100.

"Carbon dioxide removal is necessary to achieve net-zero CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions, both globally and nationally," the report concludes.

This will compensate for sectors where emissions will be hard to abate, such as aviation, shipping and cement.

And depending on how successfully carbon pollution is drawn down, CDR may be needed to cool Earth's surface if the Paris treaty temperatures targets are breached.

Grow, burn, bury

There are a variety of ways that "negative emissions" can be achieved, but all would be needed to be ramped up significantly to make a dent in the approximately 40 billion tonnes of CO2 currently emitted each year.

Drawing down carbon pollution remains the absolute priority.

"It is critical that an equitable and orderly roadmap for the transition away from fossil fuels is agreed," said David King, head of the Climate Crisis Group and Britain's former Chief Scientific Advisor.

"But we must also put significantly more resource into greenhouse gas

removal."

Virtually all of the IPCC models laying out pathways for a liveable future reserve an important role for technology called BECCS, or bioenergy with carbon capture and storage.

The recipe is pretty straightforward: grow trees, burn them for energy, and bury the CO2 emitted underground, in an abandoned mine-shaft for example.

By 2050, the IPCC says, BECCS could be called upon to extract just under three billions tonnes of CO2 per year.

Restoring forests and planting trees that absorb and stock CO2 as they grow also figure prominently in development scenarios achieving net-zero emissions at or near mid-century, accounting for the same level of carbon removal at mid-century.

But what works on paper — and in so-called integrated assessment models — has not materialized in reality.

One of the few commercial-scale BECCS facilities in the world, in Britain, was dropped last year from the S&P Clean Energy Index because it failed to meet sustainability criteria.

"I don't see a BECCS boom," said Oliver Geden, a senior fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and an expert on CDR.

Offset schemes

The area required, meanwhile, for tree-planting schemes — up to twice the size of India — would compete with food and biofuel needs.

Many businesses, including fossil fuel companies, rely heavily on carbon offset schemes based on afforestation to compensate for continuing carbon emissions.

The newest CDR method, a chemical process known as direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS), is attracting interest.

Industry leader Swiss-based Climeworks announced Tuesday it had raised \$650 million (595 million euros), and the technology has attracted major corporate backing from via Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy partnership.

But the potential for scaling up remains to be proven: Climeworks' direct air capture facility in Iceland — the largest in the world — removes in a year what humanity emits in three or four seconds.



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Protecting our one planet through One Health

By DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

TODAY is an auspicious day to commemorate World Health Day, as the number of cases and severity of Covid-19 have been reduced to manageable levels, thanks to global efforts, especially in vaccine rollouts. However, we are not in the clear yet and emerging variants and infectious diseases compel us to turn to longer-term strategies for building resilience.

The theme *Our Planet, Our Health* particularly resonates with the Asean. As a region endowed with abundant and unique biodiversity that is crucial to our socio-economic development, the Asean is at the same time vulnerable to new and emerging diseases.

Studies indicate that biodiversity loss appears to be associated with the increasing occurrence of zoonotic diseases. Historically, the region has suffered from outbreaks such as the Nipah virus in 1998, the SARs virus in 2003 and the highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza in 1997.

Implicated in these outbreaks are bat species, wild birds, and pangolins known to be natural reservoirs of these viruses. The Southeast Asian region is known to be rich in this wildlife that, if protected and maintained in healthy populations, can keep zoonotic diseases in check.

The Covid-19 crisis surfaced the reliance of public health and well-being on healthy ecosystems and rich biodiversity. In response to Covid-19, Asean leaders have underscored the significance of cross-sectoral cooperation in recovering and building resilience. The Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework articulates broad strategies and identifies measures for recovery in line with sectoral and regional priorities. It enjoins communities and various sectors to collaborate in key areas including ecosystem-based approaches to increase resilience against future pandemics.

The pandemic likewise brought to the fore the need to integrate nature and biodiversity into health plans and programs and a holistic approach to achieving better outcomes for human, animal, and environmental health. Across the region, Asean member states have been implementing species-specific conservation actions, promoting urban biodiversity to build resilience and enhancing synergies—steps that contribute to achieving an integrated approach to address public health issues. Policies and mechanisms for implementing wildlife laws are also in place to help

address the illegal and unsustainable use of wildlife at the local, national, and international levels.

Some of the Asean member states' initiatives include the wildlife disease surveillance program of Malaysia that monitors wildlife diseases through their One Health framework. The links between the human, domestic animal, and wildlife health sectors are coordinated through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Control of Zoonotic Diseases. Similarly, the Philippine Interagency Committee on Zoonoses recognizes the importance of strong coordination between the animal-human-health and environment sectors to prevent and control zoonotic diseases at the national and local levels.

In Vietnam, the Vietnam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses (OHP) was established even before the Covid-19 pandemic, enhancing their capacity and preparedness against zoonotic diseases. Meanwhile, in Singapore, information dissemination is among the priority of the One Health Protocol to ensure that medical practitioners, stakeholders, and the public can make informed decisions and participate in prevention and control.

The One Health approach is now being welcomed as it opens more potential for the Asean—a biodiverse region—to exemplify leadership in underscoring nature's central role in bouncing back better and building resilience to reduce risks of future pandemics.

As the regional center of excellence, the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) stands to continually support the Asean member states in advocating for an integrated approach toward recovery. With the help of our dialogue and development partners, we contribute to the efforts of the countries in ensuring that biodiversity, including wildlife species and critical ecosystems, is effectively managed to achieve long-term benefits for the health of the people and the planet.

The road toward full recovery will be long and arduous. We draw strength and inspiration from this year's Asean Summit theme *ASEAN ACT: Addressing Challenges Together* under the Chairship of Cambodia, which also reflects our symbiotic relationship with nature. We are only strong as we are together, thus we must continue to forge robust linkages to ensure the health of our people and our planet.

The author is the Executive Director of the Asean Center for Biodiversity.



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Global energy upheaval threatens years of natural gas shortages

THE NATURAL gas market's delicate balance is crumbling, putting the global economy under further strain as nations struggle to secure enough fuel.

War, the energy transition, severe weather and surging demand are creating a period of upheaval that is tightening supply like never before. Nations and companies are grappling to secure enough gas amid a global power crunch as economies recover from the pandemic.

Natural gas is a key component in the global economy that keeps factories buzzing, lights on and houses warm. The competition for a finite supply of the fuel will only get worse if current conditions persist, with skyrocketing prices and supply gaps threatening to upend economies, boost inflation and grind supply chains to a halt.

"The market of today is one of the most challenging I've ever seen," said Susan L. Sakmar, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Houston Law Center. "The world needs a bigger energy pie to share. Absent a global recession or more COVID lockdowns that slow growth, I suspect many parts of the world will face energy shortages."

The world was already facing the risk of gas shortages this winter as a post-pandemic rebound in demand outpaced supply. The crunch was years in the making: countries became more dependent on gas as utilities curbed coal consumption and expanded intermittent renewable sources, while shutting nuclear reactors in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster. Meanwhile, suppliers were slow to boost production.

Luckily, milder temperatures across Europe and parts of Asia this winter curbed demand for the heating fuel and allowed utilities to squeak by on existing inventories. Traders now joke that praying for mild weather will become a seasonal tradition, since a snowstorm in Beijing or heat waves in the UK can trigger

record-breaking price swings and crippling supply deficits.

And now the war has dealt an unexpected, devastating blow to such a fragile market.

Europe's effort to halt most imports of Russian gas means that it will be going head-to-head with Asia for spare liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply, while there isn't enough investment in new production to meet surging demand. The European Union's proposal this week to ban Russian coal imports puts further strain on the market, as power producers may need to turn more to gas to generate electricity.

Longer term, the LNG demand-supply balance is expected to get more out of whack, especially if Russian gas is removed. The global market could be short nearly 100 million tons per year by the middle of the decade, according to a Credit Suisse report last month. That's equal to more than the annual demand of China, the world's top buyer of LNG.

Already, natural gas spot prices are so high that the world's top buyers in North Asia are choosing not to refill inventories with additional overseas purchases. They're instead gambling that this summer will be mild, or a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine will result in a price drop, said traders, who requested anonymity to discuss private details.

LNG importers in China and India have drastically cut back spot purchases, and are instead maximizing domestic supply and consuming gas in storage, traders said. This strategy will help to save money, but comes with an enormous risk that allows little room for surprises — a bet that hasn't paid off recently.

If there is a sudden spike in demand for gas, or if a contracted shipment isn't able to be delivered due to a production issue, some of Asia's top consumers may be short of gas this summer or next winter. They will be forced to go

back into the spot market and buy very expensive shipments of the fuel, or curtail gas deliveries to customers at home.

Europeans will also be counting on a mild summer in Asia because of the need to pull spot LNG and fill their storage mandates. The European Union is pursuing a target of an 80% storage fill level by November, compared to roughly 26% now. That's achievable if Russian pipeline gas flows are steady and European prices beat Asian rates to lure available LNG, according to BloombergNEF.

Right now, Russia is continuing to supply the market and Europe has avoided sanctions on that gas. However, a sudden drop in Russian exports — either through sanctions or a unilateral action by Moscow — would wreak havoc, with demand destruction the only option to keep the market balanced.

Russian gas is so important to Germany that immediately halting imports would trigger a recession, according to Deutsche Bank AG CEO Christian Sewing. That would intensify the global dash for spare gas, sending prices to new heights and leaving many countries without enough fuel to power their economies.

For cash-strapped emerging nations across South Asia and South America, the situation is dire, as governments may be forced to curb electricity or heating fuels to households. Argentina forked out roughly \$750 million for eight LNG shipments for May to June delivery in a tender last month. That's about 20 times higher than the price they paid for similar shipments in 2020, and threatens to send electricity bills surging.

"Energy poverty in parts of Asia could result as Europe sucks LNG cargoes away from their originally intended destinations," said Saul Kavonic, an energy analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG. — *Bloomberg*



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Editorial

The world is gasping for clean air

THE air you are inhaling right now may not be good for your health. At least that's what the World Health Organization (WHO) is warning in its latest study on global air quality.

"Almost the entire global population (99 percent) breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits and threatens their health," according to the agency.

What is alarming is that just four years ago, it was 90 percent.

Covid lockdowns and travel restrictions provided pockets of improving air quality, but they had little overall cleansing effect. Air pollution has in fact grown into "a major public health issue," one WHO official said.

"After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have 7 million preventable deaths and countless preventable lost years of good health due to air pollution," the official added.

Data from the study, drawn from 6,000 cities in 117 countries, also reveals a disturbing trend: the air is dirtiest in the eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and Africa, the world's poorest regions.

The study measured particulates in the air with high concentrations of toxins like sulfate and black carbon which could damage the lungs or cardiovascular system. It also looked at concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), an urban pollutant associated with asthma.

The WHO found that less than 1 percent of the cities in low- and middle-income countries passed its air-quality standards.

The risks from air pollution are not confined outdoors. Close to 4 million people die from household smoke produced by dirty stoves and fuels, the agency said.

Last year, the Philippines was number 64 among 118 countries in terms of air pollution in the list of IQAir, a Swiss air-quality technology company, with a "moderate" index of 58. Bangladesh and Chad topped the list with an index of 161.

Locally, the air is cleanest in Balanga in Bataan and most polluted in Cavite City.

Early this year, the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air and the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities published a report on the health and economic impacts of air pollution in the Philippines.

The report noted that air pollution is costing the country P4.5 trillion each year and causing 66,000 deaths from non-communicable diseases and lung infections.

The main culprit

The WHO points to the unabated use of fossil fuels as the main culprit that is dirtying up the planet's air. In the United States alone, coal-fired power plants discharge 42 percent of the total dangerous mercury emissions, and two-thirds of sulfur dioxide emissions and other harmful particulates.

Not far behind are the emissions belched out by millions of cars running on gasoline and diesel.

Climate summits have produced a raft of targets for phasing out fossil fuels and hastening the switch to cleaner and renewable energy, but the pace of change is almost glacial. The favorite excuse of fossil-fuel advocates is that the cost of making the transition would be monumental. They refuse to acknowledge that in the long run, everyone will pay a higher price if the world is not weaned from fossil fuels.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is confident that soaring oil prices could be the catalyst that will help propel a much-awaited change.

"High fossil fuel prices, energy security, and the urgency of addressing the twin health challenges of air pollution and climate change, underscore the pressing need to move faster towards a world that is much less dependent on fossil fuels," Ghebreyesus said.

"Air quality is not an abstract issue," the Philippine report on air quality pointed out. "Neglecting air pollution comes with a heavy bill in the form of increased health care and welfare costs as well as loss of labor and economic productivity."

Improved air quality "would save millions of lives and trillions of pesos," it continued. If the country steps up efforts to meet WHO standards, "the economic cost of ambient air pollution would decrease by 30 percent."

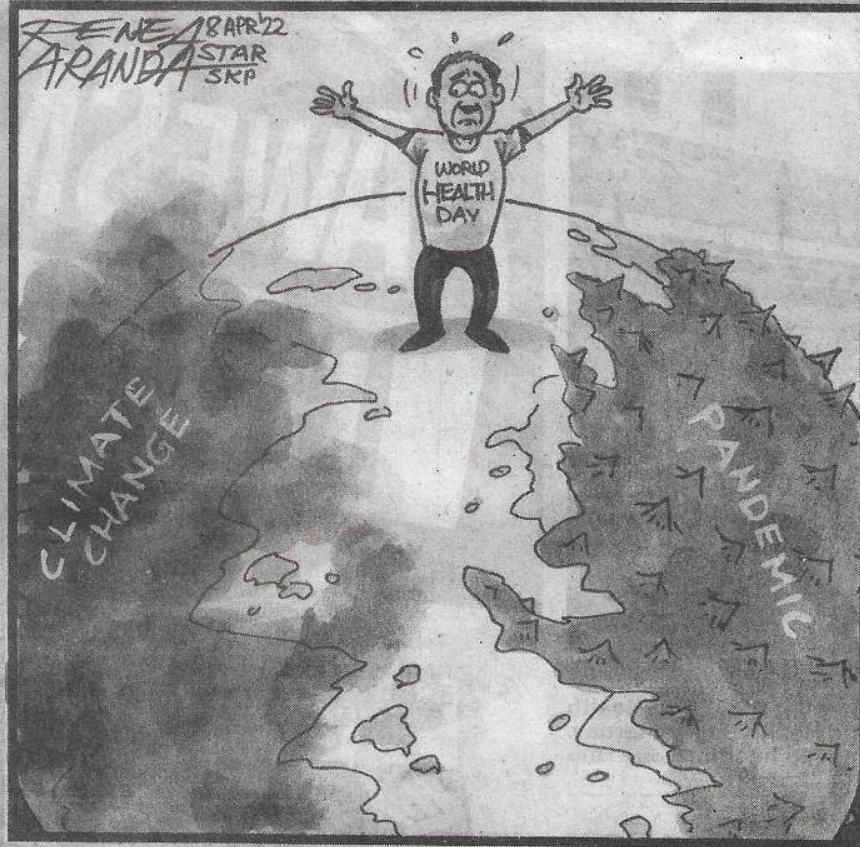
Those are figures that are hard to ignore. It is deplorable that the world's economic giants, many of whom are also the leading polluters, continue to do so.



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Our planet, our health

World Health Day is marked on April 7 as the COVID-19

EDITORIAL

are due to avoid-able environmental causes such as air pol-

lution. pandemic continues to rage for the third year. Scientists are monitoring the latest sub-variant of the highly contagious Omicron variant. Even as the so-called stealth sub-variant BA.2 of Omicron has led to the worst COVID outbreaks in China and Hong Kong since the start of the pandemic, an even more infectious mutation called XE has emerged.

The special day celebrates the founding of the World Health Organization on April 7, 1948, when there was low global awareness of environmental issues and the need to protect the health of the planet. This year, observance of World Health Day is focused on the COVID pandemic, an increasing incidence of diseases as well as the impact of pollution on human and environmental health.

With the theme "Our Planet, Our Health," the WHO is pushing for a movement to create societies that are focused on well-being. The WHO estimates that every year, over 13 million deaths worldwide

Human health is also adversely affected by land degradation, the lack of clean water, extreme weather events and the spread of disease-causing mosquitoes due to a warming planet. The WHO also warned that production chains for highly processed and unhealthy foods and beverages were not only driving obesity and increasing incidences of cancer and heart disease but also generating a third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The WHO noted that the COVID pandemic has highlighted the inequities worldwide and weaknesses in all aspects of society. To develop a well-being economy whose goals are human well-being, equity and ecological sustainability, the WHO is calling for long-term investments, sufficient funding, legislation, corporate reforms, and measures to encourage people to make healthy choices. These are doable proposals that governments can commit to pursue for the health of people and the planet.



SOLAR ELECTRICITY KAHIT SAAN PALAGANAPIN

ANIM na taon na nanunungkulan ang Pangulo, may mga senador ding nanungkulan ng anim na taon at may mga opisyal ding nanunungkulan ng siyam na taon.

Dahil din sa political dynasty at mismong probisyon ng Konstitusyon at batas, may mga politiko pa ngang lifetime ang panunungkulan basta gusto silang manungkulan ng mga mamamayan sa halalan o iba pang paraan.

Halimbawa ang isang senador na dalawang beses maiboto para sa anim na taong panunungkulan, pwede siyang maging kongresman sa tatlong sunod-sunod na pagkakataon na binubuo ng siyam na taon. Pagkatapos, babalik siya sa pagkasenador na pupwedeng manalo ulit siya ng magka-sunod na tig-aanim na taon.

Ang Bise Presidente, pwedeng maging dalawang beses na maging Bise Presidente at pwede pa rin siyang maging Presidente. Kapag pinagsama-sama ang dalawang pagka-Bise Presidente at Presidente, maliwanag na 18 anyos na panunungkulan 'yan. Pagkatapos nito, pupwede rin siyang kumandidato na kongresman para sa tatlong termino o siyam na taon.

Paano kung manalo rin ang kanilang mga asawa o anak na kapalit nila sa pagpapalit-palit nila ng pwesto?

Anak ng tokwa, walang katapusang kapang-yarihan 'yan, maging sa Presidente na mananalo sa ibang posisyon gaya ng pagka-Bise Presidente.

PAGPAPATULUY NG PROGRAMA

Bagama't hindi maikakaila na may mga idinaraan sa pandaraya sa botohan o pwersahan ang pananatili ng isang tao o pamilya sa pwesto, hindi rin maikakaila na mismong mga mamamayan ang may gusto ng pananatili nila sa pwesto.

Sa pananatili nila sa mga pwesto, bukod sa mga karaniwang dahilan ng mga mamamayan na ipagkatiwala sa kanila ang mga ito, inaasam-asam natin sa kanila ang pagkakaroon ng bisyon sa malayong kinabukasan at papapatuloy nito. Para na rin sa kapanakan ng mga mamamayan at buong bansa.

Halimbawa, paano kaya nifa palaguin ang paggamit ng solar electricity na walang hangganan dahil nagmumula ito sa liwanag at init ng araw?

Sa mga tumatakbang tren na lamang, kailan at paano kakabitan ang mga bagon ng mga solar panel upang tatakbo ang mga ito nang nagsasarili kaysa umasa sa kuryente na likha ng mga generator na may polusyon, gaya ng uling at langis na pinagmumulan din ng mga sakit at pagkasira ng kalikasan?

Kailan at paano rin kabitan ng solar electricity ang lahat ng gusali ng pamahalaan upang hindi lang makatipid ang gobyerno sa kuryente kundi maging pwersa rin laban sa mapolusyong paglikha ng kuryente?

Kung sinimulan ang ganitong programa ng isang mataas na opisyal, gaya ng Pangulo, paano ipagpapatuloy ito ng mga susunod na lahi nito, kung hindi sila papalitan ng mga mamamayan?

MAMAMAYAN ANG MAGSUSULONG

Kung makalilimot ang mga politiko na mag-isip para sa malayong kinabukasan, gawing tungkulin dapat ng mga mamamayan ang pagpapaala sa kanila ukol sa higit na ikabubuti ng lahat.

Isipin na lang na hindi mabubuhay ang pamahalaang sinasakyan ng mga politiko para manatili sa poder kung walang buwis ang mga mamamayan.

At ito ang isang mapagpasyang usapin upang manatiling gising ang sinomang nasa poder para paglingkuran ang sambayanan ngayon at bukas.

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa www.remate.ph o i-text sa 0921-4303333.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
1100

**INNERPORT WATER ASSOCIATION MT. APO ST.
GROUP II ARMOR VILLAGE, TAGUIG, M.M., INC.**
Applicant. Case No. 22-3294

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Group II Armor Village, Palar, Barangay Pinagsama, Taguig City, Metro Manila, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience.

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on **2 May 2022**, hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Iloilo and send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any affected party to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 28th day of March 2022.

By Authority of the Board:
Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:
The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod, Taguig City, Metro Manila
The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Pinagsama, Taguig City, Metro Manila
The Homeowners Assn. President
Group II Armor Village, Palar, Barangay Pinagsama, Taguig City, Metro Manila
The Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

(REMATE: April 8, 2022)L



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. VII
Greenplains Subd., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu 6014
Tel No. (+63 32) 344-3047 / 343-8557 / 344 3046 / 346-1689 / 346 2275;
Fax No. (+63 32) 346-9176 / 236 1139;
E-mail: region7@mgcb.gov.ph

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF MIDAN CORPORATION
FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), that **MIDAN CORPORATION** with office address at **18E Fort Palm Spring, 30th Street Corner 1st Avenue, Bonifacio Global, Taguig City, Metro Manila** has filed an Exploration Permit application, for the exploration of **limestone, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and other minerals** and particularly described as follows:

- I. Application Number : EXPA-000223-VII
- II. Date of Filing : February 03, 2020
- III. Area Location : Actin and Nagbo-Alao
Barangays : Basay
Municipality : Basay
Province : Negros Oriental

IV. Technical Description of the Area *#

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
1	9	23	00.00	122	40	30.00
2	9	23	30.00	122	40	30.00
3	9	23	30.00	122	40	00.00
4	9	24	00.00	122	40	00.00
5	9	24	00.00	122	39	30.00
6	9	24	30.00	122	39	30.00
7	9	24	30.00	122	40	30.00
8	9	24	00.00	122	40	30.00
9	9	24	00.00	122	41	30.00
10	9	23	00.00	122	41	00.00

Total area = 590.4446 hectares

* **Exceptions:** The Applied Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Locations") and Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), of DENR Administrative Order No. 96-40, Series of 1996. Among other things:

- a) The following shall be closed to mining locations: areas with valid and existing mining rights; existing mining applications; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b) The following shall also be closed to mining locations except upon written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation by the Bureau: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archaeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations or valuable crops.
- c) Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering; small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations; areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain claims; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the area(s) applied for.

Note: The Notice must be accompanied by a map/sketch plan with index map showing the nearest municipality(ies) and any major environmental feature(s).

V. Size of the Area – **590.4446** hectares

VI. Duration of the Permit

The permit shall be for a period not exceeding two (2) years from date of issuance, renewable for a term of two (2) years each but in no case shall the total exceed six (6) years.

VII. Extent of Operation to be Undertaken

Exploration (Reconnaissance/Regional Survey, Semi-Detailed to Detailed Geological and Geochemical Survey, Topographic Survey, Subsurface Investigation (Test Pitting, Trenching & Drilling) of limestone, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and other minerals.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above mentioned application(s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed directly within ten (10) days from the date of publication or from the last date of posting/ radio announcement, with the Regional Office or through any Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) concerned of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office concerned for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protests or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department of Environment And Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, apply or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. VII, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City, Philippines.

ARMANDO L. MALICSE
Regional Director

Encl: A/s

• The Acting Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon
City

• The Honorable Governor
Province of Negros Oriental

• Mr. Hyun-gong Cho
President
Midan Corporation
18E Fort Palm Spring, 30th St., cor. 1st Ave.
Bonifacio Global Taguig City, Metro Manila

• The Municipal Mayor
Basay, Negros Oriental

• The Honorable Barangay
Captain
Actin, Basay, Negros
Oriental

• The Honorable Barangay
Captain
Nagbo-Alao, Basay, Negros
Oriental

MT - Apr. 5 & 12, 2022

08 APRIL 2022, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



WHO urges PH to prepare for possible COVID-19 surge, suggests house-to-house vaccination

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 7, 2022 9:21:03 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 7)— The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday warned that a surge in COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is still likely, especially with the expected gatherings during Holy Week celebrations and the election season.

“From April to May 2022, Filipinos will observe Ramadan and Holy Week and engage in election-related activities,” acting WHO representative to the Philippines Dr. Rajendra Yadav said in a [statement](#). “With the unsafe gatherings and social mixing expected in the next two months, a surge in COVID-19 cases is quite likely.”

Yadav urged Filipinos to mask up and avail of COVID-19 booster shots to prepare for a potential spike in infections.

He underscored the importance of continuously recalibrating pandemic response strategies.

“Therefore, WHO recommends focusing on the priority groups that remain unvaccinated and house-to-house vaccination for these groups,” the official added.

Yadav also suggested the rollout of community-based inoculation drives and to reduce “overreliance on mega-sites.”

The WHO’s pronouncement comes in line with President Rodrigo Duterte’s recent [directive](#) of bringing vaccines directly to people’s homes.

Around 67 million Filipinos have been fully inoculated against COVID-19, according to latest government data.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/4/7/WHO-COVID-case-surge-house-to-house-vaccination.html>



Restrictions, incentives may encourage Filipinos to get booster

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [April 7, 2022, 5:16 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – Restrictions and providing incentives could encourage fully vaccinated individuals to receive their booster shots, a health expert said Thursday.

In an online forum, Philippine College of Physicians president Dr. Maricar Limpin echoed the suggestion of Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion on mobility restrictions and a reward system that may help improve the vaccination numbers, especially in areas with low coverage.

“Probably, we can restrict and if the private sector can afford it, then, there can be some incentives *para maenganyo natin ang mas maraming tao* (so we can entice more people),” she said.

She said correct information on Covid-19 vaccines and their benefits must be communicated to the public.

“What is really important *ay malabanan natin lahat ng maling impormasyon na kumakalat na siyang pinapaniwalaan ng marami sa mga Pilipino* (is we fight the wrong information many Filipinos believe in),” Limpin said.

Correct information would remove doubts in people’s minds, making more individuals open to Covid-19 vaccination, she added.

Earlier, Concepcion said about 27 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines will expire in June or July.

As of April 5, a total of 66,230,305 Filipinos have been fully vaccinated while 12,208,931 have received their booster shots. **(PNA)**

08 APRIL 2022, FRIDAY



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MANILA

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#SaveManilaBay

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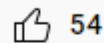
Please click this link:

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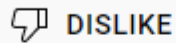
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MANILA BAY UPDATE APRIL 7, 2022

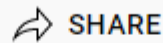
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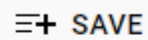
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