

21 APRIL 2022, Thursday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR greening program gets boost



Published 7 hours ago  
on April 21, 2022 12:11 AM  
By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources here disclosed that it has further improved the Enhanced National Greening Program to buffer the effects of climate change in the country.

DENR Region 3 director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that the agency is continuously rehabilitating denuded forestlands and preserving the region's forest cover, citing that they have already restored 129,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in Central Luzon since 2011.

“Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government's climate change mitigation program,” said Moreno, adding that the agency's efforts could reduce communities' vulnerability to climate shock, as forests could sequester greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The Environment department also established more than 3,200 hectares of bamboo plantation in 2021.



## JICA extends P83 million support for agroforestry

By [Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star)  
- April 21, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Japanese government has provided P83 million worth of infrastructure to support the country's agro-forestry nationwide.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan's bilateral aid agency, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently turned over some P83 million worth of agroforestry support facilities, such as access roads and irrigation systems to Nueva Vizcaya.

The infrastructure support forms part of the 10-year ongoing Forestland Management Project (FMP) that seeks to help the Philippines conserve its forest resources, while ensuring sustainable livelihood and forest management in upland communities.

Apart from Nueva Vizcaya, the project aims to conserve major watersheds in Iloilo, Ifugao, Nueva Ecija and Quirino.

As an official development assistance, FMP has been helping rehabilitate more than 71,300 hectares of forest resources in the country's watershed areas.

This is done through forest and agroforestry plantation establishment, protection and maintenance activities, infrastructure support, as well as capacity building of people's organizations and farmers.

It also covers comprehensive site development, strengthening of watershed management bodies and people's organizations through enhancing their capacities in agroforestry and enterprise development, and construction of agroforestry support facilities, among others.

JICA chief representative Takema Sakamoto said the project develops the capacity of people dependent on forest resources to explore the improvement of their livelihood.

FMP is helping bridge the gap in forest conservation efforts to also contribute to the sustainable management of watersheds, a critical water source for the country's population. In Nueva Vizcaya, the projects will benefit some 5,300 households.



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Magmula Pampanga, mahigit kumulang 129,000 ektarya ng lupa sa Central Luzon ang naisalba dahil sa implementasyon ng Enhanced National Greening Program (NGP) na pinasinayaan noong taong 2011.

Naisalba ang malaking porsyento ng kagubatan at watershed sa Central Luzon dahil sa implemenson ng NGP na programa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Layon ng programa na malabanan ang climate change at mapabuti ang likas yaman ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng rehabilitasyon at preserbasyon ng kagubatan sa Luzon.

“Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government’s climate change mitigation program. These efforts could reduce communities’ vulnerability to climate shock, as forests could sequester greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere,” saad ni Paquito Moreno Jr., DENR Regional Executive Director.

Dahil sa programa, nakapagtanim ang DENR ng bamboo plantation na aabot sa 14,000 ektarya ng lupa.

Napagpatibay ang mga plantasyon na ito dahil sa pakikipag-ugnayan ng ahensya sa private firms.

Bukod dito, nakipag-ugnayan din ang DENR sa Peoples’ Organizations, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, at Philippine Army upang mamonitor ang mga plantasyon at maireport ang anumang ilegal na gawain sa loob ng kagubatan. Dagdag dito, nakapagbigay trabaho din ang programa.

Source: PIA Bulacan

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100066665920039/posts/326016422963886/?app=fbl>



## DILG tells Aklan execs: Limit Boracay tourists

By [Victor Reyes](#)

-April 21, 2022

THE Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday told local government officials in the province of Aklan to limit tourists allowed to stay in Boracay Island and strictly observe the carrying capacity of the tourist destination.

Interior undersecretary for operations Epimaco Densing III said the agency has sent letters to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista reminding them to stick to Boracay's tourist carrying capacity of 19,215.

Densing, during the Laging Handa public briefing, noted a report from Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat on Monday that the number of tourists in Boracay Island on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday was recorded at 21,252 and 22,519, respectively, well above its carrying capacity.

The cap was set after the rehabilitation of Boracay Island in 2018 to protect the tourist resort from "over-tourism."

"We already sent out letters to Gov. Miraflores and Mayor Bautista to remind them to ensure that Boracay Island will not exceed its carrying capacity," Densing said.

Densing said the DILG would be compelled to issue show cause orders against Miraflores and Bautista if another breach of Boracay's carrying capacity is recorded.

"They may be given show cause orders to explain why they allowed a breach of the carrying capacity for tourists going to Boracay Island... If there will be a breach, whether due to negligence or intentional, they will be given letters to explain," he said.

If they fail to justify the violation, Densing said "they can be held administratively liable." Densing said a breach of the carrying capacity of Boracay brings "negative effect on the environment in Boracay."

"To our countrymen, sorry. We are going to maintain the 19,215 tourist carrying capacity of Boracay Island, subject to review every three to five years. So most probably, in two years' time, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will review it," he said.

"But in the meantime, we are not recommending any change in the carrying capacity which is 19,215. Agencies need to monitor, especially the local (government units) to ensure there will be no breach," he added.



## Increase in Boracay crowds up to experts –DOT

By [Romina Cabrera](#), [Ralph Edwin Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star)  
- April 21, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Tourism (DOT) is leaving it up to experts on whether or not to increase the tourist carrying capacity of Boracay.

“The carrying capacity was set in a study by the University of the Philippines, which was commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It is not about lobbying, it is about studies, if indeed it can be increased,” DOT Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat told a press briefing yesterday. “We will rely on experts... We will listen to third party experts. If they tell us that it can be increased, it can be.”

The DOT expressed alarm as the crowds on the island reached over 22,000 during Holy Week. Only 19,215 people per day are allowed.

Puyat noted that the carrying capacity of Boracay was never breached even before the COVID pandemic hit.

“We have to take into consideration the health and safety (of tourists). Even tourists do not want to go to a place that is overcrowded,” she said.

As this developed, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a warning to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista over the breach in the number of visitors.

Bautista had earlier admitted that tourist arrivals were not monitored or controlled.

DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said the two local officials were asked to ensure that the carrying capacity of the island is strictly enforced for the safety of tourists as well as the protection of the environment.

Densing said the local officials can be administratively held liable in case of another breach.

“Kapag lumampas ito at talagang negligence nila o sinadya, sila po ay padadalhan natin ng sulat para magpaliwanag,” Densing said during the Laging Handa press briefing.

He said the tourist cap would be maintained for the time being, but will be subject to review every three to five years.

## MGA HOTEL SA BORACAY NA HINDI SUMUSUNOD SA PROTOCOLS, IPASASARA NG DOT

by [Angelica Doctolero](#) April 20, 2022



Nagbanta ang Department of Tourism (DOT) na kanilang ipasasara ang mga hotel sa Boracay na hindi sumusunod sa protocols ng pamahalaan.

Kasunod ito ng pagsirit ng bilang ng mga turista sa nasabing isla nitong nagdaang Semana Santa.

Ayon kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, 19,000 lamang ang pinapayagan sa Boracay pero sumipa ito sa 22,000 nitong Holy Week kung saan, hindi na umano nasunod ang health and safety protocols.

Sinabi ni Puyat na ang pagluluwag ng restriksiyon sa bansa ay “shared responsibility” kung saan, kabilang ang gobyerno at mga turista sa pagsunod ng mga tungkulin para mapababa ang COVID-19 cases sa bansa.

Dahil dito, bubuo na ng “Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force” para mapanatili ang pagsunod sa protocols ng mga turista at mga bakasyonista sa isla at mapangalagaan ang natural na estado ng Boracay.

Source: [https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/mga-hotel-sa-boracay-na-hindi-sumusunod-sa-protocols-ipasasara-ng-dot/?fbclid=IwARiFshXJ9Wt-mQlo2ZdQMvh Wx\\_oymhDiBYoM6jr9vIO37Vhw2egtFikW6Q](https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/mga-hotel-sa-boracay-na-hindi-sumusunod-sa-protocols-ipasasara-ng-dot/?fbclid=IwARiFshXJ9Wt-mQlo2ZdQMvh Wx_oymhDiBYoM6jr9vIO37Vhw2egtFikW6Q)



# LABORACAY FESTIVAL DI PA MAIBABALIK SA MAYO 1

April 20, 2022 Admin



**WALA pang planong ibalik ang “LaBoracay festival” sa Isla ng Boracay.**

Ito ang sinabi ni Department of Interior and Local Government Unit (DILG) Undersecretary Epimaco Densing matapos tanungin kung uubra na ngang magkaroon muli ng nakagawiang pagdiriwang sa Boracay tuwing May 1 o Labor Day na tinawag na LaBoracay Festival.

Sa Laging Handa press briefing ay sinabi ni Densing na walang magaganap na LaBoracay ngayong taon maliban na lamang kung magbago ang isip ng Department of Tourism.

Ayon kay Densing, sa huling pag uusap sa pagitan ng DoT, DILG at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), napagkasunduan dito na wala pang balak na ibalik ang LaBoracay dahil nakitaan noon ng hindi maganda ang epekto nito sa kaligtasan ng Boracay.

Aniya, bukod sa dagsa ang mga tao ay maraming basura naidudulot ng LaBoracay.

Sa ngayon ay nasa alert level 1 pa ang Boracay maging ang iba pang tourist destination sa ating bansa at wala pa sa alert level zero kaya kailangan pa rin matiyak na nasusunod ang health protocols gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, mapanatili ang social distancing at iba pa.

Maaalala noong Semana Santa ay dinagsa ng mga turista ang Boracay pero nakitaan ang lokal na pamahalaan na sumobra sa kapasidad ng isla. **Beth C**



## Fisherfolk, residents to hold protest march against black sand mining in Aparri

Published April 20, 2022, 10:24 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

Some 1000 fisher folk from 12 barangays in Aparri, Cagayan will march from the Catholic Church arch to Aparri municipal arch on Friday, April 22, to protest the black sand operations in the town which they say is happening in the guise of river dredging.

Residents here reported the return of mining activity in the first quarter of 2021 with dredging seacrafts and huge sea carriers visibly operating in the Cagayan River, the Aparri delta, and the West Philippine Sea.

The Cagayan Provincial government headed by Governor Manuel N. Mamba explained that the Cagayan River is under rehabilitation and that the presence of large ships is due to the ongoing large-scale dredging to desilt the Cagayan River.

The provincial government added that the project is meant to control the flood and serve as a necessary “enabling activity for the reopening of the Aparri port and the establishment of an international seaport”.

Mamba has also said he will resign if the people can prove there were indeed mining activities there.

However, local fishermen attest that the vessels suck sand at the open sea, right in the areas where they fish, several kilometers from the mouth of the river, and way beyond the designated dredging segments.

Marine traffic tracking reveals back and forth trips of the vessels from Northern Philippines to China which, fisherfolk believe, is the end destination of the mined magnetite from the black sand.

For instance, Hong Chang, a bulk carrier that can haul up to 64,000 metric tons of sand material, has made trips between Aparri to China at least four times since the dredging project started.

The fisherfolk and residents are looking to air their grievances in the protest march dubbed ‘Alay Lakad Para sa Kabuhayan, Kalikasan, Kinabukasan,’ according to San Pedro Telmon Parish of Aparri.

The Aparri fisherfolk will be joined by other groups from neighboring towns of Gattaran, Ballesteros, Buguey, Gonzaga, Sta. Ana, among others in the event, also serves as a celebration of Earth Day.

A prayer service and program will be held at the church where the fisherfolk will share stories about the effects of the mining operations to their livelihood and environment.

Mayorality candidates will be in attendance to dialogue with the fisherfolk.

Parish priest, Fr. Manuel Catral, hopes that this Earth Day event will be a platform for the fisherfolk to express their situation to the people of Aparri and its future leaders.

The supposed river dredging project has gravely disturbed the ecosystem, messed with reproductive patterns of wildlife, decimated the fish and shrimp population, considerably slashed the income of 11,000 fisherfolk and their families, and brings the threat of erosion to an area that is already perennially inundated by floods brought about by strong rains and typhoons.



## Fisherfolk, residents to hold protest march against black sand mining in Aparri

Fr. Catral said that the growing grievance of the fisherfolk must finally be heard.

“This river restoration project went into full swing without proper consultation with the people. It’s time that the most affected have a voice in the process,” he said.

“Moreover, the dredging for black sand project has far-reaching ecological effects. Not only is it an urgent local issue, it is also a national issue that must not be dismissed,” Fr. Catral added.



## Davao City councilor renews call to junk WTE project

April 20, 2022 | 7:41 pm



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DAVAO CITY Councilor Pamela Librado-Morata has reiterated her opposition to the waste-to-energy (WTE) project, stressing the adverse impact on the health and environment of communities around the facility's location.

In a privilege speech to the city council on April 19, Ms. Morata said the proposed incinerator will affect residents of 20 barangays in Tugbok District, citing epidemiological studies in other communities near WTE facilities.

She said the worst-hit barangay will be Biao Escuela, an agricultural community with a population of around 3,000.

The proposed WTE will be located 2.2 kilometers from the Biao Elementary School and Biao National High School, and 550 meters away from the relocation site of displaced families in Catalunan Grande.

“Alongside such possible adverse impacts on the environment and people's health, WTE also violates the Clean Air Act, Renewable Energy Act, and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act,” she said.

“In addition, the Philippines has limited technical and financial capacity to regularly monitor emissions such as dioxin, furan, and other toxic WTE by-products. This lack of strict environmental standards and regulations covering air pollution, ash disposal, and water pollution could lead to unmonitored environmental damage and adverse effects on the public's health.”

The councilor, who first manifested her opposition to the project in December last year, also said that the project should wait for the Supreme Court decision on a case relating to WTE guidelines of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



## Davao City councilor renews call to junk WTE project

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, in her recent State of the City Address, said the local government is now partnering with the DENR to secure P740 million out of the P3.5 billion needed to implement the project.

The city government of Davao started exploring WTE as a waste management option about four years ago as the existing sanitary landfill nears full capacity. — **Maya M. Padillo**



## SM malls hold trash to cash program



TRASH TO CASH. SM City Cabanatuan and SM Megacenters will join the whole world in celebrating Earth Day on April 22 with the theme “Invest in Our Planet” through Trash-to-Cash Recycling Market and E-Waste Collection Program. (Contributed photo)

[REYNALDO G. NAVALES](#)

April 20, 2022

SM CITY Cabanatuan and SM Megacenters will join the whole world in celebrating Earth Day on April 22 with the theme “Invest in Our Planet” through Trash-to-Cash Recycling Market and E-Waste Collection Program.

Chao Chua, assistant mall manager of SM Cabanatuan, said SM’s mission includes supporting communities and protecting the environment for future generations.

“Our various initiatives on energy, water, and solid waste management serve to reduce our impact on natural resources and minimize our carbon footprint. Together with you, our mall tenants, we align with DENR’s mandates on waste segregation and protection of water quality,” Chua said.

On April 22-23, SM malls will simultaneously conduct the Trash-to-Cash Recycling Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tenants and customers may bring their recyclables waste and exchange them for cash.

Aside from Trash-to-Cash, SM also have existing E-Waste Collection Program where small e-wastes, such as broken or used electronic gadgets and wires may be disposed.

“We encourage everyone to take part in our mall environmental activities as your commitment to investing in our planet,” Chua added.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1926875/pampanga/local-news/sm-malls-hold-trash-to-cash-program>



## ECO-FRIENDLY AT TIPID-KURYENTENG AIRCON, NAIMBENTO NG ISANG PINAY!

PANOORIN ang buong detalye sa episode ng Next Now: <https://fb.watch/cvHLLdnhsr/>

Naimbento ng Bicolana engineer na si Angel Palma ang isang eco-friendly air conditioner na gamit lamang ang hangin at hamog para palamigin ang paligid. Ang kanyang imbensyon, humakot na rin ng iba't ibang parangal kabilang na ang prestihiyosong James Dyson Award. Napabilang din si Angel sa listahan ng The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) 2021. Ano'ng masasabi n'yo rito, mga Kapuso? [#NextNow](#)

Para sa iba pang science and technology content, panoorin ang episodes ng Next Now: <https://bit.ly/3AkSPcn>



COURTESY-MARIA YZABEL ANGEL PALMA

### ECO-FRIENDLY AIRCON, NAIMBENTO NG ISANG PINAY

Nakaimbento ang engineer na si Angel Palma ng eco-friendly air conditioner. Sa halip na chemical refrigerant na karaniwang nakasasama sa kapaligiran, hangin at hamog ang ginagamit ng kanyang imbensyon upang palamigin ang paligid. Bukod sa sustainable, tipid-kuryente rin ito dahil 150 watts lang ang kailangan upang mapalamig ang isang 25 sqm na kuwarto.

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## EDITORIAL - What is cleanliness next to?

The Freeman  
April 21, 2022 | 12:00am



The saying goes that “cleanliness is next to godliness.” But in some cases and cultures, it just might be that cleanliness is next to impossible.

Humor aside, cleanliness isn’t something many Philippine cities, including Cebu City, can exactly boast about.

Recently, Cebu City Councilor Jocelyn Pesquera, head of the city’s tourism commission, urged teachers to help instill the practice of cleanliness in the minds of students and pupils.

“Through education, through the teachers, through you, you will be able to inculcate to the students the importance of cleanliness. Kay unsaon nato pag-promote sa atong coastal tourism,” she was quoted as saying.

It seems whatever is being taught in school right now may not be enough; our kids still don’t seem to realize the value of a clean environment. Of course, we cannot blame the younger generation entirely. The older one is also at fault, even more so for our continued culture of uncleanness and being bad examples to our children.

While we Filipinos generally have good personal hygiene, we aren’t exactly known for keeping our surroundings clean. We only have to look at our streets, our rivers and canals, and many of our coastlines to see this.



## EDITORIAL - What is cleanliness next to?

Many of us still think nothing of discarding trash where they shouldn't be. How many times have you seen someone nonchalantly get rid of a food wrapper or product packaging in the street? It's not just that. This behavior includes dumping trash in places that aren't designated as garbage pickup points, or throwing it into waterways.

Then, of course, there is the spitting and urinating everywhere.

And that reckless behavior goes home to us in ways we least expect. Garbage heaps attract vermin that can spread disease, clogged drainage systems lead to floods, raw sewage turns our rivers and waterways into hazardous cesspools.

One attitude that needs to change is that we don't think that proper garbage disposal is our problem, that it is always the responsibility of the garbage collectors, the street sweepers, and the city itself.

Because this has been our attitude for the longest time it is something that may take time to change. It is something that cannot be changed overnight.

But, echoing Pesquera's message, think of how we can promote Cebu City if we call pull it off.

Let's ask ourselves: In Cebu City, what can we make cleanliness next to?



## Assessing our risk environment



By [Rafael Alunan 3rd](#)

April 21, 2022

I'VE always held the belief that the most vulnerable period of any country is when its incumbent leaders are headed for the exit, and when the new administration is busy settling in. In our case, the last six months of an administration is usually distracted by politics. The first six to 12 months of the new one is typically busy placing new people in positions to take control of an unwieldy bureaucracy and paying political debts.

It's a risk environment that needs a permanent professional second echelon working 24/7 to protect the national interest.

National security threats can be further broken down into categories, such as:

1. Hostile governments. The threats include direct acts of war and aggression, espionage and election interference.
2. Terrorism. State-sponsored or non-state groups, through physical violence, cyberwarfare or sabotage of vital infrastructure to disrupt life and sow fear and chaos.
3. WMD proliferation. The knowledge that a hostile country is stockpiling weapons of mass destruction is in itself a threat to national security. An enemy doesn't have to take direct aggressive action for it to be seen as a potential threat. Escalating its capacity for destruction automatically qualifies it as a national security threat.





## Assessing our risk environment

4. Cybercrime. Cybercriminals may hack economic institutions, government websites or power infrastructures as a way of stealing or extorting money; or to advance an ideological agenda.
5. Natural disasters and diseases. Human-induced climate change breeds extreme weather that causes widespread death and destruction. Pandemics like [Covid-19](#) weaken health care systems and economies across the globe, not to mention loss of lives and impoverishment.

Challenged nations need national security safeguards. It calls for a professional cadre, working autonomously and seamlessly that possess the protocols and levers of national power, to use as needed, while assisting the outgoing or incoming administrations in their most vulnerable hours to detect, deter and defeat such threats.

That said, the most immediate threats facing the country today that's keeping our national security network on its toes day and night are:

1. The rumbling effects of previous trade wars, sanctions, the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in [Ukraine](#) and geopolitical shifts on our economy.
2. Resurgence of Covid-19 and further impact on our fiscal viability.
3. The potential of the war in Ukraine escalating to the use of WMDs.
4. Political uncertainty, election integrity and potential for violence.

The [United Nations](#) has warned that the devastating socioeconomic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come unless smart investments in economic, societal and climate resilience ensure a robust and sustainable recovery of the global economy. Global trade shrank by an estimated 7.6 percent in 2020 against the backdrop of massive disruptions in global supply chains and tourism flows. Lingering trade tensions between major economies and stalemates in multilateral trade negotiations were already constraining global trade before the pandemic.

Massive and timely stimulus measures, amounting to \$12.7 trillion, prevented a total collapse of the world economy and averted a [Great Depression](#). However, the stimulus packages rolled out by developed and developing countries placed them on different recovery trajectories, spotlighting the urgent need for greater global cooperation, including debt relief, to lift the most vulnerable countries. It compelled the largest peacetime borrowing that increased global public debt by 15 percent. A significant portion went to social amelioration, a sunk cost.

The massive rise in debt will surely burden future generations unless a substantial share is used for productive investments to stimulate growth. For example, is the government prioritizing long-term investments that advance human development, reform damaged institutions and create resilient



## Assessing our risk environment

supply chains? Are we consciously avoiding premature austerity and redefining debt sustainability while ensuring social protection and accelerating transition to the green economy?

Today's global financial conditions are at their tightest since early 2016, driven by soaring energy prices, sliding stocks and market turmoil stemming from [Russia's](#) invasion of Ukraine. If current dynamics push inflation steadily higher, expect a stagflation scenario — the specter of rising inflation and low economic growth.

The magnitude of the effects on individual countries will depend on whether they are net commodity importers or exporters.

On security, Russia's [Vladimir Putin](#) is bludgeoning his way in Ukraine. Ukraine's [Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#) is warning the world to take Putin's threat to use nukes seriously. That's venturing into high probability, high risk territory. The world will be plunged into unimaginable chaos if Putin uses that or any other WMD in [Europe](#), triggering a response that could quickly escalate. What would we have to do on short notice? Build shelters, medical facilities. Protect survival lifelines — food, air, water. Store medicines. Reorganize, equip our civil defense forces.

[China](#) is under the microscope being Russia's BFF for the moment. Will it intensify its misbehavior in the Indo-Pacific to keep testing the West's resolve? Is it moving to divide its forces for a sudden strike? Is it establishing more fait accompli to come closer to its goal of replacing the [US](#) as the world's superpower, preferably without firing a shot? Or is it assessing [NATO's](#) and Russia's reversal of fortunes, subjecting it to stress tests with its supercomputers to determine its next steps and the right timing?

To top it all, our forthcoming general election is unpredictable with so much suspicion, disinformation and character assassination; mostly on social media. It's a heated campaign by color-coded rivals whose rabid partisans routinely churn out falsehoods and talk loosely of violence as a consequence of questionable outcomes. Toxic conditions undermine social well-being and threaten to disrupt the smooth transition of power. Underlying all that is the struggle for power between believers in democracy and of authoritarian rule.

Our winning candidates and their teams better have the aptitude and skill for risk and crisis management. More importantly, we need a professional segment of the bureaucracy minding the store round the clock to watch over the country's safety and security, and to help them settle in to take over the reins of national power.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/21/opinion/columns/assessing-our-risk-environment/1840684>



## US provides P17.5-M to support ecosystem recovery in PH

April 20, 2022, 9:50 am



**‘ODETTE’ DAMAGE.** The Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape three months after Typhoon Odette. The US government, through USAID, is committed to helping accelerate rehabilitation efforts in the protected area known to exhibit wide biological diversity. *(Photo courtesy of the US Embassy in Manila)*

**MANILA** – As part of its overall response to Typhoon Odette, the United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), is providing an additional PHP17.5 million (USD350,000) to support ecosystem and community recovery.

This new funding brings the total US government aid for Typhoon Odette relief and recovery efforts to nearly PHP1.1 billion (USD21.54 million).

This additional assistance will support local organizations in assessing the extent of damage to ecosystems and wildlife habitats, enhancing their resilience and recovery, and providing assistance to farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods were destroyed by the typhoon.

Seven civil society organizations working in Siargao Island, Dinagat Islands, Palawan, Cebu, Bohol, Southern Leyte, and mainland Caraga will receive PHP2.5 million each to implement projects that will avert long-term damage and mitigate environmental risks that could threaten the lives and the livelihoods of affected communities.

The USAID will provide this funding to the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Nagkakaisang Tribu ng Palawan, Palawan Biodiversity Conservation Advocates, Sentro Para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, South Pacific Integrated Area Development Foundation, Surigao Economic Development and Microfinance Foundation, and World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines.

Activities will focus on rehabilitating coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting assessments to help local governments in their disaster risk reduction and management initiatives, rebuilding



## US provides P17.5-M to support ecosystem recovery in PH

livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly enterprises, and providing incentives for local communities to participate in projects that will help rehabilitate their natural resource base.

“We will continue to support the Philippines as it recovers from the massive damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, and ecosystems from Typhoon Odette,” USAID Philippines Mission Director Ryan Washburn said.

“This additional assistance will help ensure that communities devastated by the typhoon not only receive immediate relief but also long-term support that will have a significant impact on their lives and the environment on which they depend,” he added.

The United States will continue to partner with the Philippines to respond to natural disasters and support Filipinos in their recovery efforts.

Since 2010, the USAID has provided more than PHP17.5 billion (USD342 million) in disaster relief and recovery aid and boosted the disaster risk reduction capacity of more than 100 cities and municipalities in the Philippines. **(PR)**



## U.S. pledges GEF-8 \$600 M



Published 6 hours ago  
on April 21, 2022 12:20 AM  
By [Gab Humilde Villegas](#)



The US recently announced its contribution of \$600.8 million over the next four years to the Global Environment Facility's seventh replenishment (GEF-8). This is the largest GEF pledge ever made by the United States.

It supports the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to combating climate change, maintaining global carbon sinks and other key ecosystems, and restoring the health of our ocean, which is in line with ongoing US priorities.

The US joined 28 other contributors in giving more than \$5 billion to assist GEF-8, representing a nearly 30 percent increase over GEF-7.

The United States' commitment will help safeguard tropical rainforests and other important carbon sinks, combat animal trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and eliminate harmful transboundary pollutants like PCB and mercury that can harm Americans' health.

The Administration has requested \$150.2 million for the GEF in its Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, the first of four anticipated installments for the US contribution to GEF-8.

The GEF is one of the world's largest dedicated sponsors of environmental initiatives and programs. The US helped to establish the GEF in 1991 and has contributed to all seven replenishments since then.



## U.S. pledges GEF-8 \$600 M

GEF has granted approximately \$22 billion in grants and generated another \$119 billion in co-financing to protect the global environment since its inception in 1991.

It is the world's primary multilateral source of biodiversity finance, as well as the only multilateral environmental fund with the mission of achieving global environmental benefits across a diverse set of focal areas, including chemicals and waste, climate change mitigation, land degradation (including desertification and deforestation), and international waters.

A total of 184 member nations, 18 implementing agencies, more than 500 civil society organizations, international organizations and funds, and corporations from every major sector are all part of the GEF Partnership.



## Record low Antarctic sea ice extent could signal shift



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

April 21, 2022

**PARIS:** Sea ice around [Antarctica](#) shrank to the smallest extent on record in February, five years after the previous record low, researchers said on Tuesday, suggesting that the Earth's frozen continent may be less impervious to climate change than thought. In late February, the ocean area covered by ice slipped below the symbolic barrier of 2 million square kilometers (about 772,000 square miles) for the first time since satellite records began in 1978, according to a study in the journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*. Researchers found that the key driver of ice loss was change in temperature, though shifts in ice mass also played a lesser role. Both the North and [South Pole](#) regions have warmed by roughly 3 degrees Celsius compared to late 19th-century levels, three times the global average. Antarctica encountered its first recorded heatwave in 2020, with an unprecedented 9.2C above the mean maximum, and in March a research center in eastern Antarctica saw temperatures soar 30 degrees above normal.



## Magat Dam spilling operations halted

Published April 20, 2022, 10:43 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



(National Irrigation Administration / File Photo)

Authorities have stopped Magat Dam's spilling operations on Wednesday, April 20, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said in its termination of flood precaution advisory.

PAGASA said that the Magat Dam in Isabela has closed its gate at around 9 a.m. Wednesday.

In its latest monitoring, Magat Dam's water level was at 190.01 meters, which is 3 meters below its 193.0-meter spilling level.

The dam conducted discharge operations on April 14 amid rains from the northeasterly surface wind flow.

In the past 24 hours, PAGASA recorded less than 1.0 millimeter of rainfall over the Magat watershed.

Meanwhile, it projected less than 5 millimeters of rainfall in the next 24 hours.

"With this development and unless significant rain occurs, this is the final dam situationer for this period. Flood forecasting and warning system for dam operation for Magat Dam is now terminated," PAGASA's advisory read.

PAGASA said the entire country can expect hot and humid weather with isolated rain showers because of the easterlies, or the warm winds from the Pacific Ocean, in the next few days.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/20/magat-dam-spilling-operations-halted/>



## Capiz under state of calamity after 'Agaton' onslaught

By Perla Lena April 20, 2022, 3:36 pm



**FLOODED.** The aerial view of the flooded portion of the municipality of Sigma in Capiz due to Tropical Depression Agaton. The province has been declared under a state of calamity on Tuesday (April 19, 2022) by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. *(Photo courtesy of Speed Pelaez/PDRRMO FB page)*

**ILOILO CITY** – The province of Capiz was placed under a state of calamity on Tuesday afternoon after the onslaught of Tropical Depression Agaton last week.

Capiz Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (PDRRM) officer Judy Grace C. Pelaez said on Wednesday they are waiting for the final copy of the resolution approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) on April 19 to be furnished to appropriate agencies.

She also confirmed that Capiz Governor Esteban Evan Contreras has filed a petition for exemption before the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for the use of their funds for the procurement of welfare assistance.

“It was already filed and next to that is the authority to have Red Cross as partner in the procurement and distribution,” Pelaez added.

The province, she said, is hoping that the exemption will be approved since the impact of the typhoon on their place is visible and the purpose for the fund utilization is valid.

The province will be entering into an agreement with the Philippine Red Cross for the fund transfer, procurement, and distribution of food packs to affected families because of the limitations the local government is facing due to the election ban.

“With the state of calamity there is (a) price freeze and affected residents can avail of calamity loans. There are options available for victims of disaster if there is a declaration,” she said in an interview.



## Capiz under state of calamity after 'Agaton' onslaught

As of Wednesday, flooding has already subsided in all affected barangays although nine families are still staying in evacuation centers.

“We still have one remaining missing from (the municipality of) Panit-an. We are hoping that he is still alive, otherwise he will be added to our 19 deaths,” the PDRRM officer added.

In terms of damage, the partial report showed the agriculture sector incurring almost PHP176 million, the fishery sector close to PHP500 million, and infrastructure at PHP59 million.

“The damages will be collated during the post-disaster needs assessment,” she said, which will serve as the basis for the rehabilitation and recovery plan for the province. (*PNA*)



**MEMORANDUM**

FOR : **ALL DENR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

FROM : The Director  
Climate Change Service

SUBJECT : **CALL FOR DONATION FOR LANDSLIDE AND FLOOD VICTIMS  
IN LEYTE**

DATE : 18 April 2022

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Your kind assistance is humbly sought for Leyte which was recently hit by typhoon "Agaton," causing severe flooding in many areas of the province and devastating landslides in Baybay City and Abuyog.

The relief aid will specifically benefit the residents of barangays Kantagnos, Bunga, Mailhi, Can-ipa in Baybay City and barangay Pilar in Abuyog (if road is already passable) and nearby flooded communities who are in dire need of the following:

- Drinking water
- Rice, canned goods, noodles
- Cooking utensils
- Blankets, Clothes
- Reusable sanitary pads
- Hygiene kits, soap
- Biscuits, cereals
- Milk, coffee, sugar, salt
- Toys (for children)

You may extend your much-needed help to the affected residents of Leyte through Mr. Rolando O Abad, Jr. of the Climate Change Service at 0961.7430.884. Mr. Abad is from Southern Leyte and together with his brother, friends and volunteers, they have organized a relief operation based in Baybay City.

He will be in Leyte from April 27-29 to personally deliver your donations and relief aid to the residents of said barangays. Gcash donations may also be sent thru Mr. Abad at 0961.7430.884.

Your kind consideration will be highly appreciated.

  
ELENIDA DR. BASUG

21 APRIL 2022, Thursday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DENR greening program gets boost

BY JONAS REYES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources here disclosed that it has further improved the Enhanced National Greening Program to buffer the effects of climate change in the country.

DENR Region 3 director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that the agency is continuously rehabilitating denuded forestlands and preserving the region's forest cover, citing that they have already restored 129,000 hectares of denuded forestlands and watersheds in Central Luzon since 2011.

"Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government's climate change mitigation program," said Moreno, adding that the agency's efforts could reduce communities' vulnerability to climate shock, as forests could sequester greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The Environment department also established more than 3,200 hectares of bamboo plantation in 2021.



## DILG tells Aklan execs: Limit Boracay tourists

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday told local government officials in the province of Aklan to limit tourists allowed to stay in Boracay Island and strictly observe the carrying capacity of the tourist destination.

Interior undersecretary for operations Epimaco Densing III said the agency has sent letters to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista reminding them to stick to Boracay's tourist carrying capacity of 19,215.

Densing, during the Laging Handa public briefing, noted a report from Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat on Monday that the number of tourists in Boracay Island on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday was recorded at 21,252 and 22,519, respectively, well above its carrying capacity.

The cap was set after the rehabilitation of Boracay Island in 2018 to protect the tourist resort from

“over-tourism.”

“We already sent out letters to Gov. Miraflores and Mayor Bautista to remind them to ensure that Boracay Island will not exceed its carrying capacity,” Densing said.

Densing said the DILG would be compelled to issue show cause orders against Miraflores and Bautista if another breach of Boracay's carrying capacity is recorded.

“They may be given show cause orders to explain why they allowed a breach of the carrying capacity for tourists going to Boracay Island... If there will be a breach, whether due to negligence or intentional, they will be given letters to explain,” he said.

If they fail to justify the violation, Densing said “they can be held administratively liable.”

Densing said a breach of the carrying capacity of Boracay brings “negative effect on the environment in Boracay.”

“To our countrymen, sorry. We are going to maintain the 19,215

See DILG > Page B4

### DILG

tourist carrying capacity of Boracay Island, subject to review every three to five years. So most probably, in

two years' time, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will review it,” he said.

“But in the meantime, we are not recommending any change

in the carrying capacity which is 19,215. Agencies need to monitor, especially the local (government units) to ensure there will be no breach,” he added.



## Increase in Boracay crowds up to experts - DOT

The Department of Tourism (DOT) is leaving it up to experts on whether or not to increase the tourist carrying capacity of Boracay.

"The carrying capacity was set in a study by the University of the Philippines, which was commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It is not about lobbying, it is about studies, if indeed it can be increased," DOT Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat told a press briefing yesterday. "We will rely on experts... We will listen to third party experts. If they tell us that it can be increased, it can be."

The DOT expressed alarm as the crowds on the island reached over 22,000 during Holy Week. Only 19,215 people per day are allowed.

Puyat noted that the carrying capacity of Boracay was never breached even before the COVID pandemic hit.

"We have to take into consideration the health and safety (of tourists). Even tourists do not want to go to a place that is overcrowded," she said.

As this developed, the Department

of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a warning to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay acting Mayor Frolibar Bautista over the breach in the number of visitors.

Bautista had earlier admitted that tourist arrivals were not monitored or controlled.

DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said the two local officials were asked to ensure that the carrying capacity of the island is strictly enforced for the safety of tourists as well as the protection of the environment.

Densing said the local officials can be administratively held liable in case of another breach.

"*Kapag lumampas ito at talagang whether negligence nila o sinadya, sila po ay padadalhan natin ng sulat para magpaliwanag,*" Densing said during the Laging Handa press briefing.

He said the tourist cap would be maintained for the time being, but will be subject to review every three to five years. - **Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Romina Cabrera**



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



## BOSES

NI RYAN B. SISON

### PAGBANGON NG TURISMO, 'WAG SABAYAN NG KAPABAYAAN

HINDI maitatangging dinagsa ang maraming tourist spots sa nakalipas na Holy Week.

Kani-kanyang bakasyon ang ating mga kababayan — may mga umuwi sa probinsiya at ang iba ay namasyal.

Kabilang sa mga dinagsa ang isla ng Boracay kung saan base sa datos, umabot sa mahigit 21,000 ang turistang bumisita sa isla.

Kaugnay nito, pinaaksiyon ng Department of Tourism (DOT) ang mga kinauukulan laban sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Malay sa lalawigan ng Aklan matapos lumagpas sa carrying capacity ang bilang ng mga turista sa isla ng

Boracay noong Semana Santa.

Giit ni Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, dapat isinaalang-alang ng LGU ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng health protocols sa lugar, gayung nananatili ito sa Alert Level 1.

Kabilang aniya rito ang limitasyon ng bilang ng mga turistang kanilang tatanggapin upang hindi ito maging super spreader event.

Kaya naman nanawagan ang DOT sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na agad umaksiyon sa naturang paglabag sa health and safety protocols sa nasabing lugar.

Bagama't nauunawaan nating nagsisimulang bumangon ang sektor ng turismo mula sa malalang epekto ng pandemya, sana'y mas maunawaan natin na hindi tayo dapat magpabaya dahil tayo rin ang maaapektuhan pag nagkaroon ng hawahan.

Lalo pa't matatandaang kamakailan ay nagbabala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng posibleng COVID-19 surge sa kalagitnaan ng Mayo.



## Regional Updates

### **Davao City councilor renews call to junk WTE project**

DAVAO CITY Councilor Pamela Librado-Morata has reiterated her opposition to the waste-to-energy (WTE) project, stressing the adverse impact on the health and environment of communities around the facility's location.

In a privilege speech to the city council on April 19, Ms. Morata said the proposed incinerator will affect residents of 20 barangays in Tugbok District, citing epidemiological studies in other communities near WTE facilities.

She said the worst-hit barangay will be Biao Escuela, an agricultural community with a population of around 3,000.

The proposed WTE will be located 2.2 kilometers from the Biao Elementary School and Biao National High School, and 550 meters away from the relocation site of displaced families in Catalunan Grande.

"Alongside such possible adverse impacts on the environment and people's health, WTE also violates the Clean Air Act, Renewable Energy Act, and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," she said.

"In addition, the Philippines has limited technical and financial capacity to regularly monitor emissions such as dioxin, furan, and other toxic WTE by-products. This lack of strict environmental standards and regulations covering air pollution, ash disposal, and water pollution could lead to unmonitored environmental damage and adverse effects on the public's health."

The councilor, who first manifested her opposition to the project in December last year, also said that the project should wait for the Supreme Court decision on a case relating to WTE guidelines of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, in her recent State of the City Address, said the local government is now partnering with the DENR to secure P740 million out of the P3.5 billion needed to implement the project.

The city government of Davao started exploring WTE as a waste management option about four years ago as the existing sanitary landfill nears full capacity. — **Maya M. Padillo**



04-21-22

DATE

## AUSSIE DIPLOMACY MATTERS

STEVEN J. ROBINSON



### Investing in the Philippines' marine environment

As I have traveled around the Philippines, from Palawan to Bohol to Surigao, I have seen the magnificent beauty of Philippine seas firsthand. The Philippines boasts one of the most diverse marine environments in the world, with beautiful colorful corals and magnificent fish, turtles and sting rays. Marine scientists refer to the Philippines as the "center of the center" of aquatic biodiversity; it has more marine species per unit area than anywhere on earth.

But, like many of the world's oceans, the Philippine seas are under threat; from climate change, pollution and over exploitation.

The theme of this year's Earth Day is "invest in our planet." Given the challenges faced by Philippine seas, Australia is investing in protecting the Philippines' unique and stunning marine environment.

Australia and the Philippines have a long-standing partnership in protecting the marine environment. We continue to support the Philippines to develop marine resources sustainably and increase civil-maritime capabilities.

In 1983, Australia funded its first research project in the Philippines on the production of giant clams in Bolinao, Pangasinan. This project helped establish giant clam nursery hatcheries for the restocking of reefs. Three decades later, this joint research by Australian and Filipino marine scientists has seen over 70,000 giant clams restored on coral reefs in the Philippines.

Since 2015, Australia has financed a large-scale coral reef restoration project in Pangasinan using innovative techniques. Australian and Filipino scientists have worked together to restore coral reefs the size of Olympic swimming pools, which have led to increased fish stocks. These outcomes have attracted global interest and inspired related research on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Australia also funds a coral reef restoration and coral reef management training project in a marine protected area near Iba in Zambales.

To complement our coral reef restoration investments, Australia supports a community engagement project designed to identify gaps in coral reef management and develop new strategies to protect reef sustainability. This project is being implemented in Pangasinan, Cebu, Palawan and the Verde Island Passage.

Australia is engaging with the Philippines on establishing an authoritative geography of the Philippines' marine environment and coral reef monitoring, data collection and analysis.

Australia is also investing in people here in the Philippines. This is the key to ensuring the sustainability of marine ecosystems into the future.

Our 'Australia Awards' scholarships program support Filipinos to undertake a master's level course at an Australian university. One focus area for the scholarships is maritime, including courses in maritime policy, maritime law, marine environment and marine science. I encourage interested applicants to apply for these marvellous and life changing opportunities!

We also provide the Philippines with law of the sea training. Ensuring the law of the sea is respected is key to protecting Philippine seas. Moreover, we invest in fellowships which have further strengthened the professional capacity and knowledge of researchers in the agriculture sector, including in fisheries and marine sciences.

Over the years we have seen how the new skills acquired by our Filipino alumni, and their collaboration with Australian counterparts, have resulted in so many positive marine environment projects. For example, Australia Awards alumni Dr. Rene Abesamis told me about his studies in marine sciences at Australia's James Cook University, and how he used his new knowledge to combat declining fish stocks and advise on the design and location of marine protected areas in the Philippines.

On the topic of fish stocks, Australia is supporting the Philippines to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF), which causes extensive damage to the Philippines' marine environment and fish numbers, which many Filipinos rely on for their livelihood. Australia will support the Philippines to combat IUUF by providing training, regional fisheries officer exchanges and targeted capacity building.

We are also investing in training and vessel sustainment for Philippine civil-maritime agencies to support them in enforcing the Philippines' maritime laws.

Australia, like the Philippines, is a maritime nation. Both countries have some of the largest and most magnificent coastlines in the world. On this World Earth Day, and with the challenges the marine environment is facing, there has never been a more important time for Australia to invest in working with our Philippine partners to protect our precious aquatic ecosystems.

Steven J. Robinson AO is the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines. Follow him on Twitter @AusAmbPH.



04-21-22

III

PAGE

DATE

## Editorial

### Sloppy handling of WPS exploration sends wrong message

ON April 6, the Department of Energy (DoE) issued a directive to gas firm PXP Energy Inc. to immediately suspend its exploration activities in two areas of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) northwest of Palawan, pending the issuance of a clearance by the security, justice and peace coordinating cluster (SJPC) of the Cabinet.

While the extra review of the gas exploration activities is understandable due to the possible implications to political, diplomatic and national security concerns, the sloppy manner in which the situation has been handled is unjust to the businesses involved, sends the wrong message to potential investors, and might even aggravate the diplomatic and national security issues of the WPS.

The two areas in question are designated Service Contract 72 and SC 75, and are believed to hold significant reserves of natural gas and oil. PXP Energy and its subsidiary Forum Energy began exploratory work in the areas as far back as 2012, but were forced to suspend work in 2014 and 2015 due to a government-imposed moratorium stemming from the ongoing tensions with China over the WPS.

That moratorium was lifted in mid-October 2020, and according to PXP and Forum, they immediately set about fulfilling work obligations required by the DoE with respect to the two service contracts. In a statement, PXP Energy said that it first learned of the required clearance by the SJPC only on April 6, when it was told to stop work by the DoE.

This, quite frankly, was an unnecessary problem created solely by lack of rigor on the part of the DoE, the SJPC, or both. Given the importance of the SJPC's mandate to monitor issues and activities that might have an effect on the longstanding dispute over activities in the WPS, it is difficult to imagine that it only developed an interest in the gas exploration activities that have been contracted for a solid decade within the past two weeks. Likewise, it is difficult to imagine that the DoE would have been unaware of the SJPC or its mandate, or would not have made the connection between energy-related exploration in the disputed WPS and the necessity to obtain the SJPC's endorsement.

*“The slapdash manner in which the situation has been handled is unjust to the businesses involved, could lead to misinterpretation by potential investors, and might even aggravate the diplomatic and national security issues of the West Philippine Sea.”*

Yet one or more of those things appears to be precisely what happened. PXP and Forum have, by all accounts, been diligent in meeting their contractual and regulatory requirements, and would have certainly complied with the requirement to obtain SJPC clearance had they been informed about it. Thus, they are being forced to incur losses through no fault of their own; the pointed reminder sent by the companies to the DoE that “they expect the DoE to consider all the costs and expenses incurred, including termination costs, to be part of the approved recoverable costs under SC 72 and SC 75” is certainly justified.

The episode also represents a poor show, and not for the first time, for potential investors in the energy sector. Any company that might be interested in resource exploration in the WPS would, of course, be aware of the geopolitical situation and the potential risks that poses. However, the confusion caused by the rather sudden stop directive and the revelation of an additional requirement could be interpreted as an additional risk, the probability of an unexpected interruption to operations. In addition, it sends a negative message that the government is not managing the main risk — the implications of the WPS dispute — in a coordinated and effective manner.

With so little time left before the election and the subsequent change in administration, there may be little point in trying to reform faulty management and communications within the DoE, and between the DoE and Malacañang. The controversy, however, should serve as a learning moment for the next administration so that processes can be improved to prevent the recurrence of similar, avoidable problems.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Oil exploration at standstill – Cusi

BY MARIA ROMERO  
@tribunephil\_mbr

Resources at the Malampaya natural gas facility are continuously declining, and the government is persistently searching for an alternative. However, the oil exploration activities in the country,

Turn to page A6

# Oil exploration at standstill – Cusi

PXP holds a 50 percent interest in SC 75. Forum Energy Ltd., in which PXP holds a direct and indirect interest of 79.13 percent, has a 70 percent participating interest in SC 72 through its wholly-owned subsidiary Forum. PXP has a total economic interest of 54.36 percent in SC 72

From page 1

which were supposed to help augment supply, are now in limbo.

Activities in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) were suspended earlier this month as decided by the Security, Justice and Peace Cabinet Cluster (SJPCC).

Department of Energy (DoE) Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the resumption of the exploration will only depend on the immediate and favorable decision of the cluster.

“As part of the whole government approach, the DoE asked the SJPCC to reconsider the decision and to allow the survey at the soonest possible time,” he said in a text message.

“The DoE sought reconsideration on the ground that under international law, a geophysical survey is a legitimate activity in any disputed area. The DoE is still waiting for the decision on its requests for reconsideration,” he added.

SJPCC is composed of the Departments of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Defense (DND), Justice

(DoJ), and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process with the National Security Council as secretariat.

### PXP halts exploration

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on 11 April, PXP Energy Corporation President Daniel Stephen P. Carlos said the company received a directive from the DoE last 6 April to “put all on hold all exploration activities for SC 75 and SC 72 until such time that the SJPCC has issued the necessary clearance to proceed.”

He said “this was the first time” that the company, along with Forum, learned of the requirement for clearance from the SJPCC before undertaking the work obligations that the DoE required.

“PXP and Forum, however, understood the suspension to be temporary,” Carlos said, considering that the DoE has been keen for exploration activities to be conducted since the lifting of the *force majeure*.

SC 75 was awarded by the DoE on 27 December 2013 and covers an area of 6,160 square kilometers in the offshore northwest Palawan basin.

SC 72 within Recto Bank is a concession acquired by Forum, which became its operator in April 2005. It is located in the WPS, west of Palawan Island and southwest of the Malampaya gas field.

PXP holds a 50 percent interest in SC 75. Forum Energy Ltd., in which PXP holds a direct and indirect interest of 79.13 percent, has a 70 percent participating interest in SC 72 through its wholly-owned subsidiary Forum. PXP has a total economic interest of 54.36 percent in SC 72.



04-21-22

PAGE 1/1

DATE

TITLE:

## Assessing our risk environment

I'VE always held the belief that the most vulnerable period of any country is when its incumbent leaders are headed for the exit, and when the new administration is busy settling in. In our case, the last six months of an administration is usually distracted by politics. The first six to 12 months of the new one is typically busy placing new people in positions to take control of an unwieldy bureaucracy and paying political debts.

It's a risk environment that needs a permanent professional second echelon working 24/7 to protect the national interest.

National security threats can be further broken down into categories, such as:

1. Hostile governments. The threats include direct acts of war and aggression, espionage and election interference.
2. Terrorism. State-sponsored or



HARVARD  
VERITAS

RAFAEL M.  
ALUNAN 3RD

non-state groups, through physical violence, cyberwarfare or sabotage of vital infrastructure to disrupt life and sow fear and chaos.

3. WMD proliferation. The knowledge that a hostile country is stockpiling weapons of mass destruction is in itself a threat to national security. An enemy doesn't have to take direct aggressive action for it to be seen as a potential threat. Escalating its capacity for destruction automatically qualifies it as a national security threat.

4. Cybercrime. Cybercriminals may hack economic institutions, government websites or power infrastructures as a way of stealing or extorting money; or to

advance an ideological agenda.

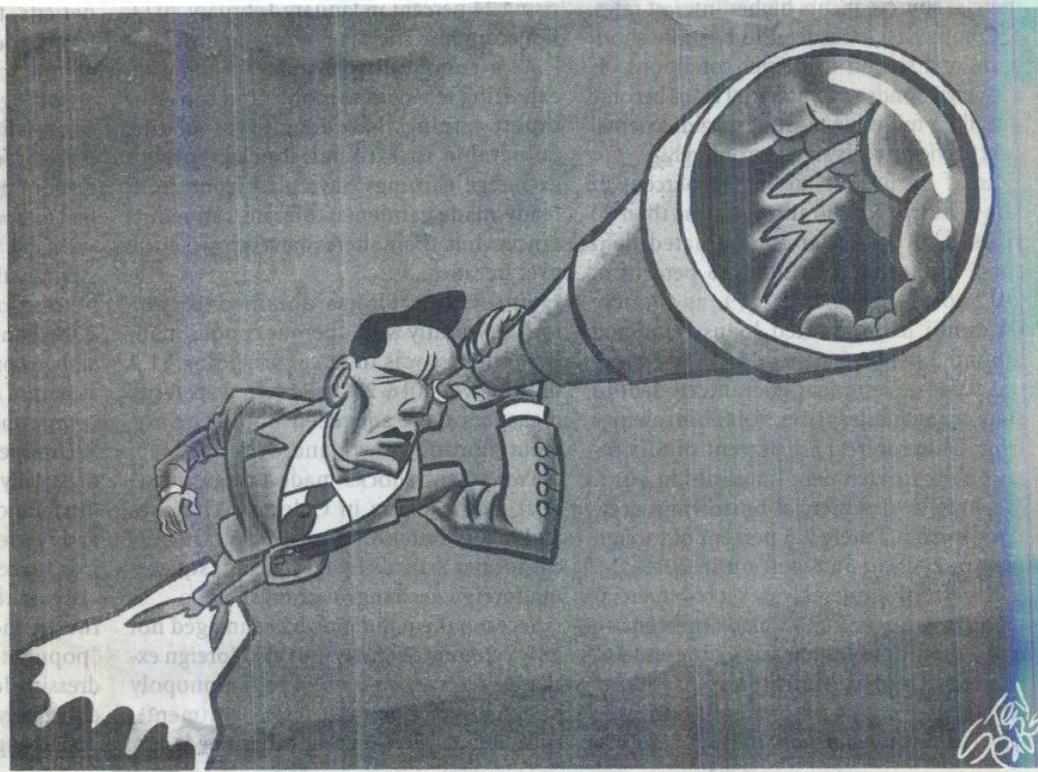
5. Natural disasters and diseases. Human-induced climate change breeds extreme weather that causes widespread death and destruction. Pandemics like Covid-19 weaken health care systems and economies across the globe, not to mention loss of lives and impoverishment.

Challenged nations need national security safeguards. It calls for a professional cadre, working autonomously and seamlessly that possess the protocols and levers of national power, to use as needed, while assisting the outgoing or incoming administrations in their most vulnerable hours to detect, deter and defeat such threats.

That said, the most immediate threats facing the country today that's keeping our national security network on its toes day and night are:

1. The rumbling effects of

► AlunanA6





04-21-22

TITLE:

PAGE 1/2

DATE

## Assessing our risk environment

previous trade wars, sanctions, the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and geopolitical shifts on our economy.

2. Resurgence of Covid-19 and further impact on our fiscal viability.

3. The potential of the war in Ukraine escalating to the use of WMDs.

4. Political uncertainty, election integrity and potential for violence.

The United Nations has warned that the devastating socioeconomic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come unless smart investments in economic, societal and climate resilience ensure a robust and sustainable recovery of the global economy. Global trade shrank by an estimated 7.6 percent in 2020 against the backdrop of massive disruptions in global supply chains and tourism flows. Lingering trade tensions between major economies and stalemates in multilateral trade negotiations were already constraining global trade before the pandemic.

steadily higher, expect a stagflation scenario — the specter of rising inflation and low economic growth.

The magnitude of the effects on individual countries will depend on whether they are net commodity importers or exporters.

On security, Russia's Vladimir Putin is bludgeoning his way in Ukraine. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy is warning the world to take Putin's threat to use nukes seriously. That's venturing into high probability, high risk territory. The world will be plunged into unimaginable chaos if Putin uses that or any other WMD in Europe, triggering a response that could quickly escalate. What would we have to do on short notice? Build shelters, medical facilities. Protect survival lifelines — food, air, water. Store medicines. Reorganize, equip our civil defense forces.

Massive and timely stimulus measures, amounting to \$12.7 trillion, prevented a total collapse of the world economy and averted a Great Depression. However, the stimulus packages rolled out by developed and developing countries placed them on different recovery trajectories, spotlighting the urgent need for greater global cooperation, including debt relief, to lift the most vulnerable countries. It compelled the largest peacetime borrowing that increased global public debt by 15 percent. A significant portion went to social amelioration, a sunk cost.

The massive rise in debt will surely burden future generations unless a substantial share is used for productive investments to stimulate growth. For example, is the government prioritizing long-term investments that advance human development, reform damaged institutions and create resilient supply chains? Are we consciously avoiding premature austerity and redefining debt sustainability while ensuring social protection and accelerating transition to the green economy?

Today's global financial conditions are at their tightest since early 2016, driven by soaring energy prices, sliding stocks and market turmoil stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. If current dynamics push inflation

China is under the microscope being Russia's BFF for the moment. Will it intensify its misbehavior in the Indo-Pacific to keep testing the West's resolve? Is it moving to divide its forces for a sudden strike? Is it establishing more fait accompli to come closer to its goal of replacing the US as the world's superpower, preferably without firing a shot? Or is it assessing NATO's and Russia's reversal of fortunes, subjecting it to stress tests with its supercomputers to determine its next steps and the right timing?

To top it all, our forthcoming general election is unpredictable with so much suspicion, disinformation and character assassination; mostly on social media. It's a heated campaign by color-coded rivals whose rabid partisans routinely churn out falsehoods and talk loosely of violence as a consequence of questionable outcomes. Toxic conditions undermine social well-being and threaten to disrupt the smooth transition of power. Underlying all that is the struggle for power between believers in democracy and of authoritarian rule.

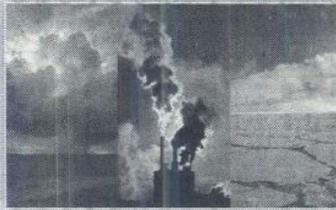
Our winning candidates and their teams better have the aptitude and skill for risk and crisis management. More importantly, we need a professional segment of the bureaucracy minding the store round the clock to watch over the country's safety and security, and to help them settle in to take over the reins of national power.



## Mayayamang bansa pagbayarin sa epekto ng climate change

NAIS ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na magbayad ang mga mayayamang bansa sa pinsalang hatid sa bansa ng climate change dulot ng carbon emission na ibinubuga ng kanilang mga pabrika.

Sa kanyang Talk to the People, sinabi ng Pangulo na ang mga nararasang kalamidad sa bansa ngayon ay epekto ng matinding polusyon mula sa carbon emis-



sions ng mga mayayamang bansang maraming pabrika.

Inaani aniya ng Pilipinas ang epekto ng polusyong ito dahil ang bansa ay nakaharap sa Pacific Ocean.

“Yung mga industrialized countries na hindi tinatamaan ng mga typhoon and calamities pero sila yung pinakamalaki na contributor ng carbon emissions eh magbayad sila. Kasi ang tama grabe sa atin,” anang Pangulo.

Hindi pinangalanan ng Pangulo ang tinukoy nitong mga mayayamang bansa dahil kaibigan aniya ng bansa ang mga ito.

“I would not want to mention the countries because kaibigan man natin lahat. But unfortunately, sila yung biggest contributor ng carbon emissions dito sa mundong ito,” dagdag ng Pangulo.

Pinakahuling pinsalang tinamo ng bansa mula sa epekto ng climate change ay ang malawakang pagbaha at landslide sa Leyte kung saan marami ang nasawi at nasugatan sa kalamidad. **(Aileen Taliping)**

07-21-22

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DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2022-04  
MARCH 4, 2022  
SUBJECT: ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION IN MINING OPERATIONS

Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7942, RA No. 7079, RA No. 9147, RA No. 7889, as amended by RA No. 11038, RA No. 8374, RA No. 9072, RA No. 9007, RA No. 9279, RA No. 8749, RA No. 9899, RA No. 7160, RA No. 8504, RA No. 10654, Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1586, PD No. 705, as amended, Executive Order (EO) No. 578, 2006, EO No. 533, 2006, EO No. 79, 2012, EO 270, 2004 and EO No. 130, 2007, and their respective implementing rules and regulations, and pursuant to DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2016-12, DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) No. 2016-7457, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations, this Administrative Order is hereby promulgated for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

**SECTION 1. Basic Policy.** It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. It is also the policy of the State to promote responsible mining that adheres to the principles of sustainable development including biodiversity conservation and with due regard to justice and equity while contributing to economic growth.

**SECTION 2. Objective.** This Order aims to provide adequate measures for responsible mining towards ensuring biodiversity conservation and protection including progressive and final rehabilitation of mined-out areas. It also aims to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity and ensure its conservation of biodiversity, thereby promoting the sustainable development and utilization of the country's natural and mineral resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

**SECTION 3. Coverage.** This Order shall apply to all stages of on-shore and off-shore mining operations.

**SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Order, the following terms shall be defined and/or construed as indicated below:

- a. **Biodiversity** – the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
- b. **Biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs)** – involves the utilization of resources bearing towards sustainability and further enhancement of resources in which the community will have an increased appreciation of biodiversity through its ecosystem services;
- c. **Detailed Exploration** – is conducted to delineate with a high level of confidence the volume, tenor and grade of the mineral deposit. The main activities consist of detailed geologic mapping and geochemical sampling at closer spaced and adequate observation points, and additional extensive/intensive drilling in the highly mineralized areas. The desired target is Measured Mineral Resource;
- d. **Development** – the work undertaken to explore and prepare an ore body or a mineral deposit for mining, including the construction of necessary infrastructure and related facilities;
- e. **Ecological restoration** – the process of managing or assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed as a means of sustaining ecosystem resilience, and conserving biodiversity (CBD);
- f. **Ecosystem goods and services** – refers to the multitude of material and non-material provisions and benefits of healthy ecosystems necessary for human sustenance, well-being, and survival, including support processes, provisioning and environment regulating services, and cultural services preservation and maintenance;
- g. **Endemic species** – refers to species or subspecies of flora and fauna which are naturally occurring and found only within the country or specific areas in the country;
- h. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** – the process of predicting the likely environmental consequences of implementing projects or undertakings and designing appropriate preventive, mitigating, and enhancement measures;
- i. **Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)** – the comprehensive and sustainable management plan for the life of the mining project or which Annual Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programs (AEPs) are based and implemented to achieve the environmental management objectives, criteria and commitments including protection and rehabilitation of the disturbed environment during the exploration period;
- j. **Environmental Work Program (EWP)** – the comprehensive and strategic environmental management plan to achieve the environmental management objectives, criteria and commitments including protection and rehabilitation of the disturbed environment during the exploration period;
- k. **Exotic species** – species or subspecies which do not naturally occur in the country;
- l. **Exploration** – searching or prospecting for mineral resources by geological, geochemical and/or geophysical means and remote sensing, test pitting, trenching, drilling, shaft sinking, tunneling or any other means for the purpose of determining their existence, extent, quality and quantity and the feasibility of mining them for profit;
- m. **Final Mine Rehabilitation and/or Decommissioning Plan (FM/RD/CP)** – a plan for returning the mine sites and affected areas to viable and, whenever practicable, self-sustaining ecosystems that are compatible with a healthy environment and contribute to the most important conservation areas;
- n. **Flagship species** – species of wild flora and fauna which can be used as emblems of conservation for a certain community/region owing to its outstanding characteristics, occurrence, importance to the system, capacity to attract attention and contribute to the most important conservation areas;
- o. **Forest over ultramafic rock** – also known as ultramafic forest, which is found on rocks with very low silica content, high concentrations of heavy metals (magnesium, iron, chromium, cobalt and nickel), low concentrations of phosphorus, potassium and calcium, and is composed of usually greater than 90 percent mafic minerals (dark colored, high magnesium and iron content). Associated vegetation is generally sclerophyllous vegetation with hard leaves that have short petioles between their stems – that is sharply demarcated from adjoining vegetation;
- p. **Indigenous species** – species or subspecies of wildlife naturally occurring or has naturally established population in the country but can also be found naturally in other areas;
- q. **Invasive alien species** – an exotic or non-native species that is able to establish viable populations, spread and colonize natural or built ecosystems and cause negative impacts to biological diversity, human health, economy, and the environment;
- r. **Mined-out area** – previously mined area that is no longer feasible for mineral or ore extraction based on existing economic, geological, technological and legal parameters;
- s. **Mineral Processing** – the milling, beneficiation, leaching, smelting, cyanidation, calcination or upgrading of ores, minerals, rocks, mill tailings, waste and/or other metallurgical by-products or by similar means to convert the same into marketable products;
- t. **Mineral Production Sharing Agreement** – an agreement between the Government grants to the Contractor the exclusive right to conduct mining operations within, but not title over, a contract area and shares in the production whether in kind or in value as owner of the minerals therein;
- u. **Mining Area** – a portion of the contract area identified by the Contractor as defined and delineated in a Survey Plan duly approved by the MGB Director/Regional Director concerned for purposes of development and/or utilization, and sites for support facilities;
- v. **Mining Operation** – mining activities involving exploration, feasibility study, development and utilization;
- w. **Mining Right** – a right to explore, develop, or utilize mineral resources;
- x. **Mining Tenement** – any tenurial instrument providing mining rights, such as Exploration Permit, Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement, Mineral Processing Permit, Mining Patents and Special Mines Permit;
- y. **Off-shore** – the water, sea bottom and subsurface from the shore or coastline reckoned from the mean low tide level up to the two hundred (200) nautical miles of the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- z. **On-shore** – landward side from the mean low tide level including submerged lands in lakes, rivers, and creeks;

- aa. **Private land** – land belonging to any private person or entity which includes alienable and disposable land being claimed by a holder, claimant or occupant who has already acquired a vested right therein under the law, including those whose corresponding certificate or evidence of title or patent has not been actually issued;
- bb. **Progressive rehabilitation** – a cost-effective engineering and biological measures of rehabilitating mined-out areas, during utilization stage, in accordance to the approved post-mining land use;
- cc. **Reference ecosystem** – representation of the original state of the ecosystem during pre-mining status or existing and undisturbed ecosystems in the mining area that serve as guiding image for ecosystem restoration or rehabilitation;
- dd. **Rehabilitation for ecological restoration** – the process of repairing the negative impacts of mining on the environment close to its original ecosystem. The long-term objective of rehabilitation is to restore mined-out areas to pre-mining status using as basis the condition of the reference ecosystem. This type of restoration strictly applies in mined-out areas whose final land use is protection and conservation, regardless of land classification category;
- ee. **Rehabilitation for other purposes** – the process of developing a mined-out area for purposes other than ecological restoration in consideration of the land classification category of the area, projected land use, and the existing in-process and future development and management plans under a shared governance responsibility by the local government unit and DENR;
- ff. **Responsible mining** – contributes significantly to economic growth while at the same time ensuring that the impacts to the environment are remediated toward sustained productivity of the land after mining and the host communities are developed into self-reliant communities beyond the life of the mine;
- gg. **Semi-Detailed Exploration** – is the geological mapping and geochemical sampling at closely spaced observations and sampling points, soil grid sampling and closely spaced drilling in the delineated mineralized areas to determine the depth and extent of mineralization. Other specialized exploration techniques are also applied such as geophysical. The objective is to be able to estimate the volume, tenor and grade with reasonable level of confidence. The desired target is Indicated Mineral Resource;
- hh. **Social Development and Management Program (SDMP)** – the comprehensive five-year plan of the Contractor/Permit Holder/Leasee authorized to conduct actual mining and processing activities in the contract area, which is developed in the living standards of the host and neighboring communities by creating responsible, self-reliant and resource-based communities capable of developing, implementing and managing community development programs, projects, and activities in a manner consistent with the principle of people empowerment;
- ii. **Small-scale Mining** – mining activities that heavily rely on manual labor using equipment and methods and do not use explosives or heavy mining equipment;
- jj. **Subsoil** – the mineral horizon between topsoil and the underlying parent material and usually lighter in color with an average depth of 0.15 to 1.20 meter;
- kk. **Topsoil** – the layer of the soil characterized by the presence of soil organic matter and usually darker in color than subsoil with an average depth of 0 to 0.15 meters;
- ll. **Utilization** – the extraction, mineral processing and/or disposition of minerals;
- mm. **Wildlife** – wild forms and varieties of flora and fauna, in all developmental stages, including those that are in captivity or are being bred or propagated.

**SECTION 5. Guiding Principles.** The following guiding principles shall be promoted in the enhancement of biodiversity conservation in mining operations:

- a. **Connectivity.** All ecosystems, living organisms, including humans, are dependent on each other, whether shown through the food web and in ecological processes such as pollination, seed dispersal, and natural control of pests. However, as natural landscapes are transformed for development, habitat survival is compromised and natural habitats become isolated from established patterns of ecological processes and genetic exchange. Inevitably, the mix of ecosystem services is reduced and the overall resilience of the landscape is weakened. Conserving remnant biodiversity, building connectivity and restoring ecosystems affected by developmental activities including mining are wise strategies for sustaining ecosystem services and resilience;
- b. **Precautionary principle.** Where there is a lack of full scientific certainty, the precautionary principle shall be applied at all stages of the mining operation to natural and social capital assets, cost-effective and preventive measures should still be undertaken to avoid and/or minimize threats and to protect the environment and the people who value it;
- c. **Sustainable use of natural resources.** Use of natural resources should not lead to the decline of biological diversity to attain balance between economic development and ecological integrity;
- d. **Participatory governance/participation of stakeholders.** Public participation in the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity around or adjacent to mining operations and related activities is encouraged and promoted to maximize conservation and community benefits;

**SECTION 6. Measures for Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations.** The following measures shall be undertaken to ensure the integration of biodiversity conservation and protection into the mining operation:

6.1. The biodiversity measures as provided in Table No. 1 shall be integrated in the EWP, EPEP and FM/RD/CP, or any related and relevant plans of all existing mining applications and approved mining tenements, upon approval of this Order. These biodiversity measures set the direction for more specific guidelines in the rehabilitation of mined out areas towards conservation and ecological restoration.

Table No. 1. Biodiversity Measures

STAGES OF MINING OPERATIONS	BIODIVERSITY MEASURES
<b>I. EXPLORATION</b> This stage includes prospecting for mineral resources by geological, geochemical and/or geophysical survey, remote sensing, test pitting, trenching, drilling, shaft sinking, tunneling or any other means for the purpose of determining their existence, extent, quality and quantity and the feasibility of mining them for profit.	Mining companies shall undertake the following activities in consultation with DENR: <b>A. Prospecting Stage</b> 1. Conduct data gathering to determine available information on biodiversity particularly the critical ecosystems and geophysical surveys; 2. In this stage, the mining applicant/contractor/permittee shall follow the existing guidelines in the preparation of the Environmental Work Program (EWP) and assessment shall be conducted to identify the potential impact of exploration activities to several critical environments including land, water and biological systems; <b>B. Reconnaissance Stage</b> 1. Conduct biodiversity assessment to validate areas which are critical for ecosystem services and wildlife habitats, both terrestrial and aquatic, e.g. nesting sites, roosting sites, feeding and breeding grounds. The biodiversity assessment will confirm and supply gaps, if necessary, in the baseline information listed in the Environmental Work Program (EWP) (MGB Form 16-1); 2. In areas where biodiversity assessment have not been conducted or not updated, biodiversity assessment shall be undertaken by the company which may be done by in-house experts under the Environmental Officer/ Mine Environment Protection and Enhancement Office (MEPEO) of the mining company or by engaging third-party consultants (See Section 6.3); and 3. If present, areas are identified and located within the mining area, biodiversity assessment shall be conducted together with the DENR following the procedures prescribed in DENR MGC 2007-04: Guidelines for Cave Classification. <b>C. Semi-detailed to Detailed Exploration</b> 1. Include the soil type and profile (pedology) in the environmental baseline; 2. Conduct monitoring of water quality parameters such as temperature, acidity pH total dissolved solids, salinity and conductivity in major river channels, tributaries as well as coastal waters to establish an environmental baseline; 3. Avoid disturbance to critical wildlife habitats (both terrestrial and aquatic) e.g. nesting sites, roosting sites, feeding and breeding grounds; 4. Use less invasive and advanced technologies such as but not limited to unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone, electrical resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to reduce impacts on biodiversity. The conduct of these surveys beyond any major exploration activity (e.g. drilling, trenching, tunneling) will reduce the possibility of water resource contamination and disturbance of ecosystem in the site; 5. Strict enforcement of the provisions of the Wildlife Act on hunting, collection or injuring wildlife species, and 6. Conduct initial or rapid economic valuation of ecosystem services using existing tools to determine the environmental costs of the mining operation in consultation with DENR. <b>D. After exploration</b> 1. Progressive rehabilitation of areas subject to exploration and related activities, by reforestation and/or by installing other structural interventions (e.g., rip-rap, retaining walls, etc.); 2. Management of stockpile of excavated and removed earth, rock and hazardous materials that could affect nearby critical ecosystems; 3. Establishment of water lines as sources of water for planting/rehabilitation sites; 4. Use of indigenous or native species as nurse trees and for the re-establishment of vegetation to promote return/in-migration of wildlife to the area; 5. Use of invasive alien species are strictly prohibited; and 6. Gradual replacement of all existing exotic species, especially those that are considered Invasive Alien Species (IAS), to native species shall be done two (2) years after the approval of this Order.

\*This shall apply in all succeeding stages of mining operation

**II. DEVELOPMENT and UTILIZATION**

- Development stage includes the following activities:
- The preparation of the deposit for mining. This is also where preliminary development works are being undertaken, including water and mineral rights, buying surface lands, financing arrangements, permit applications.
  - Construction of access roads, power sources, mineral transportation systems, mineral processing facilities, waste disposal areas, other support facilities.
  - Actual mining, which may either be stripping or underground mining.
- Utilization stage is where the actual extraction of minerals from the earth undertaken through the selected mining method.
- Identify reference ecosystem within the mining area as basis for progressive rehabilitation;
  - Exclude roosting, and breeding ground of flagship species and other wildlife from any development;
  - Wildlife from the areas targeted to be stripped shall be collected and set aside in established nurseries for future rehabilitation. Seeds shall also be collected from native trees within the MPSA for propagation in the nurseries;
  - Earth-balled plants shall be immediately translocated as enrichment planting materials for reference ecosystem, secondary forest, buffer zone, canopy gaps within mining area or identified rehabilitation areas;
  - Nurseries of native and endemic species shall be established and should be designed for the propagation of indigenous or native species and when necessary develop propagation techniques for indigenous or native species; and
  - Actual construction of infrastructure and support facilities in critical gaps for biodiversity, including source of water or water bodies and wetlands;
  - Include in the EPEP the monitoring of impact areas such as riparian, wetland, and other ecosystems that may be affected by mining operations;
  - Develop and implement topsoil and subsoil management plan including soil analysis to ensure the long-term re-establishment of biodiversity in accordance to DAO No. 2018-19. Topsoil and subsoil management plan shall include soilpiling, stockpiling, erosion prevention and control, and reprofiling;
  - Reestablish stable topography and acceptable drainage patterns during landform reconstruction;
  - Strict compliance to the provisions of the Wildlife Act on hunting, collection or injuring wildlife species and other ecosystems that may be affected by mining operations;
  - In areas where second growth forests still exist, "enrichment planting" can be done where the target species are planted using canopy or gap-dependent and shade-tolerant trees;
  - Integrate biodiversity conservation measures in the environmental awareness plan;
  - In cases of off-shore mining, Coastal Integrity Vulnerability Assessment shall be conducted; and
  - Conduct of biodiversity monitoring using existing tools and methods per BMB Technical Bulletin Nos. 2018-06, 2017-09, 2019-04, 2019-06, and other applicable tools for flora and fauna assessment and monitoring; and
  - Comply with proper protocol, adopt appropriate techniques for tree cutting and secure necessary permits and clearance, removal and relocation of naturally growing trees.

**III. CLOSURE, DECOMMISSIONING, and REHABILITATION**

- This is the final stage of the mining operation that include the following activities:
- Final revegetation of mined-out areas and restoration of the water and land values of the area.
  - Monitoring and management of the rehabilitated area shall continuously be undertaken for ten (10) years or a lesser period as determined by the Environmental Officer/ Mine Environment Protection and Enhancement Office (MEPEO) to lead the integration of biodiversity measures in various stages of mining operations.
  - Progressive rehabilitation shall be undertaken at every stage of mining operation to restore mined-out areas close to its natural ecosystem and to allow regeneration of biodiversity in order to sustain ecosystem goods and services. It shall be implemented by the mining contractor/permit holder based on the EPEP.
  - Mining companies shall employ full time personnel with expertise on ecology and biodiversity conservation under the Environmental Officer/ Mine Environment Protection and Enhancement Office (MEPEO) to lead the integration of biodiversity measures in various stages of mining operations.
  - At least five (5) percent of the total area of the approved tenement shall be set aside as a reference ecosystem. These areas shall be rehabilitated/restored close to its original state to regain ecosystem goods and services. For privately owned lands or private lands legally acquired by mining companies developed for mining purposes, mining companies shall allocate a portion of the mined-out area for biodiversity conservation and protection during final mine rehabilitation regardless of the final land use as may be agreed upon in the approved mining plan. Mining companies are required to conduct additional compensatory/rehabilitation activities outside the mining area to be identified by the DENR.
  - Rehabilitation of mined-out areas for purposes other than ecological restoration shall consider the land classification category of the area, projected land use, and the existing, in-process and future development and management plans under a shared governance responsibility by the local government unit (LGU) and DENR.
  - In mining areas that are identified as habitats of Philippine dipteroscarab, Forest Over Ultramafic Rocks/Ultramafic Forests, and areas critical for ecosystem services and wildlife habitats, mining companies shall be required to conduct additional compensatory rehabilitation activities outside the mining area, the identification of which shall be done in coordination with and with the assistance of the DENR.

**SECTION 7. Issuance of Additional Guidelines for Biodiversity Conservation in Small-scale Mining.** Detailed guidelines on integrating biodiversity in small-scale mining shall be jointly prepared by BMB and MGB within one (1) year upon issuance of this Order. Additional scientific research shall also be conducted by the Ecosystems Research and Development Division (ERDD).

**SECTION 8. Integration of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).** The mining companies shall integrate biodiversity conservation and protection in the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP), such as the inclusion of biodiversity monitoring, propagation of native plants, development of green parks, promotion of agroforestry, and other wealth creation projects that would create green jobs to augment livelihood during and after mining.

**SECTION 9. Inclusion of Additional Members in Relevant Committees.** The CLRFSC, the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee (MRFC), and Subparties Monitoring Team (SMT) as per DAO No. 2010-21 shall include BMB and ERDD, and their regional counterparts as members.

**SECTION 10. Capacity Building Program.** The DENR-BMB in consultation with MGB shall subsequently develop modules and instructional materials on the integration of biodiversity in the mining sector. They shall also conduct corresponding trainings, seminars, and workshops for concerned DENR Offices, CLRFSC, MRFC, MMT, and mining companies, among other relevant stakeholders upon approval of this Order.

**SECTION 11. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting.** BMB and the Conservation and Development Division of DENR Regional Offices shall undertake annual monitoring and evaluation using the compliance monitoring tools to be developed by BMB, in coordination with MGB. Existing tools such as Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System and Biodiversity Monitoring System shall be used to monitor the progress of biodiversity in mined out areas, including environmental structure facilities (e.g., Tailings Storage Facility). Results of compliance monitoring shall be submitted to BMB and MGB.

**SECTION 12. Treasury Provision.** In coordination with BMB, MGB and other concerned offices under DENR shall incorporate the provisions of this Order in the updating of their applicable manuals, guidelines, plans, and programs, and other related issuances. Existing EPEP, Annual EPEP (AEP/EP), SDMP and Annual SDMP (ASDMP) shall be revised to comply with one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order. Submission of the revised EPEP, AEP/EP, SDMP and ASDMP shall be a requirement for the resumption of the mining/mineral processing operation/operation activity that are suspended and under care and maintenance.

**SECTION 13. Funding.** MGB, BMB, Regional and Field Offices shall allocate regular funds to support the implementation of this Order.

**SECTION 14. Penalty.** Non-compliance of a mining company with the provisions in this Order warrants the imposition of suspension order or revocation of the MPSA by the MGB subject to existing procedures of the agency.

**SECTION 15. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

**SECTION 16. Repealing Clause.** All Orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 17. Effectivity Clause.** This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

\* Philippine Mining Act of 1992  
\* People's Small-scale Mining Act of 1991  
\* Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act  
\* The National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992  
\* The Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992  
\* National Clean Air Act of 1992  
\* National Clean Water Act of 1992  
\* Philippine Clean Air Act of 1992  
\* Trade Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act  
\* Local Government Code of 1991  
\* Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998  
\* "An Act to Promote, Order and Enforce Legal, Unregulated and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, Establishing an Enforcement System for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Other Purposes"  
\* Revised Forestry Code of Philippines  
\* Establishing the National Policy on Biodiversity  
\* Revised National Integrated Protected Areas System as a National Strategy  
\* Nationalizing and Implementing Reform in the Philippine Mining Sector to Ensure Environmental Protection and Responsible Mining, Particularly on the Full Enforcement of Environmental Standards in Mining  
\* National Policy Agenda on Resilient Mining in the Philippines  
\* Amending Section 10 of the Environmental Impact Statement and Monitoring of Development Projects and Tenurial Instruments Issued by the DENR  
\* Section 2, Republic Act No. 10168, entitled "Repealing the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines."  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(a)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(b)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(c)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(d)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(e)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(f)  
\* RA 10168, Section 4(g)  
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21 APRIL 2022, Thursday



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## COVID cases rising in 7 Metro areas

By [Gerard Naval](#)

-April 21, 2022

### *5 regions also post increase in infections*

SEVEN areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) and five regions in the country saw a rise in their reported coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases over the past seven days, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

In an online roundtable forum, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the one-week growth rate (OWGR) in Pateros was at 100 percent, Navotas at 80 percent, Las Piñas at 27 percent, Parañaque at 16 percent, Muntinlupa at 14 percent, Marikina at 10 percent and Taguig at seven percent.

Vergeire also said that new cases reported during the period April 12 until 18 in five Luzon and Mindanao regions grew. These are the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (63% growth rate), Caraga (30%), Bicol Region (29%), Soccsksargen (18%), and Ilocos Region (17%).

Despite the positive one-week growth rates, Vergeire said the country's overall trend in COVID-19 cases remain on a decline.

She noted that for the week of April 12 to 18, an average of 224 cases per day were recorded, from 271 daily cases during the period April 5 until 11, and 366 cases per day for the week of March 29 until April 4.

"Data shows that COVID-19 is continuously dropping. The curve shows a declining number of cases compared to the previous week," said Vergeire.

Similarly, the health official said the national and all regional risk classification in the country are at the "minimal" level.

She said this is due to the country's negative 17 percent one-week growth rate and 0.22 average daily attack rate per 100,000 population.

On Tuesday, the DOH said its updated case projections is now at 500,000 active cases by mid-May if the people continue to become more complacent and not observe minimum public health standards (MPHS).

### **'UPTICK'**

Dr. Guido David, a fellow of the independent OCTA Research group, yesterday said the increase in COVID-19 cases in 14 areas under Alert level 1 may just be an uptick and not an indicator of an uptrend or a possible resurgence of infections.

During the Laging Handa public briefing, David said it is better to wait for the number of cases in the next two weeks to determine if the increase is the beginning of a new wave or just a statistical noise.

"It is true that there are increasing cases, but this increase is still at a very low level now. We are not saying that this is forever because it can change, but for now, that is what we see," he said.

"If we see additional data over the next week, our observation can change, but for now, it looks like these are just upticks and are not yet leading to a surge," he added.



## COVID cases rising in 7 Metro areas

David said there were also areas where the percentage of increases appeared high or were recorded to as much as 100 percent, but he said the jump could only be from zero case to one case or from one infection to two infections.

He also said the NCR, for instance, recorded an average daily attack rate (ADAR) of 0.6 which is still below the acceptable 1 and still considered as “very low” risk. ADAR refers to the incidence showing the average number of new cases in a period per 100,000 people. David said it is better to wait and see if there will be a continuous increase in cases.

“If the cases continue to go up in two weeks, three weeks and the increase is significant, then we start to become concerned,” he said.

Prior to the interview, David tweeted that the areas with the highest ADAR as of April 19 were NCR (0.6), South Cotabato (0.46), Bataan (0.45), Iloilo (0.34), Cavite (0.3), Davao de Oro and Davao del Sur (0.27 each), Agusan del Norte and Pampanga (0.26 each), Ilocos Norte (0.25), Tarlac (0.24), and Zamboanga del Sur (0.22).

In the Laging Handa public briefing, he said areas with zero cases for the past two weeks or more include the Eastern Visayas regions and the provinces of Northern Samar, Batanes and Sorsogon.

David added that what is more important is to prevent a surge by complying with minimum health standards such as the wearing of face masks and being vaccinated or getting the booster

“Let us not wait until the subvariants enter the country and for the cases to go up again to get your booster. Do it now,” he said. – *With Jocelyn Montemayor*



## 100M jobs in stockpile can suffice 2022 vax ops: Galvez

By Lade Jean Kabagani April 20, 2022, 6:58 pm



(PNA file photo)

**MANILA** – The remaining 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses in the stockpile are enough for this year's vaccination operations, National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 chief implementer, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., said Wednesday.

“We are confident we can distribute and administer these 100 million doses this year,” Galvez, who is also the vaccine czar, said in a media forum.

Galvez said the remaining stockpile will be used in the administration of 10 million doses to pediatric age groups, 60 million doses as booster shots, 1.8 million doses for senior citizens and even 24 million doses for fourth dose or second booster shots.

“Part of our strategy is that those we have procured from last year, it can suffice to 2022,” he added.

The government has earlier allocated PHP45.3 billion for the procurement of Covid-19 vaccine booster shots for this year.

“*Hindi na po natin nagagamit yun sa ngayong year dahil napababa po natin ang presyo ng* (We haven't used it for this year because we were able to reduce the price of) vaccine during our first negotiation,” Galvez said.

“*Yung savings po natin ay nagagamit natin sa 2022 vaccination* (We were able to use our savings for 2022 vaccination),” he added.

The 144 million doses programmed for last year were already used up—with 66.9 million already receiving two primary series and 12.5 million with booster shots while 5.1 million individuals waiting for their second doses.

Galvez said the allotted PHP45.3 billion were supposed to be the government's multi-lateral loans with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).



## 100M jobs in stockpile can suffice 2022 vax ops: Galvez

“Considering also that next administration will take over, we intended not to use this PHP45 billion since the remaining 100 million doses in the stockpile can sufficiently—suffice the 2022 vaccination,” he added.

Galvez said the Duterte administration has already procured the necessary number of vaccine supplies needed for this year’s vaccination program.

“*Para po wala ng problema ang next administration* (So that there will be no problem anymore for the next administration),” he added. (PNA)

21 APRIL 2022, Thursday



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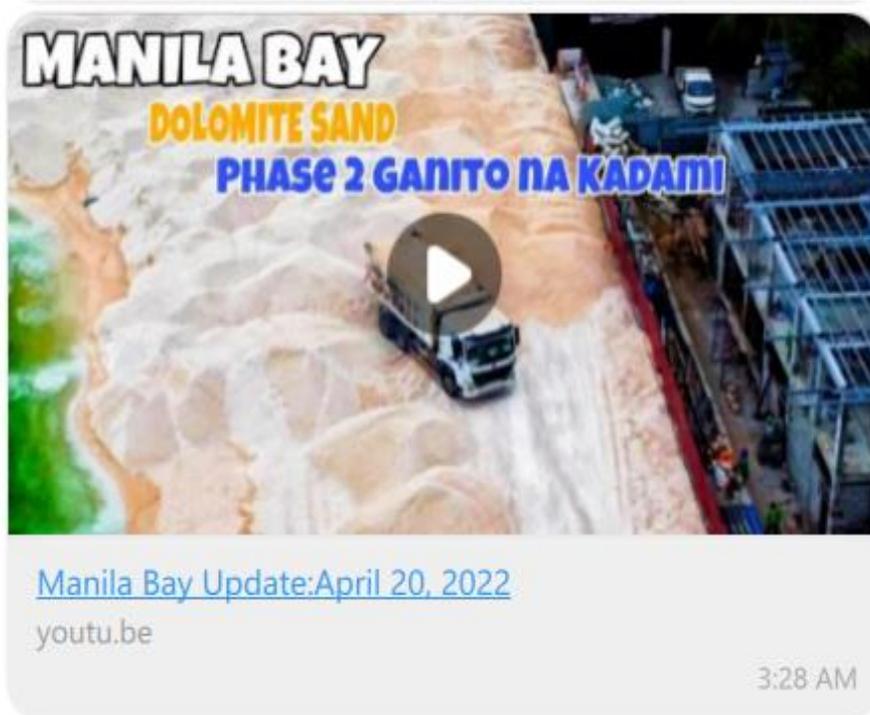
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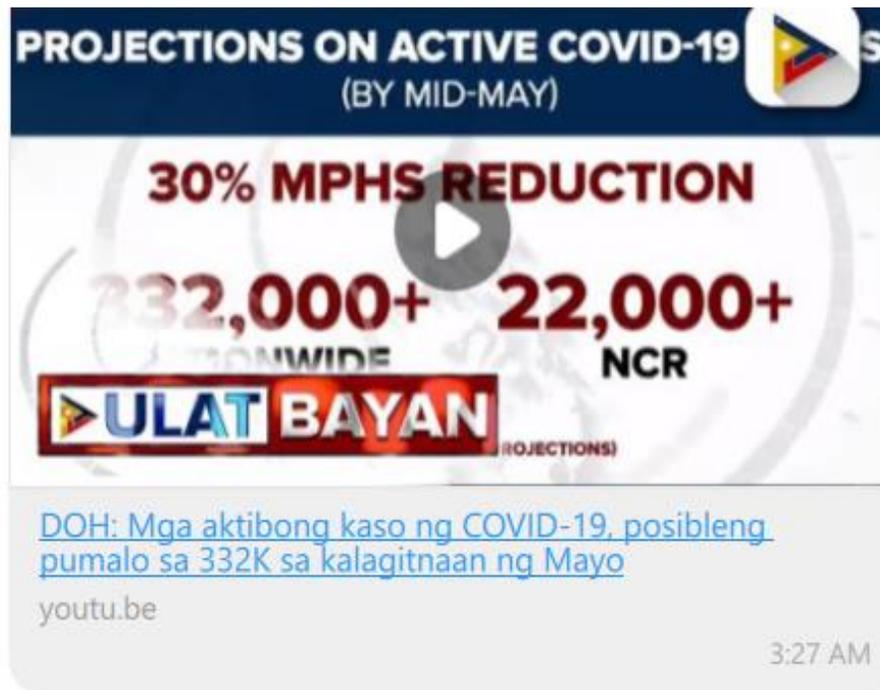
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