

11 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Mining community in Palawan gets a P6.4M Advanced Air Monitoring Station

BYBMPLUS mAPRIL 9, 2022



A FIRST in the MINING INDUSTRY – the P6.4M Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) is to be established in the mining community of Bataraza in Southern Palawan. Photo shows the signatories (L to R) : Engr. Remmy Collado-Camo, NAC AVP for Safety and Envi; Jose Bayani Baylon, NAC VP for Corp. Comm.; DENR-EMB MIMAROPA Director, Joe Amil M. Salino; Masahiro Kamiya, CBNC President; Rommel A. Ibuna, GPI President; Engr. Pablito Estorque, Chief, Environmental and Enforcement Division – EMB MIMAROPA.

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTN), Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (CBNC), and Graymont (Philippines), Inc., (GPI) – the big three firms with operations based in the Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone – are partnering with DENR in subsidizing the procurement of a P6.4M Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) to be established in the mining community of Bataraza in Southern Palawan.

Monitoring air quality especially in a mining community is crucial for an effective air quality management system in order to take necessary corrective actions to reduce air pollution and maintain the health of the air that people breathe.

DENR-EMB MIMAROPA Director Joe Amil M. Salino says, “The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station is capable of monitoring particulate matter of 10 and 2.5 micron particle size. It will also be equipped with data acquisition system and will display real-time results of air quality that will be visible to the public.”

RTN, as a matter of policy, conducts monthly in-house air quality monitoring but the CAAQMS will further strengthen the quality of the mining company’s monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution. It is the advanced version of DENR’s Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (AAQMS), an automatic monitoring system that provides real-time data transmitted to DENR’s air quality network operating center (AQNOC) and is synced into the global real-time air quality index.

Expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2022, the funding support and other relevant technical assistance for the CAAQMS in Rio Tuba, such as the procurement, maintenance, and operational expenses, will be provided by RTN, CBNC, and GPI.



The establishment of the state-of-the-art air monitoring stations in strategic locations across the country is a project of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), the line bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that sets air quality standards and monitors ambient and point-source pollutants. The initiative is under the DENR Adopt-a-CAAQMS Program launched in October 2020 is an effort to expand the Agency's ambient air quality network and step up the country's capacity to monitor ambient air quality.

The collaboration with RTN, CBNC, and GPI brings the second CAAQMS to Palawan – the first of which is located in Puerto Princesa – to be situated in the Municipality of Bataraza to monitor ambient air quality in the designated Rio Tuba Special Airshed.

RTN, CBNC, and GPI believe that the new system will modernize the assessment of current state of ambient air quality in order for the companies to determine suitable programs to achieve total clean and healthy air to breathe for the communities, in the present and the generations to come.

“The Government has been strictly enforcing measures on the mining industry to ensure that it continuously adapt environmentally-sustainable and responsible practices by adhering to environmental laws in the country. Private companies in the country prove that responsible mining can happen and this should be commended” says Director Salino.



P6.4-M air quality monitoring station to be built in Palawan mining town

April 10, 2022 | 6:35 pm



A P6.4-MILLION air quality monitoring station will be established at the mining community in Bataraza, a town located in southern Palawan.

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., Coral Bay Nickel Corp., and Graymont Philippines, Inc. announced that they are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to procure the station, which is expected to be set up by the third quarter this year.

“Monitoring air quality, especially in a mining community is crucial for an effective air quality management system in order to take necessary corrective actions to reduce air pollution and maintain the health of the air that people breathe,” the firms said in a joint statement on Sunday.

The continuous ambient air quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) is capable of monitoring particulate matter of 10 and 2.5 micron particle size.

It will also be equipped with a data acquisition system and can display real-time results of air quality that will be visible to the public.

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining said it conducts monthly in-house air quality monitoring, but the CAAQMS will further strengthen the quality of the mining company’s monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

Funding support and other relevant technical assistance for the CAAQMS, including procurement, maintenance, and operational expenses, will be provided by the three companies.

This will be the second CAAQMS in Palawan, with the first located in Puerto Princesa, the capital city.

“The government has been strictly enforcing measures on the mining industry to ensure that it continuously adapts environmentally-sustainable and responsible practices by adhering to environmental laws in the country. Private companies in the country prove that responsible mining can happen,” Environmental Management Bureau Mimaropa Regional Director Joe Amil M. Salino said in a statement. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/04/10/441497/p6-4-m-air-quality-monitoring-station-to-be-built-in-palawan-mining-town/>



P15-M plant to turn trash into organic fertilizers

By [Celso M. Cajucom](#) April 11, 2022

CABIAO, Nueva Ecija: The local government here is ready to operate a P15-million materials recovery facility (MRF) that is expected to produce 12,000 bags of organic fertilizers for distribution to farmers in the next planting season.

Cabiao Mayor Ramil Rivera over the weekend said the composting facility would be a big help to local farmers who are facing rising prices of basic commodities and farm inputs.

The recycling facility could process 500 to 1,000 bags in three days to produce around 12,000 bags of organic fertilizers.

Rivera said Cabiao farmers can hardly afford commercial fertilizers that used to sell for P850 per bag but now cost P2,300 per bag.

He and officers of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Ecija South on Friday pushed for immediate opening of the composting facility and the blessing of the new MRF with five bioreactors at Barangay Concepcion here.

In an interview, the mayor said the project aims to promote proper waste management and sanitation in the town's 23 villages and boost the livelihood of 64 families that trade in garbage.

When the MRF operates, segregation of waste into biodegradable and degradable will no longer be implemented in Cabiao, but garbage will still be collected.

.Processing and segregating of the trash, which has been delegated to 64 families, will be done by the five bioreactors at 10 tons daily.

The machines were donated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture.

The MRF, which will be run by the Municipal Agriculture Office, is in compliance with provisions of Republic Act 9003 on solid wastes, Rivera said.

At present, Rivera said the local government of Cabiao sends all of its garbage to the Metro Clark sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac, paying P5 million a year.

When the MRF becomes fully operational, only biohazardous wastes will be shipped to the sanitary landfill for P1 million a year as payment to Metro Clark Waste Management Corp., the mayor added.

The P4 million saved by the Cabiao local government, he said, will be set aside for medical purposes.

Biohazardous wastes include blood, syringes and blades.

The DENR website says organic fertilizer is a major source of plant nutrients in intensive small-scale, organic-based vegetable production, and for sustaining soil health and productivity.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/11/news/regions/p15-m-plant-to-turn-trash-into-organic-fertilizers/1839623>



A partnership to address ocean plastic crisis

April 11, 2022



(Seated) Katherine Custodio, WWF-Philippines Executive Director; Rene Acosta, USAid Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) Program Asia Regional Director; and Cecilia Alcantara, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines President sign the MoU that aims to help empower women in the waste sector. They are joined by Anna de Chavez, Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment Activity Manager; Jon Angin, USAid CCBO Program Chief of Party; Cloda Marie Urquico, WWF-Philippines Corporate Partnerships Manager; and Atty. Cashmer Dirampaten, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines Trustee and Vice President.

In celebration of Women's Month and Earth Day, the United States Agency for International Development (USAid) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines Inc. and the World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-Philippines) to empower women in the waste sector.

Through the Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment Activity under the Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program, USAid will work with partners to transform their business ideas into startups, expanded enterprises, or franchised operations through training, mentoring, and funding.

"USAid believes that to save our planet, we need to invest in our planet USAid is pleased to find an ally in Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines and WWF-Philippines in uplifting the lives of Filipino women working in the informal waste sector and turning the tide in ocean plastic pollution," said USAid Philippines Mission Director Ryan Washburn. Women play a critical role in the solid waste management and recycling sectors.

The majority of them serve in informal positions as waste collectors, owners, or employees of small recycling centers, junk shops, and upcycling enterprises. Despite their prevalence in the sector, women face gendered structural barriers that limit their earning power and constrain their access to opportunities for upward mobility.

They are underpaid compared to their male colleagues, and their contribution in preventing plastic litter from reaching the ocean is undervalued.

"Our partnership with USAid and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines will help us transform the lives of women who are our frontliners in protecting our environment. We look forward to working with women entrepreneurs in Metro Manila in crafting solutions to address plastic pollution problems," said WWF-Philippines Executive Director Katherine Custodio.

USAid strongly believes that partnerships and collaboration designed according to local systems and environments are integral to successfully address gender inequality and ocean plastic pollution.



"Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines is pleased to partner with USAid and WWF-Philippines in helping women in waste establish successful businesses that will improve their lives. We are thrilled to support initiatives that will help establish effective community recycling and proper waste management solutions," said Coca Cola Foundation Philippines President Ma. Cecilia Alcantara.



VMC completes P500-M waste treatment facility

By Eugene Y. Adiong April 11, 2022



Victorias Milling Company's construction of its facilities to address environmental issues and concerns will soon be completed.

PHOTO BY EUGENE ADIONG

BACOLOD CITY: The Victorias Milling Company (VMC) Distillery Plant in Barangay Purisima, Manapla has completed the upgrade of its facilities to address environmental issues and concerns.

Linley Retirado, chief manufacturing officer of the plant, said the upgrade started in 2019 with the construction of its waste treatment facility and it was completed in March this year.

Retirado said they have already addressed the environmental issues raised against the distillery plant by putting up and upgrading projects in the environmental protection and mitigating measures.

Anne Tionko, VMC Corporate Communication head, said the company has used state-of-the-art equipment and technology to address environmental issues since 2019.

The natural lagoon, which used to be a dumping area for wastewater by the previous owner of the facility, has already been transformed by VMC into fishponds.

" We already level up to aeration ponds," Retirado said, adding that discharges now come in the form of liquid fertilizer, which is distributed to sugar farmers within the area for free.

To ensure a zero-waste generation, the VMC management established more anaerobic digesters to further reduce odor-causing bacteria by more than 50 percent, he said.

The anaerobic digester processes the distillery wastes into liquid fertilizer.

Moving forward, Retirado said they are now developing technology for mixing liquid and solid fertilizers for commercial purposes.

As to other concerns raised against the company, Retirado said they are conducting regular public consultations through the villages and corporate social responsibility activities, aside from conducting outreach programs, such as medical consultations.

VMC is now in the construction stage of a P50-million biogas project, which is expected to be fully operational by September 2023, he added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/11/news/regions/vmc-completes-p500-m-waste-treatment-facility/1839620>



WB IFC's internal watchdog probes funding for PHL coal projects – NGO

BYCAI ORDINARIO APRIL 10, 2022

THE internal watchdog of the International Finance Corp. (IFC), may have violated its own environmental and social protection policies when it provided funding for coal projects in the country, according to the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ).

IFC is the World Bank Group's private sector arm.

PMCJ said IFC's internal watchdog, the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), launched an investigation in response to a complaint brought by the PMCJ, with support from Inclusive Development International and Recourse, on behalf of affected communities across the Philippines.

The complaint relates to IFC's \$228-million investment in Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), which PMCJ said went on to become a leading financier of coal expansion in the Philippines, including the construction of at least 10 new coal-fired power plants.

"Development banks should be leading the way to address the climate crisis, but with investments like this the IFC is taking us backwards," said Aaron Pedrosa, Legal Counsel of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice.

"Communities in the Philippines are suffering both the direct impacts of living near coal-fired power plants and the devastating effects of climate change. This isn't the kind of development we want," Pedrosa said.

PMCJ said the CAO report confirmed that IFC's failure to ensure that RCBC applied its environmental and social Performance Standards to the financing of these plants very likely caused grave harm to surrounding communities.

The group said coal plants have caused serious impacts on the livelihoods, health and well-being of affected communities due to air and water pollution and physical and economic displacement, among other harms.

Local community activists who opposed the projects faced reprisals for denouncing these. One prominent environmental and human rights defender, Gloria Capitan, was killed last July 1, 2016.

The report also notes that, once operational, the plants will produce approximately 40 million tons of CO₂ annually—equivalent to roughly 30 percent of the Philippines' annual emissions in 2019—exacerbating a global climate crisis to which the Philippines is acutely vulnerable.

"This case is not an aberration—it exemplifies IFC's extremely problematic indirect lending practices," said David Pred, Executive Director of Inclusive Development International.

"IFC has contributed to serious harms to local communities and the environment by failing—over the course of a decade and still to this day—to ensure that RCBC and other financial intermediaries adhere to basic environmental and human rights standards," Pred said.

This is the first investigation ever undertaken by the CAO to specifically examine IFC's contribution to climate change through its indirect investments in fossil fuels.

PMCJ said that despite the World Bank's climate commitments, including a 2013 pledge to stop funding coal, IFC financing has continued to flow to financial intermediaries like RCBC that support new fossil fuel investments.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/10/wb-ifcs-internal-watchdog-probes-funding-for-phl-coal-projects-ngo/>



PH, China to act on climate change

By Eireene Jairee Gomez April 10, 2022

THE Philippines and China reaffirmed their partnership in climate change action and underscored the need for cooperation in practical and pragmatic projects.

At Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian's courtesy call on Secretary Robert E.A. Borje of the Climate Change Commission, the two countries emphasized that urgent climate change action is required in the areas of adaptation, mitigation and finance in order to address the many climate challenges faced by the developing world.

"Now, more than ever, partnerships that work are crucial for climate change action to make a real difference. The Philippines and China are well-placed to harness existing cooperation as a launchpad for intensified joint action," Borje said.

Stressing that the perspective of the developing world and archipelagic/island nations must inform and shape global discussion on climate change, Borje said that these nations, including the Philippines, "continue to bear the brunt of climate change impact."

"It cannot be business as usual for our country, our region and our world. We must work harder together. Vital to this is access to technology as well financing for adaptation and mitigation," said Borje.

For his part, Huang recognized the Philippines' important role in giving a resonant voice to the developing world on the issue of climate change.

Noting that the Philippines faces many climate challenges and has its own contributions to global discussions and action, Ambassador Huang underlined that China will work closely with the Philippines on "projects and programs that can impact positively and quickly on communities."

Both Borje and Huang identified cooperation in renewable energy, including solar energy as convergence that offers practical opportunities for proactive partnership.

The two officials also recognized the need to make climate finance and technology more accessible and should continue to be advanced in all relevant fora until results are visible.

Huang expressed readiness to further strengthen climate change cooperation between the Philippines and China through discussions with Commissioner Xie Zhenhua for China's Climate Change Affairs.



How a massive climate project can help win peace for Ukraine — and help African jobs, food crises

By [Inter Press Service](#) April 11, 2022

ACCRA, Ghana: How would the late archbishop Desmond Tutu have reacted to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Differently than you might think.

The invasion of Ukraine is a mass human tragedy. It is killing Ukrainians, exposing families to violent atrocities and has driven a refugee crisis of over 4 million people and counting. The war in Ukraine has also reawakened our fear of global war — even nuclear war — and the importance we place on global peace.

The war in Ukraine has also driven global food shortages, particularly in Africa. And it has sparked an energy crisis and a reckoning with our global addiction to oil.

Seeing this war unfold, Archbishop Tutu would have been horrified. He would have condemned it. But he also would have been unequivocal: this is a crisis of peace, but also a climate crisis and a once-in-a-generation moment to rally humanity around solutions that could improve our climate, economic and food futures. He would have believed what we believe:

There can be no true global peace, ever, without global action to avert climate change. And this moment is the time we must begin to link these crises inextricably.

Perhaps, ironically, as if challenging the human project, the invasion of Ukraine occurred simultaneously with the most urgent and stark call in history by the United Nations for universal action to mitigate the impact of global warming. Four days after Russian troops began their thrust into Ukrainian sovereign territory, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a detailed report entitled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," on February 28.

In serious trouble

The report and its follow-up just this week are unequivocal in their dire assessment that humanity is in serious trouble. Indeed, in comments accompanying the release of the report, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres described it as an "atlas of human suffering." Guterres was clear in pointing the finger of blame. "The facts are undeniable," he said. "This abdication of leadership is criminal. The world's biggest polluters are guilty of arson on our only home." And among those are Russia and the West.

Putin's purge of Ukraine has triggered the biggest refugee crisis on European land since World War 2. The scenes along the Ukrainian border are heartbreaking. Scenes of traumatized and separated families seeking refuge. But also, stories of discrimination experienced by innocent African and Asian students also seeking shelter from the war. But if current climate trends continue, the IPCC expects a billion people living in vulnerable coastal communities across the globe to be at risk from rising sea levels in the next few decades due to "submergence and loss." The report is, literally, awash with examples of where this is already happening on every continent.

In other words, what we're seeing in Poland and worldwide is fast becoming the daily norm worldwide, and could ultimately dwarf the humanitarian crisis Russia's invasion of Ukraine has unleashed. Seeing the scenes of suffering and bravery from Lviv and Poland, we say that with humility. But what we see on the border of Poland and Ukraine today is soon to be the rule, not the exception, every day of our lives if temperatures continue to rise.



Collective uprising of humanity

Our only hope — and a response that would immediately aid Ukraine — is a collective uprising of humanity, fueled by the same passionate determination evident in the Ukrainian people as they seek to protect their land. It is time to divert essential resources and energy away from war and the military industrial complex, to be urgently reinvested in a Marshall Plan that seeks to protect our common home and save humanity from existential threat.

Here's how.

First, nations seeking to end-run or make do by continuing to access Russian oil and fossil fuels must cease and find other alternatives. Nations are putting funds in escrow to buy oil as payment for a day when a better behaved Russia can accept their fee. This day clearly will not come and these purchases undermine the last best hope for democracy in Ukraine — cutting off Russia's greenhouse gas economy.

This is what's best for peace. It's also ultimately in the best interest of the global community and the planet.

Second, and closest to home for us: The IPCC report highlights the importance of policymakers focusing on "climate resilient development," which they argue helps build strength in every society to cope with climate change. We have such a solution — one that only needs awareness, funds and hope.

The Great Green Wall is an epic African initiative whose aim is to cross the continent from Senegal to the Republic of Djibouti to combat desertification, restore degraded lands, protect biodiversity and offer food and habitat security. We write today with deep concern for the global community, but also as champions of a project that could immediately address the food crisis, economic crisis and climate crisis facing Africa and the southern Hemisphere of the globe.

We have also decided, in memory of the late Arch. Desmond Tutu — inspired by the IPCC report and in opposition to all war — to create the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest in Ghana and Burkina Faso as part of Africa's Great Green Wall. This is a project for peace — one that would seek to turn global discord into optimism and action.

Some of the last utterances of Archbishop Tutu's remarkable life were in support of Africa's Great Green Wall. In 2020 he said: "... One way to use our power wisely is for civil society across the globe to champion, in solidarity with Africa, the Great Green Wall. Supporting Africa in growing new lungs for the Earth. Lungs that become, with every tree planted, a ribbon of hope, inspiring interfaith harmony and peace-building across the Sahel and throughout the continent."

Compassion, not conflict

In creating the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest, we also wish to highlight and support the four great legacy pillars of his life: the ending of all forms of apartheid and hate; the empowerment of women and gender equality; environmental integrity; and peace founded on justice for all.

These are the pillars that will uplift Africa. They are also the pillars that will move us from this conflict in Ukraine toward a solutions-focused humanity that seeks to weave peace from war; opportunity from climate emergency. The Great Green Wall is one of several solutions worldwide that can address the worst impacts of climate change — from the "Green New Deal" in the United States to the preservation and restoration of Amazon rainforest and ecosystems. It is also the least controversial, most immediately scalable and perhaps most powerful symbol of the future we hope to build together.



It's popularly said and written that "the only way out is through." The war in Ukraine is a conflict that clarifies the need to raise up solutions like the Great Green Wall — and the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest. The world's most vulnerable people, indeed all sentient beings and the Earth itself, need compassion, not conflict.

Help us to grow the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest and let's join today to move forward in his memory.

BY JULIUS AWAREGYA, REV. MPHOTO TUTU VAN FURTH AND DON MULLAN, IPS

Julius Awaregya is the founder and CEO, ORGIIS Ghana; Rev. Mpho Tutu van Furth is the co-founder and CEO of Tutu Teach Foundation; Don Mullan is founder and CEO, Hope Initiatives International.



Brazil's Amazon rainforest has already reached a new deforestation record this year

By Camilo Rocha and Stefano Pozzebon, CNN and Reuters

Published Apr 9, 2022 9:42:43 AM



(CNN) — The portion of Amazon rainforest impacted by deforestation in the first three months of 2022 was the highest ever recorded, according to a new report by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

According to the INPE report, published Friday, 941.34 square kilometers (363 square miles) of forest were cleared between January and March this year. That's the largest amount recorded since the institute began monitoring deforestation rates in 2016. The area cleared is nearly the size of Dallas, Texas.

Researchers observed a 64% increase from the same time period last year, when 573.29 square kilometers (221 square miles) were cleared.

Destruction of the world's largest rainforest has surged since President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019 and weakened environmental protections, arguing that they hinder economic development that could reduce poverty in the Amazon region.

The president's office and the Environment Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A UN climate panel report on Monday warned that governments are not doing enough to rein in greenhouse gas emissions in order to avert the worst effects of global warming. While fossil fuel use is mostly to blame, deforestation accounts for about 10% of global emissions, according to the report.

"Brazil is an example of what the UN climate report is saying when referring to governments not taking the necessary actions," said Cristiane Mazzetti, a forest campaigner in Brazil for environmental advocacy group Greenpeace.

"We have a government that goes deliberately against the necessary steps to limit climate change."

Some scientists predict deforestation will continue to rise ahead of Brazil's October presidential election, as it has ahead of the last three elections.

Environmental enforcement typically weakens in election years and criminals may rush to deforest ahead of a new government taking office, according to Carlos Souza Jr, a researcher at Imazon, a Brazilian research institution.



On Thursday, Facebook's parent company Meta announced that it had removed 14 Facebook accounts, nine Facebook pages, and 39 Instagram accounts for posting fake information related to deforestation.

"This network originated in Brazil and targeted domestic audiences in that country," Meta said in its first quarterly "Adversarial Threat Report."

Meta's report says it found "links to individuals associated with the Brazilian Military" behind the accounts.

The accounts were engaged in "coordinated inauthentic behavior," which included posting content that argued not all deforestation was harmful, and which criticized "legitimate environmental NGOs who spoke out against deforestation in the Amazon," the Meta report says.

CNN has reached out to Brazil's Defense Ministry for comment.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Brazil's Amazon rainforest has already reached a new deforestation record this year.](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2022/4/9/brazil-amazon-deforestation.html)"



In 'project of the century', Swiss seek to bury radioactive waste

Published April 9, 2022, 5:59 PM

by [Agence-France-Presse](#)

SAINT-URSANNE, Switzerland – Storing radioactive waste above ground is a risky business, but the Swiss think they have found the solution: burying spent nuclear fuel deep underground in clay.



Olivier Moser of NAGRA (National cooperative society for the storage of radioactive waste) faces a real-size model showing an example of radioactive waste storage, in the Mont-Terri Rock Laboratory, a leading geological laboratory for research into opalinus clay which is investigating the potential of deep geological repositories for radioactive waste in the future, dug out 300 metres below the surface, near Saint-Ursanne in the northwestern Swiss canton of Jura, on April 6, 2022. Storing radioactive waste above ground is risky, as shown by the war in Ukraine, but the Swiss think they have found the solution: burying spent nuclear fuel deep underground. The underground Mont-Terri Rock Laboratory stretches across 1,2 kilometres of tunnels filled with various storage simulations, containing small quantities of radioactive material monitored by thousands of sensors. More than 170 experiments have been carried out to simulate the different phases of the process — positioning the waste, sealing off the tunnels, surveillance — and to reproduce every imaginable physical and chemical effect. Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP

The Mont Terri international laboratory was built to study the effects of burying radioactive waste in clay which sits 300 metres (985 feet) below the surface near Saint-Ursanne in the northwestern Jura region.

The underground laboratory stretches across 1.2 kilometres (0.7 miles) of tunnels. Niches along the way, each around five metres high, are filled with various storage simulations, containing small quantities of radioactive material monitored by thousands of sensors.

More than 170 experiments have been carried out to simulate the different phases of the process — positioning the waste, sealing off the tunnels, surveillance — and to reproduce every imaginable physical and chemical effect.

According to experts, it takes 200,000 years for the radioactivity in the most toxic waste to return to natural levels.

Geologist Christophe Nussbaum, who heads the laboratory, said researchers wanted to determine what the possible effects could be “on storage that needs to last for nearly one million years.”

That “is the duration that we need to ensure safe confinement,” he said, adding that so far, “the results are positive.”



– Potential sites identified –

Three prospective sites in the northeast, near the German border, have been identified to receive such radioactive waste.

Switzerland's nuclear plant operators are expected to choose their preferred option in September.

The Swiss government is not due to make the final decision until 2029, but that is unlikely to be the last word as the issue would probably go to a referendum under Switzerland's famous direct democracy system.

Despite the drawn-out process, environmental campaigners Greenpeace say Switzerland is moving too fast.

"There are a myriad of technical questions that have not been resolved," Florian Kasser, in charge of nuclear issues for the environmental activist group, told AFP.

For starters, he said, it remains to be seen if the systems in place can "guarantee there will be no radioactive leakage in 100, 1,000 or 100,000 years."

"We are putting the cart before the horse, because with numerous questions still unresolved, we are already looking for sites" to host the storage facilities, he said.

Kasser said Switzerland also needed to consider how it will signal where there sites are to ensure they are not forgotten, and that people many centuries from now remain aware of the dangers.

Swiss nuclear power plants have been pumping out radioactive waste for more than half a century.

Until now, it has been handled by the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, or NAGRA, founded in 1972 by the plant operators in conjunction with the state.

For now, the waste is being stored in an "intermediary depot" in Wurenlingen, some 15 kilometres from the German border.

– Horizon 2060 –

Switzerland hopes to join an elite club of countries closing in on deep geological storage.

So far, only Finland has built a site, in granite, and Sweden gave the green light in January to build its own site for burying spent nuclear fuel in granite.

Next up is France, whose Cigeo project, led by the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (ANDRA), plans to store radioactive waste underground in clay.

"We are awaiting the declaration of public utility but in the meantime we will submit a request for a construction permit," said ANDRA spokeswoman Emilie Grandidier during a visit to Mont Terri.

Following the 2011 nuclear accident at the Fukushima power station in Japan, Switzerland decided to phase out nuclear power gradually: its reactors can continue for as long as they remain safe.

A projected 83,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste, including some high activity waste, will have to be buried.

This volume corresponds to a 60-year operating life of the Beznau, Gosgen and Leibstadt nuclear power plants, and the 47 years that Muhleberg was in operation before closing in 2019.



Filling in the underground nuclear waste tombs should begin by 2060.

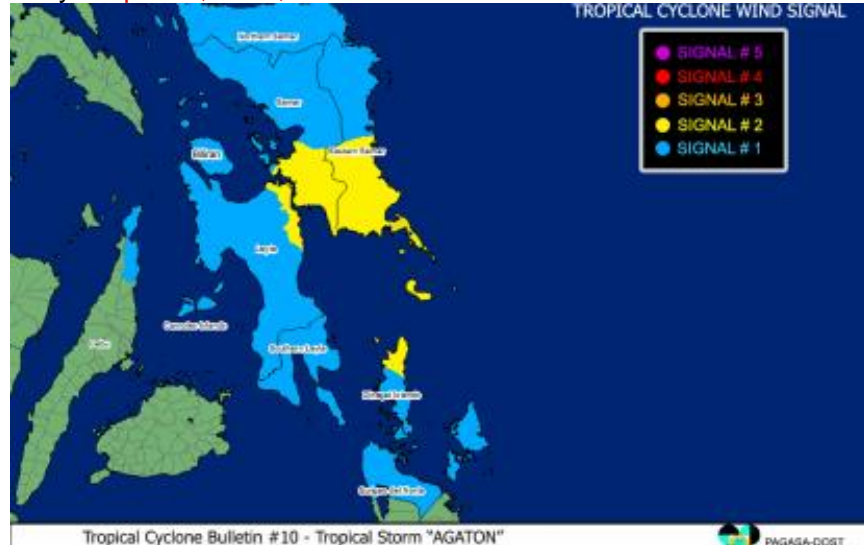
“It’s the project of the century: we have carried out the scientific research for 50 years, and we now have 50 years for the authorisation and the realisation of the project,” said Nagra spokesman Felix Glauser.

The monitoring period will span several decades before the site is sealed some time in the 22nd century.



‘Agaton’ further intensifies; more areas put under Signal No. 2

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [April 10, 2022, 10:22 am](#)



(Courtesy of PAGASA-DOST)

MANILA – More areas have been placed under Tropical cyclone wind signal (TCWS) No. 2 after Tropical Storm Agaton further intensified, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said on Sunday.

In its 8 a.m. bulletin, PAGASA said the center of “Agaton” was spotted over the coastal waters of Guiuan, Eastern Samar moving west northwestward at 10 kilometers per hour.

It has maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 105 kph.

The weather bureau said the following areas were placed under TCWS No. 2:

*The southern portion of Eastern Samar (Guiuan, Mercedes, Salcedo, Quinapondan, Giporlos, Balangiga, Lawaan, General Macarthur, Hernani, Llorente, Balangkayan, Maydolong, Borongan City(sad))

*The southern portion of Samar (Marabut, Basey, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, Villareal, Santa Rita); and

*The northeastern portion of Leyte (Babatngon, Tacloban City, Palo, Tanauan, Tolosa)

Meanwhile, the rest of Eastern Samar; the rest of Samar, Northern Samar and Biliran; the rest of Leyte, Southern Leyte; and the rest of the northeastern portion of Cebu (Daanbantayan, Medellin, Bogo City, Tabogon, Borbon) including Camotes Islands are now under TCWS No. 1.

PAGASA said winds may reach gale-force in strengthen in any of the areas under TCWS No. 2 “throughout the passage” ‘Agaton.

“These conditions may be risky for most seacraft,” PAGASA warned.

It added that areas under TCWS No. 1, on the other hand, will experience strong winds that “maybe risky for hose using small seacraft.

“Agaton” is forecast to move erratically or remain almost stationary over the southern portion of Samar Islands and its coastal waters due to weak steering environment.



Heavy rainfall will be experienced over Eastern Visayas, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte, Bohol, Cebu, Masbate, Sorsogon, Albay, Catanduanes, Romblon, Northern Mindanao, and the rest of Visayas and Caraga in the next 24 hours, PAGASA said.

The weather bureau added that “Agaton” is also expected to degenerate into a remnant low by late Tuesday or early Wednesday as another tropical cyclone with the international name “Malakas” outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) “begins to assimilate its circulation.”

According to PAGASA, “Malakas” maintains its strength while tracking northwestward with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph. Its center was estimated at 1,815 km East of Mindanao.

PAGASA added that “Malakas” may enter PAR by late Monday or early Tuesday but “is unlikely to directly affect the weather condition in the country” as it is expected to leave PAR region by late Tuesday or early Wednesday. **(PNA)**

11 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-NWRB SINIGURONG MAIWASAN ANG WATER CRISIS SA PANAHON NG TAG-INIT

PATULOY na binabantayan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sa pamamagitan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam pati na rin ang operasyon nito sa gitna ng low-set water level ng dam.

Ayon kay Acting Environment Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang mga miyembro ng NWRB Technical Working Group in the management of water supply ng Angat Dam ay mahigpit na binabantayan ang water elevation ng dam upang maiwasan ang isang water crisis lalo na sa panahon ng tag-tuyo o dry

season.

"Through the NWRB, we have already laid down preventive measures such as cloud seeding so that the public, especially those in Metro Manila, is assured of a steady water supply with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," ayon kay Sampulna.

Noong Abril 10, 2022, ang water elevation sa reservoir ay tumaas ng bahagya sa 195.22 meters mula sa pinakamababang elevation sa taon na 190.63 meters noong Abril 4, 2022.

Ang pagtaas ay dahil na rin sa shear line or tail-end of a cold front at low-pressure area sa rehiyon ng Mindanao.



REIMATE OPINION

ANGINYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

Ang malawakang pagulan na naranasan sa malaking bahagi ng Luzon ay inaasahang magpapataas pa ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sanhi ng "inflows from runoff water."

Ayon sa latest rainfall forecast at Angat Dam water level simulation, the pinakamababang lebel ng tubig sa dam ay aabot sa 183.98 meters sa Hunyo. Dahil dito, maaaring hindi aabot sa nakatakdang minimum operating water level na 180 meters.

Inaprubahan ng NWRB ang water allocation na 50 cubic meters per second

(CMS) para sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System mula Abril 1 hanggang 15, at limang CMS naman sa National Irrigation Administration mula Abril 1 hanggang 30.

Bagaman napabuti nang bahagya ng pagtaas water elevation ng kasalukuyan at inaasahang lebel ng dam, hindi pa rin nakatitiyak sa antas ng tubig nito.

Hinihimok ang publiko na patuloy na magtipid sa tubig sa mga kabahayan, opisina at negosyo. Maliban sa pagtitipid ng tubig mula sa gripo, maaari ding gawin ang water efficiency methods tulad ng rainwater collection at water recycling.



04-11-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

P6.4-M air quality monitoring station to be built in Palawan mining town

A P6.4-million air quality monitoring station will be established at the mining community in Bataraza, a town located in southern Palawan.

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., Coral Bay Nickel Corp., and Graymont Philippines, Inc. announced that they are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to procure the station, which is expected to be set up by the third quarter this year.

"Monitoring air quality especially in a mining community is crucial for an effective air quality management system in order to take necessary corrective actions to reduce air pollution and maintain the health of the air that people breathe," the firms said in a joint statement on Sunday.

The continuous ambient air quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) is capable of monitoring particulate matter of 10 and 2.5 micron particle size.

It will also be equipped with a data acquisition system and can display real-time results of air quality that will be visible to the public.

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining said it conducts monthly in-house air quality monitoring, but the CAAQMS will further strengthen the quality of the mining company's monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

Funding support and other relevant technical assistance for the CAAQMS, including procurement, maintenance, and operational expenses, will be provided by the three companies.

This will be the second CAAQMS in Palawan, with the first located in Puerto Princesa, the capital city.

"The government has been strictly enforcing measures on the mining industry to ensure that it continuously adapts environmentally-sustainable and responsible practices by adhering to environmental laws in the country. Private companies in the country prove that responsible mining can happen," Environmental Management Bureau Mimaropa Regional Director Joe Amil M. Salino said in a statement. — **Luisa Maria**

Jacinta C. Jocson



BFP to plant 400K bamboo trees for NGP reforestation

BUREAU of Fire Protection (BFP) chief Director Louie Puracan has committed around 40,000 personnel to plant at least 10 bamboo seedlings to help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in its National Greening Program (NGP).

Puracan said that under a DENR-DILG agreement, the BFP will establish in adopted areas a forest fire station complete with basic firefighting equipment, supplies or vehicles that are available to immediately respond to forest fires.

The DILG and DENR recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the establishment of bamboo plantations in Bulacan.

Held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, the MOA signing signified the partnership of the DENR and the DILG-Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) for the adoption of two NGP reforestation areas in the municipalities of Norzagaray and Doña Remedios Trinidad.

The agreement will implement the planting of bamboo and other forest and fruit-bearing species in the 25-hectare reforestation area in Bgy. San Lorenzo, Norzagaray and a 25-hectare reforestation area

in Bgy. Kalawakan, Doña Remedios Trinidad.

Under the agreement, the DENR will provide a tree plantation plan and technical assistance, while the DILG-BFP will spearhead the plantation, rehabilitation, maintenance, protection, conservation, and other related activities of the adopted plantation sites to sustain growth and survival of the planted seedlings for five years.

Puracan said that the partnership would also empower and provide livelihood to the local community and indigenous peoples living around the sites, as well as, for their own BFP firefighters given its "limitless potentials."

For his part, DENR-Central Luzon Regional Executive Director Paquito T. Moreno, Jr. highlighted the timeliness of the partnership, as the BFP will experience firsthand how to protect these sites during summer when forest fires are rampant in the country.

"Forest fire is the biggest issue in terms of forest protection or established plantation protection. I hope that this MOA will spur a sustainable, broader partnership among our partners on forest protection and establishment," said Moreno. **Joel dela Torre**



04-11-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Joint order stipulating guidelines on online businesses now in effect

By Othel V. Campos

AN ATTACHED agency of the Department of Trade and Industry has asked platforms, e-retailers and merchants to follow laws and regulations in the sale, distribution and marketing of products over the Internet, as a joint administrative order stipulating guidelines on online businesses is now in effect.

Joint Administrative Order No. 22-01 was issued by the DTI, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Intellectual Property of the Philippines and National Privacy Commission to consolidate all rules and guidelines on online businesses.

Consumer Policy and Advocacy

Bureau director Melquiades Marcus Valdez II said JAO 22-01 is not a new legislation, but a reiteration of current laws, rules and policies which do not distinguish application between brick-and-mortar stores from online stores.

Valdez said laws applicable to "offline" businesses are also applicable to online businesses, including the Electronic Commerce Act which facilitates transactions through the use of electronic technology.

"The purpose of the JAO primarily is to build consumer confidence in online transactions because consumer trust will allow businesses to grow and businesses that grow contribute to the national economy," Valdez said in a webinar.



SAKSI NGAYON
INSIDER
ni FERNAN ANGELES



KUNG pagbabatayan ang pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte nitong nakalipas na linggo, malinaw na batid niya ang pamamayagpag ng mga tiwali sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Aniya pa – “I fired them all.”

Pero parang kulang. Hindi niya nahagip ang mga utak-sindikatang opisyaales na pilit iginigiit ang isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) na nilagdaan ng yumaong dating Environment Secretary Gina Lopez na itinalaga niyang kalihim nang maging Pangulo taong 2016.

Sa ilalim ng nasabing MOA, ibinigay nang libre ng pamahalaan ang hindi bababa sa 2,700-ektaryang lupain sa isang pamilyang negosyanteng nasa likod ng pambalahura ng Marikina Watershed Area noong panahon ni dating Pangulo Fidel V. Ramos.

Gaano kalaki ba ang 2,700 ektarya? Kasing laki lang naman ng lungsod ng Makati.

Bagama't tama lang namang protektahan ang kalikasan, tila may mali sa naturang kasunduang nagbigay laya sa nasabing pamilya para asintahin ang alinmang lugar na kanilang kursunada – suk-

dulang yurakan pati ang ancestral domain ng mga katutubong protektado sa ilalim ng Republic Act 8371 o ang Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA Law).

Walang technical details kung saan lang pwedeng magkunjaring nagmamalasakit sa kalikasan ang pamilyang minsan nang bumaboy sa Marikina Watershed sa lalawigan ng Rizal bilang tagapagtanggol ng kalikasan.

Ang masaklap, maging ang DENR, kasangkapan sa panggigipit at pagpapalayas sa mga katutubo habang patuloy ang pagtanggaping ibasura ang kasunduang hindi lamang salat sa detalye ng hangganan, kundi wala pang pakinabang sa panig ng pamahalaan.

Ang nakubkob na “hasyenda,” pinagkakakitaan pa bilang isang tourist attraction nang

wala man lang ibinabayad na buwis sa pamahalaan.

Bakit nga ba ayaw ibasura ng DENR ang naturang kasunduan? Hindi barya ang kinikita ng mga tiwali sa nasabing ahensya kapalit ng kanilang pagbulag-bulagan sa katotohanang bulilyaso ang naturang MOA.

Angkop lang naman tagalang tanimang muli ng mga puno ang kabundukang kinalbo ng illegal loggers sa Marikina Watershed Area, partikular sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Baras, Rizal. Subalit paano nagawang ipagkatiwala ng DENR ang reforestation program kalakip ng MOA, sa isang mayamang pamilya ang lugar na minsan na nilang nilapastangan?

Walang batas na nagbabawal sa DENR na magtalaga ng mga katuwang sa progra-

mang pangangalaga ng kalikasan.

Pero sa pagtatalaga ng balahurang pamilya, diyan umusbong ang problema. Dangan naman kasi, mali na sa umpisa pa lang ang paglagda ng yumaong kalihim sa kasunduang dehado ang gobyerno.

Ang dapat, ibasura ang MOA. Mas mainam kung ibigay sa mga katutubo ang responsibilidad sa wastong pangangalaga sa kanilang ancestral domain at mga karatig na kabundukan, katuwang ang ahensya bilang gabay sa tamang pamamaraan.

Yun nga lang, mawawaian na ng delihensya ang mga kupal sa DENR kasi wala naman silang mapapala sa mga pobrang katutubo.

(Si Fernan Angeles ay editor-at-large ng SAKSI Ngayon)



Time to accelerate transition to clean, renewable energy

VLADIMIR Putin's brutal assault on Ukraine has forced Europe to wean itself off Russian fossil fuels fast. While a tough situation in the short term, this could be a blessing in disguise as it means an acceleration of Europe's energy transition from greenhouse gas emitting energy sources to clean and renewable ones. The high prices of fuel and energy are making alternatives economically viable, faster. The oil price shocks in the 1970s laid the foundation for Denmark's becoming a global leader in wind power technology.

RESURGENCE
MARIT STINUS-CABUGON

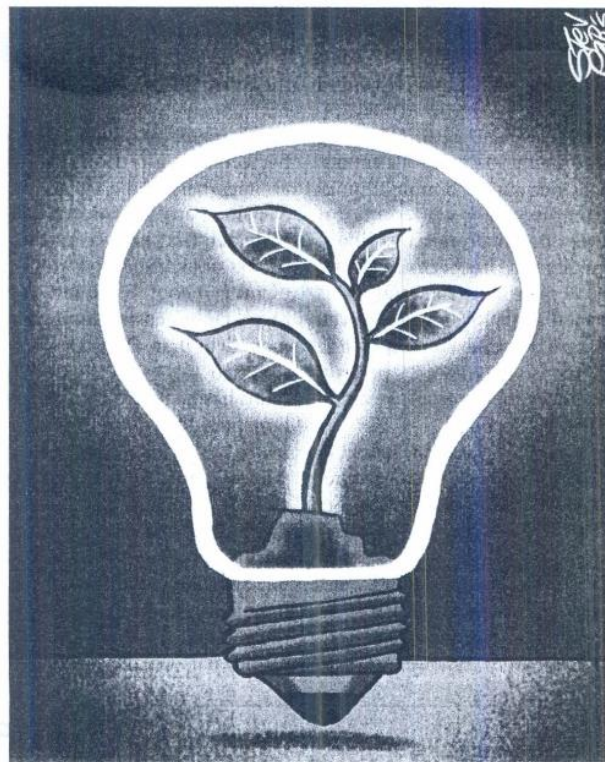
► Cabugon A5

■ CABUGON FROM A1

A decade-long drought in hydro-power-dependent Uruguay led to a 75-percent dependence on imported fuel and energy. But today, homegrown wind, solar and biomass energy take care of 40 percent of Uruguay's power needs while the rest is supplied by hydropower (Grant Burrier, April 2, 2020 in *World Politics Review*).

We don't have to go as far away as Denmark and Uruguay to find a government that is taking big steps away from depending on fossil fuels. In the recently held Asean Energy Transition Dialogue (organized by the Asian Development Bank, Cambodia's Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Climate Investment Funds), Cambodia's journey along the energy transition path was featured. The Cambodian government embarked on its first solar-power project in 2016. Today, six years later, the share of solar power of total energy is 12.5 percent, according to Heng Kunleang, director general of the Department of Energy (DoE), Ministry of Mines and Energy. But expanding generation of solar power is just one of the Cambodian government's steps toward energy transition. Another significant component of the transition is the push for energy efficiency not simply as a general policy, but with specific targets and programs for different sectors, products and processes.

Energy efficiency was, in fact, one of the major topics in the forum. As Peter DuPont, the moderator, put it, "a kilowatt-hour saved is a kilowatt-hour you don't have to generate." It was pointed out that energy efficiency doesn't seem to be as "sexy" as "renewables" even if energy efficiency, according to Mark Lister of the Efficiency Valuation Organization,



has a CO2-emissions-reduction potential at par with renewable energy. The same point was made by James Maguire of Sustainable Development Capital Ltd., who emphasized that people should be educated about energy efficiency and the use of energy, not just its generation. Energy efficiency, he said, is good for the environment, for business and for the individual consumer.

Of course, in the Philippines where a large proportion of the population lives below the official poverty threshold, energy conservation is already a "way of life," the term used in Republic Act 11285, the "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act" (signed in 2019). Lack

of resources means few appliances, a small home with few lights and no air conditioning. Less than 10 percent of Philippine households reportedly have air conditioning. Some homes don't even have a refrigerator and if they have, they may choose to keep it unplugged due to the high cost of electricity. But there is obviously still much room for energy efficiency and conservation in the Philippines. Wasting less, reusing and recycling more, are important aspects of energy conservation and efficiency.

Going back to the energy transition dialogue and the accomplishments of Cambodia, for perspective, the Philippines in 2020 derived 57 percent of its energy

requirement from coal. Also in 2020, wind and solar had contributions to total generated power at only 1 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively (Department of Energy figures quoted by Bienvenido Opllas in *Business World*, May 3, 2021). This despite the Renewable Energy Act of 2008. Cambodia reached 12.5-percent share of energy from its solar power facilities after only six years. Greenpeace Philippines, in an April 5 statement in connection with the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, called on "the incumbent and incoming Filipino leaders to stop procrastinating on addressing the climate crisis." The Philippines "appears to be gripped by inertia," wrote Ronnel Domingo in "The Philippines Lags in Global Push for Renewables" (earthjournalism.org, Aug. 31, 2021), as reflected in the DoE's "technology neutral approach" to power generation. However, since then, while recently having "retooled" its Green Energy Auctions, the government has made nuclear power the centerpiece of future energy supply.

A bit of good news is that Aboitiz Power Corp. is expected to complete a 94-megawatt solar power project in the town of Bugallon in Pangasinan before the end of the year, while a 167-megawatt facility in Aguilar, also in Pangasinan, is in the pipeline. Under a DoE and United Nations program, the Iloilo Provincial Hospital in Pututan is getting equipped with solar panels with generating capacity of 75 kilowatts.

But we need to do much more and we need to do it much faster. Enough of inertia and procrastination. Other nations are making the transition and so must we.



How a massive climate project can help win peace for Ukraine — and help African jobs, food crises

BY JULIUS AWAREGYA,
REV. MPHOTO TUTU VAN
FURTH AND DON MULLAN

ACCRA, Ghana: How would the late archbishop Desmond Tutu have reacted to the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Differently than you might think.

The invasion of Ukraine is a mass human tragedy. It is killing Ukrainians, exposing families to violent atrocities and has driven a refugee crisis of over 4 million people and counting. The war in Ukraine has also reawakened our fear of global war — even nuclear war — and the importance we place on global peace.

The war in Ukraine has also driven global food shortages, particularly in Africa. And it has sparked an energy crisis and a reckoning with our global addiction to oil.

Seeing this war unfold, Archbishop Tutu would have been horrified. He would have condemned it. But he also would have been unequivocal: this is a crisis of peace, but also a climate crisis and a once-in-a-generation moment to rally humanity around solutions that could improve our climate, economic and food futures. He would have believed what we believe:

There can be no true global peace, ever, without global action to avert climate change. And this moment is the time we must begin to link these crises inextricably.

Perhaps, ironically, as if challenging the human project, the invasion of Ukraine occurred simultaneously with the most urgent and stark call in history by the United Nations for universal action to mitigate the impact of global warming. Four days after Russian troops began their

thrust into Ukrainian sovereign territory, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a detailed report entitled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," on February 28.

In serious trouble

The report and its follow-up just this week are unequivocal in their dire assessment that humanity is in serious trouble. Indeed, in comments accompanying the release of the report, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres described it as an "atlas of human suffering." Guterres was clear in pointing the finger of blame. "The facts are undeniable," he said. "This abdication of leadership is criminal. The world's biggest polluters are guilty of arson on our only home." And among those are Russia and the West.

Putin's purge of Ukraine has triggered the biggest refugee crisis on European land since World War 2. The scenes along the Ukrainian border are heartbreaking. Scenes of traumatized and separated families seeking refuge. But also, stories of discrimination experienced by innocent African and Asian students also seeking shelter from the war. But if current climate trends continue, the IPCC expects a billion people living in vulnerable coastal communities across the globe to be at risk from rising sea levels in the next few decades due to "submergence and loss." The report is, literally, awash with examples of where this is already happening on every continent.

In other words, what we're seeing in Poland and worldwide is fast be-

coming the daily norm worldwide, and could ultimately dwarf the humanitarian crisis Russia's invasion of Ukraine has unleashed. Seeing the scenes of suffering and bravery from Lviv and Poland, we say that with humility. But what we see on the border of Poland and Ukraine today is soon to be the rule, not the exception, every day of our lives if temperatures continue to rise.

Collective uprising of humanity

Our only hope — and a response that would immediately aid Ukraine — is a collective uprising of humanity, fueled by the same passionate determination evident in the Ukrainian people as they seek to protect their land. It is time to divert essential resources and energy away from war and the military industrial complex, to be urgently reinvested in a Marshall Plan that seeks to protect our common home and save humanity from existential threat.

Here's how.

First, nations seeking to end-run or make do by continuing to access Russian oil and fossil fuels must cease and find other alternatives. Nations are putting funds in escrow to buy oil as payment for a day when a better behaved Russia can accept their fee. This day clearly will not come and these purchases undermine the last best hope for democracy in Ukraine — cutting off Russia's greenhouse gas economy.

This is what's best for peace. It's also ultimately in the best interest of the global community and the planet.

Second, and closest to home for

us: The IPCC report highlights the importance of policymakers focusing on "climate resilient development," which they argue helps build strength in every society to cope with climate change. We have such a solution — one that only needs awareness, funds and hope.

The Great Green Wall is an epic African initiative whose aim is to cross the continent from Senegal to the Republic of Djibouti to combat desertification, restore degraded lands, protect biodiversity and offer food and habitat security. We write today with deep concern for the global community, but also as champions of a project that could immediately address the food crisis, economic crisis and climate crisis facing Africa and the southern Hemisphere of the globe.

We have also decided, in memory of the late Arch. Desmond Tutu — inspired by the IPCC report and in opposition to all war — to create the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest in Ghana and Burkina Faso as part of Africa's Great Green Wall. This is a project for peace — one that would seek to turn global discord into optimism and action.

Some of the last utterances of Archbishop Tutu's remarkable life were in support of Africa's Great Green Wall. In 2020 he said: "... One way to use our power wisely is for civil society across the globe to champion, in solidarity with Africa, the Great Green Wall. Supporting Africa in growing new lungs for the Earth. Lungs that become, with every tree planted, a ribbon of hope, inspiring interfaith harmony and peace-building across the Sahel and throughout the continent."

Compassion, not conflict

In creating the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest, we also wish to highlight and support the four great legacy pillars of his life: the ending of all forms of apartheid and hate; the empowerment of women and gender equality; environmental integrity; and peace founded on justice for all.

These are the pillars that will uplift Africa. They are also the pillars that will move us from this conflict in Ukraine toward a solutions-focused humanity that seeks to weave peace from war, opportunity from climate emergency. The Great Green Wall is one of several solutions worldwide that can address the worst impacts of climate change — from the "Green New Deal" in the United States to the preservation and restoration of Amazon rainforest and ecosystems. It is also the least controversial, most immediately scalable and perhaps most powerful symbol of the future we hope to build together.

It's popularly said and written that "the only way out is through." The war in Ukraine is a conflict that clarifies the need to raise up solutions like the Great Green Wall — and the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest. The world's most vulnerable people, indeed all sentient beings and the Earth itself, need compassion, not conflict.

Help us to grow the Desmond Tutu Peace Forest and let's join today to move forward in his memory. **IPS**

Julius Awaregya is the founder and CEO, ORGIIS Ghana; Rev. Mpho Tutu van Furth is the co-founder and CEO of Tutu Teach Foundation; Don Mullan is founder and CEO, Hope Initiatives International.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel.Nos. 8539-4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



Management System
ISO 9001:2015
ISO 14001:2015
www.tuv.com
ID: 914800327



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed ZCMCI NICKEL – CHROMITE MINING PROJECT of the ZAMBALES CHROMITE MINING COMPANY, INC located in BARANGAYS GUINABON AND GUISGUIS, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed ZCMCI NICKEL – CHROMITE MINING PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date/Time	Venue	Details
26 April 2022; 9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM)	Barangay Guisguis Covered Court	Meeting ID: 831 3298 6880 Passcode: ZCMCPH https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83132986880?pwd=VEJQVU14SmozdEwIRm9qbnVOZmlYQT09

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	ZCMCI Nickel – Chromite Mining Project
Project Location	Barangays Guinabon and Guisguis, Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales
Project Type	Major Mining
Proponent	Zambales Chromite Mining Company, Inc.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email at eia@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region III**
Turquoise Street, Ramar Village, San Augustin City of San Fernando Pampanga
- **MPDO – Sta Cruz, Zambales**

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8539-4378 loc 116 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. George Silvederio** and **For. Mark Tuliao**.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

Handwritten signature



04-11-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND


Notice is hereby given that the **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE** at Bangkal Davao City will auction through oral bidding at 10:00 A.M. on May 12, 2022 for the right to lease for commercial purposes the tract of land herein below described. Written bids in the prescribed form must be submitted not later than 10:00 A.M. on the said date.

Description	:	MLA No. 112402 (XI-DC) 02
Location	:	Brgy. Panacan, Davao City
Area	:	3,357 square meters
Appraised Value of the Land	:	Php 12,180 per square meter
• Land	:	Php 40,888,260
• Proposed Improvement	:	Php 110,000,000
Annual Rental	:	Php 2,326,647.80
Applied for by	:	Johnny L. Ng

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the CENRO Officer at DENR RXI - CENRO Bangkal, Davao City, and plainly marked "Bid for the lease of the land covered by Miscellaneous Lease No. 112402 (XI-DC) 02." The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three percent (3%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified lease applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised to complete the three (3) months, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of improvements and the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction.

Davao City, Davao del Sur.


MARVIN D. PARILLA
C/O. CENRO Officer



04-11-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that the **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE** at Bangkal Davao City will auction through oral bidding at 10:00 A.M. on May 12, 2022 for the right to lease for commercial purposes the tract of land herein below described. Written bids in the prescribed form must be submitted not later than 10:00 A.M. on the said date.

Description	:	MLA No. 112402 (XI-DC) 07
Location	:	Brgy. Panacan, Davao City
Area	:	2,492 square meters
Appraised Value of the Land	:	Php 12,180 per square meter
• Land	:	Php 30,352,560
• Proposed Improvement	:	Php 35,012,675
Annual Rental	:	Php 1,260,703.55
Applied for by	:	Kudos Trucking Corporation Represented by Johnny L. Ng

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the CENRO Officer at DENR RXI - CENRO Bangkal, Davao City, and plainly marked "Bid for the lease of the land covered by Miscellaneous Lease No. 112402 (XI-DC) 07. The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three percent (3%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified lease applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised to complete the three (3) months, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of improvements and the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction.

Davao City, Davao del Sur.

MARVIN D. PARIILA
OIC, CENR Officer



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU - R6
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Region VI, Western Visayas
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Parola, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-6989 Email: emb.r6@denr.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to participate in the Public Hearing for the proposed **Philippine Domestic Submarine Cable Network (PDSCN) Project Region VI - Segment 14 & Segment 7** on the following dates;

Date / Time / Venue	18 April 2022 (Monday) / 9:00 AM	Barangay Yapak Covered Court
	19 April 2022 (Tuesday) / 1:00 PM	Barangay Union Covered Court
	21 April 2022 (Thursday) 9:00 AM	Barangay Ermita Covered Court
	22 April 2022 (Friday) / 1:00 PM	Natures Village Hotel, Zone 15, National Highway, Talisay City /
Brief Description	Through the proposed Philippine Domestic Submarine Cable Network (PDSCN) Project, a consortium of telecommunication service providers namely, Globe Telecom, Inc., InfiniVAN Inc. (IVAN), and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (ETPI), plans to strengthen their network interconnectivity. This proposed submarine cable network is composed of twenty-four (24) segments connecting various islands, regions, and provinces in the Philippines. Five (5) segments will be established within Region VI- Western Visayas	
Proposed Location	Brgy. Yapak, Boracay, Malay, Aklan / Brgy. Union, Nabas, Aklan / Brgy. Ermita, Dumangas, Iloilo / Brgy. Zone 3, Talisay City, Negros Occidental	
Proponent	Globe Telecom, Inc./ InfiniVAN Inc. (IVAN) / Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (ETPI)	

Kindly note that Public Hearing will promptly start as scheduled and registration will start 30 minutes before the start of the program:

The public hearing aims to achieve efficient exchange of information and views between and among the project proponent, the EMB-DENR, relevant agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders on environmental impacts of the proposed project currently applying for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Full copies of Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) and EIS Summary for the Public can be accessed thru EMB R6 website at <http://r6.emb.gov.ph/>.

For pre-registration and access of online meeting details or for more information, please contact the EIA Section of EMB R6 at mobile numbers 0999-6253-691/033-336-6989/ local number: 1005.

ATTY. RAMAR NIEL V. PASCUA
Regional Director

R6-2022-010529

"Productivity with Environmental Protection is the best answer to poverty"

11 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines confirms 277 new COVID-19 cases, 39 new deaths

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 10 2022 08:37 PM | Updated as of Apr 10 2022 09:45 PM

MANILA (UPDATE) - The Philippines confirmed 277 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, bringing the country's total to 3,681,374.

The positivity rate for the past week was also at 1.6 percent, which was lower than the 1.9 percent recorded in the preceding week, according to the AB-CBN Data Analytics Group.

The Department of Health also said there were 28,380 active cases as of Sunday, which is the lowest since January 3.

Thirty nine new deaths from COVID-19 were also reported pushing the death toll to 59,769.

The drop in the number of daily cases, and the easing of pandemic restrictions, have pushed the country higher in the Bloomberg COVID Resilience Index.

From 53rd spot in February, the country moved up to 49th place in March. Previously, the country always wound up at the bottom of the rankings.

Independent research group OCTA said the country's COVID situation was at "very low risk" and that other parts of the country can further lower their alert levels and ease restrictions.

"May muna monitor pa tayong mga variant, recombinant sa ibang bansa so syempre gusto nating makita kung magkakaroon ng pagtaas ng cases dito sa bansa. Sa ngayon wala pang nakitang pagtaas. May uptick sa positivity rate pero overall maganda pa naman ang numbers na nakikita natin," David added.

(We are monitoring variants in other countries and we want to see if there will be an uptick in cases here. But so far we have yet to observe any increase. There's an uptick in the positivity rate but overall our numbers are still good.)

While the number of daily new cases has declined since the surge in January and February, health experts have also sounded the alarm over the low uptake of booster shots among the population.

A palace adviser has called for "booster cards" to replace vaccination cards as a requirement, saying people who lack booster shots are at risk of getting reinfected with new variants, which may lead to another surge.

The Philippines' [first](#) COVID-19 case was a 38-year-old Chinese woman from Wuhan, China.

The first COVID-19 [death outside of China](#), was also recorded in the Philippines in 2020.

- With a report from Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/10/22/ph-confirms-277-new-covid-19-cases-39-new-deaths>



Boosters extend economic activity, strengthen wall of immunity — Concepcion

Philstar.com April 10, 2022 | 4:04pm



A health worker prepares a dose of the BioNtech Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination for seafarers at a stadium in Manila on July 15, 2021.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

(As released) Hastening booster vaccinations among Filipinos will not slow business activity but will instead benefit the country in the long term and in many ways, said Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion.

“Hastening booster vaccinations will prolong the time that we will enjoy more mobility. Boosters strengthen our wall of immunity, making it possible for us to withstand future surges in cases,” he said. He added that increased booster vaccinations will prevent the country from losing millions of dollars from the expiry by July this year of the 27 million vaccines in has in stock.

This comes as concerns were raised about the possible effects on business of replacing current vaccination cards with booster cards as requirement for entry into spaces and activities that put people at risk of being infected with COVID-19. The booster card proposal has received support from the country’s leading business organizations as well as medical experts.

“We are the last people to want business activity to slow down. What we don’t want is for business to stop completely because we failed to act,” Concepcion said. “This is why we are proposing that people be given enough time to get their booster shots. It will not happen all at the same time because people completed their primary vaccinations at different times,” he said.

“What booster vaccinations will do is quite the opposite: it will allow us to sustain our gains and extend our mobility because those with waning immunity will be updating their vaccinations as we wait for the provinces to catch up with their primary vaccinations.”

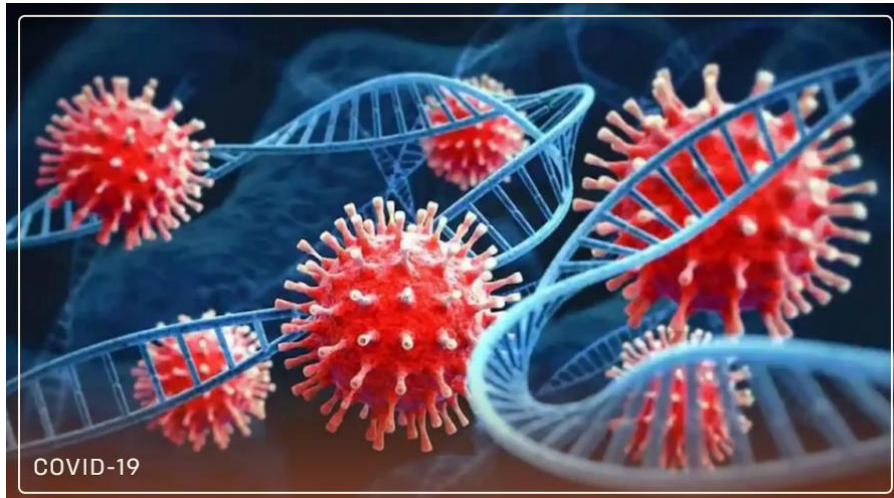
The Go Negosyo founder had earlier sounded the alarm on waning antibodies as booster takeup remains low. As of March 30, only a little over 12 million Filipinos have received their booster shots despite 65.8 million having been fully vaccinated. Waning antibodies might also increase cases and send the country back into lockdowns.

Concepcion had put forward specific measures to increase booster vaccinations, including: the redefinition of “fully vaccinated” status to include a booster dose; booster card requirements for travel, work, and overall movement in lieu of the vaccination card; a 60-day deadline, or around until June this year, to get booster shots; and the proposed use of booster cards in VAXCERTPH as proof of vaccination to address current backlogs and prevent proliferation of fake documents and vaccination cards.



“We might not even need a mandate to implement this if we do it in phases,” said Concepcion. He said that it will become similar with IATF restrictions in which only those with booster cards or vaccination cards that are up to date will be allowed to enter enclosed spaces or engage in high-risk activity.

“We are doing the long game here. We need to have enough people who are immune to the virus while we wait for everyone to catch up. We don’t want to leave people out or leave anyone behind,” he said.



UK has new, more transmissible COVID variant than Omicron

APR 9, 2022, 4:43 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

A new COVID variant, Omicron XE, is said to be more transmissible than Omicron itself and has been found in the United Kingdom since January and is now 760 confirmed cases.

A newly-discovered COVID variant, called Omicron XE, has been detected in the United Kingdom since January but is now threatening to sweep the country anew, according to the UK Health Security Agency which reported over 760 confirmed cases in England and a handful in Thailand and China.

Apparently it is a new form of Covid-19 – a combination of two separate variants XE and Omicron. XE is formed of a mix of BA.1 (responsible for the initial Omicron wave towards the end of 2021) and the highly infectious BA.2 strain.

Data gathered so far (by health officials and the World Health Organization) suggests it could be the fastest-spreading Covid variant yet. However, experts are cautioning that it's still too soon to say just how much of a risk the variant is, or could become, and so have pledged to 'continue to monitor' the situation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said: "Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of 10 percent as compared to BA.2, however this finding requires further confirmation. XE belongs to the Omicron variant until significant differences in transmission and disease characteristics, including severity, may be reported.

"WHO continues to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants, alongside other SARS-CoV-2 variants, and will provide updates as further evidence becomes available."

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency), added,

"This particular recombinant, XE, has shown a variable growth rate and we cannot yet confirm whether it has a true growth advantage. So far there is not enough evidence to draw conclusions about transmissibility, severity or vaccine effectiveness."



The symptoms of Omicron XE are: sore throat, aching muscles, stuffy nose, upset stomach and loose stools.

It is what's known as a "recombinant," meaning it contains a mix of the previously highly infectious omicron BA.1 strain, which emerged in late 2021, and the newer BA.2 variant, currently the U.K.'s dominant variant. Such recombinants are not uncommon, however health authorities said there is currently not enough evidence to draw conclusions on its transmissibility or severity.

XE contains a mix of the previously highly infectious omicron BA.1 strain, which emerged in late 2021, and the newer "stealth" BA.2 variant, currently the U.K.'s dominant variant.

Data on the new variant's severity and ability to evade vaccines is not yet clear, though early estimates suggest it could be more transmissible than earlier strains.

UKHSA data shows XE has a growth rate of 9.8 percent above that of BA.2, while the World Health Organization has so far put that figure at 10 percent.

Health authorities have said they are continuing to monitor the situation.

"This particular recombinant, XE, has shown a variable growth rate and we cannot yet confirm whether it has a true growth advantage. So far there is not enough evidence to draw conclusions about transmissibility, severity or vaccine effectiveness," UKHSA's chief medical advisor, professor Susan Hopkins, said.

The earliest confirmed XE case in Britain has a specimen date of Jan. 19 of this year, suggesting it could have been in circulation in the population for several months. It has also been detected beyond the U.K. in Thailand.

Surging cases

It comes as the UK faces a new surge in infections. Still, the XE variant currently accounts for less than 1 percent of total Covid cases that have undergone genomic sequencing there.

According to the Office for National Statistics, 4.9 million people in Britain, or 1 in 13, were infected with Covid as of March 26 — a record high since its survey began in April 2020. Hospitalizations, meanwhile, have risen more than 7% in the last week to over 16,500.

Older adults have proven particularly susceptible to the latest wave amid waning booster immunity and easing Covid restrictions.

According to Imperial College's latest React study, an estimated 8.31 percent of the over-55 age group tested positive as of the end of March — nearly 20 times the average prevalence recorded since the survey started in May 2020. Cases among children and younger adults, meanwhile, appear to be plateauing.

The findings mark the 19th and final round of the study as Covid restrictions and surveillance systems are unwound in the U.K. and beyond.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/uk-has-new-more-transmissible-covid-variant-than-omicron?fbclid=IwAR0nFivfW9qkJGURsuXpy5jkbPgOJRj1wuwf2UdJZg49rs8b4bPcbSNAD9Q>

11 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGA7LPDqSZ4>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

GREEN NA GREEN NA ANG MANILA BAYWALK!

2,472 views • Apr 10, 2022

199 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



engr. berto

194K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach

#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpiMrIPoLNg>

MANILA BAYWALK UPDATE GABUNDOK NA DOOMITE PEBBLES!

6,993 views · Streamed live 17 hours ago

510 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



engr. berto
194K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFPNL2JbY3o>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

FROM GRAY SAND TO GOLDEN SAND! NGAYON SOBRANG LAWAK NA!

4,582 views · Apr 10, 2022

👍 325 🗨 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂ CLIP ⌵ SAVE ...



engr. berto
194K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG_hzk-Fsp4

#manilabay #4k

MANILA BAY UPDATE APRIL 10, 2022

6,922 views · Apr 10, 2022

181 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS SAVE ...



BTV Pinas
73.6K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay
#4k

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIw09Y6Ffig>

#manilabay #4k

MANILA BAY UPDATE APRIL 10, 2022

6,924 views · Apr 10, 2022

👍 229 🗨️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE 🙏 THANKS ⌵ SAVE ...



BTV Pinas
73.6K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay
#4k

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s34hD7NPgLY>

#manilabay #dolomitebeach

Manila Bay Update: April 10, 2022

3,697 views · Apr 10, 2022

👍 136 🗨 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂ CLIP ≡+ SAVE ...



PINOY BLOGGER PH
29.4K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay #dolomitebeach

SHOW MORE