

18 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR boosts trade, production of wood charcoal

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) April 17, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) that marks a wide-ranging step to make the production and trade of wood charcoal sustainable and environmentally friendly while continuing to support the livelihood of Filipinos.

In a statement on Saturday, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said the AO responds to the urgent need for improved governance on wood-based fuel.

"It is seen to bring the wood charcoal sector into the formal economy and arrest degradation of forest lands due to illegal cutting of trees to supply increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas and electricity," he said.

Under the directive, a charcoal producer is required to secure a Wood Charcoal Production Permit (WCPP) which has a three-year effectivity, renewable for the same period. The renewal application should be filed 60 days prior to the WCPP expiration.

The AO, however, limits the sources of the raw materials, "except all mangrove species," to forest lands covered with DENR-issued cutting permits; tree plantations covered with DENR-issued tenurial instruments; Socialized and Industrial Forest Management Agreements; ancestral lands covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title with DENR-issued cutting permits; wood processing plants with DENR permits; private tree plantations covered by Certificate of Tree Plantation Ownership and Private Tree Plantation Registration; private/titled lands with valid DENR-issued cutting permits; and private yard wastes.

A key feature of the measure is to encourage interested wood charcoal production applicants and holders of tenure and/or wood raw materials and its derivatives to source their wood charcoal raw materials only from planted trees for fuelwood production; harvesting wastes (e.g. tops and branches); pruning and derivatives; processing wastes (e.g., wood wastes/trimmings from wood processing plants); and all other accumulated raw materials waste and residues generated.

The AO also requires traders or middlemen engaged in the selling of wood charcoal to secure a Wood Charcoal Transport Permit, which will only be effective per shipment from point to point and shall be accompanied by the original copies of the permit and Official Receipt/Sales Receipts/Acknowledgement Receipts.

However, the movement of wood charcoal within municipalities/cities "shall not be required of WCTP."



‘Sustainable management’ ng raw materials sa produksyon ng wood charcoal tiniyak ng DENR



April 17, 2022 @ 2:52 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Upang matiyak and sustainable management ng raw materials naglabas ng administrative order (AO) ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para palawakin ang produksiyon at kalakalan ng wood charcoal at maging environmentally friendly habang sinusupportahan ang kabuhayan ng mga Pilipino.

Ayon kay DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, ang AO ay tugon upang maisaayos ang pamamahala sa wood-based fuel.

“It is seen to bring the wood charcoal sector into the formal economy and arrest degradation of forest lands due to illegal cutting of trees to supply increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas and electricity,” paliwanag nito.

Sa paglabas ng DENR Administrative Order 2022-05, sinabi ni Sampulna na titiyakin na ang raw materials na ginagamit sa wood charcoal ay ligal at tama ang pinanggalingan.

Sa press release sa ilalim ng direktiba, ang charcoal producer ay kinakailangan kumuha ng Wood Charcoal Production Permit (WCPP) na tatlong taong epektibo at maaari din itong ma-renew ng tatlong taon. Ang renewal application ay kinakailangang maisampa 60 araw bago ma-expire ang WCPP.

Kaugnay nito pinapayagan din ng AO ang mga indibidwal na gumagawa ng uling na bumuo ng kooperatiba at maisyuhan ng WCPP sa pangalan ng kanilang binuong grupo.

Ang WCPP application ay maaaring isaayos at aprubahan sa pinakamalapit na Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) o sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) na may hurisdiksyon sa lugar.

Kaugnay nito magsusumite rin ang aplikante ng notaryadong Wood Charcoal Supply Contract (WCSC) na aprubado ng kanilang CENRO/PENRO kung saan nakadetalye ang dami at uri ng raw materials na ibibigay sa WCPP.

Samantala, limitado ng AO ang pinanggagalingan ng raw materials “except all mangrove species, to forest lands covered with DENR-issued cutting permits; tree plantations covered with DENR-issued tenurial instruments; Socialized and Industrial Forest Management Agreements; ancestral lands covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title with DENR-issued cutting permits; wood processing plants with DENR permits; private tree plantations covered by Certificate of Tree Plantation Ownership and Private Tree Plantation Registration; private/titled lands with valid DENR-issued cutting permits; and private yard wastes.”



Ang pangunahing layunin nito ay “encourage interested wood charcoal production applicants and holders of tenure and/or wood raw materials and its derivatives to source their wood charcoal raw materials only from planted trees for fuelwood production; harvesting wastes (e.g. tops and branches); pruning and derivatives; processing wastes (e.g., wood wastes/trimmings from wood processing plants); and all other accumulated raw materials waste and residues generated.”

Inoobliga din ng AO ang mga traders at middlemen na nagbebenta ng wood charcoal na kumuha ng Wood Charcoal Transport Permit na magiging epektibo lamang sa araw ng pagbiyahe kung saan ito nanggaling at dadalhin na may kasamang orihinal na kopya ng permit at Official Receipt/Sales Receipts/Acknowledgement Receipts. **Santi Celario**



DENR aims to make dolomite beach water fit for swimming

Published April 18, 2022, 12:05 AM by [Faith Argosino](#)

In a little over two months, the controversial Manila dolomite beach should be fit for recreational activities, such as swimming.

That's the ambitious plan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR), which has timed the deadline with the end of the administration of President Duterte.

Where is the DENR in the plan to make the dolomite beach water fit to swim?

Although he did not mention what phase the DENR is in its restoration, Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that the department would continue its aggressive efforts to rehabilitate Manila bay and reach the water quality standard of 100 mpn per 100 mL last Feb. 28.

"We are confident na kung magtuloy-tuloy yong rehabilitation hopefully by the end of this administration's term we can beat the standard in terms of water quality. Gusto namin pag binuksan yan hindi na lang viewing ng mga tao pati yong life long dream natin na maging swimmable na yung Manila Bay (We are confident and hopeful that the continuous rehabilitation will help us achieve the standard water quality. Aside from viewing, we also want to open Manila Bay for swimming)," Leones said. It was on June 27, 2019 when the rehabilitation of Manila Bay started with the announcement of former Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.



Manila Bay

(Photo courtesy of DENR)

For the restoration of the beautiful Manila Bay, the DENR has sought the help of concerned agencies such as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), among others.

The work is not as simple as the sight one gets when it drives past the Manila Bay along Roxas Blvd.

According to data, the Manila Bay meanders along the coasts of the National Capital Region, Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, and Pampanga. Its waters also affect the provinces of Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, and Tarlac, considered as "non-coastal" areas.

There are 17 river systems draining out to Manila Bay, which adds to the problem of water pollution. These are the Angat River, Bocaue River, Maria River, Marilao River, Meycauayan, Meycauayan-Valenzuela River, Pasig River, Parañaque River, Imus River, Ylang-ylang River, Rio Grande, Cañas River, Obando River, Navotas-Malabon-Tinajeros-Tullahan River, Talisay River, Guagua River, and Pampanga River.



Phases of rehabilitation

According to DENR, Manila Bay's rehabilitation will go through three phases.

Phase 1 focuses on water quality improvement, including cleaning up designated esteros and waterways; reducing the fecal coliform levels and toxic discharges from houses and establishments, repairing leaks in old sewer lines; and implementing solid waste management.

As a result of the agency's plan to improve the water quality, the Manila Bay Coordinating Office's (MBCO) data in January revealed that the Baywalk area, which is a priority in rehabilitation, registered a notable decrease in the coliform level and recorded an average of 21,100 mpn per 100 ml at the third quarter of 2021 –from 5.75 million mpn per 100 mL in 2019.

The data also showed that in September last year, the Baywalk Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which treats wastewater from the Padre Faura, Remedios, and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls, received an influent of 8.8 million mpn per 100 ml and releases an effluent of 9.4 mpn per 100 ml which passed the fecal coliform standard for recreational waters.

The first phase also covers the safety of informal settlers residing along esteros and shorelines, wherein the agency also provided temporary sanitation facilities and planned their relocation.

Phase 2 aims to rehabilitate the old sewer lines in NCR, the completion of 340 million liters per day (MLD) of Maynilad and Manila Water by this year, and the safe relocation of informal settlers.

For Phase 3, the department aims to educate citizens to protect the bay's improvement, sustain law enforcement and monitoring, and complete Metro Manila's sewerage system by 2026.

Initiatives and regulatory policy

Three years before the start of Manila Bay's rehabilitation, the Supreme Court issued on Dec. 18, 2016, an SC Mandamus directing the agencies mentioned above "to clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore, and maintain" the bay waters to SB level, which is fit for swimming and other recreational activities.

Other than coastal cleanups and solid waste management, the department has also coordinated with the

Department of National Defense (DND) to construct a replica of the Fort Drum Island cannon near Manila's Remedios drainage outfall "to serve as a physical reminder of the department's commitment and willpower in our battle to rehabilitate Manila Bay."

How the public can help

Although Manila Bay's water quality showed improvement, the DENR also asked locals to help the government achieve its goal to make 'dolomite beach' safe for swimming through proper waste management.

It advised individuals to segregate and dispose of their solid wastes properly and avoid using single-use plastics, which pollute esteros and waterways. When going out, people should also use eco-bags, reusable water bottles, utensils, and straws.

The agency said household wastes should be buried under the ground or thrown with biodegradable waste and not poured into the sink, which clogs creeks and streams. Families should also opt to use environment-friendly soaps, shampoos, and detergents instead of their commercial counterparts containing harmful chemicals that flow into our oceans.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/18/denr-aims-to-make-dolomite-beach-water-fit-for-swimming/>



LLDA niratsada solar project

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Apr 18, 2022

FEATURED NEWS



Photo Courtesy of philgc.org

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Itinuloy pa rin diumano ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang tinaguriang 'midnight' bidding nito para sa kontrobersiyal na renewable energy project kahit election period na at walang pangangasiwa o koordinasyon sa Department of Energy (DOE).

Nabatid na nangibabaw sa pa-bidding ng LLDA para sa naturang proyekto ang Blue Leaf, isang kompanya na pag-aari ng Macquarie na pinakamalaking bangko sa Australia, habang nakuha naman ng SunAsian Energy (na pinamumunuan ni Tetch Cruz Capellan) ang kalahati mula sa 20,100 ektaryang bloke para sa solar o wind power projects sa Laguna Lake.

Base sa source ng online news site Bilyonaryo, may ilang kumukuwestiyon sa tila pagmamadali ng LLDA, na pinamumunuan ng general manager nito at dating Pateros mayor Joey Medina, para sa bidding ng proyekto.

Napag-alaman na isinagawa umano ang pre-bidding noong Marso 22 at binuksan ang bidding nitong Abril 12 kung kailan campaign period na at tatlong buwan na lamang ang natitira bago magpalit ng administrasyon.

Bukod umano sa tila minadali ang bidding, sinabi ng source na hindi rin nakipag-ugnayan ang LLDA, na nasa ilalim ng tanggapan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna, sa DOE na siyang nangangasiwa sa lahat ng renewable energy project sa bansa at maging sa National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).



Dagdag pa ng source na base sa mga kritiko ng proyekto, kulang umano ito sa masusing pag-aaral para malaman kung ano ang magiging epekto ng mga floating solar panel o wind turbine sa mga mangingisda, turista at migratory birds at iba pang marine life sa pinakamakaking lawa sa bansa.

Nabatid pa na nakapagsagawa na ang LLDA ng pilot project sa Baras, Rizal para sa 10-kilowatt floating solar power system may apat na taon na ang nakalipas.



Climate activists disrupt traffic in London, Paris

By [Agence France-Presse](#) April 18, 2022

PARIS: Several hundred activists from the Extinction Rebellion activist group on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) blocked major roads in central Paris and London, disrupting traffic to protest "inaction" on climate change from world leaders. Around 300 meters (980 feet) of a main thoroughfare in central Paris was taken over by activists over the Easter weekend, with some of them moving in hay bales and cement-filled containers to block traffic. Extinction Rebellion tweeted "thousands" of protesters were "occupying" London's Marble Arch roundabout during a sit-in close to Hyde Park, demanding an end to the fossil fuel economy. Six people were arrested, the Metropolitan Police said.



Key West grapples with trade, environment issues

By [Agence France-Presse](#) April 18, 2022



FINDING BALANCE People watch an artist perform as the Carnival Dream cruise ship sails in Key West, Florida on April 11, 2022. The island-city of Key West off the southern tip of Florida invites visitors to stroll slowly, enjoy turquoise waters and take in the sunset. But according to some residents, that idyllic peace is endangered — by lumbering, tourist-filled cruise ships. AFP

PHOTO

KEY WEST: The island-city of Key West off the southern tip of Florida invites visitors to stroll slowly, enjoy turquoise waters and take in the sunset. But according to some residents, that idyllic peace is endangered — by lumbering, tourist-filled cruise ships.

The huge vessels bring thousands of visitors every day to the small city of 26,000 inhabitants, whose quaint, often pastel-colored Victorian homes line leafy, walkable streets.

Following a drawn-out local battle, the cruise tourist numbers are now down, but many residents say more still needs to be done.

While many businesses depend on the tourist throngs, residents such as Arlo Haskell find the ships to be a nuisance and believe they cause environmental harm. As a result, he founded the Safer Cleaner Ships non-profit.

"These cruise ships are an extraction industry that is profiting off of the beauty in Key West while harming that beauty and degrading the experience for everyone else," Haskell said.

In 2020, his association put forth three local referendums: one to limit the size of cruise ships, another to allow no more than 1,500 people a day to disembark, and a third to be able to prohibit boats that do the most damage to the environment.

The three proposals, each approved by between 60 and 80 percent of voters, were ratified by the city council. It was a victory for Haskell — or so he thought.

Then in June 2021, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a law suspending the measures, arguing that voters could not meddle in matters of maritime trade.

Local businesses, including ones also owned by the owner of Pier B — a huge beneficiary of the cruise ships as one of the city's main docking locations — had donated almost \$1 million to a political campaign committee supporting the governor, according to the Miami Herald.

Public docks closed

Relying on a bit of unexpected economic data, Safer Cleaner Ships returned to battle following DeSantis' move.



The info showed that cruise ship suspensions during the pandemic did not sink local finances. To the contrary, in 2021, the city collected 25 percent more sales taxes than in 2019, before Covid.

Hotels and restaurants seem to have taken advantage of the fact that Florida promoted its open businesses in the middle of the pandemic while other states imposed rules and closings.

The city administration last month decided that since Key West cannot limit the number of cruise ships, it would close its two public docks.

Now, cruises can only park at private Pier B, which welcomes only one cruise ship per day. The era of two to three ships arriving daily is over.

The move has been a blow to some businesses.

Although cruise tourists spend only a few hours in the city and usually eat before disembarking — generating little income for restaurants and hotels — they do buy souvenirs and snacks.

The visitors support the likes of tchotchke shops, ice cream parlors and tourist destinations, such as the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum, where the US writer lived between 1931 and 1939, said Mayor Teri Johnston.

Finding balance

One morning this week, the streets of Key West were nearly deserted. Vanessa Wilder manned her downtown bike rental stand, waiting for the first passengers to disembark from a newly arrived cruise.

"The main shops and the bars down here, we thrive off of these cruise ships," she said.

"If we didn't have them, a lot of businesses around here would have to shut."

Despite his victories, Haskell maintains that things should move one step further, with cruise ships at the private dock not allowed to exceed a size specified by residents.

The boats, according to Haskell, "do tremendous damage to our ecosystem" by clouding the water, which endangers the survival of corals.

But Scott Atwell, spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Key West, said the evidence wasn't so clear.

"We do not have specific studies on whether the cruise ship turbidity is any different than natural turbidity and whether turbidity from the ships' channel reaches our coral reefs in a detrimental way," he said.

In the meantime, Key West's city council has decided to monitor water quality and support coral restoration under an initiative that charges a fee to Pier B for disembarking passengers.

"We don't want to get rid of the cruise ships but bring them into a moderate level so that we have good economic conditions, and we also have good quality of life for our residents," Johnston said.



Duterte visits Capiz, assures residents of assistance

By [Alexis Romero](#)(The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2022 - 12:00am



Rescue personnel retrieve the bodies of residents in Baybay City, Leyte on Saturday after a mudslide caused by Tropical Depression Agaton.
Miriam Desacada

MANILA, Philippines — A day after visiting Leyte areas devastated by Tropical Storm Agaton, President Duterte checked the condition of residents displaced by massive flooding in Capiz and assured them of assistance.

Speaking at the Pontevedra Elementary School Evacuation Center last Saturday, Duterte said agencies are ready to provide food and to repair the houses of people affected by the storm.

“DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) will be here for as long as there are people who cannot eat... who do not have sources of food, we will sustain the food,” the President said.

“Now, with regard to housing repairs, a general – he is not here – Ed del Rosario, is in charge of housing. But I will tell him. I will ask him to come here. For your roads, we have acting (Public Works) Secretary (Roger) Mercado,” he added.

Duterte vowed to check upon his return to Manila if there were other forms of assistance that could be provided to the people of Capiz.

“There is always an assistance because there is the... what you would call the contingency fund,” he added.

Duterte made an aerial inspection to assess the extent of the damage caused by Agaton in Pontevedra, Capiz. He also attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the Capiz multi-purpose evacuation and convention center during his visit to Barangay Lawaan in Roxas City. The president then led the distribution of relief goods at the Pontevedra Elementary School evacuation center.

Last Friday, Duterte, with Sen. Bong Go, visited the families of landslide victims in Baybay City in Central Leyte, the area worst affected by Agaton, and met with hundreds of evacuees housed at the city high school building, and with some civic leaders and local government unit authorities.

Duterte and Go assured the storm victims that the government would not abandon them, and would continue to provide relief and services.

More than a hundred died from Agaton, with hundreds more still missing or were found injured. A majority of the casualties were in Baybay City’s landslide areas and the rest in the eastern coastal town of Abuyog. – **Miriam Desacada, Delon Porcalla**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/04/18/2174933/duterte-visits-capiz-assures-residents-assistance/amp/>



Agaton death toll reaches 172

By [Michael Punongbayan](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2022 - 12:00am



Residents look outside the window of their submerged house after heavy rains brought about by Tropical storm

Agaton in Abuyog town, Leyte province, southern Philippines on April 11, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — The number of confirmed deaths from the onslaught of Tropical Depression Agaton further rose to 172 yesterday, 155 of which were from Eastern Visayas.

Latest reports from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said 110 persons remained missing yesterday.

Most of the missing persons in the Eastern Visayas were believed to be victims of landslides, which buried entire villages in Leyte.

The NDRRMC said 58,492 families or a total of 207,572 individuals remain housed in 909 different evacuation centers from Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, Caraga, and the BARMM.

Agaton, which caused heavy rains and unleashed massive flooding and landslides last week despite being categorized as a weak typhoon, was the first to enter the country this year.

Sixteen affected cities and municipalities have placed their localities under state of calamity because of the extent of deaths, injuries and damages.

The NDRRMC said more than P50.4 million worth of both food and non-food assistance had so far been given to Agaton victims in all affected areas.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana called on all Filipinos yesterday to celebrate Easter Sunday by helping victims of Agaton in the Visayas and Mindanao.

“Let me also take this opportunity to call on everyone to lift up those who need our help, especially as many of our kababayan have been affected by the recent onslaught of Tropical Storm Agaton in Visayas and Mindanao,” he said in his message.

“May we all be stewards of grace and may the resurrection of Jesus Christ inspire us to look forward to a peaceful and better tomorrow,” Lorenzana added.

He said the Department of National Defense “joins our brothers and sisters of the Christian faith in the observance of this year’s Easter Sunday.”

Lorenzana said Christendom’s celebration of the resurrection of Jesus “is a reminder that hope springs eternal despite the sorrow and turmoil that we go through in life.”

“As John 11:25 reads, ‘Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.’”

“With courage and faith, we can overcome the greatest of trials and prepare ourselves for immeasurable blessings and salvation,” Lorenzana said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/04/18/2174936/agaton-death-toll-reaches-172/amp/>



Pagasa: Fair weather expected this week

By [Michael Punongbayan](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 18, 2022 - 12:00am



Marine life is featured in this entry for the Banderitas Festival Competition in Cuenca, Batangas yesterday.

MANILA, Philippines — Most parts of the country are forecast to experience fair weather in the next three days or most likely for the rest of the week, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

In a three-day weather outlook issued yesterday, Pagasa said the northeasterly surface windflow or the slightly cooler wind coming from the northeast is still affecting extreme Northern Luzon.

This will bring cloudy skies and some isolated rainfall to some provinces in the afternoon or evening.

Pagasa said no typhoon or low-pressure area (LPA) is expected to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) in the next three days or possibly for the rest of the week.

Metro Manila is forecast of have partly sunny skies with temperatures ranging from 25 to 33 degrees Celsius but with possible isolated rains in the afternoon or evening.

Baguio City is also expected to be sunny with cooler temperature ranging from 16 to 24 degrees Celsius, but with some isolated rains in the afternoon or evening.

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RISING OIL PRICES

Sustainable wood-based fuel pushed

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) ensuring raw materials used in producing wood charcoal are only derived from legal sources.

Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, said AO 2022-05 responds to the urgent need for improved governance on wood-based fuel.

"It is seen to bring the wood charcoal sector into the formal economy and arrest degradation of forest lands due to illegal cutting of trees to supply increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas and

electricity," Sampulna said of the AO.

Under the directive, a charcoal producer is required to secure a wood charcoal production permit (WCPP) which has a three-year effectivity, renewable for another three.

The AO allows individual charcoal producers to organize themselves into cooperatives and be issued with the WCPP in the cooperative's name.

However, the AO limits the sources of the raw materials to forest lands covered with DENR issued documents particularly those with cutting permits; tree plantations covered with tenurial instruments; socialized and industrial forest management agreements; ancestral lands covered by certifi-

cate of ancestral domain title with cutting permits; wood processing plants with permits; private tree plantations covered by certificate of tree plantation ownership and private tree plantation registration; private or titled lands with valid cutting permits; and private yard wastes.

The AO said the use of all mangrove species for charcoal is prohibited.

The new DENR policy also encourages interested wood charcoal production applicants and holders of tenure or wood raw materials and its derivatives to source their wood charcoal raw materials only from planted trees for fuelwood production; harvesting wastes; pruning and derivatives; processing wastes; and all other

accumulated raw materials waste and residues generated.

The AO also requires traders or middlemen engaged in the selling of wood charcoal to secure a wood charcoal transport permit, which will only be effective per shipment from point to point and shall be accompanied by the original copies of the permit and official receipts.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, based on its 2010 census, majority of Filipinos still use wood as fuel for cooking.

That year, 44.1 percent or 8.9 million households use wood for cooking followed by liquefied petroleum gas with 36.9 percent, charcoal with 13.1 percent, kerosene with 3 percent, electricity with 2.6 percent and the remaining 0.1 percent from various other fuels.



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New management rules issued for marine protected areas

THREE departments signed on to a joint memorandum circular outlining new rules for managing marine protected area networks (MPANs), restore damaged coastal ecosystems, and preserve marine habitats, including coral reefs.

The Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Agriculture (DA), and Interior and Local Government (DILG) is seen as a win for efforts to maintain biodiversity, according to SMARTSeas, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-supported project.

“The eventual approval of the joint policy guidelines on the establishment and management of MPANs will be valuable in biodiversity conservation efforts,” SMARTSeas National Project Manager Vincent V. Hilomen said in a statement.

The memorandum circular places biodiversity conservation on equal footing with economic development.

“There will be a value for a government policy that places conservation as equally important to development and

progress. Many of the degraded coastal and marine habitats resulted from the relentless push for development and progress with little afterthought of the higher costs to the environment,” Mr. Hilomen said.

MPAN is a collection of individual MPAs or reserves operating cooperatively under the Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (SMARTSeas) project.

The protection regime for coastal ecosystems classified as

MPAs includes patrolling, surveillance of habitats, and repair of signage, other facilities, and equipment.

“One of the greatest challenges that we are experiencing in establishing MPANs is still the acceptance of the community. There are several instances where the communities resist to set aside a portion of their waters for protection purposes because they think that access to their fishing areas will be limited,” Mr. Hilomen added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



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DENR aims to make dolomite beach water fit for swimming

By FAITH AGROSINO

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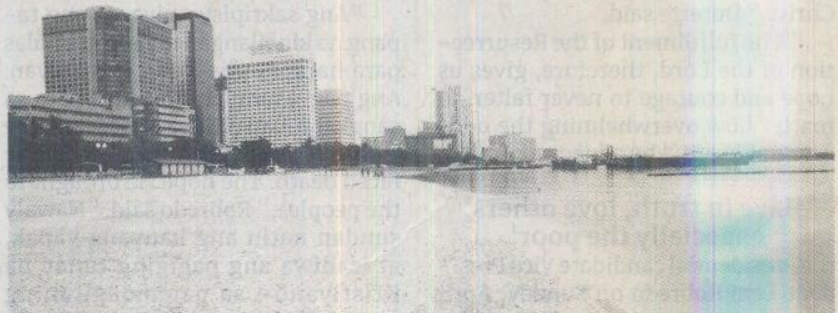
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Phase 1 focuses on water quality improvement, including cleaning up designated esteros and waterways; reducing the fecal coliform levels and toxic discharges from houses and establishments, repairing leaks in old sewer lines; and implementing solid waste management.



MANILA BAY (Photo courtesy of DENR)

As a result of the agency's plan to improve the water quality, the Manila Bay Coordinating Office's (MBCO) data in January revealed that the Baywalk area, which is a priority in rehabilitation, registered a notable decrease in the coliform level and recorded an average of 21,100 mpn per 100 ml at the third quarter of 2021 -from 5.75 million mpn per 100 mL in 2019.

The data also showed that in September last year, the Baywalk Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which treats wastewater from the Padre Faura, Remedios, and Estero de San Antonio de Abad outfalls, received an influent of 8.8 million mpn per 100 ml and releases an effluent of 9.4 mpn per 100 ml which passed the fecal coliform standard for recreational waters.

The first phase also covers the safety of informal settlers residing along esteros and shorelines, wherein the agency also provided temporary sanitation facilities and planned their relocation.

Phase 2 aims to rehabilitate the old sewer lines in NCR, the completion of 340 million liters per day (MLD) of Maynilad and Manila Water by this year, and the safe relocation of informal

settlers.

For Phase 3, the department aims to educate citizens to protect the bay's improvement, sustain law enforcement and monitoring, and complete Metro Manila's sewerage system by 2026.

Initiatives and regulatory policy

Three years before the start of Manila Bay's rehabilitation, the Supreme Court issued on Dec. 18, 2016, an SC Mandamus directing the agencies mentioned above "to clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore, and maintain" the bay waters to SB level, which is fit for swimming and other recreational activities.

Other than coastal cleanups and solid waste management, the department has also coordinated with the Department of National Defense (DND)

to construct a replica of the Fort Drum Island cannon near Manila's Remedios drainage outfall "to serve as a physical reminder of the department's commitment and willpower in our battle to rehabilitate Manila Bay."

How the public can help

Although Manila Bay's water quality showed improvement, the DENR also asked locals to help the government achieve its goal to make 'dolomite beach' safe for swimming through proper waste management.

It advised individuals to segregate and dispose of their solid wastes properly and avoid using single-use plastics, which pollute esteros and waterways. When going out, people should also use eco-bags, reusable water bottles, utensils, and straws.

The agency said household wastes should be buried under the ground or thrown with biodegradable waste and not poured into the sink, which clogs creeks and streams. Families should also opt to use environment-friendly soaps, shampoos, and detergents instead of their commercial counterparts containing harmful chemicals that flow into our oceans.



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LLDA NIRATSADA SOLAR PROJECT

Itinuloy pa rin di-umano ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) ang tinaguriang 'midnight' bidding nito para sa kontrobersyal na renewable energy project kahit election period na at walang pangangasiwa o koordinasyon sa Department of Energy (DOE).

Nabatid na nangi-babaw sa pa-bidding ng LLDA para sa naturang proyekto ang Blue Leaf, isang kompanya na pag-aari ng Macquarie na pinakamalaking bangko sa Australia, habang nakuha naman ng SunAsian Energy (na pinamumunuan ni Tetch Cruz Capellan) ang kalahati mula sa 20,100 ektaryang bloke para sa solar o wind

power projects sa Laguna Lake.

Base sa source ng online news site **Bilyonaryo**, may ilang kumukuwestiyon sa tila pagmamadali ng LLDA, na pinamumunuan ng general manager nito at dating Pateros mayor Joey Medina, para sa bidding ng proyekto.

Napag-alaman na isinagawa umano ang pre-bidding noong Marso 22 at binuksan ang bidding nitong Abril 12 kung kailan campaign period na at tatlong buwan na lamang ang natitira bago magpalit ng administrasyon.

Bukod umano sa tila minadali ang bidding, sinabi ng source na hindi rin nakipag-ugnayan ang LLDA, na

nasa ilalim ng tanggapan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna, sa DOE na siyang nangangasiwa sa lahat ng renewable energy project sa bansa at maging sa National Grid Corporation of the

Philippines (NGCP).

Dagdag pa ng source na base sa mga kritiko ng proyekto, kulang umano ito sa masusing pag-aaral para malaman kung ano ang magiging epekto ng mga floating solar panel o wind turbine sa mga mangingisda, turista at migratory

birds at iba pang marin life sa pinakamakaking lawa sa bansa.

Nabatid pa na nakapagsagawa na ang LLDA ng pilot project sa Baras, Rizal para sa 10-kilowatt floating solar power system may apat na taon na ang nakalipas.



EcoWaste lauds reduced littering at pilgrimage sites

By **ELIZABETH MARCELO**

Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition lauded yesterday the reduction of littering at popular pilgrimage sites during the Holy Week.

In a press statement, the group said it observed fewer pieces of garbage at the National Shrines of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City, Rizal; of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan; and the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in San Jose del Monte City, also in Bulacan, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

"The pilgrimage sites were relatively cleaner compared to pre-pandemic periods that saw these favorite Holy Week destinations teeming with visitors as well as with garbage in almost every nook and cranny," EcoWaste said.

The group commended local government units for cancelling the penitential walk and restricting camping, overnight stays and picnicking in the

pilgrimage sites.

The Antipolo City government cancelled the Alay-Lakad penitential walk and other mass gatherings as part of its COVID-19 health and safety protection measures.

Before the pandemic, the Alay-Lakay attracted thousands of devotees leaving a trail of litter from Pasig City to Antipolo.

Meanwhile, EcoWaste found the National Shrines of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Makati City, of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Parañaque City and of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Quezon City "litter-free."

The group also found the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo Church) in Manila "almost litter-free" as well.

"With or without COVID-19 restrictions, we hope more people will commit to keeping all our faith-inspired activities simple and litter-free," EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.



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Climate change and its impact on our cultural heritage



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

RISING SUN

LAST week, many Filipinos went on a Visita Iglesia as part of their observance of Holy Week. It was a welcome development to be able to go around again after two years of restrictions due to the pandemic. And so, many among the faithful took the opportunity to visit the seven churches on their itinerary.

In Metro Manila, some of the popular churches being included in the visitation are the Quiapo Church, Baclaran Church, Sta. Cruz Church, Manila Cathedral, San Agustin Church, Sto. Domingo Church, and Binondo Church. Of course, there are many other popular Metro Manila churches that people usually visit during Holy Week to fulfill their *pariata*, or promise. It is not just being done as a form of devotion but also as a way to ask for divine favors like healing or guidance.

The Philippines is blessed with plenty of heritage churches scattered in different provinces. The oldest churches were built here in the 1600s, with San Agustin Church

being regarded as the most ancient among the lot. These churches stand as a symbol of our country's colonial past. To say that they are beautiful is an understatement—their structure or architecture, ornate designs, and rich history are a source of national pride.

Many of them have been ravaged by time, wars, and destructive disasters; some of them have even crumbled to the ground, like the Loon church in Bohol that was completely destroyed when the 2013 earthquake happened in Central Visayas. It is our responsibility to become the caretakers of our historic churches, especially those classified by the National Historical Commission

as historic structures. Because of climate change, our heritage sites are more exposed to natural calamities. There isn't a moment to lose; preventive measures have to be considered and implemented at the soonest possible time. It would be wise to support organizations like ETFFI, which, incidentally, faces challenges in terms of funding. To continue its programs—including training the youth and preserving not just historic structures but traditional building techniques—the private sector has to step in and help out.

One way to look after these treasures is to restore them not just to preserve their charm and beauty, but also to increase their value and that of their surrounding areas and buildings. Restoration and conservation are, indeed, a form of investment for the sake of the community where the historic structure is built.

Aside from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and the National Museum of the Philippines, the

Escuela Taller de Filipinas Foundation Inc. is doing its part to help the abovementioned government organizations to manage, preserve, and restore the nation's cultural heritage. Founded in 2009, ETFFI also trains out-of-school youth in skills related to heritage preservation to empower the marginalized Filipino youth and to benefit local communities.

Because of climate change, our heritage sites are more exposed to natural calamities. There isn't a moment to lose; preventive measures have to be considered and implemented at the soonest possible time. It would be wise to support organizations like ETFFI, which, incidentally, faces challenges in terms of funding. To continue its programs—including training the youth and preserving not just historic structures but traditional building techniques—the private sector has to step in and help out.

ETFFI welcomes donations, CSR partnerships, and volunteers. The public can directly donate to Escuela Taller: through ESCUELA TALLER DE FILIPINAS FOUNDATION, INC. (account name), account number 200-7-200-52397-7 (Metrobank Intramuros). To know more about Escuela Taller de Filipinas, check out their web site, Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
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IN CLIMATE FIGHT

World's fossil fuel risk evaporating

The combined global discounted value of the unburned fossil fuels and stranded fossil fuel infrastructure has been projected to be around 1-4 trillion dollars from 2015 to 2050 to limit global warming to approximately 2C, and it will be higher if global warming is limited to approximately 1.5C

PARIS, France (AFP) — Oil platforms, pipelines, coal power plants and other fossil fuel assets could lose trillions of dollars in the battle against climate change in the coming decades, experts say.

The warning was issued in a 3,000-page report by UN experts who said fossil fuel assets must be retired and replaced with clean energy faster to mitigate financial losses.

Such assets will become "stranded" and worth less than expected because they may never be used since fossil fuel demand must fall in the near future to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Limiting warming to the aspirational 1.5 degree Celsius target in the Paris Agreement, or the more conservative 2C goal, "will strand fossil-related assets", said the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its latest report.

"The combined global discounted value of the unburned fossil fuels and stranded fossil fuel infrastructure has been projected to be around 1 to 4 trillion dollars from 2015 to 2050 to limit global warming to approximately 2C, and it will be higher if global warming is limited to approximately 1.5C," the IPCC said.

Any move to alleviate the impact of climate change means using less fossil fuel, thus rendering assets obsolete as companies are under pressure to move away from harmful energy production.

The IPCC said that if current oil, gas and coal energy infrastructure were to operate for their designed lifetime — without technology to capture and store carbon — capping global warming at the 1.5C target would be impossible.

It said nations should stop burning coal completely and cut oil and gas use by 60 and 70 percent respectively by 2050 to keep within the Paris deal goals, noting that both solar and wind were now cheaper than fossil fuels in many places.

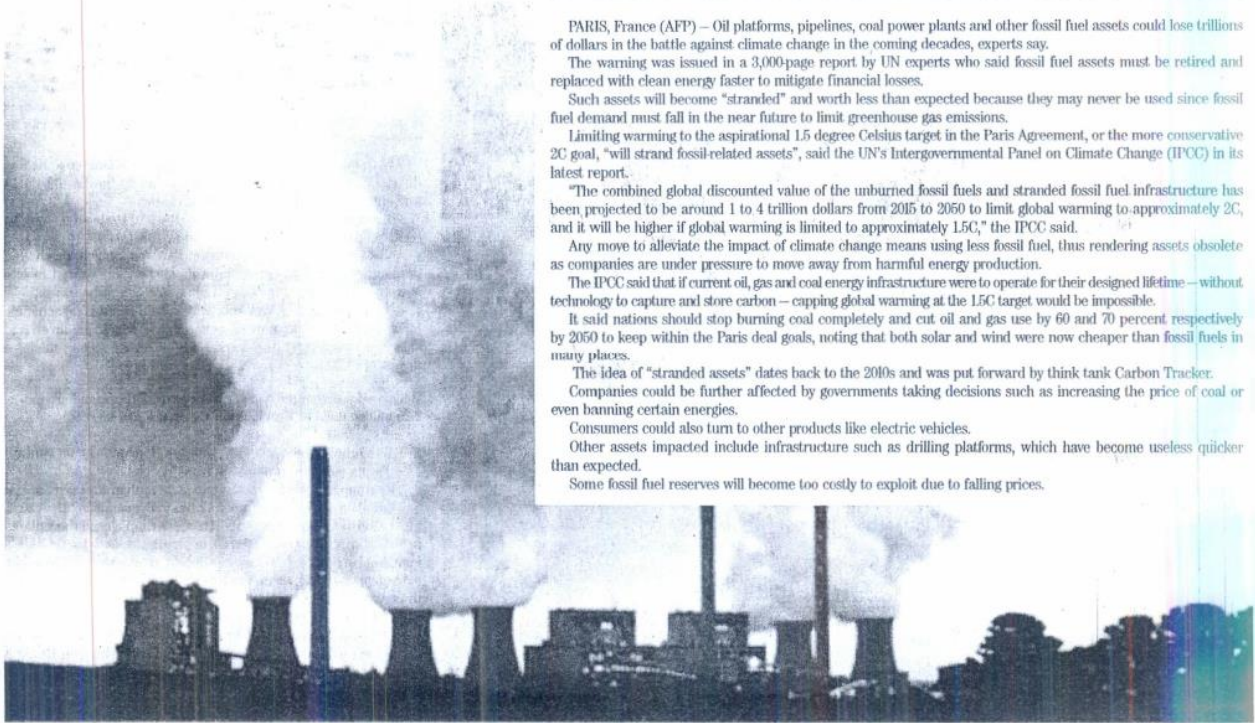
The idea of "stranded assets" dates back to the 2010s and was put forward by think tank Carbon Tracker.

Companies could be further affected by governments taking decisions such as increasing the price of coal or even banning certain energies.

Consumers could also turn to other products like electric vehicles.

Other assets impacted include infrastructure such as drilling platforms, which have become useless quicker than expected.

Some fossil fuel reserves will become too costly to exploit due to falling prices.



THE IPCC said that if current oil, gas and coal energy infrastructure were to operate for their designed lifetime — without technology to capture and store carbon — capping global warming at the 1.5C target would be impossible. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GREENQUEL



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'Whole-of-nation approach' to mitigate effects of climate change urged

By Jester Manalastas

A House leader reiterated his appeal for a "whole-of-nation approach" to mitigate the impact of climate change-driven natural disasters, following the devastation left by tropical storm "Agaton" in the Visayas.

Quezon City Representative Alfred Vargas said the devastation will impact heavily on communities and fellow Filipinos still struggling to recover from the pandemic.

Vargas, chair of House Committee on Social Services, said it is imperative that the concerned national government agencies act with haste, and address the most pressing needs of the residents namely, food, water, and shelter.

However, Vargas said the impact of "Agaton" and super-typhoon "Odette" should be seen as a wakeup call.

"The destruction left behind by these two natural calamities underscores the havoc that comes as a result of unmitigated climate change," Vargas said.

"Once again, I call for a national response to climate change that involves not only the national government and the local governments, but also the private sector and the public. Each of us shares not only in the burden, but the responsibility to face this challenge head on," he added.

In a resolution, Vargas said while agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) swiftly provided aid to affected families, "much more needs to be done to assuage the sorrow of our fellow Filipinos and to meaningfully provide aid during these situations of personal and community crisis."

He added: "Community, social, and economic recovery efforts" should be started at the earliest time possible, especially to help farmers and fisherfolks whose livelihoods have been entirely wiped out by 'Agaton.'"

Vargas said his proposed "whole-of-nation and whole-of-society" approach in meeting the challenges of climate change "must consider accelerating financing for disaster risk reduction, ensuring that public investments are risk-informed and addressing resilience needs of infrastructures in our communities."

"The same efforts should be done to ensure that the next natural disasters do not result to untold suffering and their adverse impacts are mitigated through proactive and evidence-based policies," he added.

Vargas commended the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for working to mainstream climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans.

He said the CCC has provided technical assistance to help poor and highly vulnerable communities take steps to address climate change and set a national framework for a "climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines."

But despite these efforts of the CCC, Vargas stressed that the adverse impact of "climate change-driven natural disasters" shows the urgent need to level up the capabilities of the CCC and other key government agencies.



Magat Dam gate still open

The weather bureau yesterday reported one gate of Magat Dam remains open to release water caused by continuous rainfall in the past three weeks.

The dam, which straddles Ifugao and Isabela provinces, has one gate open at two meters, higher than the one-meter opening on Saturday.

The gate was left open to prevent water from rising beyond Magat Dam's normal spilling level of 193 meters, which can cause flashfloods in nearby Isabela and Cagayan provinces.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Section said water level at the dam's reservoir was at 190.91 meters as of 6 a.m. on Sunday, a 0.15-meter decrease over the 191.06-meter reading on Saturday morning.

Magat Dam's normal high-water level (NHWL) or spilling level is at 193 meters.

Meanwhile, the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan continued to go down and reached 195.10 meters as of 6 a.m. on Sunday.

This is way below the 212-meter NHWL of Angat Dam. JC



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Leyte town mulls declaring landslide-hit village as 'no-build zone'

Abuyog mayor to ask gov't geologists to study if Barangay Pilar, where 48 residents had died, is still safe for occupancy

By **Joey Gabieta**
@joeygabietaINQ

TACLOBAN CITY—The mayor of Abuyog town in Leyte province is planning to declare Barangay Pilar a "no man's land" after 80 percent of the village was covered with rocks and soil during a landslide that occurred amid heavy rainfall spawned by Tropical Storm "Agaton" (international name: Megi) on April 10.

Mayor Lemuel Gin Traya said he would ask geologists from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to inspect in Barangay Pilar to determine if it was still suitable for occupancy.

Survivors in the area, he said, need to be relocated to avoid another disaster.

Of the 52 people who died in Abuyog in the landslides, 48 were in Barangay Pilar, where at least 55 others were still missing.

One of the fatalities was the village chair, Adelaida Rosquites, whose body was found on Maundy Thursday.

The rest of the fatalities



SEARCH CONTINUES Search and retrieval teams, which include soldiers from the 802nd Infantry Brigade, scour Barangay Pilar in Abuyog, Leyte, even during the Holy Week to locate people buried by the landslide that hit the village and other parts of Leyte at the height of Tropical Storm "Agaton" (international name: Megi) on April 10. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARMY'S 802ND INFANTRY BATTALION

were in Barangay Tib-o, with two dead; and one each in Barangays Bahay and Combis.

Safety issue

Traya admitted that Barangay Pilar has been declared a danger zone due to possible landslides as early as 2018.

"We were advised that it was a hazardous area but the

people there found it difficult to relocate because of their livelihood," Traya said.

According to the mayor, most of the residents in Pilar, a coastal village located at the foot of a mountain, rely on fishing as their source of livelihood.

"Due to the massive landslide incident, we will request

geologists to conduct an inspection to see if the area is still safe for residents," Traya said.

The town mayor said the city government would construct bunkhouses as temporary shelters for those affected by the landslide in Pilar since evacuation centers could only be used for at least for three months.

The temporary shelters of these families would be located at the 3-hectare lot owned by the family of the mayor in Barangay Tinala.

Landslides at the height of Agaton's wrath also killed 109 people in Baybay City, also in Leyte.

Based on the records of the Baybay City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, the deaths were from the villages of Mailhi, 22; Kantagnos, 55; Bunga, 18; Maypatag, 2; Pangasugan, 2; and one each from Candadam, San Agustin, Zone 21, Hicgop, Can-ipa, Igang, Palhi, Sto. Rosario, Gacat, and Inopacan.

At least 75 individuals in Baybay were still missing, including 67 from Kantagnos, seven from Mailhi; and one from Pangasugan. [INQ](#)



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Alayala Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1115
Tel. Nos. 8539-4375
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: secor@emb.gov.ph



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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 <i>(Registration starts at 8:00 AM)</i>	Barangay Guisguis Covered Court	Meeting ID: 831 3298 6880 Passcode: ZCMCPH https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83132986880?pwd=EJQVU145m0zdEw1Rm9lc0p0VOZmYQ0T09

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 ria@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 on 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 Tullao.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

[Signature]



DENR

Published 7 hours ago on April 18, 2022 12:02 AM
By **TDT** @tribunephil

NOTICE OF BIDDING (Lease of Offshore/Foreshore Land)

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Masinloc, Zambales will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 o'clock A. M. on August 03, 2022 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:



Location : Porac, Botolan, Zambales

Description : Plan Mla-03-000023-D
Beginning at a point marked "1" of Plan Mla-03-000023-D being: S. 12° 15° W, 4,333.69 m. from B.L.L.M.1, Cad.614-D Botolan Cadastre to cor.1; Thence:Line 1 - 2 / N. 78° 10° W .,229.54 m.; Line 2-3:N.11° 50° E ., 52.00 m.; Line 3-4: S. 78° 10° E ., 216.77 m.; and Line 4-1:S.01° 58° E , 53.55 m.

Boundaries :

North : West Philippine Sea
South : West Philippine Sea
East : Salvage Zone(20.0m wide)(Portion of lot 5194,Cad. 614-D)
West : West Philippine Sea

Area : 11,604 square meters

Appraised : Land : P 7,426,560.00

Value of : Improvements : P 35,262,163.32

Applied for by: PREMIUM MEGASTRUCTURES INC.
Represented by Francis Lloyd T. Chua

Approved Annual Rental -----P 575,418.43

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 per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) 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 public land 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 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' rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

ARIEL M. MENDOZA
CENR Officer

18 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID cases may surge in May due to eased mobility – expert

By **Jocelyn Montemayor** -April 18, 2022

CORONAVIRUS disease (COVID-19) cases in the country may surge by 25,000 to 60,000 per day in mid-May this year due to increased mobility during the Lenten break, the campaign period and the upcoming May 9 elections, a medical consultant of the National Task Force against COVID-19 projected yesterday.

Dr. Ted Herbosa, in an interview with radio DzBB, said the projection of the Department of Health (DOH) is higher than the 35,000 cases during the peak of the Omicron variant surge from January to February.

“Pati ang DOH nagsabi pwede tayong umabot ng 25,000 hanggang 60,000 sa isang araw (Even the DOH said we can go up to 25,000 to 60,000 un one day),” Herbosa said as he re-emphasized the importance of being vaccinated and getting one’s booster shot as well as the continued observance of health protocols, especially the wearing of face mask.

Herbosa reminded the public that the incubation period for COVID-19 usually takes two weeks and that the Omicron subvariant XE is 10 times more contagious than the Omicron variant.

The DOH has said that the Omicron XE has not yet reached the country.

Last week, the health department said a possible spike in COVID cases is likely to happen by mid-May after its data on compliance to minimum public health standards (MPHS) showed a decline to 12 percent in Metro Manila and seven percent nationwide in March and April.

The DOH said a 20 percent decrease in MPHS compliance could lead to 34,788 active cases in mid-May, while a 30 percent drop could lead to over 300,000 cases nationwide.

It added that in NCR, new active cases could be between 25,000 to 60,000 per day in case of a 50 percent decrease in MPHS compliance.

Herbosa urged the public to continue wearing face masks, which he said has been effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

He likewise appealed the people to be vaccinated and get boosted to prevent them from being infected with severe to critical COVID-19.

18 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



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#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

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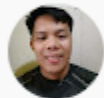
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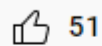
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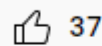
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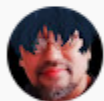
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