

19 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR enforces stricter rules on charcoal production

[Rhodina Villanueva](#), [Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star April 19, 2022 | 12:00am



In a statement over the weekend, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the AO aims to ensure that raw materials used in producing wood charcoal are derived from legal sources.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) imposing stricter requirements on the production and trade of wood charcoal.

In a statement over the weekend, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the AO aims to ensure that raw materials used in producing wood charcoal are derived from legal sources.

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

Under the AO, a charcoal producer must secure a Wood Charcoal Production Permit or WCPP, which is valid for three years and renewable for the same period.

The renewal application should be filed 60 days prior to the WCPP expiration.

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

The WCPP applications must be approved by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, which has jurisdiction over the area.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/04/19/2175152/denr-enforces-stricter-rules-charcoal-production>



PH warty pig spotted for the first time at Mount Apo



Photo courtesy of DENR-Davao

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

April 18, 2022

A RARE Philippine warty pig was spotted at Mount Apo during the Holy Week monitoring activity of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao from April 11 to 17, 2022.

In an online statement on Monday, April 18, DENR-Davao confirmed a sighting of an endemic *Sus philippensis* or Philippine warty pig, locally known as “baboy-ramo” or “baboy-ihalas” at the Mount Apo Natural Park.

Dr. Franklyn Buenaflor, assistant technical services division chief of Penro-Davao del Sur, told SunStar Davao that the event was the first sighting of a male warty pig in the peak area of Mount Apo.

Buenaflor said the sighting of the male *Sus philippensis* is considered to be a rare occurrence.

“Even up to now wala tayong document na actual sighting ng Philippine Warty Pig except now,” Buenaflor said.

“We have two Asean Heritage Parks in Davao Region, Mount Hamiguitan and Mount Apo, nakakita lang tayo ng warty pig through yung camera traps na nilalagay nila, but this one is a confirmed visual sighting so very possible na nag-increase ang kanyang population or safe haven sa kanya yung peak area,” he added.

By the standards of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Buenaflor said the species is considered vulnerable due to its decreasing population and may be listed as an endangered species in the near future.

According to DENR-Davao, the presence of the warty pig indicates a progressive natural recovery of Mount Apo’s peak area. This means that the mountain’s environment is a thriving habitat for the warty pig and other species.



The warty pig was spotted by teams from DENR-Davao, Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office and City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Davao del Sur, and partners from the local government unit and Protected Area Management Board during their annual monitoring. The teams surveyed the premises of Mount Apo within Davao Region, including its peak, and established trails in Tamayong, Bansalan, Digos City, and Sta. Cruz. They also manned the designated entry points and campsites within the natural park to ensure enforcement of its trekking policies. Given the vulnerability of wildlife from trekkers and human activities occurring at Mount Apo, DENR-Davao reminded mountaineers to keep their distance and refrain from feeding wild animals to keep them in their natural habitat.



9h · 🌐

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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Davao on Monday bared that they recorded a direct sighting of *Sus philippensis* or Philippine warty pig during their annual Lenten climb monitoring of Mt. Apo Natural Park.

According to DENR, the presence of the Philippine warty pig in the mountain indicates the "progressive natural recovery of the peak area."

These wild pigs, locally known as "baboy-ramo or baboy-ihalas," are classified as vulnerable or considered to be facing a high risk of extinction due to their decreasing population, DENR discussed in its post.

DENR then reminded the public to keep distance and to refrain from feeding wild animals. (Photos/DENR Davao)



👍👎👏 Genidine Hafalla Aspuria, John Jeremy and 49K others

1.7K Comments 10K Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2660009054152759&id=134752476678442&sfnsn=mo



Naispatan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Davao ang isang "Sus philippensis" o Philippine Warty Pig (baboy-damo/baboy-ihalas), na itinuturing na 'vulnerable specie' dahil sa bantang pagkaubos, habang nagsasagawa sila ng kanilang annual Lenten climb monitoring sa Mt. Apo Natural Park nitong Holy Week.

Patunay anila ang sighting na ito na unti-unti nang nakaka-recover ang kalikasan sa paligid ng park. Paalala naman ng DENR sa publiko at mga hiker na iwasang gambalain ang mga wild animal gaya nito.

DENR Davao



Manuel Rodriguez II, Ricky Calipay and 30K others

1.5K Comments 2.2K Shares



DENR-11 starts removing campaign posters from trees

By Christine Cudis April 18, 2022, 7:49 pm



ILLEGAL POSTERS. Personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao Region (DENR-11) start removing campaign materials posted on trees across the region Monday (April 18, 2022). In this photo, a DENR-11 team removes a large two cubic meter campaign poster along Dacudao Avenue and Buhangin Diversion Road in Davao City. (Photo courtesy of DENR-11)

DAVAO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao Region (DENR-11) started Monday the massive clearing operation of election campaign posters displayed on trees along major thoroughfares in the region.

This came about as supporters of some candidates earned the ire of netizens who took to social media to point out that campaign posters are being nailed even on decade-old trees.

DENR-11 Director Bagani Fidel Evasco reminded local and national candidates to educate their supporters not to post (nail or wire) their campaign materials on naturally growing or planted trees as it injures or damages them.

"It is a clear violation of the Republic Act No. 3571, an act that prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants, and shrubs, or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises or any other public ground," Evasco told reporters here Monday.

In the same manner, he said Presidential Decree 953 also prohibits "cutting, destroying, damaging, or injuring naturally grown or planted trees of any kind, flowering or ornamental plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic, aesthetic and ecological value, along public roads, in plazas, parks other than national parks, or in any other public ground or place."

Evasco said these acts are punishable with imprisonment not less than six months and not more than two years. Violators also face a fine of not less than five hundred pesos and not more than five thousand pesos, or both at the discretion of the court.

Meanwhile, Atty. Gay Enumerables, the Commission on Elections in Davao Region (Comelec-11) assistant regional director and spokesperson, also reiterated to political supporters that they can only post on common posting areas.

Oversized posters are considered unlawful as well, he said, adding that property owners are entitled to materials that are posted on private properties. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172368>



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#DailyTribune

Coastal Cleanup

1 view · Apr 18, 2022

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Various groups conduct coastal cleanup drive at Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park in Parañaque City on Monday, 18 April 2022. | 🗨 Alfonso Padilla

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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuBeT25mABU>



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

By: Joey Gabieta - Philippine Daily Inquirer|April 18,2022 - 11:42 AM



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

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte, Philippines — 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 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 Tinale.

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.

Source: https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/436038/leyte-town-mulls-declaring-landslide-hit-village-as-no-build-zone?fbclid=IwAR2fUV86diW_H5AOXQIW6haDr6iF54NAgtzeWYSHvwt_6BRSenpqSHTAdLQ#ixzz7QmJQ9DDk



DOT, DILG, DENR talk as Boracay crowds threaten health and the environment

[Rosette Adel](#) - The Philippine Star April 18, 2022 | 7:06pm



This February 2021 photo shows tourists in Boracay.
Malay Municipal Tourism Office / Facebook

MANILA, Philippines— The Department of Tourism said it is now in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources tourist arrivals over Holy Week went beyond the carrying capacity allowed.

Reports said the Malay Tourism Office recorded a total of 21,252 tourist arrivals on April 14 and 22,519 on April 15.

The current carrying capacity of the island is 19,215. The number is meant to keep tourism's impact on the environment manageable and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In a report of ABS-CBN, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the tourism arrival figures are way beyond the pre-pandemic numbers.

“Yung Laboracay 2019, 14,000 a day lang. So it’s a concern na ngayon over 21,000. Pandemic pa,” she [was quoted by ABS-CBN news as saying](#). 'Laboracay' refers to the May 1 holiday that was a party tradition before the pandemic shut down tourism.

The Malay Tourism Office said Boracay tourist arrivals for April 1 to 16, 2022 reached 95,646. Of these, 92,100 are domestic tourists, 1,213 are overseas Filipino workers/returning Filipinos and 2,333 are foreign travelers.

Aklan, where Boracay island is, is currently under COVID-19 Alert Level 1 until April 30, the most relaxed restriction welcoming tourists with eased restrictions as well.

Following the reported breach in carrying capacity, the DOT said it has "apprised" both the DILG and the DENR of the tourism overcapacity concern.

"We continue our coordination with them, especially the DILG, which has jurisdiction over the LGU, to address this concern and prevent similar incidents from happening in the future," the DOT said in a statement.

Puyat also reportedly said the mayor of Aklan must explain the breach in the tourist cap amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



DILG chief Eduardo Año, on the other hand, [said the defined carrying capacity](#) of the world-famous island must be followed.

"The LGU should implement it in order to ensure the safety and health of tourists and residents, and protect the environment," he was quoted as saying.

In 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the temporary closure of Boracay for six months to pave way for its rehabilitation, citing that it has cesspool-like waters.

It was closed from April 2018 and reopened to the public in October that year. The government then limited the number of tourists that can visit the island for environmental reasons.

The tourist destination was also closed to visitors during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 until June of that year.

In October last year, then DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the agency is looking at increasing the carrying capacity of the island to accommodate more tourists.

"If there's a study, the carrying capacity might be increased," the resigned environment chief said.

Cimatu said DENR's DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) will be the body tasked to determine if the number of visitors on the island increased.



DOT to authorities: Address Boracay's excess tourist arrivals

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz **April 18, 2022, 8:49 pm**



Boracay beach (PNA photo)

MANILA – The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Monday asked for assistance from government authorities after the Boracay local government failed to control the number of its tourists that surpassed the carrying capacity during the Holy Week.

In a statement, the DOT said both the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been “apprised of the breach.”

“We continue our coordination with them, especially the DILG which has jurisdiction over the LGU (local government unit), to address this concern and prevent similar incidents from happening in the future,” the DOT said.

The number of tourists that arrived in Boracay reached 21,252 on April 14 and 22,519 on April 15—well over Boracay’s 19,215 carrying capacity.

The local government of Malay, Aklan—which holds jurisdiction over Boracay—is yet to respond to the allegations.

The province of Aklan is still under the Alert Level 1 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

In October 2021, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu eyed the possibility of expanding Boracay’s carrying capacity, noting that the island’s rehabilitation may have boosted its capacity to accommodate tourists.

In 2018, the government began the rehabilitation of Boracay and issued Executive Order (EO) no. 53 series of 2018 that created the DENR-led Inter-Agency Task Force to facilitate the rehabilitation and ensure ecological sustainability on the island.

The task force was later extended by EO 115 series of 2020 to operate until May 8, 2021 and was again extended by EO 147 series of 2021 to operate until June 30, 2022. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172389>



Boracay breaches carrying capacity for tourists on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday — DOT

BYMA. STELLA F. ARNALDO APRIL 18, 2022



A beach in Boracay beckons in this file photo.

BORACAY Island was said to have breached its carrying capacity for tourists during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday last week, forcing government authorities to call the attention of the local governments of Aklan and the municipality of Malay.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año and Environment Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna dated April 16, 2022, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said: “Please be informed that based on the tourist arrival report to us by the Malay Tourism Office, the carrying capacity of Boracay Island for the past two days was way beyond its recommended daily threshold of which is 19,215.” She cited data that showed the total number of tourists on April 14 reached 21,252, and April 15, it was 22,519.

She added, “Considering that the local government is still under Alert Level 1 Status, strict implementation of measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections must be considered including the ideal volume of tourists within a given period. This is also a valuable step in driving a sustainable growth of tourism in the island.”

Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) General Manager Martin Jose V. Despi, Malay Mayor Frolibar S. Bautista, Aklan Gov. Florencio T. Miraflores, along with the heads of the national and Boracay stakeholders groups, were furnished a copy of said letter.

Holy Week this year was the first major vacation break for Filipinos under Alert Level 1, after enduring two years of pandemic travel restrictions. Local carriers had earlier announced an increase in flights to key leisure destinations like Caticlan, the gateway to Boracay. According to the Civil Aeronautics Board, it had approved 240 flights to Caticlan per month, from Cebu, Clark, and Manila for April; 248 for May; and 240 for June.

LGU can control tourists influx

An official at the Department of Tourism (DOT) told the BusinessMirror, “The LGU can control the influx of tourists because they still issue the QR codes.” The QR codes, which tourists to Boracay can secure after filling out an online form on the Aklan LGU’s website, are already pre-approved though.

The official, who requested anonymity as he had not been authorized to speak on the matter, added that tourists in Boracay were not just arriving by air, but also by land, “especially those coming from Region 6 (Western Visayas).”



Data from the Malay Tourism Office showed 13,519 tourists on the island on April 13 (Holy Wednesday), net of departures. However, 12,266 arrived the next day, and even with 4,533 departing the island, there were still 21,252 tourists who remained. On Good Friday, April 15, there were 6,192 who arrived on Boracay, bumping up total tourists to 22,519, net of the 4,925 who left that day.

A study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2018 to determine Boracay's carrying capacity, indicated that the island, famous the world over for its pristine white beaches, can only accommodate 19,215 tourists a day, at any given time, or 6,405 arrivals a day based on an average three-day stay.

Carrying capacity refers to an ecosystem's ability to support people and other living things without having negative effects. "It also includes a limit of resources and pollution levels that can be maintained without experiencing high levels of change. If the carrying capacity is exceeded, living organisms must adapt to new levels of consumption or find alternative resources," according to the Environmental Literary Council.

Meanwhile, there were 95,646 total tourists in Boracay from April 1-16, of which 71 percent or 67,907 arrived by air. The rest arrived by land, at 21,193, and by sea, at 6,546.

Of total tourists for the period, 92,100 were domestic travelers; 1,213 were overseas Filipino workers; and 2,333 were foreigners. The bulk of domestic tourists at 33,714 came from the National Capital Region.

Image credits: [Brix Villaruel](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/18/boracay-breaches-carrying-capacity-for-tourists-on-maundy-thursday-good-friday-dot/>



Boracay exceeds tourist carrying capacity – DOT

[Ghio Ong](#) - The Philippine Star April 19, 2022 | 12:00am



Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said 21,252 tourists arrived on the island on Thursday and 22,519 more on Friday.

Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Breaching crowd limitation due to the COVID pandemic, the world-famous tourist destination Boracay reportedly went beyond its carrying capacity during the Holy Week.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said 21,252 tourists arrived on the island on Thursday and 22,519 more on Friday.

Puyat said Boracay is limited to about 19,000 vacationers only per day, which was set by the government after the island underwent rehabilitation in 2018.

The province of Aklan, where Boracay is located, is under COVID Alert Level 1 until April 30.

Under Alert Level 1, business establishment may accept customers in their full seating capacities, provided health and safety protocols such as wearing of face masks and physical distancing must still be observed.

The DOT said it would demand an explanation from the mayor of Malay town on why Boracay's carrying capacity was breached.

The tourism agency said it has informed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) about the issue.

The DILG and the DENR are members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, which handled the island's rehabilitation efforts.



Kamara huhubaran LLDA 'midnight deal'

By Abante News — Last updated Apr 18, 2022

NEWS



Photo courtesy of jhlh9.org



14 | 0

Sisilipin ng Kamara ang kontrobersyal na renewable energy pro-ject na isinalang sa bidding ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) sa kasagsagan ng kampanya.

Kinumpirma kahapon ni House Committee on Energy at Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo na magsasagawa ng pagdinig ang kanyang komite sa Abril 20.

Inaantabayanan pa ang iba pang detalye kaugnay ng isasagawang imbestigasyon.

Kinukuwestyon ang LLDA dahil para umanong minamadali nito ang proyekto.

Nagsagawa ng pre-bidding noong Marso 22 at binuksan ang bid noong Abril 12 o wala ng tatlong buwan sa pagpasok ng bagong administrasyon.



Mayroon ding alegasyon na hindi umano tahasang nakipag-ugnayan ang LLDA sa Department of Energy (DOE) na siyang na-ngangasiwa sa mga renewable project at sa National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP).

May mga agam-agam umano sa posibleng epekto ng floating solar panels o wind turbines sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda, sa turismo, migratory bird at marine life sa lawa.

Noong 2018 ay nag-pilot test ang gobyerno gamit ang 10 kiloWatt floating solar power farm sa Baras, Rizal.

Nauna nang iniulat ng Bilyonaryo online news 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 SunAsia 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. (Billy Begas)



'Bayaran nila tayo': Duterte blames industrialized countries for climate change

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 19 2022 12:49 AM

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday blamed industrialized countries for the destruction caused by climate change, noting that countries like the Philippines are on the losing end of the effects of pollution they cause.

According to Duterte, countries with a lot of factories are to be blamed for the pollution that causes climate change.

"The industrialized countries are spewing, sila 'yung pinakamaraming factory, and in some industrialized places, halos every kanto may factory. I don't want to mention the countries because kaibigan naman natin lahat, but unfortunately, sila 'yung biggest contributor ng carbon emissions dito sa mundong ito," he said.

(The industrialized countries are spewing, they have the most number of factories, and in some industrialized places, they have factories in almost every corner. I don't want to mention the countries because we are all friends, but unfortunately, they are the biggest contributors to the world's carbon emissions.)

He also lamented that the Philippines, while only contributing a little to the pollution, is among the countries suffering the worst from effects of climate change.

"Ang problema, the consequence is being suffered by all. At sa malas nito, sila 'yung pinakabiggest pollution na ginawa, tayo kakaunti lang, iilan naman ang factory dito," Duterte said.

(The problems is, the consequence is being suffered by all. Unfortunately, they are the ones who contribute the most to pollution. We only contribute a little, we only have a few factories here.)

"The Philippines is located in the tropical zone. Ang ating bayan is the window, galing Pacific. If there is a warming of the climate there, with the mixture of the cold and hot temperatures, ayan tinatamaan tayo. At tayo talaga ang nagbabayad ng malaki," he added.

(The Philippines is located in the tropical zone. Our country is the window from the Pacific. If there is a warming of the climate there, with the mixture of the cold and hot temperatures, we are affected. And we suffer a lot.)

Duterte said it seems unfair that countries like the Philippines pay for the actions of industrialized countries.

"Parang 'yung resulta ng mga pollution ng ibang countries, tayo ang sumasalo. Pagdating sa damage, tayo rin ang pinakakawawa," he said.

(It seems like we are the ones suffering from the effects of pollution caused by other countries. We also suffer the most damage.)

"Dapat ang mayaman na hindi tinatamaan ng destruction caused by itong pollution, bayaran nila tayo for the damage. Or dapat silang mag-ano talaga, maggawa sila ng anong paraan para, at least ma-equalize 'yung damage. Sa atin mas malaki tapos maliit ang ating contribution doon sa climate change," Duterte added.

(Those countries who do not suffer the destruction caused by pollution, they should pay us for the damage. Or they should really do something, anything, to at least equalize the damage. We suffer more damage when we contribute so little to climate change.)



The country is reeling from the effects of tropical depression Agaton, which spawned floods and landslides last week in parts of Eastern Visayas.

Agaton has left at least 172 dead and 110 others missing, according to a report Monday by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Agaton, which dumped heavy rains over several days, forced some 158,000 into evacuation centers and around 188,000 to take shelter with friends or relatives, the NDRRMC said.

Agaton struck at the beginning of Holy Week, one of the most important holidays in the mainly Catholic nation, when thousands travel to visit relatives.

It came 4 months after a super typhoon devastated swaths of the country, killing more than 400 and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

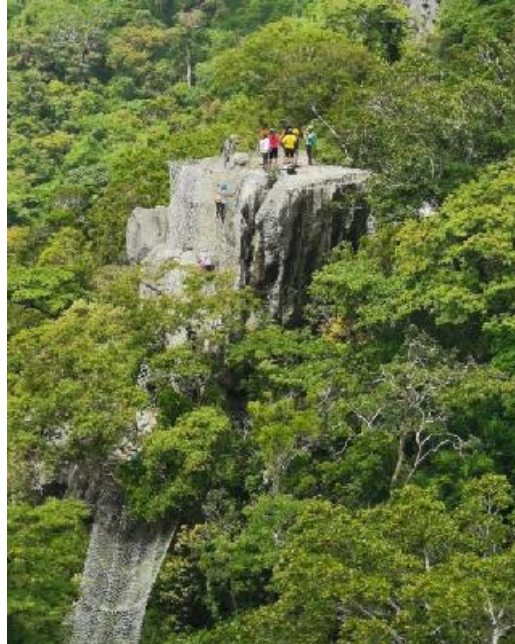
The Philippines, ranked among the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change, is hit by an average of 20 storms every year.

— **With a report from Agence France-Presse**



Masungi Georeserve trustees to render presentation in 21st WTTC summit

BY RODERICK ABAD APRIL 18, 2022



The Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal, was recognized one of top three global finalists for the United Nations World Tourism Organization Awards for Enterprises in a ceremony at the St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater.

TIMELY to the easing travel restrictions in most parts of the country, the Philippines is ready to welcome either in person or virtually over 600 industry leaders and 20 government representatives all over the world as they gather for the 21st Global Summit of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) from April 20 to 22.

Putting the country on the travelers' radar once again, Ann and Billie Dumaliang, trustees of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, will be sharing insights on the role of tourism in biodiversity conservation efforts.

"We are honored to be invited by WTTC President Julia Simpson and the Philippine government to speak about our project and continue to work in tandem on vital issues. Tourism plays a crucial role in biodiversity conservation efforts, both in terms of funding and spreading awareness on the importance of the environment," said Dumaliang, managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve and a National Geographic explorer.

The United Nations Development Programme, through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, reported in 2018 that the Philippines had an 80 percent biodiversity funding gap. This means that the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan or PBSAP cannot be fully implemented due to resource constraints.

Areas that are protected privately and other effective conservation measures like Masungi Georeserve are helping fill these funding and management gaps. Complementing government initiatives, its team ensures that visitors fully understand how caring for the environment is essential to survival.

"We are hoping that with the resurgence of international and domestic tourism, we will be able to ramp up our conservation work," she said.

Part of the post-conference itinerary of the delegates is a visit to the Masungi Georeserve.



Masungi Georeserve Foundation provides forest enforcement support to deter and ultimately eliminate threats to the georeserve and surrounding watershed areas. Through on-ground patrolling, installation of ranger stations and investments in monitoring technology, it has accelerated efforts and secured more areas for conservation in pursuance of the Masungi Geopark Project.

To date, the foundation has been able to plant over 60,000 native trees, engage more than 100 park rangers, support 200 local households, and rescue 2,000 hectares of land from encroachment and illegal activities.

The Foundation's conservation approach has earned it accolades here and abroad with the WTTC recognizing it in its 2018 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, naming it as one of top three privately-led sustainable tourism projects in 2019. Most recently, it won the inaugural global Water Changemakers Award from the Global Water Partnership for speaking truth to power, overcoming inertia, and forming collaborations in watershed rehabilitation. -30-

Image credits: [Masungi Georeserve Facebook page](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/18/masungi-georeserve-trustees-to-render-presentation-in-21st-wttc-summit/>



Geocycle Philippines strengthens sustainable waste management



Contributed photo

April 17, 2022

LEADING building solutions provider Holcim Philippines, Inc., continues to make progress in helping the country manage wastes in a sustainable manner through unit Geocycle.

In 2021, Holcim Philippines’s waste management unit, Geocycle, converted almost 200,000 tons of biomass and industrial and municipal wastes into alternative fuels and raw materials for cement production through co-processing, a significant increase from the previous year. The addition of 11 local government partners in 2021 from three in 2020 was the driver of the improvement in the co-processing of qualified municipal solid wastes.

Geocycle also ramped up efforts to raise public awareness about waste management and co-processing through webinars, broadcast interviews, and social media campaigns. It opened 2022 with a webinar for Zero Waste Month on January 19 featuring Senator Cynthia Villar, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and one of the primary sponsors of an extended producer responsibility bill to address the plastic waste challenge in the country.

Atty. Joseph Roco Fabul, country manager for Corporate and Government Affairs of leading snacks maker Mondelez Philippines, discussed how the extended producer responsibility is aligned with the company's sustainability journey as it steps up waste reduction initiatives related to its manufacturing and post-consumer waste.

This is part of Mondelez Philippines’ sustainability strategy, which includes sourcing ingredients, looking at the environmental impact of its operations, packaging innovation, and creating positive social impact.

Michikazu Kojima from the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia gave a snapshot of how the region is handling expanded producer responsibility and the journey Japan took since 1995.



Geocycle also partnered with Calapan City, Department of Education, and Oriental Mindoro's Federation of Parents-Teachers Association, to increase awareness and active involvement of students, educational groups, and families in eco-friendly practices and sustainable waste management as part of its Zero Waste Month activities. The project called "Makiisa, Makisama at Makibaka: Basura ay Ating Solusyunan Upang Kalikasan ay Mas Mapag-ingatan," was launched through webinars on January 26 and 27. The event drew over 1,300 participants from Calapan.

Holcim Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer Horia Adrian: "Aside from our innovative building solutions, we are proud to help build progress in the country by helping partners in managing their wastes sustainably through our Geocycle and co-processing operations. We made huge strides in this area in 2021 and we are determined to build on these further this year to help in making a Zero Waste Philippines a reality."

In September 2021, the Company completed storage and processing facilities at its Bulacan plant to increase usage of alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production through its waste management arm Geocycle.

Using alternative fuels and raw materials in producing cement is a key focus of Holcim Philippines to lower the carbon footprint and consumption of non-renewable resources in its operations. This is aligned with the goals of the global building materials leader Holcim Group to further make operations sustainable.

Holcim Philippines is a pioneer in using qualified wastes such as non-recyclable plastics and biomass as alternative fuels in cement manufacturing through co-processing technology since 2003. Qualified waste materials are pre-processed for conversion into alternative fuel and raw materials suitable for co-processing in cement kiln. During co-processing, the mineral value inherent in the waste is recycled, while the energy value is recovered. The technology is recognized globally and is approved by the Philippine authorities due to its proven environmental advantages and safety performance. **(PR)**



Climate change and its impact on our cultural heritage

BY **ATTY. JOSE FERDINAND M. ROJAS II** APRIL 18, 2022



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 panata, 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.

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.



Amid Agaton casualties, solon highlights need to combat climate change

Published April 17, 2022, 5:47 PM

by [Seth Cabanban](#)

Following the devastation wrought by typhoon Agaton, Quezon City 5th district Rep. Alfred Vargas has joined the call made by numerous other officials to counter the effects of climate change.



Search and rescue personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police assist in the retrieval operations in Baybay City, Leyte on April 15, 2022 after it was hit by a landslide at the height of Typhoon “Agaton.” (Courtesy of Philippine Army)

His appeal calls specifically for a “whole-of-nation and whole-of-society” approach.

“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,” Vargas said in a press statement on Sunday, April 17.

In the statement, Vargas proposed the “accelerating financing for disaster risk reduction, ensuring that public investments are risk-informed and addressing resilience needs of infrastructures in our communities.”

He also says that he filed a resolution urging government bodies to do more to mitigate Agaton’s effects on affected families, though his statement did not expound as to what his specific suggestions were.

Vargas added that the government agencies such as the Climate Change Commission (CCC) should be further developed to better respond to future natural disasters.

“We need to be more proactive and united in addressing the existential threat of climate change, not only presently, but also for the next generation of Filipinos. Fragmented and piecemeal responses will mean more casualties, deaths, and suffering for our countrymen and we cannot, in good conscience, let this happen,” Vargas added.

As of this writing, about 172 have been reported dead, and 110 reported missing as a result of Typhoon Agaton.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/17/amid-agaton-casualties-solon-highlights-need-to-combat-climate-change/>



Search, retrieval operations continue with 110 still reported as missing due to Agaton

By [Kristine Joy Patag](#)(Philstar.com) - April 18, 2022 - 12:17pm



Residents wait for news of relatives after a mountain side collapsed in the village of Bunga, Baybay town, Leyte province, in southern Philippines on April 12, 2022, a day after a landslide slammed into the village, burying houses under mud, due to heavy rains brought about by tropical storm megj.

AFP / Bobbie Alota

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities vowed they will continue rescue and retrieval operations for victims of Tropical Cyclone Agaton that dumped rains and triggered landslides in Central Philippines last week.

In an interview with DZBB on Monday, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council spokesperson Mark Timbal said in Filipino: “We do not lose hope, no matter how bleak the situation there, we have trust in our search and rescue team.”

Col. Noel Vestuir, commander of the 802nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, in the same interview said they are still hoping they will find survivors.

“We are conducting search and retrieval because we are hoping that we can find survivors because their families are still waiting,” he added in Filipino.

In its latest situation report, the death toll remained at 172, with 160 up for validation and 12 confirmed fatalities.

A total of eight persons are reported as injured and 110 are missing.

Agaton, the first cyclone to hit the country in 2022, has affected 2,015,514 individuals or 584,108 families in the regions of Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccskargen, Caraga and BARMM.

Relocation

Combined damage wrought by Agaton to agriculture and infrastructure has reached P256.77 million, with Western Visayas reporting P142 million damage to its crop area.

The NDRRMC also reported that they recorded 10,402 damaged houses in eight regions, with an estimated amount of P709,500. Of these, 9,732 are reported as partially damaged and 670 totally wrecked.

Timbal said that in one barangay, they monitored that 80% of the houses were buried in a landslide.

Deeming it a “dangerous area,” the NDRRMC official said: “Part of discussion moving forward, is where to relocate our countrymen.”



But for the time being, displaced families will remain in evacuation centers while the local government assist them.

Timbal said identifying the relocation sites will be headed by the local government unit, assisted by the National Housing Authority.

19 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



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DENR enforces stricter rules on charcoal production

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an administrative order (AO) imposing stricter requirements on the production and trade of wood charcoal.

In a statement over the weekend, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the AO aims to ensure that raw materials used in producing wood charcoal are derived from legal sources.

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

Under the AO, a charcoal producer

must secure a Wood Charcoal Production Permit or WCPP, which is valid for three years and renewable for the same period.

The renewal application should be filed 60 days prior to the WCPP expiration.

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

The WCPP applications must be approved by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, which has jurisdiction over the area.

- Elizabeth Marcelo, Rhodina Villanueva



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DENR: 'Uling' producers to secure WCPP

By CORY MARTINEZ

RAW materials used in producing wood charcoal (uling) must be derived from legal sources.

In Administrative Order No. 2022-05 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, 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 before the WCPP expiration.

Sampulna issued the order to make the production and trade of wood charcoal sustainable and environmentally friendly while continuing to support the livelihood of Filipinos.

Sampulna added that 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 [the] increasing demand for wood charcoal brought about by the rising prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and electricity," he stressed.

In the same directive, the individual charcoal producers are allowed to organize themselves into cooperatives and be issued with the WCPP in the cooperative's name.

The WCPP applications must be filed with and ap-

proved by the nearest Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) or implementing Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) which has jurisdiction over the area.

Applicants must submit a notarized Wood Charcoal Supply Contract (WCSC) to be approved by the concerned CENRO/Implementing PENRO, which details the volume and types of raw materials to be supplied to a WCPP.



'Manila and Tokyo boost partnership for Asia zero-emissions community'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

THE Philippines and the Government of Japan are strengthening their partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions toward a decarbonized society and zero emissions community in Asia.

During the recent Philippines-Japan Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue served as an avenue for DENR and the Ministry of the Environment Japan or MOEJ to partner in protecting against the impact of climate change.

"The Philippines, being an archipelago, is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Our country has faced several typhoons for as long as we can remember. Partnering with Japan in terms of technology and know-how on measures to mitigate climate change is indeed vital at this time," Sampulna said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said the Philippines remains committed to the "projected

greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent."

MOEJ Vice Minister Tokutaro Nakai said the agency was deepening its cooperation with the DENR through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism.

Other initiatives are on transparency reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, city-to-city collaboration, and knowledge and tools sharing on climate adaptation projects and waste management technology support.

"In the area of climate change, we were able to confirm that there are some areas of cooperation such as the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as the development of the long-term strategies. We will make efforts to work for that and hope to cooperate with you in the future attempts, too," Nakai said.

Nakai said that the MOEJ would accelerate its effort to decarbonize Asia for the establishment of the so-called "Asia zero-emissions community."

The Bilateral Environment Dialogue was part of the first-ever Philippines-Japan Environmental Week organized by DENR and MOEJ.

Through a joint statement, DENR

and MOEJ agreed to take actions to tackle climate change. "The two countries will work on advancing the life cycle management of fluorocarbon in the Philippines and Japan to contribute to the Philippines' hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) emissions reduction," the statement read.

On fluorocarbon, both sides confirm the ongoing and future cooperation between the DENR and the MOEJ in the potential assessment of HFC collection and destruction.

"Other cooperation projects are on capacity development of policymakers and technicians and utilization of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under the Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management (IFL)," the joint statement added.

As part of the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) program, the DENR and MOEJ will continue to work on capacity building in the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) and waste sectors.

These projects will strengthen greenhouse gas reporting and incentives for action. The partnership also calls for the engagement of the private and local government stakeholders as a key component.



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Boracay exceeds tourist carrying capacity - DOT

Breaching crowd limitation due to the COVID pandemic, the world-famous tourist destination Boracay reportedly went beyond its carrying capacity during the Holy Week.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said 21,252 tourists arrived on the island on Thursday and 22,519 more on Friday.

Puyat said Boracay is limited to about 19,000 vacationers only per day, which was set by the government after the island underwent rehabilitation in 2018.

The province of Aklan, where Boracay is located, is under COVID Alert Level 1 until April 30.

Under Alert Level 1, business establishment may accept customers in

their full seating capacities, provided health and safety protocols such as wearing of face masks and physical distancing must still be observed.

The DOT said it would demand an explanation from the mayor of Malay town on why Boracay's carrying capacity was breached.

The tourism agency said it has informed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) about the issue.

The DILG and the DENR are members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, which handled the island's rehabilitation efforts.

- Ghio Ong



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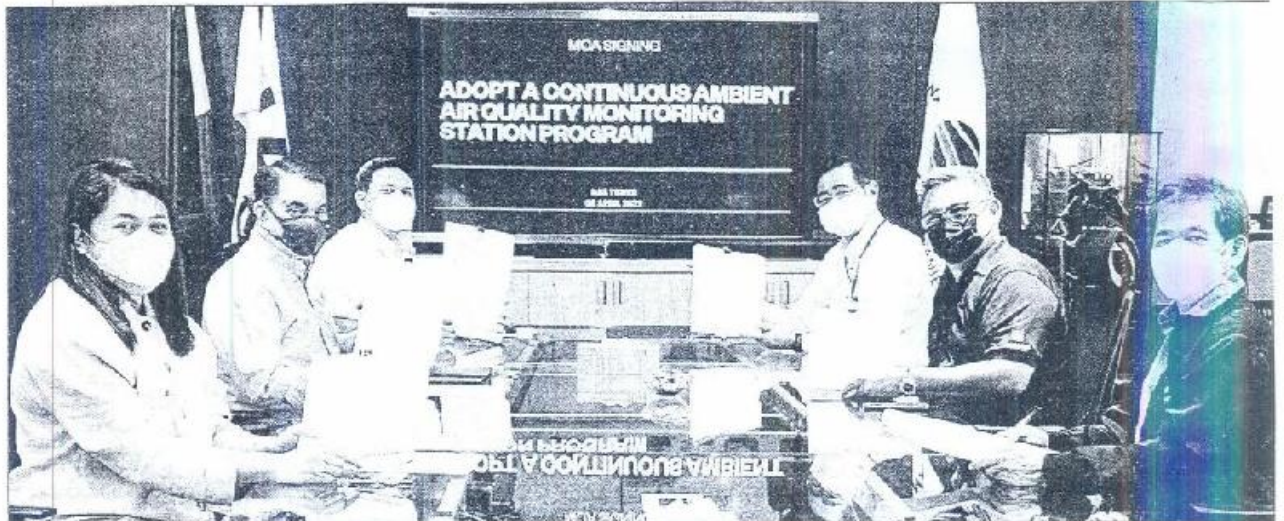
- Ghio Ong



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ADVANCED AIR MONITORING STATION: Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., Coral Bay Nickel Corp. and Graymont (Philippines) Inc. are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in subsidizing the procurement of a P6.4-million continuous ambient air quality monitoring station to be established in the mining community of Bataraza in Southern Palawan. Photo shows (from left) Remmy Collado-Camo, NAC AVP for safety and environment; Jose Bayani Baylon, NAC VP for corp. comm.; DENR-EMB MIMAROPA director Joe Amil Salino; Masahiro Kamiya, CBNC president; Rommel Ibuna, GPI president and Pablito Estorque, chief, environmental and enforcement division EMB MIMAROPA displaying the partnership agreement during the signing ceremony.



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The Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR • WITHOUT FAITH

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PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PRULLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE tribune.com.ph

IN celebration of Earth Day 2022, volunteers clean up the Las Piñas Parenacue Wetland Park under the auspices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They were joined by officials of the Climate Change Commission and the the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.



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

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CLEAN-UP DRIVE – Staff from the Philippine Climate Change Commission (PCCC), led by its vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A Borje, join the Earth Day 2022 Coastal Clean-up at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), on Monday, April 18, 2022. Earth Day was first celebrated in the US on April 22, 1970. At present, around one billion people in 193 countries take part in Earth Day activities to help raise awareness toward protection of the environment and biodiversity. (Ali Vicoy)



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STAFF of the Philippine Climate Change Commission (PCCC) led by Secretary Robert Borje participate in the Earth Day 2022 coastal clean-up drive at the Las Pinas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) yesterday. Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970. At present, around 1 billion people in 193 countries take part in Earth Day activities to help raise awareness on the protection of environment and biodiversity. (Ali Vicoy)





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THREAT TO METRO MANILA WATER SUPPLY

IN BULACAN, ANGAT DAM LEVEL DROPS DUE TO LACK OF RAINFALL

CITY OF MALOLOS—The water level at Angat Dam remained below its normal high of 212 meters above sea level as the state weather bureau announced that the country would not experience rain in the next five days.

As of 8 a.m. on Monday, the dam's elevation stood at 195.05 masl based on data from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). The MWSS distributes the dam's stored water to its concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co.

Since April 11, the dam's reservoir has dropped by .33 meters. On April 4, the dam's elevation dropped to 190 masl, the lowest so far this year.

Water requirement

Angat Dam, located in Norzagaray town of Bulacan province, supplies about 90 percent of the water requirement of Metro Manila and its adjacent provinces.

The National Water Resources Board, which manages and regulates all water resources and services in the country, is closely monitoring



DIPPING The watershed around Angat Dam in Bulacan province is seen in this photo taken in November 2021. The level at the water reservoir is sliding due to lack of rainfall, threatening the supply of water to Metro Manila and nearby provinces like Bulacan and Pampanga. —CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE

the dam's level.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the dropping water level at Angat Dam could trigger a water shortage in Metro Manila.

Not enough

In a weather forecast issued by Pagasa on Sunday, it said most parts of the country would experience fair weather in the next three to five days.

Last month, Pagasa hydrologist Richard Orendain said the dam's water could drop to less

than the minimum operating standard of 180 masl by mid-May.

In an online climate outlook forum, Orendain noted there may not be enough rainfall to fill the dam by July, when the rainy season is supposed to have begun and the "below normal rainfall conditions" by July could cause a water shortage in areas that rely on it for supply.

Angat Dam is also the major source of irrigation for farmlands in the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan. —CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE/INQ



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

NWRB MAY PANUKALANG MAGKARON NG RAIN WATER HARVESTING PROGRAM

IPINAALALA ni Dr. Sevilla "Bill" David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na nakapaloob sa National Water Program (NWP) ng bansa ang pagbalangkas sa National Water Security Roadmap na kinabibilangan ng panukalang magkaroon ng rain water harvesting program. Layon nitong tugunan ang pag-ilpon ng tubig-ulan na magagamit sa panahong limitado ang nakukuhang tubig mula sa mga pag-ulan.

Bahagi rin ng NWP ang water demand management kung saan binibigyang-pansin ang epekto sa tubig ng paglago ng populasyon at

pag-unlad.

Gaya ng nabanggit ni Dr. David hinggil sa mga nasa highly urbanized cities (HUC), kailangang maunawaan ng lahat na limitado ang suplay ng tubig at hindi ito laging makasusunod o makahahabol sa patuloy na pagtaas ng populasyon at sa mabilis na urbanisasyon. Dahil dito, gumagawa ang NWRB ng mga programang mapangangatagan ang tamang paggamit ng tubig.

Tinanong ko rin si Dr. David kung hinihikayat ng NWRB ang paggamit ng tubig-dagat bilang water source, katulad sa ginagawa ng ilang kompanya sa Cebu City.

Para sa kanya, maituturing na alternatibong mapag-

kukunan ng tubig ang dagat at mayroon nang teknolohiya na makakapag-treat dito. Ngunit, kailangang pag-aralan itong mabuti dahil may kamahalan ang pag-develop nito. Malaking papel ang gagampanan dito ng siyensya na inaasahang makahahap ng mas murang paraan sa pagproseso ng tubig-dagat upang gawing potable.

Sa panayam ng inyong lingkod, binanggit ni Director David, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 195.07 kahapon (April 18, 2022), tumaaas ng kaunti kung ikukumpara noong ika-4 ng Abril 2022, (6:00am) nasa 190.75 metro lamang, sana patuloy ang pag-ulan sa paligid ng Angat Dam kahit na paminsan-minsan sa panahon ng tag-init.

Sa huli, magkasamang paalala at pakiusap ang inihwan ni Dr. David para sa lahat – tumulong sa wastong paggamit ng tubig, lalo na ngayong panahon ng tag-init. Sa patuloy na pagtaas ng water demand, maging mas responsible sa paggamit nito upang hindi danasin ang kakulangan sa tubig.



The Philippine mining industry: Looking for a stable business environment



mike about town
ATTY. MIKE TOLEDO

I was recently invited to speak at the third monthly meeting of the Consular Corps of the Philippines at the Conrad Manila. I thank Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr., Consul General to Romania and Dean of the Consular Corps of the Philippines, and Jesus Pineda Jr., Honorary Consul to Fiji, for the invitation.

In my speech, I tackled the state of the mining industry and what the industry hoped for, especially with the coming administration. Let me reproduce and paraphrase some parts of it here:

Mining, especially for a country that is as rich in mineral resources as the Philippines, has a tremendous potential to contribute to socio-economic growth. The Philippines has been ranked as the fifth most mineralized country in the world with untapped reserves estimated at \$1 trillion. That is nearly three times the country's GDP in 2021. In terms of global prospectivity, Philippine mining ranks third in gold, fourth in copper, fifth in nickel, and sixth in chromite.

In the 1980s, Philippine mining's contribution to the economy was on the right trajectory vis-à-vis its mineral potential. Our country was the fourth largest producer of gold, copper, and nickel worldwide, with mining accounting for — at its peak — 21 percent of the country's export earnings. Mining's contribution to GDP reached 2.16 percent in 1985.

By the year 2000, mining's contribution to GDP declined drastically by half to 1.1 percent due to several factors that started in the late '80s. In 2004, the Supreme Court finally resolved the constitutionality issue against the Philippine Mining Act and mining reopened for business, with strong government policy support for the industry's revitalization.

In a nutshell, mining took several big hits in a span of nearly two decades in the form of policy roadblocks, near-arbitrary closure and suspension orders, and a new tax rate that made the mining fiscal regime among the highest in world. Consequently, mining's contribution to total exports plummeted to just 7.87 percent in 2020. Mining's contribution to GDP, meanwhile, dropped to 0.6 percent that same year.

Over the last four years, however, mining's share in the country's total exports has seen a gradual increase — from 5.87 percent in 2018 to nearly eight percent in the first three quarters of 2021.

It ironically took a pandemic for the importance of mining to be recognized. This explains why mineral exports were largely unaffected and employment in mining was generally stable. Mining companies were able to donate over P380 million, or about \$ 8 million, to the government's fight against COVID-19.

In April 2021, we saw the lifting of the moratorium on new mining projects and, in December, the lifting of the open pit mining ban. These are most welcome developments indeed. Verily, the government needs all the help it can get in these uncertain times.

Three large projects that were stymied by the policy roadblocks are now in a better position to proceed to development. Collectively these copper-gold projects, all in



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THE PHILIPPINE MINING INDUSTRY: LOOKING FOR A STABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

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Consul General of Spain and vice dean of the Consular Corps Javier Martin, Honorary Consul of Monaco Dr. Fortune Ledesma, Honorary Consul to Fiji Jesus Pineda Jr., author, Consul General a.h. to Romania and dean of the Consular Corps, Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.

temperature by two degrees by 2050. That's more than three billion tons in raw materials for solar, wind, and battery storage. The International Monetary Fund, on the other hand, reported last December that the future demand for metals and minerals may well top the current global supply.

It is ironic indeed that the mining industry, dubbed in the article as "a pariah for ages due to its massive environmental impact... is about to turn into the one indispensable industry for the energy transition."

Against this backdrop, ESG has anchored itself as a mainstream aspect of business and will remain top-of-mind in the boardroom for years to come. It has become central in terms of both attracting investors and holding a social license to operate.

The Chamber of Mines is determined to be a strong partner in nation building — one with a strong focus on social development, on minimizing the impact of our operations on the environment, and on ensuring a fair division of the economic and financial benefits of mining. But first, please allow us to flourish.

As we anticipate the changing of government in the next few months, we choose to be cautiously optimistic. The Philippines has a lot of catching up to do as an investment destination and we cannot afford to miss the promising windows of opportunity presented by the energy transition in response to Climate Change.

To help the industry realize its full potential and be a true partner as a huge socio-economic contributor, I have produced a short wish list. Let me enumerate them:



Margaret Hering of the US Embassy.



Jordan Honorary Consul Michael Ang, Philex Mining Corp's Gaye Cabalo and Atty. Francis Ballesteros, Jr.



US Consul General Mark McGovern.

Mindanao, namely, Silangan, Tampakan, and King King, can increase yearly national government revenues by P12 billion a year, local gov't revenues by P1.5 billion, exports by almost \$2 billion, and social expenditures by close to P800 million per year.

When most other industries were separating employees and workers at the height of the pandemic, government figures indicate that employment in mining increased by 2,000 to 184,000 in 2020, and by 12,000 to 196,000 in the first three quarters of 2021. These figures do not reflect the multiplier effect of four to five jobs created for every employee hired directly by the industry.

As of December 2021, the industry has spent over P26 billion for social development, nearly P385 billion in environmental protection and enhancement, and some P6 billion in final mine rehabilitation. Mining companies have planted over 45 million seedlings in over 35,000 hectares of land — with a survival rate of over 90 percent.

A recent Yahoo article cited a newly released World Bank report, which forecast that the world would need more than three billion tons of minerals and metals to limit the rise in global

First, we wish the next government would further its roles as facilitator, partner, and demonstrator of ESG best practices in the mining sector.

Second, we wish the next government would continue encouraging increased transparency and reporting of ESG practices in mining. Our participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, or EITI, allowed us to further demonstrate our commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability in business.

Third, for government to harmonize local and national laws to avoid conflicts on the ground. The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 is considered by many industry experts to be one of the most advanced mining laws.

And fourth, give mining and all other industries a stable business environment — one where policies are reliable, contracts and investments are protected, and the rules do not change midstream.

We pledge our support for government — whoever its next leader would be — as it acts as the bridge linking the business community on one hand and, as we have shown we can do, and local communities on the other. *



LAND USE LAW PUSHED TO EASE TYPHOON DAMAGE

THE devastation from Tropical Storm "Agaton" and Super Typhoon "Odele" underscores the need for a National Land Use Act (NLUA), Senate candidate Jejomar "Jojo" Binay Sr. said.

Binay, who is running under the United Nationalist Alliance banner, said such a law would identify hazard and danger areas which should be designated as no-build zones.

"A National Land Use Law would help prevent the loss of lives and livelihood as a result of typhoons and other natural calamities caused by climate change," Binay told the media on Monday.

"The law would maximize the best use of lands and will delineate specific uses for particular lands," he added.

The former vice president said there is a need to harmonize existing laws and adopt a consistent land use policy.

"We need to avoid these conflicts and address problems caused by massive urbanization, such as the lack of housing and the proliferation of informal settlers," he said.

"The law will also designate certain lands for protection and conservation, for agriculture and fisheries, as well as for residential, manufacturing, industrial and infrastructure use," Binay said.

Binay, who served as housing czar from 2010 to 2015, said a national land use plan would also help ensure food security in the country.

"If the land is irrigable, then it should be reserved for agricultural use," he said.

The proposed NLUA has been pending in Congress for two decades.

Another senatorial candidate, former Philippine National Police chief Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, has urged

the Department of Agriculture (DA) to provide immediate assistance to farmers affected by Typhoon Agaton.

More than 11,000 farmers were affected after Agaton battered the Visayas last week.

"Ako ay umaapela sa DA na bigyan ng agarang tulong ang mga apektadong magsasaka upang makapagsimula muli sila ng kanilang kabuhayan. Kitang-kita naman sa mga balita, maging sa social media, ang pinsalang idinulot ng bagyo sa agrikultura lalo na ng mga probinsiya sa Visayas (I appeal to the DA to give immediate assistance to the affected farmers so that they can start their livelihood again. The damage caused by the typhoon to agriculture, especially in the Visayas provinces, is evident in the news, as well as on social media)," Eleazar said on Monday.

He asked the Agriculture department to simplify its process of aid distribution so the farmers could recover faster.

The DA said the affected commodities include rice, corn, high-value crops and livestock. It said that losses to agriculture from Agaton have reached P703.3 million.

Eleazar, who is seeking a Senate seat under the Partido Reporma party, said timely assistance for the agriculture sector is necessary so that the supply of food and other products are not affected.

He vowed to push for insurance coverage for the products and equipment of farmers and fisherfolk that are damaged during calamities.

The country's first typhoon for the year affected agricultural areas in Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos) and Caraga.

CHRISTIAN CROW MAGHANOYO



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Manila Standard

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Binay says PH needs land use law to deal with typhoons

By Joel E. Zurbano

UNITED Nationalist Alliance (UNA) party senatorial candidate Jejomar Binay on Monday said the devastation caused by tropical storm "Agaton" and super typhoon "Odette" only underscores the need for a National Land Use law.

The former vice president explained that such a law would identify hazardous areas in localities that should be designated as no-build zones by local authorities.

"A National Land Use Law would help prevent the loss of lives and livelihood as a result of typhoons and other natural calamities caused by climate change," said Binay.

"The law would maximize the best use of lands, and will delineate specific uses for particular lands," he added.

Binay noted that there are conflicts in the present policies concerning land use and management.

"We need to avoid these conflicts and address problems caused by massive urbanization, such as the lack of housing and the proliferation of informal settlers," he said.

Binay also said there is a need to harmonize existing laws and adopt a consistent land use policy.

"The law will also designate cer-

tain lands for protection and conservation, for agriculture and fisheries, as well as for residential, manufacturing, industrial, and infrastructure use," he added.

Binay, who served as housing czar from 2010 to 2015, said that a national land-use plan would also help ensure food security in the country.

"If the land is irrigable, then it should be reserved for agricultural use," he said.



NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

Robredo vows to review Kaliwa Dam project with community consultations

OPPOSITION presidential candidate Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo on Monday vowed that the construction of a strongly-opposed dam project in the southern part of Luzon would not proceed without the consent of affected sectors should she win, reiterating that community consultations would be an integral part of projects under her administration.

"I am assuring you, we will not deliver any project to you without your consent," she said in Filipino at a campaign rally in Infanta town in Quezon province.

During the rally, Ms. Robredo was joined by members of an indigenous community who have expressed opposition to the China-funded project.

Environmental advocates have said that 300 hectares of forested area will be permanently flooded for the dam project, which is expected by the government to become an alternative source of water for the capital region Metro Manila by 2025.

Ms. Robredo, who vowed to side with indigenous people and uphold due process, cited that the law requires that affected residents in a project site must give their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) before any planned construction can proceed.

Despite opposition from tribal communities and environmental advocates, the project received an environmental clearance certificate in 2019 from the government. Construction, originally set for Jan. 2020 to Dec. 2025, will now start in June.

Community leaders have said that talks for a memorandum of agreement were railroaded by the government, leaving their concerns unaddressed.

Terry L. Ridon, convener of infrastructure think tank Infracatch, said the next administration should ensure that all government projects undergo community-based consultations and strictly comply with existing laws so as not to waste earmarked government funds.

"This will afford more efficient project planning as this will already limit the types of projects applicable in areas where the FPIC of communities is required," he said in a Messenger chat.

"As an example, a smaller, more limited dam project may be more acceptable than a larger dam which may permanently flood

entire ancestral lands of an indigenous community," he said.

Representatives of affected communities said during the rally that among popular presidential candidates, only Ms. Robredo has strongly opposed the project. — Kyle Aristophere T. Alienza



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Representatives of affected communities said during the rally that among popular presidential candidates, only Ms. Robredo has strongly opposed the project. — Kyle Aristophere T. Alienza



Masungi Georeserve trustees to render presentation in 21st WTTTC summit

By **RODERICK L. ABAD** @roderik_28
Contributor

TIMELY to the easing travel restrictions in most parts of the country, the Philippines is ready to welcome either in person or virtually over 600 industry leaders and 20 government representatives all over the world as they gather for the 21st Global Summit of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) from April 20 to 22.

Putting the country on the travelers' radar once again, Ann and Billie Dumaliang, trustees of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, will be sharing insights on the role of tourism in biodiversity conservation efforts.

"We are honored to be invited by WTTTC President Julia Simpson and the Philippine government to speak about our project and continue to work in tandem on vital issues. Tourism plays a crucial role in biodiversity conservation efforts, both in terms of funding and spreading awareness on the importance of the environment," said Dumaliang, managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve and a National Geographic explorer.

The United Nations Development Programme, through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative, reported in 2018 that the Philippines had an 80 percent biodiversity funding gap. This means that the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan or PBSAP cannot be fully implemented due to resource constraints.

Areas that are protected privately and other effective conservation measures like Masungi Georeserve are helping fill these funding and management gaps. Complementing government initiatives, its team ensures that visitors fully understand how caring for the environment is essential to survival.

"We are hoping that with the resurgence of international and domestic tourism, we will be able to ramp up our conservation work," she said. Part of the post-conference itinerary of the delegates is a visit to the Masungi Georeserve.

Masungi Georeserve Foundation provides forest enforcement support to deter and ultimately eliminate threats to the georeserve and surrounding watershed areas. Through on-ground patrolling, installation of ranger stations and investments in monitoring technology, it has accelerated efforts and secured more areas for conservation in pursuance of the Masungi Geopark Project.

To date, the foundation has been able to plant over 60,000 native trees, engage more than 100 park rangers, support 200 local households, and rescue 2,000 hectares of land from encroachment and illegal activities.



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Paghahanap sa mga natabunan ng landslide

Balak nang ipahinto ang search and rescue o paghahanap sa mga biktima na natabunan ng landslide sa mga bayan ng Abuyog at Baybay City, Leyte dahil sa bagyong Agaton, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Sinabi ni Mark Timbal, tagapagsalita ng NDRRMC, na nagpulong kahapon ng umaga ang Incident Management Teams para sa Abuyog at Baybay kung saan ikinokonsidera ang pagpapahinto sa operasyon. "Medyo malungkat nga po ang ating nai-

encounter na mga balita. Ngayong umaga ay nagpupulong po iyong ating mga kasamahan diyan sa Incident Management Teams para sa Abuyog at saka sa Baybay kung saan pinag-uusapan po kung itutuloy pa ba itong operations po na ito," ani Timbal sa Laging Handa online press briefing.

Nag-aalala aniya ang mga eksperto sa pag-

NI MALOU ESCUDERO
papatuloy ng operasyon dahil may gumuguho pa ring lupa.

"Kasi may areas po talaga na iyong ating mga eksperto po ay nag-aalala kapag pinagpatuloy ng ating mga search and rescue teams ang kanilang isinasagawa dahil gumuguho pa rin po ang lupa as of this point," ani Timbal.

balak nang ipahinto

Nasa 100 katao pa rin aniya ang nawawala sa Abuyog bukod pa sa 70 katao sa Baybay.

"Sa Abuyog po, sa data po na natanggap ko mula sa mga kasama natin diyan, we still have a hundred people po na missing. At sa Baybay naman po, ang estimated is more than 70 people pa iyong hinahanap po doon sa area.

102 naman ang injured, iyong naitakbo sa hospital after ma-rescue doon sa landslide area," ani Timbal.

Ipinunto ni Timbal na ilang araw na rin ang lumipas buhat nang mangyari ang landslide bagaman at hindi pa rin naman sila bumibitiw sa pagsasagawa ng rescue operations.

"Medyo po ilang araw

na ang lumipas kasi after the landside, although kami dito po ay hindi pa rin bumibitiw sa pag-asa na marami pa ring mari-rescue, [but] we leave it po doon sa ating mga kasamahan sa ground para mapagdesisyonan po nila ito. Kasi inaalela din po natin iyong kanila pong kaligtasan kasabay po ng pag-alala natin doon sa mga naaapakuhan," sabi ni Timbal.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Ending search for survivors in Agaton-hit Leyte mullied

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

After nearly a full week of continuous search and rescue (SAR) operations, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Monday, April 18, that it is now considering stopping the search for ▶7

CONTINUOUS SEARCH — A Philippine Army K-9 unit scours an area covered with felled trees during search, rescue, and retrieval operation at a landslide-hit area in Baybay City, Leyte on Sunday, April 17, 2022. (Photo from the 525th Engineering Combat Battalion)



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Ending search for survivors in Agaton-hit Leyte mullied

survivors in Leyte, which was badly battered by tropical depression "Agaton."

NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal said incident management teams in Baybay City and in the municipality of Abuyog conducted an emergency meeting Monday morning to decide whether it would be better to stop SAR operations and focus on the rehabilitation and recovery of the devastated areas.

"Ngayong umaga, nagpupulong ang mga kasamahan natin sa incident management teams sa Abuyog at Baybay kung itutuloy pa ang operations. May areas po kasi na talagang ang ating mga eksperto ay nagaalalala kapag ipinagpatuloy ng ating search and rescue teams ang kanilang isinasagawa dahil gumuguhong lupa (This [Monday] morning, our counterparts from the incident management teams in Abuyog and Baybay were holding a meeting to discuss whether they would continue the operations or not. There are certain areas where our experts are worried about the safety of our search and rescue teams since these are prone to

landslide)," Timbal said in a Laging Handa press briefing.

So far, the death toll due to Agaton remained at 172 and these were recorded in Eastern Visayas with 156 fatalities; Western Visayas, 11; Davao, three; and Central Visayas, two.

There are also 110 persons still missing and eight others who were injured.

"Medyo ilang araw na ang lumipas after the landslides. Although kami rito ay 'di pa rin bumibitiw sa pagasa na marami pa rin ang mare-rescue, we leave it sa kasama natin sa ground para mapagdesisyonan ito. Ang inaalala kasi natin ay ang kaligtasan nila [rescuers] kasabay sa pag-alala natin sa mga naapektuhan (It has been several days since the landslides occurred. Although we are not yet giving up on our hopes that we can still rescue some of the victims, we leave it to our counterparts on the ground to decide on this. What we worry about is the safety of the [rescuers], along with our concern for those who were affected)," Timbal said.

The decision whether the SAR operations will continue or be halted

might be released soon, Timbal said.

Once they stop the SAR operations, Timbal said recovery and rehabilitation of the typhoon-battered areas will start.

National Land Use law necessary

Meanwhile, former Vice President and senatorial candidate Jejomar Binay on Monday said the damage dealt by Agaton and supertyphoon "Odette" in the country underscores the need for a National Land Use law.

"A National Land Use Law would help prevent the loss of lives and livelihood as a result of typhoons and other natural calamities caused by climate change," Binay said.

He explained that such a law will identify hazard and danger areas in localities which should be designated as no-build zones by local authorities.

"The law would maximize the best use of lands, and will delineate specific uses for particular lands," he added.

Binay said massive urbanization is causing an adverse effect in today's society, especially in terms of land use and management, such as the lack of housing and a sharp increase in the number of informal

settlers. He added that there is a need to harmonize existing laws and adopt a consistent land use policy.

"The law will also designate certain lands for protection and conservation, for agriculture and fisheries, as well as for residential, manufacturing, industrial, and infrastructure use," Binay said.

The former vice president, who served as housing czar from 2010 to 2015, said a national land use plan will also help ensure food security in the country.

"If the land is irrigable, then it should be reserved for agricultural

use," he said.

According to the NDRRMC, Odette caused P29.3 billion in infrastructure damage, along with P22.3 billion in agricultural damage and P63 million worth of damage to houses. It is considered as the second costliest typhoon in the country.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture (DA) estimated P703 million in agricultural damage caused by Agaton. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) also reported P145 million in infrastructure damages. (With a report from Patrick Ely Garcia)



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PHILIPPINE Army's disaster response team retrieves the body of a landslide victim who perished during the onslaught of typhoon 'Agaton' in Baybay City, Leyte. (Photo from Philippine Army)

NDRRMC eyes halt of SAR ops in Leyte

By MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

After nearly a week of continuous search and rescue (SAR) operations, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday that it was already considering to stop looking for survivors in Leyte province, days after it was battered by typhoon "Agaton".

(Turn to Page 2)

NDRRMC ...

(From Page 1)

NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Timbal said incident management teams in Baybay City and in the municipality of Abuyog conducted an emergency meeting on Monday morning to decide whether it would be better to stop the SAR operations and focus on the rehabilitation and recovery of the devastated areas.

"Ngayong umaga, nagpupulong ang mga kasamahan natin sa incident management teams sa Abuyog at Baybay kung itutuloy

pa ang operations. May areas po kasi na talagang ang ating mga eksperto ay nag-aalala kapag ipinagpatuloy ng ating search and rescue teams ang kanilang isinasagawa dahil gumuguhong lupa," Timbal said in a Laging Handa press briefing.

It has been six days since Agaton dissipated last April 12 and the SAR operations commenced in areas that were badly hit by the typhoon.

So far, the death toll due to Agaton remained at 172 and these were recorded in Eastern Visayas with 156 fatalities; Western Visayas, 11; Davao, three; and Central Visayas, two.

There were also 110 persons that were still missing and eight others who were injured.

"Medyo ilang araw na ang lumipas after the landslides. Although kami rito ay 'di pa rin bumibitiw sa pagasa na marami pa rin ang maarerescue, we leave it sa kasama natin sa ground para mapagdesisyunan ito. Ang inaalala kasi natin ay ang kaligtasan nila [rescuers] kasabay sa pag-alala natin sa mga naapektuhan," Timbal said.

Timbal said the decision whether the SAR operations will continue or be halted might be released soon.

19 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH daily average Covid-19 cases down to 239 in recent week

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [April 18, 2022, 4:31 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday reported that the daily average Covid-19 cases of 239 from April 4 to 10 is 12 percent lower than the new infections prior to the week in review.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH said there are 1,674 new cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the recent week.

For the same period, there was only one case added to the tally of severe and critical infections which went down to 664.

Only 16.9 percent or 4,164 out of the 24,645 intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the country are used while 15.8 percent or 450 of 2,842 non-ICU beds are utilized.

Meanwhile, there were 200 verified deaths recorded during the past week.

About 74.28 percent of the country's target population has been vaccinated against Covid-19.

The DOH also reported that 76.14 percent of the senior citizens have been inoculated against the disease.

The elderly group is composed of 8,721,357 individuals while the country's target population for inoculation is 80 percent (90,005,357 individuals) of the country's entire population.

As of April 17, DOH data showed that 66,854,770 individuals are fully vaccinated while 12,641,887 people have received their booster shots. **(PNA)**



664 severe, critical COVID-19 cases naitala ng DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - April 19, 2022 - 12:00am



Commuters queue to board a bus at the EDSA Bus Carousel at Ortigas EDSA Station as MRT-3 halt operations for maintenance on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

The STAR/Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Iniulat kahapon ng Department of Health (DOH) na nasa 664 pasyente ang nasa 'severe at critical' na kundisyon ngayon dahil sa impeksyon ng COVID-19 mula Abril 11-17.

Ang naturang numero ay katumbas ng 11.5 porsyento ng lahat ng COVID-19 admission sa mga pagamutan sa buong bansa.

Sa weekly monitoring ng DOH, umabot sa 1,674 ang bagong kaso ng COVID sa bansa sa naturang linggo.

Ito ay makaraang makapagtala ng arawang average na 239 bagong kaso sa loob ng naturang linggo na mas mababa ng 12% sa mga naitalang kaso sa nakalipas na Abril 4-10.

Umabot naman sa 200 pasyente ang nasawi habang isang pasyente ang nadagdag sa severe at critical cases.

Sa healthcare utilization, naitala ang mga 'non-ICU bed utilization' sa 4,164 pasyente na 16.9% ng total na 24,645 beds; habang ang ICU bed utilization ay nasa 450 pasyente na 15.8% naman ng 2,842 kabuuang higaan.



2nd booster shot to ‘reinforce’ immunity: Palace

By Azer Parrocha [April 18, 2022, 4:23 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – The government's plan to start providing second Covid-19 vaccine booster shots for some sectors is part of the efforts to strengthen the immune defenses of Filipinos amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Malacañang said Monday.

Acting presidential spokesperson and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar made this remark after the Department of Health (DOH) announced its planned rollout this week of the second Covid-19 booster shot for an initial batch of 1.8 million healthcare workers, elderly and immunocompromised patients.

“The second booster dose recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and being planned for by the National Covid-19 Vaccination Operations Center is our scientific response to waning immunity,” Andanar said in a press statement.

He said a second Covid-19 vaccine booster should be given because it helps people maintain strong protection from severe Covid-19 and death.

“Our goal is to reinforce the shield that will protect us from any variants already here and that might come in later on. Prevention is better than cure,” he added.

Andanar, meanwhile, denied that Covid-19 vaccine booster shots will be rolled out in anticipation of an uptick in Covid-19 cases next month.

“The administration of the fourth dose, or second booster shot, of Covid-19 vaccines has nothing to do with the potential increase in cases in May 2022,” he said.

Besides getting Covid-19 jabs, he emphasized the need for the public to continue observing standard health and safety protocols.

“As experts warn of an uptick in cases, we must continue to adhere to minimum public health standards such as wearing of masks, washing of hands, observing physical distancing and ramping up vaccination/getting booster shots,” he added.

DOH Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje earlier said the second booster shot rollout will start after the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), an independent advisory body, completes its review.



On April 13, the DOH announced that the FDA has amended the emergency use authorization given to Covid-19 vaccines to allow giving an additional booster shot to healthcare workers, persons 60 years old and above, and immunocompromised patients.

The second booster shot will be given at least four months after the first booster shot.

Cabotaje said 1,806,928 individuals are qualified to receive a second booster shot based on the four-month interval.

The first booster shot is given at least three months after the second dose of a primary-two dose vaccine or at least two months after the primary single-dose vaccine is given.

As of April 11, data from the DOH showed that more than 66.7 million individuals are fully vaccinated, including nine million adolescents and 1.3 million children.

Around 12.5 million individuals have received their booster shots.

The Covid-19 vaccine brands that are currently part of the Philippines' inventory and have been cleared for emergency use are Sinovac, Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik V, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson (Janssen).

Janssen is the sole single-dose vaccine currently approved for use in the country while the rest are two-dose vaccines. **(PNA)**



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

April 18, 2022

Official DOHgov
@DOHgovph

Healthcare Utilization

(as of April 17, 2022)

16.9%
Non-ICU Bed Utilization
4,164 out of 24,645 non-ICU beds used

15.8%
ICU Bed Utilization
450 out of 2,842 ICU beds used

664
Severe and Critical Admissions
11.5% of total COVID-19 admissions

Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of April 17, 2022)

74.28%
% Coverage of Target Population*

76.14%
% Coverage of Target A2 Population**

Fully Vaccinated Individuals
66,854,770
+202,154 vaccinated on Apr 11 to Apr 17
Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose
12,641,887
+164,407 vaccinated on Apr 11 to Apr 17

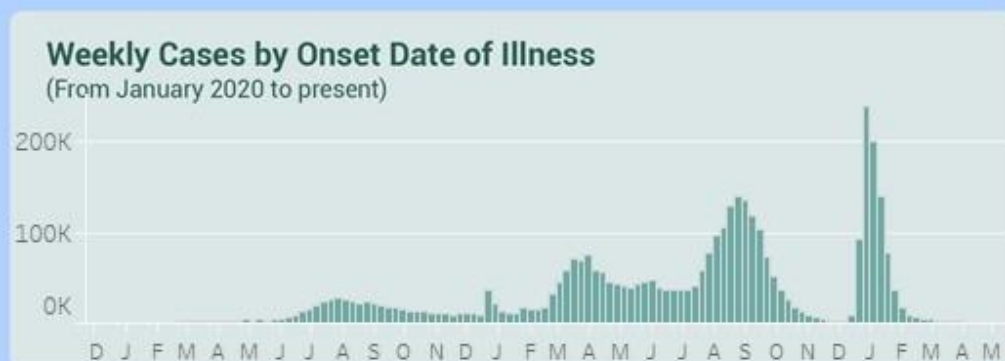
(added on Apr 11 to Apr 17)



COVID-19 Cases

(as of April 17, 2022)

New Cases
+1,674
Daily Average Cases = 239
(12% lower than cases on Apr 4 to Apr 10)
Severe and Critical Cases: **+1** (0.06% of new cases)
Deaths Verified During The Past Week: **+200** (43 deaths occurred on Apr 4 to Apr 17)



*Target population refers to 80% of the total population (90,005,357 individuals)
**Target A2 population refers to 85% of the total Senior Citizen population (8,721,357 individuals)

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
✉ konsulta.md
📞 KonsultaMD

CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow
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May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na sa KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

19 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



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
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
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