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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Biz owners urged to boost climate change mitigation efforts

April 24, 2022, 7:06 pm



MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has urged businesses to step up efforts in switching to sustainable actions to combat the effects of climate change and environmental destruction in celebration of the Earth Day on April 22.

With this year's theme “#InvestInOurPlanet,” Sampulna encouraged manufacturing companies, food businesses, and market vendors to join efforts to minimize the use of non-biodegradable and single-use plastics for packaging, which are the major contributor to the country's residual and solid waste.

In a statement on Saturday, Sampulna emphasized that small actions, such as recycling and re-using materials, are helpful, but industries should also take part as they are also producers of plastic waste.

“Using small plastic packaging like sachets and plastic bottles is still rampant in our country today. I am urging all manufacturing firms to come up with their own recovery project where they will retrieve and buy back these plastic wastes from their consumers for cash or even food items like rice and groceries,” he said.

Likewise, the DENR chief called on food companies to switch to food packaging that is reusable or biodegradable, as these wastes, when not properly disposed of, end up in creeks, rivers, and oceans.

“I am appealing to our restaurants and food businesses not to use plastic utensils, styrofoam materials and single-use plastic containers. Instead, use eco-friendly or reusable food packages,” Sampulna said.

He encouraged market vendors and small store owners to change their customary ways of packaging retail items using single-use plastics, which include placing cooking oil, condiments such as vinegar and soy sauce, in plastic for “tingi” or retail purchases.

He recommended the use of old newspapers and magazines for wrapping dried fish instead of using plastics.



“I suggest that when the public buys from your stores, ask or encourage them to bring reusable bags and containers,” Sampulna said.

“This Earth Day 2022, I urge both businesses and individuals to rethink the customary ways on how to sell and consume products. Let us all take sustainable actions to heal the planet Earth,” he pointed out.

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is a global movement where over 190 countries take part through the promotion of sustainable environmental actions and behavioral change.

This year, the DENR celebrated Earth Day highlighted by the recognition of four DENR environmental heroes or workers of the department who have dedicated their lives to protecting the environment. **(PR)**



DENR donates land to RITM

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star April 25, 2022 | 12:00am



Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna signed on April 8 a deed of conveyance for a parcel of land, which will be turned over to the RITM.

[twitter.com / DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to turn over more than 9,000 square meters of land to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) under the Department of Health.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna signed on April 8 a deed of conveyance for a parcel of land, which will be turned over to the RITM.

“This is the DENR’s contribution to the RITM to further advance its research work and prepare to address the pandemic and other health crisis that may happen in the future,” Sampulna said.

The 9,077-square-meter property is adjacent to the RITM facility in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

RITM director Celia Carlos thanked the DENR and Land Management Bureau chief Emelyne Talabis for the land donation, noting that one of the facility’s problems was the lack of space.



Application process for ECCs classified as 20-day transaction

April 24, 2022 | 6:09 pm



TWITTER.COM / DENROFFICIAL

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the online application process for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) has been simplified with a goal of generating approvals or rejections after 20 working days.

The 20-day deadline is in line with the recommended processing time for “highly technical transactions” under the Ease of Doing Business Law (Republic Act 11032).

The 20-day category also includes projects that pose a risk to public health, safety, or morals, or activities that run counter to public policy.

In a memorandum circular, the DENR said the new online procedure applies to projects for which proponents must submit documents listed in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) checklist.

“Since 2015, no updating of procedures and requirements of the established ECC online system has been made,” the DENR said.

The ECC is a key document that must be obtained before undertaking major projects. It includes an assessment of the project’s impact on its surroundings, and is mandatory for mines, power plants and infrastructure projects.

The minimum documentary requirements for ECC applications filed online were listed as proof of authority over the project site, certification from the local government unit (LGU) on the compatibility of the proposed project, the project description, and geotagged photographs of the site, among others.

The new ECC application fee costs P5,070 while the amendment application costs P2,030.

The law requires simple transactions to be concluded within three days and complex transactions within seven days. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/04/24/444195/application-process-for-eccs-classified-as-20-day-transaction/?fbclid=IwAR1nKn6RLTf62VsRkpMDyaUfT_yZV12S_pAxWh-gRHyw0r9FOXkQOhp6Urw

Tree planting, cleanup drive mark Earth Day celebration



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Zamboanga del Norte field offices, mark the Earth Day celebration Friday, April 22, with simultaneous activities. A photo handout shows personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Siocon planted 150 Narra seedlings along the riverbanks of Tamao village, in Baliguian town. (SunStar Zamboanga)

April 23, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Zamboanga del Norte field offices, conducted simultaneous activities that marked the celebration of Earth Day Friday, April 22.

DENR Regional Information Officer Rosevirico Tan said Saturday, April 23, that the personnel of the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Zamboanga del Norte, together with staff from the Protected Area Management Office (Pamo) of Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape (JRMPL), conducted an environmental trek wherein they collected trashes along the JRMPL zone.

Before the environmental trek, a short presentation on the profile of JRMPL was shown to 42 participants of the activity.

Meanwhile, personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Pinan in collaboration with the officials Sta. Cruz village, Dapitan City, conducted a coastal clean-up.

The coastal cleanup in Sta. Cruz Villages was held together with the personnel of the 902nd Civil Defense Center of the Philippine Army and Jose Rizal Memorial State University Reserve Officer Training Course.

Tan said the 125 participants of the coastal cleanup have collected 45 sacks of waste during the activity.

He said before the cleanup, a short information drive on the importance of investing in positive environmental change was presented to the participants.

On the other hand, the personnel of Cenro-Siocon planted 150 Narra seedlings along the riverbanks of Tamao village, in Baliguian town.



The tree planting was held together with the villages officials of Tamao, Tan said.

He added the activities were aimed to celebrate Mother Earth and spread awareness on the state of planet, “as well as to be an example on how we in our own way invest in our planet earth.”

This year’s Earth Day celebration is anchored on the theme “Invest In Our Planet.” **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



Boracay stakeholders seek increase in carrying capacity

BY MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO APRIL 25, 2022

TOURISM stakeholders on Boracay Island have appealed for a new study on the island's carrying capacity, in the light of infrastructure improvements made by government.

In a letter on April 19, 2022 to Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat and Regional Director for Western Visayas Cristine C. Mansiñares, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay (PCCI-Boracay) said, "So many improvements have been made to Boracay's infrastructure. It may make sense to reconsider the [carrying] capacity recommendations from prior to these significant improvements."

Since the island's reopening on October 25, 2018 and in the succeeding years, PCCI-Boracay noted that roads have been widened, the island's sewerage system has been improved, water quality issues that initially affected Boracay's environment have been addressed, hotels and other establishments have built their own sewerage treatment plants, and buildings have complied with measures mandated by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force.

The business group's appeal comes on the heels of Romulo Puyat's recent report, citing the island as having breached its carrying capacity for tourists during the Lenten break. A study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2018 determined that the island could only accommodate up to 19,215 tourists a day, at any given time. (See, [Boracay breaches carrying capacity for tourists on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday — DOT](#), in the BusinessMirror, on April 18, 2022.)

"I fought with the mayor," she disclosed at a press conference on April 20, at the start of the three-day 21st World Tourism and Travel Council Global Summit in Manila. "It's not about lobbying," referring to the PCCI-Boracay's request. "It's about studies, if indeed, it can be increased. We will rely on the experts. Even pre-pandemic, we never breached the 19,000 [carrying capacity]."

Flights not cause of tourist influx

As this developed, data from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) obtained by the BusinessMirror showed flights to Caticlan, the gateway to Boracay, are still below pre-pandemic levels, and could not have been the cause of the recent breaches in carrying capacity of Boracay Island.

For this year's summer season, from March to October, the CAB only approved 1,880 flights to Caticlan, compared to 2,720 flights approved in summer 2019.

Bulk of this summer's approved flights originate from Manila, at 992, with the Cebu Pacific group (including Cebgo) accounting for the most number at 434, while Philippine Airlines Express and Airphil Express share 217 flights, Philippines Air Asia also has 217, while Airswift Transport has 124.

The data also show 785 approved flights from Cebu to Caticlan, and 103 flights originating from Clark in Pampanga for summer 2022.

A CAB source said, "Pre-pandemic, they had almost double the number of flights approved this season. And yet, Boracay exceeded 6,400 flights per day this month. That would show that the number of flights is not the direct cause [of exceeding the carrying capacity during the Lenten break]."

Carrying capacity refers to an ecosystem's ability to support people and other living things without having negative effects.



DILG reiterates capacity cap

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government has already written to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista to respect the capacity limit for tourists on the island.

At a news briefing in Malacañang, DILG Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III added, “If the carrying capacity [is exceeded], whether through negligence or intentional, we will send them a letter to explain, otherwise, they can be held administratively liable for exceeding...the carrying capacity of Boracay Island.”

A tourism official who requested anonymity said there were a lot of visitors to Boracay by land, especially coming from Region 6 composed of mainland Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Capiz, and Negros Occidental.

While he confirmed the breach, Bautista said the island has been without visitors for the past two years, and as such it was “expected” there was going to be an influx of visitors during the long Lenten break. He told ANC in an interview on Tuesday that resorts on the island will be engaged to help monitor the number of visitors island, to ensure there would be no more breaches in the carrying capacity.

There has been no statement so far from Miraflores, whose office controls the issuance of QR codes to tourists.



Philippines wants climate change funds for developing countries

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star April 25, 2022 | 12:00am



This April 10, 2022 photo shows a flooded area in Barangay Macasandeg in Pikit, North Cotabato.
The STAR / John Unson

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is calling for accessible climate financing for developing countries that are vulnerable to global warming, saying more should be done to those who are least responsible for but are most exposed to the problem.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje said the challenge for and responsibility of Asia and Pacific nations is to craft and implement water development strategies and trajectories in the era of climate change “up to the last mile” and “up to the last person.”

“To this end, we need climate financing. Make it more accessible and available. Unlock it for the developing world,” Borje said during the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Japan last Saturday.

“This is not a plea for handouts, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. This is an urgent call for responsible partnership. We want to contribute more but we in the developing world need to help ourselves first,” he added.

Borje cited the Philippines’ experiences with typhoons, including the impact of tropical depression Agaton, which displaced tens of thousands of families in the Visayas and Mindanao and damaged about \$1.6 billion worth of properties.

“But, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen of this meeting, the narrative can still be transformed: from frustration and desperation to one of action and inspiration,” he said.

“This is where climate justice becomes relevant in what we do – a guiding light towards a more informed collaboration among our nations, so that our peoples, across generations, will be equipped to restore and ensure the quality of and access to water for all – as a matter of life – a dignified life,” he added.

During his introduction to President Duterte during the leaders’ meeting, Borje said climate justice is central to the Philippines’ stance on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

“To the least responsible, to those with the least resources, to those most exposed, we need to do more,” Borje said.

Last week, Duterte reiterated the need for rich and industrialized countries to compensate developing ones for the impact of their carbon emissions, noting that developed countries are the biggest contributors of carbon emissions while poorer countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the impact of climate change.



“Why should we suffer? The rich who are not hit by the destruction caused by the pollution, they should pay us for the damage or they should do something to equalize. We sustain huge damage even if our contribution to climate change is small,” the President said during his weekly address aired last Monday.



'Vulnerable nations like Philippines need quick access to climate financing'

[Alexis Romero](#) - Philstar.com April 24, 2022 | 5:49pm



Members of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines hold a protest in Quezon City on March 25, 2022.
YACAP, Handout

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We need to do better to beat climate change

By [Marit Stinus-Cabugon](#) April 25, 2022

ON April 6, more than 1,200 scientists around the globe carried out climate change protest actions. They chained and glued themselves to buildings and offices of the corporations responsible for funding fossil fuel projects. Some scientists were arrested. The scientists' day of climate action was an expression of desperation that — despite all the evidence gathered over the past decades — it's still "business as usual" for governments and corporations. "Crop failures, migrations and marine flooding. What else do we need to know?" Spanish scientist and protester Fernando Vallerades asked (www.euronews.com, April 7, 2022).

Yes, what else do we need to know? Climate change is here and causing more frequent, more extreme weather events with devastating effects on communities and their ability to support themselves. The Philippines was hit by yet another destructive storm — Tropical Storm "Agaton" — with death and massive flooding that caused multibillion-peso damage to homes, agriculture and infrastructure. Around the same time, South Africa experienced its deadliest disaster ever when massive rainfall — some areas getting six months' worth of rain in a single day — caused unprecedented flooding. More than 300 people perished.



In the wake of "Agaton," President Rodrigo Duterte again called on the industrialized, rich countries to do more to help poorer countries in the Global South that are bearing the brunt of climate change effects, yet have contributed relatively little to the problem. The President also expressed hope that the next Philippine administration would do better than his in addressing climate change. Greenpeace Philippines echoes this hope for meaningful and "coherent strategies beyond disaster response" that would also "address long-term vulnerabilities, not just disasters" (statement, April 19, 2022).

In September 2021, Duterte had told the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that the world was "at a critical tipping point, where failure to act leads to cataclysmic consequences for the whole of humankind." In 2016, in his first State of the Nation Address, the President said that addressing climate change would be a top priority of his administration though he qualified the statement: Addressing climate change should not come at the expense of Philippine industrialization and it should be in accordance with a "fair and equitable equation," he said. So, the Philippines saw more coal-fired power plants while renewable energy took a backseat. On the other hand, the administration's efforts to introduce electricity- and solar-powered public transportation met strong resistance from affected drivers and operators.



Multiply the lack of tangible progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the number of countries and we understand why scientists are turning into activists. The bigger nations whose actions could "tip the balance," to borrow from President Duterte's speech before the UNGA, have failed to lead. Corporations continue to put short-term profit over long-term survival.

How about us people? While an Ipsos Earth Day 2022 global survey on climate change (ipsos.com) showed that 7 out of 10 people are concerned, "for the majority of people globally there are other issues they feel are more pressing, such as their family's health, war, financial concerns and the ongoing pandemic." Dr. Pippa Bailey of Ipsos further said that people are aware that they need to change behavior, "but if the issue isn't at the top of their priorities, they are unlikely to do so unless there is an incentive that aligns with other priorities i.e. saving money." (Ipsos, April 18, 2022). The Duterte administration in the same manner got tied up with what it considered more pressing, for instance the Marawi siege, the communist insurgency, unemployment and poverty, disaster response, war on drugs, African swine fever and of course, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most people don't see any benefit from attempting to minimize greenhouse-gas footprints, especially that their direct contribution to emissions is negligible. Wealthy people and people in the industrialized, rich countries are to blame, they have enjoyed luxurious lifestyles at our expense. Why should we complicate our lives and make sacrifices? What difference does it make anyhow?

"When it comes to climate change, our biggest problem isn't that we don't think it's real. It's that we don't think we can fix it," climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe wrote in her introduction to NASA scientist Peter Kalmus. Kalmus was arrested during the scientists' protest actions last April 6. "Changing our lives shifts the culture and creates space for collective action," an optimistic Kalmus wrote on his website. But optimism appears to have turned to desperation.

Considering the scale of climate change and their historical roles in creating the problem, governments and big corporations must do better — and now. To quote Sir David Attenborough, who was recently recognized as a "Champion of the Earth" by the United Nations: "The world has to get together...We know what the problems are, and we know how to solve them. All we lack is unified action."



3 cave sites in San Carlos assessed, rediscovered



April 22, 2022

THREE cave sites in Sitios Suwa and Maglunod in Barangay Quezon, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental were visited and assessed by a team from the Forestry Division of the locality's Environment Management Office (EMO) recently.

Ramil Tanuco of the city's EMO said that the cave venture is part of their Earth Day Celebration Friday, April 22.

It is also aimed at rediscovering the caves, he said, adding that they will assess these natural sites,

Tanuco noted that two of these caves need proper care while the other cave is a potential tourist spot.

During the exploration, Tanuco and his team found growing stalactites and this is the reason why they need to examine the caves and map out measures on how to protect these mineral formation.

Meanwhile, Oscar Molas, Coastal Ecosystem and Development Program in-charge of the Coastal Resource Management Division (CRMD) of Cemo, said that they will assess the caves again with professional cave divers to help them in the thrust of protecting the stalactites and stalagmites.

He led the diving expedition at the waters inside the cave.

For his part, land owner Raymundo Ymbang where two of the caves are situated said that these caves have been used by his family as a water source for their plantation.

Ymbang said that he also discovered that fresh water eels thrive in these underground water cave.

He added that these caves already existed long ago since his father's time and possibly during the Japanese era.

Barangay Quezon Kagawad Maria Socorro-Dollosa Zapanta also helped assess the caves with hopes that said caves will be developed in the near future as potential tourist spots.

She stressed that the barangay has a great responsibility in helping preserve and conserve these nature's wonders. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1927130/bacolod/lifestyle/3-cave-sites-in-san-carlos-assessed-rediscovered>



‘Sagip Coron’ movement races vs time to stop reclamation, quarrying

BY LOURDES M. FERNANDEZ

APRIL 25, 2022

PEOPLE of Palawan’s scenic Coron municipality, with support from environmentalists, are racing against time to stop what they called an illegal reclamation project, while addressing the grave ecological damage that they blamed on the implementation of its first two phases.

The concerned groups mounted at the last Earth Day (April 22) a tree-planting activity to restore parts of a mangrove forest that they said was among the casualties of reclamation, along with precious marine life forms and habitat. One of those involved in the Sagip Coron Movement, Marion Raagas, said the reforestation was suggested by no less than President Duterte when stakeholders raised the matter with him recently.

Also on Earth Day, the residents, including farmers, fishermen and the indigenous community of Tagbanuas, also had a townhall meeting hosted by long-time Coron resident Bob Magallanes.

The group’s March 22 meeting with President Duterte was followed by two events: the formation of a task force, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to assess the situation; and the issuance by the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) of a cease and desist order addressed to Palawan’s provincial government to stop the reclamation until conditions set by the PRA for the project are complied with.

The CDO, signed by PRA General Manager and CEO Atty. Janilo E. Rubiato, told the provincial government to “immediately cease and desist from further undertaking reclamation activities until all governmental requirements and conditions have been fully complied with, including but not limited to the conditions of the Notice to Proceed issued by the PRA, foremost of which is the requirement of an Area Clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.”

The PNP and NBI were directed to assist the PRA in enforcing its CDO.

The Sagip Coron leaders said the PRA letter, however, smacked of acceptance of a fait accompli—that, despite what they deem the “illegality” of pushing through the reclamation’s second phase—the PRA’s CDO merely allows proponents to proceed with it nonetheless after “curing” their acts instead of penalizing them for their alleged lapses.

Meanwhile, the Sagip Coron movement is finalizing a petition to be signed by 22,222 people, seeking a stop to the project, citing the huge ecological damage to sea grass, marine life forms and mangroves.

They have invited a team of renowned marine biologists to conduct an assessment of the damage, and render a report which they will share with DENR.

Leaders of the group claimed their petition-signing efforts, meanwhile, are being “blocked” by former Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, whose firm is said to be a contractor of the project’s private-sector proponents.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/25/sagip-coron-movement-races-vs-time-to-stop-reclamation-quarrying/>



Fishers rally against black sand mining

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) April 24, 2022

APARRI, Cagayan: Some 1,700 fisherfolk from a dozen barangay in this town marched on Friday to protest against black sand mining operations which they claim are taking place in the guise of river dredging.

Diana Moraleda, San Pedro Telmo Parish coordinator, said it was the first time that a protest of this "magnitude" was organized in the town with fisherfolk and other groups joining from neighboring towns of Gattaran, Ballesteros, Buguey, Gonzaga and Santa Ana.

At the prayer rally in San Pedro Telmo Parish Church, Moraleda said fisherfolk shared the ill effects of the alleged mining operations on their livelihood and the environment.

Mayor Bryan Dale Chan, who is running for reelection, and former mayor Dr. Ismael Tumaru also joined the protest rally held in conjunction with the Earth Day celebration on Friday.

During the rally, the fishers alleged that the river dredging activity produced sound, light and chemicals that have polluted and gravely disturbed the ecosystem.

They said the dredging activity also messed with the reproductive patterns of aquatic resources and decimated the fish and shrimp population, including that of the aramang or spider shrimp, which is endemic in the area.

They claim that the dwindling catch has considerably slashed the income of 11,000 fisherfolk in the area.

Moraleda noted that before the river dredging operations started in the first quarter of 2021, a fisherman can catch up to 200 kilos of fish overnight off the coast of Aparri. But these days, they say they are lucky if they can take home 3 kilos of fish.

The fishermen said that from December 2021 to April 2022, each of them would earn from P300 to P1,000 for three days of work, a far cry from their P3,000 to P7,000 earnings before the dredging activities.

In the early part of 2021, residents here noticed the return of dredging sea crafts and huge sea carriers by the Chinese firm Riverfront Construction Inc. (RCI) visibly operating in the Cagayan River, the Aparri Delta and the West Philippine Sea.

The provincial government of Cagayan led by Gov. Manuel Mamba, however, explained that the presence of large ships is due to the ongoing large-scale dredging project to rehabilitate the heavily silted Cagayan River, causing massive flooding, especially during heavy downpour brought about by typhoons.

Mamba also told the people of Cagayan that the dredging project is necessary to reopen the Aparri port and the establishment of an international seaport.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/24/news/regions/fishers-rally-against-black-sand-mining/1841035?fbclid=IwAR3ZqM639uRtnB1KIthAmvTCYyqQ1VV4aTnLz9laBczRIWftlj d1KMwSwss>



WATCH: Pinoy cyclists join Asian push for climate change awareness

Published 17 hours ago on April 24, 2022 03:12 PM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



Photo by: Joey Sanchez Mendoza | Daily Tribune

Filipino cyclists on 24 April gathered at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, in solidarity with climate activists, in coordinated biking events held in nine Asian countries.

The biking events, dubbed Pedal for People and Planet, were held in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

The aim is to call on governments and corporations to step up climate action to save the planet from climate catastrophe.

“We want to highlight the horrific dangers of climate change, especially for Asian communities, and the many bold actions needed to address climate change. The impacts of climate change are already devastating for the people of Asia and we know that it will become much worse in the coming decades unless we stop global warming in its tracks,” said Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) in the Philippines.



Coordinated biking events isinagawa sa 9 na Asian countries; climate change ihinirit



April 24, 2022 @ 4:21 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Libu-libong bikers ang nakiisa sa climate activists sa sa siyam na bansa sa Asya.

Ito ay para ipanawagan na tugunan ang nangyayaring climate change.

Kabilang sa mga bansang nakiisa sa biking events na tinawag na 'Pedal for People and Planet' ang Pilipinas, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal at Pakistan.

Ayon kay Lidy Nacpil, coordinator ng Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), nanawagan ang kanilang hanay sa pamahalaan at malalakkng korporasyon na pangalagaan ang kalikasan.

"We want to highlight the horrific dangers of climate change, especially for Asian communities, and the many bold actions needed to address climate change. The impacts of climate change are already devastating for the people of Asia and we know that it will become much worse in the coming decades unless we stop global warming in its tracks," pahayag ni Nacpil.

Nabatid na sa Pilipinas, isinagawa ang bike actions sa Metro Manila, Camarines Norte, Davao City at Batangas.

Sa Thailand naman, nakilahok ang mga bikers sa Bang Ra Kham district na matinding tinamaan ng baha at tagtuyot.

Sa Japan, isinagawa ang bike action bilang bahagi ng Japanese protest action laban sa Yokosuka Coal Power Plant sa Kanagawa.

Sa Bangladesh, pumadyak naman ang rickshaw drivers sa coastal areas ng Khulna.

Sa Delhi at Kolkata sa India, hindi lamang bikes ang naging tampok kundi maging ang vending carts with wheels.

Sa Nepal, pumadyak ang mga bikers ng 10 kilometro mula sa Heritage Site patungo sa siyudad ng Kathmandu, habang ang mga bikers sa Pakistan ay umikot sa Lahore.

Ayon kay Nacpil, pinaka urgent na dapat aksyunan sa climate change ay ang pag phase outsa fossil fuels at palitan ng 100 percent na renewable energy.



“We call for a rapid, just and equitable phaseout of fossil fuels and transition to clean energy. We need to be fossil fuel-free before 2050. At the current pace, the world will exceed 3°C of global warming by 2030. This will cause massive deaths and damage to communities, livelihoods, food systems, habitats, and economies. Science tells us, however, that limiting the rise in global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the safest temperature limit still possible, is not beyond reach. But we need systemic changes, not hollow pledges for net zero that allow for business as usual to continue,” pahayag ni Nacpil.

“We call for actions that deliver climate justice to countries that are much more vulnerable to climate change and communities that are least able to prepare for, and recover from climate change impacts. We likewise reject false solutions, such as technologies that claim to neutralize the impacts of fossil fuels, as well as market mechanisms that do not deliver what is required to limit global warming and speed up the transition to 100 percent renewable sources,” saad naman ni Ian Rivera, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice.

“Developing countries have contributed the least to global warming with less than four percent of global carbon emissions. There is a huge climate debt owed to developing countries by developed countries for the damage caused by their disproportionately large contributions to climate change,” pahayag ni Sreedhar Ramamurthi ng Environics Trust India.



A call to invest in nature

[Dr. Selva Ramachandran](#) - The Philippine Star April 25, 2022 | 12:00am

This year's commemoration of Earth Day comes with an important call to action: to invest in nature for the sustainable future of the generations to come. And what a timely call it is.

Increasing global emissions contribute to extreme weather patterns. The onslaught of recent typhoons that swept the Philippines clearly demonstrates the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

The years 2021 to 2030 were designated by the United Nations as the decade for ecosystem restoration, as well as the deadline for the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The call for protection and revival of the earth's ecosystems has never been more urgent. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, address climate change, prevent the collapse of biodiversity and protect the population against deadly pandemic.

However, the planet and its people are at the tipping point; we find ourselves faced with a critical crossroads, which could spell either survival or peril. Recent global reports such as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have highlighted that we are at a turning point in the earth's history if nothing is done. The message is clear – we need to change the way by which we use investments to reverse this trajectory.

We do not need to look far to observe the challenges in restoring the country's valuable ecosystems. The Philippines has been touted as the third largest contributor of marine plastics. Combined with water pollution, these endanger marine wildlife and fisheries production, affecting the value of tourism, food supply and human health. Recent studies have shown that microplastics have been discovered in human blood, organs and tissues, posing huge added health risks.

Furthermore, degraded watersheds have resulted in reduced capacities to prevent flooding and landslides, affecting lives and properties, and at the same time reducing water supply during dry months. Mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs have deteriorated in many parts of the country, and uncontrolled development in the coastal areas have compromised their ability to weaken storm surges and other climate induced hazards, thereby leaving swathes of destruction to communities and livelihoods.

All of these are preventable, if every citizen, stakeholder will do their part in investing in nature. Investing in our future would mean less cost to repair, rebound and avoid the hefty damages that inaction could inflict upon society.

There are a number of ways by which we can show our 'investments.'

First, let us invest in behavior and lifestyle modification. Global food waste, for example, is responsible for 6-8 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. This, in addition to making more food available for those who are in need, is a tradeoff we make if we are not prudent in our consumption.

Everyday decisions, such as minimizing the use of plastics, can mean a lot in turning the tide in our campaign against marine litter. Reducing the volume of our wardrobe and the frequency we buy new clothes is another way we can make a difference. The fashion industry alone is responsible for 2.1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions in 2018 or 4 percent of the global total. This is equivalent to the same quantity of emissions of the entire economies of France, Germany and the UK combined!



Second, let us invest in risk-informed planning and development. Decisions on location of settlements, industries, city centers; and the way we plan spatial development in cities, greening our infrastructure can mean a lot in preventing lives and saving costs through efficiency gains. Mapping of hazards and exposure of population and assets, and providing alternatives and development controls, zoning regulations can save the government billions of dollars of losses and damages from powerful typhoons and earthquakes.

Third, let us ensure financing is geared towards sustainability. This means ensuring that capital is channeled towards investments that either do no harm or result in positive impacts on environment. There are available tools to guide decision making on this, and metrics to guide us in measuring results. This entails the active application of environment, social and governance (ESG) principles; aligning with the Sustainable Finance Roadmap and ensuring each project is evaluated against social and environmental impacts. There are big wins in doing this – the Better Business Better World Report of UNDP has estimated that around \$82 trillion in investment opportunity and 4.4 million new jobs will be created if directed towards those in support of SDG positive investments.

Lastly, all of these will not happen without an environmentally aware citizenry and supportive leadership. At this crucial time, we enjoin all Filipinos to make their voices heard and advocate for environmental sustainability and sustainability financing as priority agenda for the country's path for development. The clock is ticking, and every second of inaction may cause us generations lost.

* * *

Dr. Selva Ramachandran is UNDP Philippines Resident Representative.



A call to invest in nature

By [Dr. Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Philippines Resident Representative](#) April 25, 2022

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The years 2021 to 2030 was designated by the United Nations as the decade for ecosystem restoration, as well as the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The call for protection and revival of the earth's ecosystems has never been more urgent. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, address climate change, prevent the collapse of biodiversity and protect the population against deadly pandemic.

However, the planet and its people are at the tipping point; we find ourselves faced with a critical crossroads, which could spell either survival or peril. Recent global reports such as the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services have highlighted that we are at a turning point in the earth's history if nothing is done. The message is clear — we need to change the way by which we use investments to reverse this trajectory.

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Dr. Selva Ramachandran is the Philippines resident representative of the UN Development Program (UNDP).



Metro Headlines

16h · 🌐



Nakumpiska sa Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte ang tinatayang P123,000 halaga ng lauan lumber na inabandona sa Purok 2, Barangay Tinucuran Lunes.

P100,000 halaga naman ng mga troso na ilegal na pinutol ang nakumpiska sa Barangay Ampawid, Laak, Davao de Oro noong Linggo. Walang nahuli sa parehong insidente. |ABS-CBN News

WATCH:<https://bit.ly/3jXcDez>

(📺: RPIO; PRO 13; PRO XI) | via Charmane Awitan at Hernel Tocmo

BASAHEIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/illegal-logging>



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25 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

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DENR donates land to RITM

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to turn over more than 9,000 square meters of land to the Research Institute for Tropical

Medicine (RITM) under the Department of Health.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna signed on April 8 a deed of conveyance for a parcel of land, which will be turned over to the RITM.

"This is the DENR's contribution to the RITM to further advance its research work and prepare to address the pandemic and other health crisis that may happen in the future," Sampulna said.

The 9,077-square-meter property is adjacent to the RITM facility in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

RITM director Celia Carlos thanked the DENR and Land Management Bureau chief Emelyne Talabis for the land donation, noting that one of the facility's problems was the lack of space.

- Rhodina Villanueva



DENR exec asks firms to stop single-plastics use

By CORY MARTINEZ

MINIMIZE the use of non-biodegradable and single-use plastics for packaging, which are the major contributor to the country's residual and solid waste.

This was the appeal of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna to manufacturing companies, food businesses, and market vendors during Friday's celebration of the Earth Day with theme "#InvestInOurPlanet."

Sampilna stressed that businesses must up their efforts in switching to sustainable actions to combat the effects of climate change and environmental destruction.

He emphasized that small actions, such as recycling and re-using materials, are helpful, however industries should also take part as they are also producers of plastic waste.

"Using small plastic packaging like sachets and plastic bottles is still rampant in our country today. I am urging all manufac-

turing firms to come up with their own recovery project where they will retrieve and buy back these plastic wastes from their consumers for cash or even food items like rice and groceries," said Sampilna.

Likewise, the DENR chief called on food companies to switch to food packaging that is reusable or biodegradable, as these wastes, when not properly disposed of, end up in creeks, rivers, and oceans.

"I am appealing to our restaurants and food businesses not to use plastic utensils, styrofoam materials and single-use plastic containers. Instead, use eco-friendly or reusable food packages," Sampilna said.

Sampilna also urged market vendors and small store owners to change their customary ways of packaging retail items using single-use plastics, which include placing cooking oil, condiments such as vinegar and soy sauce, in plastic for "tingi" or retail purchases.

He recommended the

use of old newspapers and magazines for wrapping dried fish instead of using plastics.

"I suggest that when the public buys from your stores, ask or encourage them to bring reusable bags and containers," Sampilna said.

"This Earth Day 2022, I urge both businesses and individuals to rethink the customary ways on how to sell and consume products. Let us all take sustainable actions to heal the planet Earth," he pointed out.

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is a global movement where over 190 countries take part through the promotion of sustainable environmental actions and behavioral change.

This year, the DENR celebrated Earth Day highlighted by the recognition of four DENR environmental heroes or workers of the department who have dedicated their lives protecting the environment.



Boracay stakeholders seek increase in carrying capacity

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO [@akastellaBM](#)
Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

TOURISM stakeholders on Boracay Island have appealed for a new study on the island's carrying capacity, in the light of infrastructure improvements made by government.

In a letter on April 19, 2022 to Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat and Regional Director for Western Visayas Cristine C. Mansiñares, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay (PCCI-Boracay) said, "So many improvements have been made to Boracay's infrastructure, it may make sense to reconsider the [carrying] capacity recommendations from prior to these significant improvements."

Since the island's reopening on October 25, 2018 and in the succeeding years, PCCI-Boracay noted that roads have been widened, the island's sewerage system has been improved, water quality issues that initially affected Boracay's environment have been addressed, hotels and other establishments have built their own sewerage treatment plants, and buildings have complied with measures mandated by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force.

The business group's appeal comes on the heels of Romulo

Puyat's recent report, citing the island as having breached its carrying capacity for tourists during the Lenten break. A study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2018 determined that the island could only accommodate up to 19,215 tourists a day, at any given time. (See, *Boracay breaches carrying capacity for tourists on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday — DOT*, in the *BUSINESSMIRROR*, on April 18, 2022.)

"I fought with the mayor," she disclosed at a press conference on April 20, at the start of the three-day 21st World Tourism and Travel Council Global Summit in Manila. "It's not about lobbying," referring to the PCCI-Boracay's request. "It's about studies, if indeed, it can be increased. We will rely on the experts. Even pre-pandemic, we never breached the 19,000 [carrying capacity]."

Flights not cause of tourist influx

AS this developed, data from the

Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) obtained by the BUSINESSMIRROR showed flights to Caticlan, the gateway to Boracay, are still below pre-pandemic levels, and could not have been the cause of the recent breaches in carrying capacity of Boracay Island.

For this year's summer season, from March to October, the CAB only approved 1,880 flights to Caticlan, compared to 2,720 flights approved in summer 2019.

Bulk of this summer's approved flights originate from Manila, at 992, with the Cebu Pacific group (including Cebgo) accounting for the most number at 434, while Philippine Airlines Express and Airphil Express share 217 flights, Philippines Air Asia also has 217, while Airswift Transport has 124.

The data also show 785 approved flights from Cebu to Caticlan, and 103 flights originating from Clark in Pampanga for summer 2022.

A CAB source said, "Pre-pandemic, they had almost double the number of flights approved this season. And yet, Boracay exceeded 6,400 flights per day this month. That would show that the number of flights is not the direct cause [of exceeding the carrying capacity during the Lenten break]."

Carrying capacity refers to an ecosystem's ability to support people and other living things without having negative effects.

DILG reiterates capacity cap

MEANWHILE, the Department of the Interior and Local Government has already written to Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Froilbar Bautista to respect the capacity limit for tourists on the island.

At a news briefing in Mafacang, DILG Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III added, "If the carrying capacity [is exceeded], whether through negligence or intentional, we will send them a letter to explain, otherwise, they can be held administratively liable for exceeding...the carrying capacity of Boracay Island."

A tourism official who requested anonymity said there were a lot of visitors to Boracay by land, especially coming from Region 6 composed of mainland Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Capiz, and Negros Occidental.

While he confirmed the breach, Bautista said the island has been without visitors for the past two years, and as such it was "expected" there was going to be an influx of visitors during the long Lenten break. He told ANC in an interview on Tuesday that resorts on the island will be engaged to help monitor the number of visitors island, to ensure there would be no more breaches in the carrying capacity.

There has been no statement so far from Miraflores, whose office controls the issuance of QR codes to tourists.



Regional Updates

Mt. Apo trekkers asked not to bring pork products to protect PHL warty pig from ASF risk

THE TOURISM office of Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur, one of entry points for treks to Mt. Apo, has advised visitors not to bring pork and pork products to mitigate the threat of African swine fever (ASF) infection among the mountain's Philippine warty pig population, which have been frequently sighted recently.

Julius R. Paner, the town's senior tourism operations officer, has issued an advisory that prohibits bringing, cooking, and serving of pork-related food during climbs to Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak and a declared protected area.

"All Sta. Cruz mountain guides are also directed to monitor from time to time the presence of Philippine Warty Pig which was frequently seen lately in the saddle grassland of the summit and have it reported to this office through actual photo and video footage. Geotagged photos are preferred," the advisory said.

A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Davao Region office also reported sightings of the endemic *Sus philippensis* or Philippine warty pig during a monitoring activity from April 11 to 17.

"These wild pigs, locally known as *baboy-ramo* or *baboy-ihalas*, are categorized as vulnerable due to its

decreasing population. If the said threat worsens, they may soon be listed as endangered," according to the regional environment office.

Mr. Paner noted that swine fever remains a threat in the region and steps must be taken to ensure that it does not get into the Mt. Apo Natural Park.

He said the local advisory has yet to be passed as a municipal ordinance or a resolution by the Protected Area Management Board, but he expressed confidence that their trained guides will comply.

"But I can always assure that our licensed guides will always follow advisories," he said. —

Maya M. Padillo



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REGENERATE TOURISM: DO IT LIKE MASUNGI

By Tina G. Santos
@santostinaINQ

The government aims to attract more tourists in destinations that promote "regenerative tourism," its tourism chief said, describing that thrust as an endeavor "to leave a destination in a better state than it was before."

Speaking at the 21st World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Global Summit which ended on Friday, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said there has been a shift in tourist behavior and preference since the COVID-19 pandemic.

This, she said, has guided the goal among the government and other stakeholders concerned toward regenerative tourism.

"In the surveys conducted by the DOT (Department of Tourism) during the pandemic, we found out that tourists prefer outdoor, less-crowded and open-air spaces. Tourists are also looking for more personal, immersive and meaningful experiences when visiting a destination," Puyat said.

She noted that among the top considerations for tourists are health, hygiene and the safety of a destination—as well as "a growing appreciation for places that champion sustainable tourism."

Byword

As defined by the World Tourism Organization of the United Nations, sustainable tourism "takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities."

Regenerative tourism—which has become a byword in discussions on the impact of travel and tourism on communities and the environment—is a further step from sustainable tourism.

According to one definition by the Center for the Promotion of Imports, an agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, regenerative tourism aims "to improve the local community using tourism as a tool.

"By satisfying the primary needs of the community, regenerative tourism contributes to the quality of life of local people. It helps communities and tourism sites continuously renew themselves," the center said.

Conservation initiative

The hybrid three-day WTTC conference in Pasay City, which had the theme "Rediscovering Travel," gathered some 1,200 local and foreign attendees, including business leaders, government officials and other stakeholders in the tourism industry, apart from online participants.

Among the speakers were Masungi Georeserve trustees Ann and Billie Dumaliang, who shared their insights about sustaining regenerative travel, as regenerative tourism is also called.

The Masungi Georeserve is a leading tourist destination and an award-winning conservation initiative in Rizal province, dedicated to preserving the 60-million-year-old limestone pinnacle karst formations and endemic biodiversity there.

The site is also known for its viewing decks, bridges and rope courses and huge spider-web-like-hammocks amid the surrounding rainforest.

Ann Dumaliang said regenerative tourism is about designing experiences around sustainability.

"When we talk about regenerative tourism, ...we tend to forget we need to localize our approach and that means getting to know the places that we move in, understanding the geographical nature of the destinations we belong to, and through that recreating designs, development, ways of interacting with it that would sustain and protect and strengthen this interdependence that we have in the ecosystem that we exist in," she said.

"Regenerative tourism really is a change in mindset, a paradigm shift from tourism that leaves no trace to tourism [and leaves] things better than they were before," added Billie Dumaliang.

Small things

Initially a 430-hectare project, the Masungi Georeserve has since been expanded to include the restoration of about 3,000 hectares of degraded forests in partnership with the national government.

"[Conservation] wasn't the original plan, ...but we knew that if we don't restore the watershed around us, we could lose water. If we don't protect the area from destructive industries, the entire landscape and the communities will suffer. It becomes the inherent and logical thing for us to promote regenerative tourism and use tourism to solve the issues and pressing problems of our community," Billie said.

Ann said important lessons can be learned even with the small things.

"For instance, among the rules that we have is to care for the snails that... in our sanctuary, caring for the rocks," she said, adding that looking after everything in the conservation area has changed a great deal of their approach to design and development.

Billie said there are no trash bins in Masungi except in the toilets.

"When you go to a destination, do not bring more things. Do not burden the destination with more waste and [instead] help them be able to sustain themselves," she said.

'Recovery'

Sustainability still remained a prevalent theme in this conference. Puyat herself pointed out that "With nature revisited, and sustainability reinforced, we move for the normalization of standards we have put in place for a safe, seamless, responsible, and fun travel."

But she also said "tourism can be an important tool for nature's regeneration."

WTTC President and CEO Julia Simpson said: "We still have work to do to bring down postpandemic barriers, open economies, and harmonize health data for seamless travel. Sustainability hasn't just been an item on this agenda, it's been a major theme of the summit."

Nevertheless the outlook for tourism in the Philippines appears bright, going by the WTTC's projection in its latest Economic Impact Report that this industry would reach an annual growth rate of 6.7 percent in the next 10 years—exceeding the average growth rate of 5.6 percent for the overall economy.

According to the report, employment will grow annually by an average of 3 percent in that same period, generating 2.9 million new jobs which will account for 21.5 percent of all jobs in the country.

"Now, recovery is in our sights. It is not uniform, it is faltering, but it is recovery. Here in [the] Asia-Pacific, the reopening is just beginning. I congratulate the Philippines, a nation that has shown determination and courage to reignite travel," Simpson said. **INQ**



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Gov't agencies to solve conjoining titling issues

By Rio N. Araja

GOVERNMENT agencies—the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples -- have met up to address overlapping issues related to Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) project.

They conducted a consultation meeting on land and forestry to settle overlapping issues in relation to parcelization of collective certificates of land ownership awards (CCLOAs) for the SPLIT project.

According to Agrarian Reform Under-

secretary for Legal Affairs Office Luis Meinrado Pañgulayan, based on a joint guideline, DAR and DENR before processing applications for land titles pursuant to their mandates must notify the NCIP of the specific area to be titled.

All lands covered by collective CLOAs within classified timberlands, unclassified public forests, mineral lands, and national parks, shall be parcelized in favor of agrarian reform beneficiaries, he said.

"During the implementation of parcelization and in the issuance of appropriate tenurial instruments, the actual occupants on the lands covered by collective

CLOAs shall not be displaced," he added.

The NCIP is tasked to certify subject land to the projection of survey plans and issuance of the certification of non-overlap, whether the same affects an alienable and disposable or ancestral land involving "conflict areas" as identified by the agencies concerned pending/overlapping, jurisdictional/operational issues or conflicting claims which are contentious or potentially contentious. Meanwhile, housing czar Eduardo del Rosario announced Sunday the government was set to award permanent shelters for internally displaced persons in the war-torn Marawi City in Lanao del Sur.



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Resorts World Manila takes Earth Day to heart

THE warm summer of April is usually a call for celebration but as temperatures continue to rise, focus is shifted towards taking better care of the planet. Earth Day is on April 22 this year and the country's premier entertainment and lifestyle hub, Resorts World Manila (RWM), is putting its heart into celebrating all things Earth for the rest of the month. The celebration of all good things for the planet is part of the country's first fully integrated resort's overall commitment to championing sustainability, RWM's "I LOVE EARTH" campaign recognizes the importance of putting the EARTH into the HEART of every individual, community, and business.

Go green with glee at the Plant and Sustainability Fair at The Plaza 2F Newport Mall from April 18-24. Stop by and smell the flora by premium plant nursery, Arid & Aroids, with their best collection of plants on sale and displayed at the festival. Merchants from The Good Trade PH are also in on the fair with booths selling Earth-loving products from apparel, accessories, and skin care.

RWM's Newport Garden Wing's The Grove at the 2nd floor is also hosting a Mall-seum exhibit for long established Filipino sculptor Arnel Borja. Arnel Borja is known for his large pieces that are based on the principle of fulcrum balance. Witness his art and behold the intricate equilibrium that extends the fulcrum from theory to reality with the awe-inspiring display from April 21-May 4. Selected art pieces are available for purchase through www.rw-mexclusives.com using cash, credit, and RWM membership points.

Visits to RWM can be made more memorable with a can't-be-missed photo opportunity at the new Green Earth One (GEO) installation at the ground floor of the Newport Garden Wing, right beside the Garden Wing Cafe. GEO is a living spherical garden that features a variety of plant species that exude real beauty that thrives in this environment. The installation in itself represents the Earth and the fragile ecological balance of life and human development.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS. Manila Water employees and the firm's partner agencies posed for photo op, as they celebrate Earth Day by conducting a "Lakbay Kalikasan Hiking and Biking for Nature" at the La Mesa Dam Nature Reserve along Quirino Highway in Quezon City.



(L-R) ABS-CBN Foundation Managing Director Roberta Lopez-Feliciano, Manila Water President and CEO Jocot de Dios and DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacurine Caancon holds a plant during the ceremonial kick-off of the tree planting activity for Earth Day 2022 celebration at the Orosa Hall, Balara Filters Park, Brgy. Pansol in Quezon City



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As the planet heats up, here's what we can do

As expected, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 3 assessment report, which was released on April 4, 2022, contains a mix of bad news and good news.

The report reiterates what we have known for some time now: Planetary temperature is rising because of the continued emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). Net GHG emissions from all sectors have increased since 2010. Even worse, pledges by nations made during COP26 (Conference of Parties) as contained in their nationally determined contributions will not be enough to keep the earth's temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, much less below 1.5 degrees Celsius. These temperature targets are embodied in the Paris Agreement because if we exceed them, there will be untold damages and losses to both natural and human systems.

According to the IPCC report, if we are to stay within a 2-degree warmer world, deep, drastic, and even immediate cuts in GHG emissions are unavoidable. If these cuts materialize, global GHG emissions should peak by 2025, and we can achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 (for 1.5-degree warming), and 2070 (for 2-degree warming). These are lofty ambitions, and it is arguable whether the global community can muster the boldness and unity even to attempt them.

On the positive side, GHG mitigation technologies are available, and policies are gaining traction. For instance, the costs of several low-emission technologies have fallen

COMMENTARY

RODEL D. LASCO



**IF WE ARE TO STAY
WITHIN A 2-DEGREE
WARMER WORLD, DEEP,
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UNAVOIDABLE**

continuously since 2010. Overall, there is a need to transition to very low- or zero-carbon energy such as renewables, demand-side measures, and efficiency improvement.

The report also pointed out that there are mitigation opportunities for all sectors. In cities, mitigation can be done by reducing or

changing energy and material consumption, and enhancing carbon uptake and storage. For the transport sector, electric vehicles powered by low emission electricity has the largest mitigation potential based on its life cycle. Forest and other land-based measures such as forest protection and expansion can also provide large scale GHG reductions,

Philippine emissions are less than half a percent of global emissions. Some may use this fact to argue that we should not bother with mitigation activities and focus on addressing our vulnerabilities. However, it is precisely because we are one of the most vulnerable countries that we should show our commitment to reducing GHG emissions. By taking action, we are expressing our solidarity with the rest of the global community in fighting climate change. We are then able to challenge the largest emitters to do more in curbing their emissions. More significantly, by reducing our GHG emissions, we are pursuing the interest of our future generations for a more livable planet.

The three IPCC scientific groups have spoken, and their message is clear: Climate change is a clear and present danger. Action is needed. Now.

Rodel Lasco is one of the authors of the IPCC's Working Group 2 sixth assessment report. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>).



We need to do better to beat climate change

ON April 6, more than 1,200 scientists around the globe carried out climate change protest actions. They chained and glued themselves to buildings and offices of the corporations responsible for funding fossil fuel projects. Some scientists were arrested. The scientists' day of climate action was an expression of desperation that — despite all the evidence gathered over the past decades — it's still "business as usual" for governments and corporations. "Crop failures, migrations and marine flooding. What else do we need to know?" Spanish scientist and protester Fernando Vallerades asked (www.euronews.com, April 7, 2022).

Yes, what else do we need to know? Climate change is here and causing more frequent, more extreme weather events with devastating effects on communities and their ability to support themselves. The Philippines was hit by yet another destructive storm — Tropical Storm "Agaton" — with death and massive flooding that caused multibillion-peso damage to homes, agriculture and infrastructure. Around the same time, South Africa experienced its deadliest disaster ever when mas-

fore the UNGA, have failed to lead. Corporations continue to put short-term profit over long-term survival.

How about us people? While an Ipsos Earth Day 2022 global survey on climate change ([ipsos.com](https://www.ipsos.com)) showed that 7 out of 10 people are concerned, "for the majority of people globally there are other issues they feel are more pressing, such as their family's health, war, financial concerns and the ongoing pandemic." Dr. Pippa Bailey of Ipsos further said that people are aware that they need to change behavior, "but if the issue isn't at the top of their priorities, they are unlikely to do so unless there is an incentive that aligns with other priorities i.e. saving money." (Ipsos, April 18, 2022).



RESURGENCE

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sive rainfall — some areas getting six months' worth of rain in a single day — caused unprecedented flooding. More than 300 people perished.

In the wake of "Agaton," President Rodrigo Duterte again called on the industrialized, rich countries to do more to help poorer countries in the Global South that are bearing the brunt of climate change effects, yet have contributed relatively little to the problem. The President also expressed hope that the next Philippine administration would do better than his in addressing climate change. Greenpeace Philippines echoes this hope for meaningful and "coherent strategies beyond disaster response" that would also "address long-term vulnerabilities, not just disasters" (statement, April 19, 2022).

In September 2021, Duterte had told the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that the world was "at a critical tipping point, where failure to act leads to cataclysmic

The Duterte administration in the same manner got tied up with what it considered more pressing, for instance the Marawi siege, the communist insurgency, unemployment and poverty, disaster response, war on drugs, African swine fever and of course, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most people don't see any benefit from attempting to minimize greenhouse-gas footprints, especially that their direct contribution to emissions is negligible. Wealthy people



consequences for the whole of humankind." In 2016, in his first State of the Nation Address, the President said that addressing climate change would be a top priority of his administration though he qualified the statement: Addressing climate change should not come at the expense of Philippine industrialization and it should be in accordance with a "fair and equitable equation," he said. So, the Philippines saw more coal-fired power plants while renewable energy took

a backseat. On the other hand, the administration's efforts to introduce electricity- and solar-powered public transportation met strong resistance from affected drivers and operators.

Multiply the lack of tangible progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the number of countries and we understand why scientists are turning into activists. The bigger nations whose actions could "tip the balance," to borrow from President Duterte's speech be-

and people in the industrialized, rich countries are to blame, they have enjoyed luxurious lifestyles at our expense. Why should we complicate our lives and make sacrifices? What difference does it make anyhow?

"When it comes to climate change, our biggest problem isn't that we don't think it's real. It's that we don't think we can fix it," climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe wrote in her introduction to NASA scientist Peter Kalmus. Kalmus was arrested during the scientists' protest actions last April 6. "Changing our lives shifts the culture and creates space for collective action," an optimistic Kalmus wrote on his website. But optimism appears to have turned to desperation.

Considering the scale of climate change and their historical roles in creating the problem, governments and big corporations must do better — and now. To quote Sir David Attenborough, who was recently recognized as a "Champion of the Earth" by the United Nations: "The world has to get together... We know what the problems are, and we know how to solve them. All we lack is unified action."



For climate change resiliency and sustainability



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IT'S IN the middle of a hot summer but heavy rains triggered flash floods and landslides by tropical storm Agaton displaced over 2 million people in the Eastern Visayas and Davao regions of South-Central Philippines. According to the April 18 update from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), this latest extreme weather hit killed 172, damaged 10,400 homes, 309 roadways, and 15 bridges. The estimated damage in infrastructure and agriculture is over P250 million.

This latest climate change bomb has again exposed how millions of Filipinos are so vulnerable to the increasing frequency of weather borne calamities. Scientists have pointed out in many international fora that developing countries like the Philippines will suffer the brunt of consequences of millions of tons in greenhouse gas emissions spewed daily by the industrialized and richest countries dominating the global economic system. An irony is that studies have shown that Philippine total carbon emissions don't even count relative to these big economies.

"We need reforms to the Electric Power Industry Reform (EPIRA) Act of 2001."

This puts us in a dilemma wherein in our urgent need to recover and rebuild from the pandemic crisis and sustain pre-COVID 19 economic trajectories, we must aggressively develop our infrastructure and industries requiring more power and energy to support the expansion of our economic sectors unavoidably emitting more GHG emissions.

So how do we balance our right to build a prosperous nation while honoring our commitments to the historic Paris Agreement and meet the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut carbon emissions by 75 percent in 2030?

A school of thought that I have been advocating is to harness the power of new technologies that have embraced sustainability and aligned with the ongoing global movement to prevent catastrophic global warming. But in the Philippine situation, being at the receiving end of what is becoming a yearly attack of extreme weather, building resiliency to calamitous events should be a top national and local government priority. This will need an all-of-society approach in redesigning disaster response and recovery protocols to seamlessly integrate pro-active readiness of the public and private sector.

A prerequisite to initiating the right disas-

ter resiliency and response systems that are borderless and devoid of bureaucratic turfs is to have a sound policy foundation that encourages openness to fast evolving technology innovations. Overcoming the change resistant and static thinking of existing policies is the first challenge.

Take, for instance, the appeal of environmental advocacy group, Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) in its recent public statement calling for an amendment of the Electric Power Industry Reform (EPIRA) Act of 2001. Specifically, PBEST proposes to expand access to renewable energy (RE) sources by lowering the 100kW consumption threshold prescribed in the Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA) of the EPIRA law.

PBEST co-convenor Eng. Felix Vitangcol points out that currently, only electricity end-users consuming at least 100kW for the preceding twelve months are allowed to participate in the program as a contestable market or those electricity end-users who have a choice of supplier of electricity including renewable energy.

"The policy puts a threshold on the number of electricity end-users that can immediately transition to RE. Electricity end-users having low power consumption but having the capacity to transition to RE cannot do so," he said.

Eng. Vitangcol further points out the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, (Republic Act No. 9513) being too developer centric as majority of the incentives to them and little left for electricity end-users who have the capability to establish RE sets in their own facilities. Incentives should be restructured and expanded to include electricity end-users who want to utilize their own RE infrastructures.

Furthermore, PBEST proposes an amendment to the implementing rules and regulations of the RCOA accelerating the threshold timeline to 10 kW to 99 kW this year instead of waiting for another year to allow more industries to utilize RE. An example that Eng. Vitangcol cited was the RE generator sets provided by Globe which activated its facilities to provide internet connection to affected areas through its power modernization program.

PBEST advocates the building of a robust and sustainable mix of energy supply that can tap into stored battery power from RE as an alternative source for telecommunications and disaster response scenarios when the electricity grid is down. With this in place, disaster response and recovery will definitely be more efficient, and more lives will be saved.

As we will soon elect new leaders to govern another six-year political cycle, let us award this mandate to candidates that understand the interlinked dynamics of the environment, health, economy, and the value of harnessing science and technology as a rich and innovative toolbox for governance where the private sector is an indispensable and capable partner that shares the national interest of sustainable prosperity for the country.



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Application process for ECCs classified as 20-day transaction

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the online application process for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) has been simplified with a goal of generating approvals or rejections after 20 working days.

The 20-day deadline is in line with the recommended processing time for "highly technical transactions" under the Ease of Doing Business Law (Republic Act 11032).

The 20-day category also includes projects that pose a risk to public health, safety, or morals, or activities that run counter to public policy.

In a memorandum circular, the DENR said the new online procedure applies to projects for which proponents must submit documents listed in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) checklist.

"Since 2015, no updating of procedures and requirements of the

established ECC online system has been made," the DENR said.

The ECC is a key document that must be obtained before undertaking major projects. It includes an assessment of the project's impact on its surroundings, and is mandatory for mines, power plants and infrastructure projects.

The minimum documentary requirements for ECC applications filed online were listed as proof of authority over the project

site, certification from the local government unit (LGU) on the compatibility of the proposed project, the project description, and geotagged photographs of the site, among others.

The new ECC application fee costs P5,070 while the amendment application costs P2,030.

The law requires simple transactions to be concluded within three days and complex transactions within seven days. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



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NEWS

Regenerate tourism: Do it like Masungi

The government aims to attract tourists by promoting "regenerative tourism," which Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat describes as "leav[ing] a destination in a better state than it was before." The Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province is one destination that comes to mind, as it "use[s] tourism to solve the issues [in] our community," said trustee Billie Dumaliang.

—STORY BY TINA G. SANTOS

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THIS year's commemoration of Earth Day comes with an important call to action: to invest in nature for the sustainable future of the generations to come. And what a timely call it is.

Increasing global emissions contribute to extreme weather patterns. The onslaught of recent typhoons that swept the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

The years 2021 to 2030 was designated by the United Nations as the decade for ecosystem restoration, as well as the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The call for protection and revival of the earth's ecosystems has never been more urgent. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, address climate change, prevent the collapse of biodiversity and protect the population against deadly pandemic.

However, the planet and its people are at the tipping point; we find ourselves faced with a critical crossroads, which could spell either survival or peril. Recent global reports such as the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services have highlighted that we are at a turning point in the earth's history if nothing is done. The message is clear — we need to change the way by which

COMMENTARY

A call to invest in nature

we use investments to reverse this trajectory.

We do not need to look far to observe the challenges in restoring the country's valuable ecosystems. The Philippines has been touted as the third-largest contributor of marine plastics. Combined with water pollution, these endanger marine wildlife and fisheries production, affecting the value of tourism, food supply and human health. Recent studies have shown that microplastics have been discovered in human blood, organs and tissues, posing added huge health risks.

Furthermore, degraded watersheds have resulted in reduced capacities to prevent flooding and landslides, affecting lives and properties and, at the same time, reducing water supply during dry months. Mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs have deteriorated in many parts of the country, and uncontrolled development in the coastal areas have compromised their ability to weaken storm surges and other climate induced hazards, thereby leaving swathes of destruction to communities and livelihoods.

All of these are preventable, if every citizen, stakeholder will do their part in investing in nature. Investing in our future would mean less cost to repair, rebound and avoid the hefty damages that inaction could inflict upon society.

There are a number of ways by which we can show our "investments."

First, let us invest in behavior and lifestyle

modification. Global food waste, for example, is responsible for 6 to 8 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This, in addition to making more food available for those who are in need, is a trade-off we make if we are not prudent in our consumption.

Everyday decisions, such as minimizing the use of plastics, can mean a lot in turning the tide in our campaign against marine litter. Reducing the volume of our wardrobe and the frequency we buy new clothes is another way we can make a difference. The fashion industry alone is responsible for 2.1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions in 2018 or 4 percent of the global total. This is equivalent to the same quantity of emissions of the entire economies of France, Germany and the United Kingdom combined!

Second, let us invest in risk-informed planning and development. Decisions on location of settlements, industries, city centers; and the way we plan spatial development in cities, greening our infrastructure can mean a lot in preventing lives and saving costs through efficiency gains. Mapping of hazards and exposure of population and assets, and providing alternatives and development controls, zoning regulations can save the government billions of dollars of losses and damages from powerful typhoons and earthquakes.

Third, let us ensure financing is geared

toward sustainability. This means ensuring that capital is channeled toward investments that either do no harm or result in positive impacts on the environment. There are available tools to guide decision-making on this and metrics to guide us in measuring results. This entails the active application of environment, social and governance principles; aligning with the Sustainable Finance Roadmap; and ensuring each project is evaluated against social and environmental impacts. There are big wins in doing this — the Better Business better World Report of UNDP (United Nations Development Program) has estimated that around \$82 trillion in investment opportunity and 4.4 million new jobs will be created if directed toward those in support of SDG positive investments.

Lastly, all of these will not happen without an environmentally aware citizenry and supportive leadership. At this crucial time, we enjoin all Filipinos to make their voices heard and advocate for environmental sustainability and sustainability financing as priority agenda for the country's path for development. The clock is ticking, and every second of inaction may cause us generations to be lost.

Dr. Selva Ramachandran is the Philippines resident representative of the UN Development Program (UNDP).



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Duterte seeks bold, urgent climate action

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte called on his fellow leaders in the Asia-Pacific region to ramp up efforts to address various environmental concerns, particularly water-related issues, saying countries have to decide wisely for the benefit of future generations.

"Excellencies, now is the time for bolder vision and urgent action. We need to decide wisely for ourselves

and for future generations," the Chief Executive said in a video message last Saturday during the Heads of States and Government Meeting at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto City, Japan.

Water, being a vital resource for humans and ecosystems to survive and thrive, is and must always be considered a basic human right, he said.

>ClimateA2

■ CLIMATE FROM A1

Duterte seeks bold climate action

Duterte cited the Philippines as an example, saying that the country faces an enormous challenge to ensure the people's access to safe, affordable and accessible water.

"This requires an urgent sense of community action in the region, an integrated and coherent policy and the resolve to create

opportunities for investment and collaboration for technological solutions," the President said.

He spelled out several other measures to address challenges such as creating a robust regime for sustainable water management, using the best available science in water resource generation and

climate resilient infrastructure, and securing sustainable forest protection and watershed management.

Regional experts for technology development and transfer must also collaborate, and countries must promote transboundary benefits for the common people's development towards 2050 and

beyond, he noted.

"And finally, we need to forge a strong alliance between our strategic partners to address entrenched corporate compulsions to ensure environmental compliance and just economic regulatory regimes," Duterte said, stressing there must be equal efforts exerted from government and nongovernment stakeholders.

KRISTINA MARALIT



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Phl wants climate change

funds for developing countries

By ALEXIS ROMERO

The Philippines is calling for accessible climate financing for developing countries that are vulnerable to global warming, saying more should be done to those who are least responsible for but are most exposed to the problem.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje said the challenge for and responsibility of Asia and Pacific nations is to craft and implement water development strategies and trajectories in the era of climate change "up to the last mile" and "up to the last person."

"To this end, we need climate financing. Make it more accessible and available. Unlock it for the developing world," Borje said during the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit

in Japan last Saturday.

"This is not a plea for handouts, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. This is an urgent call for responsible partnership. We want to contribute more but we in the developing world need to help ourselves first," he added.

Borje cited the Philippines' experiences with typhoons, including the impact of tropical depression Agaton, which displaced tens of thousands of families in the Visayas and Mindanao and damaged about \$1.6 billion worth of properties.

"But, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen of this meeting, the narrative can still be transformed: from frustration and desperation to one of action and inspiration," he said.

"This is where climate justice becomes relevant in what we do - a guiding light to-

wards a more informed collaboration among our nations, so that our peoples, across generations, will be equipped to restore and ensure the quality of and access to water for all - as a matter of life - a dignified life," he added.

During his introduction to President Duterte during the leaders' meeting, Borje said climate justice is central to the Philippines' stance on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

"To the least responsible, to those with the least resources, to those most exposed, we need to do more," Borje said.

Last week, Duterte reiterated the need for rich and industrialized countries to compensate developing ones for the impact of their carbon emissions, noting that

developed countries are the biggest contributors of carbon emissions while poorer countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the impact of climate change.

"Why should we suffer? The rich who are not hit by the destruction caused by the pollution, they should pay us for the damage or they should do something to equalize. We sustain huge damage even if our contribution to climate change is small," the President said during his weekly address aired last Monday.



A call to invest in nature

BY DR. SEVA RAMACHANDRAN

THIS year's commemoration of Earth Day comes with an important call to action: to invest in nature for the sustainable future of the generations to come. And what a timely call it is.

Increasing global emissions contribute to extreme weather patterns. The onslaught of recent typhoons that swept the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

The years 2021 to 2030 was designated by the United Nations as the decade for ecosystem restoration, as well as the deadline for the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The call for protection and revival of the earth's ecosystems has never been more urgent. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, address climate change, prevent the collapse of biodiversity, and protect the population against deadly pandemic.

However, the planet and its people are at the tipping point; we find ourselves faced with a critical crossroads, which could spell either survival or peril. Recent global reports such as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have highlighted that we are at a turning point in the earth's history if nothing is done. The message is clear—we need to change the

way by which we use investments to reverse this trajectory.

We do not need to look far to observe the challenges in restoring the country's valuable ecosystems. The Philippines has been touted as the 3rd largest contributor of marine plastics. Combined with water pollution, these endanger marine wildlife and fisheries production, affecting the value of tourism, food supply, and human health. Recent studies have shown that microplastics have been discovered in human blood, organs and tissues, posing added huge health risks.

Furthermore, degraded watersheds have resulted in reduced capacities to prevent flooding and landslides, affecting lives and properties, and at the same time reducing water supply during dry months. Mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs have deteriorated in many parts of the country, and uncontrolled development in the coastal areas have compromised their ability to weaken storm surges and other climate induced hazards, thereby leaving swathes of destruction to communities and livelihoods.

All of these are preventable, if every citizen, stakeholder will do their part in investing in nature. Investing

in our future would mean less cost to repair, rebound, and avoid the hefty damages that inaction could inflict upon society. There are a number of ways by which we can show our "investments."

First, let us invest in behavior and lifestyle modification. Global food waste, for example, is responsible for 6 percent to 8 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. This, in addition to making more food available for those who are in need, is a trade-off we make if we are not prudent in our consumption.

Everyday decisions, such as minimizing the use of plastics, can mean a lot in turning the tide in our campaign against marine litter. Reducing the volume of our wardrobe and the frequency we buy new clothes is another way we can make a difference. The fashion industry alone is responsible for 2.1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions in 2018 or 4 percent of the global total. This is equivalent to the same quantity of emissions of the entire economies of France, Germany and the UK combined!

Second, let us invest in risk-informed planning and development. Decisions on location of settlements, industries, city centers, and the way we plan spatial development in cities, greening our infrastructure can mean a lot in preventing lives and saving costs through efficiency gains. Mapping of hazards and exposure of population and assets, and providing alternatives and development controls, zoning regulations

can save the government billions of dollars of losses and damages from powerful typhoons and earthquakes.

Third, let us ensure financing is geared towards sustainability. This means ensuring that capital is channeled towards investments that either do no harm or result in positive impacts on environment. There are available tools to guide decision making on this, and metrics to guide us in measuring results. This entails the active application of environment, social and governance (ESG) principles; aligning with the Sustainable Finance Roadmap; and ensuring each project is evaluated against social and environmental impacts. There are big wins in doing this—the Better Business Better World Report of UNDP has estimated that around \$82 trillion in investment opportunity and 4.4 million new jobs will be created if directed towards those in support of SDG positive investments.

Lastly, all of these will not happen without an environmentally aware citizenry and supportive leadership. At this crucial time, we enjoin all Filipinos to make their voices heard and advocate for environmental sustainability and sustainability financing as priority agenda for the country's path for development. The clock is ticking, and every second of inaction may cause us generations lost.

Dr. Seva Ramachandran is the UNDP Philippines Resident Representative.



'Sagip Coron' movement races vs time to stop reclamation, quarrying

PEOPLE of Palawan's scenic Coron municipality, with support from environmentalists, are racing against time to stop what they called an illegal reclamation project, while addressing the grave ecological damage that they blamed on the implementation of its first two phases.

The concerned groups mounted at the last Earth Day (April 22) a tree-planting activity to restore parts of a mangrove forest that they said was among the casualties of reclamation, along with precious marine life forms and habitat. One of those involved in the Sagip Coron Movement, Marion Raagas, said the reforestation was suggested by no less than President Duterte when stakeholders raised the matter with him recently.

Also on Earth Day, the residents, including farmers, fishermen and the indigenous community of Tagbanuas, also had a townhall meeting hosted by long-time Coron resident Bob Magallanes.

The group's March 22 meeting with President Duterte was followed by two events: the formation of a task force, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to assess the situation; and the issuance by the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) of a cease and desist order addressed to Palawan's provincial government to stop the reclamation until conditions set by the PRA for the project are complied with.

The CDO, signed by PRA General Manager and CEO Atty. Janilo E. Rubiato, told the provincial gov-

ernment to "immediately cease and desist from further undertaking reclamation activities until all governmental requirements and conditions have been fully complied with, including but not limited to the conditions of the Notice to Proceed issued by the PRA, foremost of which is the requirement of an Area Clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources."

The PNP and NBI were directed to assist the PRA in enforcing its CDO.

The Sagip Coron leaders said the PRA letter, however, smacked of acceptance of a fait accompli—that, despite what they deem the "illegality" of pushing through the reclamation's second phase—the PRA's CDO merely allows proponents to proceed with it nonetheless after "curing" their acts instead of penalizing them for their alleged lapses.

Meanwhile, the Sagip Coron movement is finalizing a petition to be signed by 22,222 people, seeking a stop to the project, citing the huge ecological damage to seagrass, marine life forms and mangroves.

They have invited a team of renowned marine biologists to conduct an assessment of the damage, and render a report which they will share with DENR.

Leaders of the group claimed their petition-signing efforts, meanwhile, are being "blocked" by former Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, whose firm is said to be a contractor of the project's private-sector proponents.

Lourdes M. Fernandez



Duterte: Kapos na tubig sa Asia-Pacific aksiyunon

Nanawagan si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa agarang aksiyon ng mga bansa sa Asia-Pacific upang matugunan ang banta ng kakapusan sa supply ng tubig sa rehiyon.

Ginawa ng Pangulo ang panawagan sa kanyang video message para sa 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit na ginanap sa Kumamoto City, Japan kahapon.

"Now is the time for bolder vision and urgent action. We need to decide wisely for ourselves and for our future generations," apela ng Pangulo sa mga kapwa lider ng mga bansa sa Asia-Pacific region.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na dapat magdesisyon nang mahusay ang mga bansa para sa kapakinebangan ng kasalukuyan at

susunod na henerasyon.

Inihalimbawa ng Pangulo ang Pilipinas na sa kabila aniya na maraming tubig sa bansa ay nananatiling malaking hamon kung paano magkakaroon ng mura at malinis na mapagkukunan ng tubig para sa lahat ng mamamayan.

"This requires an urgent sense of community action in the region, an integrated and coherent policy and the resolve to create opportunities for investment and collaboration for technological solutions," sabi ng Pangulo.

Gilt ng Pangulo na kailangang magkaroon ng matubay na alyansa ang rehiyon para matugunan ang suliraning ito at magkaroon ng pagtutulungan ang mga regional expert. **(Prince Golez)**



KALAGAYAN NG ATING INANG KALIKASAN

IPAGDIWANG ng buong mundo ang 'Earth Day' na siyang 52nd year na nito noong Ika-22 ng Abril 2022. Para sa kaalaman ng lahat, taong 1987 lamang ang Pilipinas nagsimulang gumunita sa natalang araw para kay Inang Daigdig matapos na isulong ni noo'y Senador Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez ang Senate Resolution No. 20.

Hayan ninyong pagmuhanan natin ang kalagayan ng ating Inang Kalikasan, ng ating Planetang Daigdig.

Sa encyclical na "Lauda-

to Si", binigyang-diin ni Pope Francis na ang "throwaway culture" ang siyang sanhi pagdumi ng kapaligiran at pagkasira ng kalikasan. Nakalimutan at sadyang kinilimutan ng sangkatauhan na ang kalikasan at ang tao ay magkaugnay.

Ang kasakiman at kapabayaang ng sangkatauhan ay nagresulta sa Climate Change o ang pagtaas ng temperatura ng daigdig bunga ng napung carbon dioxide at iba pang uri ng greenhouse gases (GHG) sa ating himpapawirin.

Base sa pag-aaral ng mga eksperto, ang global average ng pag-init ng mundo mula pa noong taong 1880 hanggang 2012 ay nasa 0.85°C. Ang taong 2014 ang siya



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

ngayong pinakamainit na panahon sa kasaysayan kasunod ng mga taong 2005 at 2010.

Totoo bang may climate change?

Bagama't nagkakaisa sa pananaw ang napakaraming siyentipiko at iba pang dalubhasa sa daigdig gaya ng US Environmental Protection Agency, NASA o ang National Aeronautics and Space Administration at NOAA o National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, mayroon pa ring hindi naniniwala na mayroon ngang climate

change. Anila, ang tumataas na temperature at ang nagbabagong klima ay "part of the natural variations in Earth's climate and temperature" at sadyang dumadaan ang ating planeta sa iba't ibang weather patterns.

Pero sa pananaw ng Simbahang Katolika, climate change is a global problem with grave implications – environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods. At sa mabigat na problemang ito, ang mga mahihirap ang siyang mas pinakaapektado.



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Legarda: Sigla, ganda ng kalikasan payabungin

SA pagdiriwang ng Earth Day, hinimok ni dating senador at Antique Rep. Loren Legarda ang mamamayan na payabungin ang sigla at ganda ng kalikasan.

"We should not simply appreciate our planet and all life in it. We have to protect it, we have to fight for it, and as this year's theme tells us, we have to invest in it," pahayag ng three-term senador na si Legarda sa paggumita ng Earth Day celebration na may global theme na "Invest in our Planet".

Ginawa ni Legarda ang pahayag matapos pangunahan ang "Pagyabong 2022: Enrichment Tree Planting Activity" ng Philippine native tree species, na inorganisa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) at sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City.

Ang NAPWC ay isang protected area at idineklara bilang isang national park sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11038 o Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

Isa ito sa mga batas na iniakda ni Legarda sa Senado na nagdedeklara sa 97 natural park sa bansa.

Nanawagan din ang dating senador sa gobyerno, pribadong sektor at civil society na gumawa ng mga proyektong programa na magiging tugon sa overexploitation, habitat loss at polusyon. **(Dindo Matising)**



EDITORIAL

Earth Day vows

TO whom much is given, much is required.

Name it, we gave it – land water, flora, fauna, mineral, and other natural endowments.

The country is indeed lucky to have rich seas, vast coastlines, and other natural resources inland, but the public should learn to take care of them.

But having natural wealth is not just about ownership.

More importantly, it is about custodianship.

These resources, while vast, are not finite.

They could run out or waste away if we do not take good care of them.

Thus, Sen. Francis Tolentino, one of the vice-chairpersons of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, said Friday that the annual observance of Earth Day is a reminder to value God's gifts.

"Biodiversity is always dominant. The Philippines is one of a kind if we look at our natural resources. That is why we should take care of it, not only now, but also in the next generations," he said in a video message.

Tolentino urged Filipinos to develop natural resources as well as to follow the law and zoning regulations.

"As we celebrate Earth Day 2022 today, I believe that our unity and love for our nature will further ensure that we will have a prosperous Philippines," he added.

The Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office also conducted clean-up drives and tree planting activities in Paombong town where 100 fruit-bearing trees, including nipa palm, were planted inside an eco-park.

Manila Water and partners also jumpstarted their two-day Earth Day Celebration with the theme, "Saving the Earth: Securing Water for the Future".

Along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Water and Resources Board, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System regulatory and corporate offices, Local Water Utilities Administration, and Bantay Kalikasan organization, Manila Water led a ceremonial tree planting activity at Balara Filters Park in Pansol, Quezon City.

The event is part of Annual Million Trees Challenge, a five-year program that promotes water security and protection of the environment and encourages partners to contribute and adopt a land.

Manila Water is adopting 200 hectares of land at the La Mesa Watershed and would plant seedlings together with its subsidiaries and partner government agencies and local government units.

The ceremonial tree planting activity is a primer for the Arbor Day celebration in June.

April 22 of every year is regarded as the Philippines' Earth Day pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1481 series of 2006.

This year's theme, "Invest in our Planet", seeks to rally all efforts toward protecting the planet and investing in sustainable practices to secure a "green future."



PEMSEA presents solutions to rid rivers of plastic waste

IN CELEBRATION of Earth Day 2022, PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) released a set of studies to help manage plastic waste entering the world's rivers.

The five studies were launched under Project ASEANO, a three-year initiative to stem the flow of plastic pollution in two pilot sites – the Imus River in the Philippines and the Citarum River in Indonesia. Funded by the Norwegian Development Program to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics, Project ASEANO is led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) in Indonesia, together with the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) and the ASEAN Secretariat under the purview of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME).

Layman versions of the studies are publicly downloadable. The studies cover the social implications of plastic pollution mitigation, assess the

knowledge, attitudes and practices on plastic waste and offer maps of the Imus River watershed while identifying hotspots of plastic waste. Waste entering this river system is liable to flow into the ocean via Manila Bay.

The studies were led by two academic institutions based within the Imus River watershed – Cavite State University (CvSU) and De La Salle University Dasmariñas (DLSU-D). "We wanted to understand not just what types of waste enter the Imus River, but how the people who live near the river itself perceived plastic pollution as well as local efforts to combat it. Through this, we were able to contextualize possible policies and initiatives that might once more make the river safe for bathing, fishing and recreation," explained Dr. Edwin Lineses of DLSU-D.

East Asian countries produce over half of our world's marine plastic pollution and waterways like the Imus River act as conveyor belts that discharge waste to the oceans.

"Project ASEANO is developing practical measures to reduce the entry of plastic waste into rivers, while carefully assessing the interlinked dynamics between residents, local economies and the environment," explained ASEANO Project Manager Thomas Bell.

Project ASEANO promises to share proven and cost-efficient actions to help local communities better manage plastic waste from source to sea. The project enhances capacity, monitoring, evaluation and inter-LGU cooperation for various groups tackling river pollution. Its solutions are designed to be replicated and upscaled across the region.

"For almost three decades, PEMSEA has been developing and sharing solutions to revive the seas of East Asia," concluded PEMSEA Executive Director Aimee Gonzales. "This Earth Day, *buhayin natin ang ating mga ilog* (let's revive our rivers). Promoting integrated river management, just like integrated coastal management, translates to more productive waterways and healthier communities."

IMUS WATERSHED AT A GLANCE



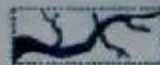
186.15 km

is the length of all the watershed's river and stream systems combined.



36 river segments and 56 perennial streams

comprise the watershed.



11,259.80 hectares

comprise the watershed's total drainage area.



0 to 655 m above sea level

is the watershed's elevation profile.



222 barangay communities

are situated within the watershed.



1,351,057 people

live within the watershed as of 2015.



28.53°C

is the mean temperature recorded in the Sangley Point Synoptic Station.



2,265.69 to 2,483.05 mm

is the average total rainfall generated from two representative sites.



1,601.84 liters per second

is the average water flow during the wet season.



1337.42 liters per second

is the average water flow during the dry season.



90.67%

of the province of Cavite is classified as alienable and disposable land.



9.33%

of the province of Cavite is classified as forest land.

PEMSEA's studies provide easy-to-comprehend solutions to understand complex problems. Shown is a quick infographic about the hydrological characteristics of the Imus Watershed. PEMSEA's studies are freely downloadable at <https://pemsea.org/publications/reports>.



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Investing in the planet's future

EARTH DAY is always a timely reminder of how vital it is to put greater attention on the state of the planet and participate in the fight against the climate crisis. And the call to take action for the planet have been more and more resounding, moving us to act now.

The latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III Sixth Assessment Report, which evaluated climate change mitigation progress and pledges, among others, stated that greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest to preserve the chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, a target set under the Paris Agreement.

"It's now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F)," IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Jim Skea said in a statement. "Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible."

As we heard the alarms about the current and potential situation, how should we stand up and act to save the planet that gives us life?

"Everyone has a part to play in this crucial step for the planet. This is highlighted by EARTHDAY.ORG in this year's theme, a call to 'Invest in Our Planet.'"

The campaign seeks to "push aside" the barriers established by the fossil fuel economy and its fellow conspirators old technologies and shift the attention towards building a 21st-century economy that restores the planet's health, protects the species, and has opportunities to offer to everyone.

The focus of this year's theme is to get the over a billion people, the governments, businesses, and institutions joining the Earth Day involved to understand the collective responsibility and help out in accelerating the transition toward

such an equitable and prosperous green economy.

"In 2022, we all 'must' enter into one partnership for the planet. People, governments, and even most businesses fear change but the status quo — the way we live today — is changing before our eyes. In building our future, individuals, businesses, governments, each have a unique role — we need to act individually and together," EARTHDAY.ORG President Kathleen Rogers said in a statement.

Businesses can drive a substantial change by investing in the planet and fighting climate change. As most may have comprehended, corporations produce almost everything consumers buy, use, and discard, which could then contribute to the climate situation.

"Unless businesses act now, climate change will ever more deeply damage economies, increase scarcity, drain profits and job prospects, and impact

us all," EARTHDAY.ORG said on their website.

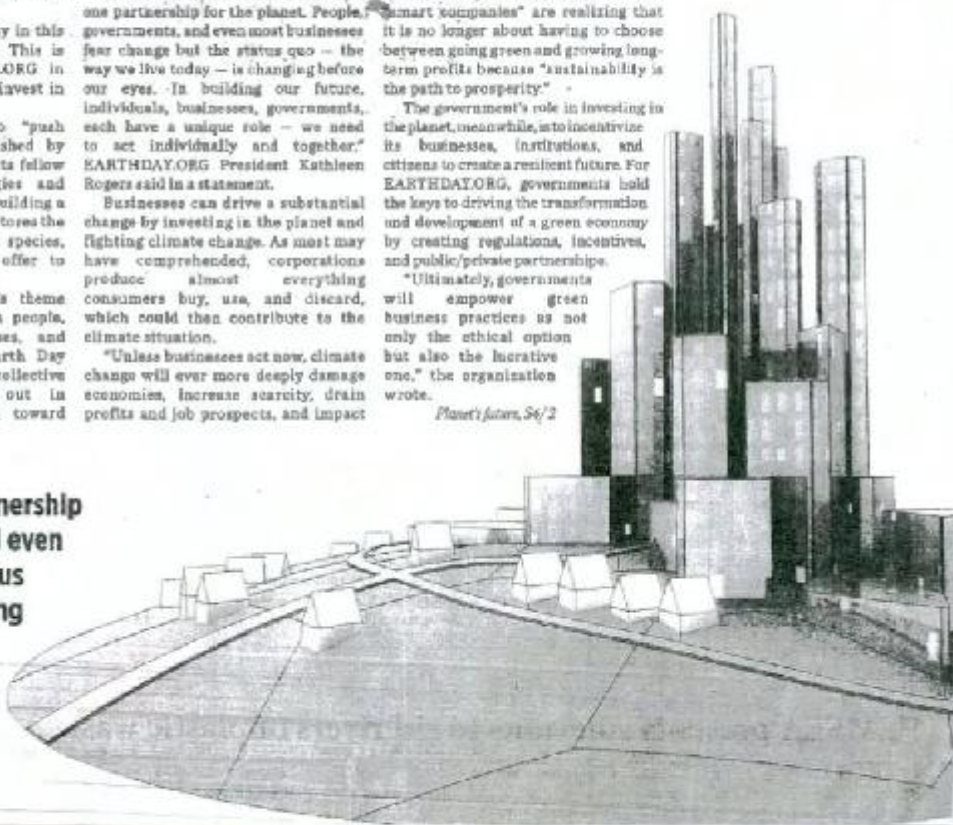
Yet, the organization considered that "smart companies" are realizing that it is no longer about having to choose between going green and growing long-term profits because "sustainability is the path to prosperity."

The government's role in investing in the planet, meanwhile, is to incentivize its businesses, institutions, and citizens to create a resilient future. For EARTHDAY.ORG, governments hold the keys to driving the transformation and development of a green economy by creating regulations, incentives, and public/private partnerships.

"Ultimately, governments will empower green business practices as not only the ethical option but also the lucrative one," the organization wrote.

Planet's future, S4/2

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Planet's future, from S4/1

Holding governments, businesses, and others accountable and supporting their efforts when done right are among the responsibilities of citizens.

EARTHDAY.ORG recognized the capacity of individuals to lobby for and support businesses that participate in environmental protection through their practices and investments, and to fight against those that do not take part.

Several studies have already shown the number of consumers minding the environmental impact of their purchase. The EY Future Consumer Index last year, as an example, showed that most consumers (64%) intend to pay more attention to the environmental impact of products they consume.

Still, many consumers (78%) are concerned over the pandemic's impact on their finances. And while 51% do want to purchase more sustainably, high prices discourage 66%.

The study also showed that most consumers (68%) expect companies to be the leaders in driving good social and environmental outcomes.

"As individuals, we have the simple yet effective power to make our voices heard through our choices, our civic actions, and our personal interactions," said EARTHDAY.ORG. "What each of us does, and how we do it, has a huge ripple effect on our ecosystems, and on the pace of corporate and government action." This further substantiated why investing in the planet requires a collective action among businesses, governments, and individuals.

"Unlike other historic economic revolutions, this time there are two additional imperatives," EARTHDAY.ORG's Ms. Rogers said. "The first is to save ourselves from the climate crisis, and the second is to build new green economies in every country so that everyone can share in the benefits from this green revolution. This will only be done if we invest in our planet's future together." — **Chelsey Keith P. Ignacio**





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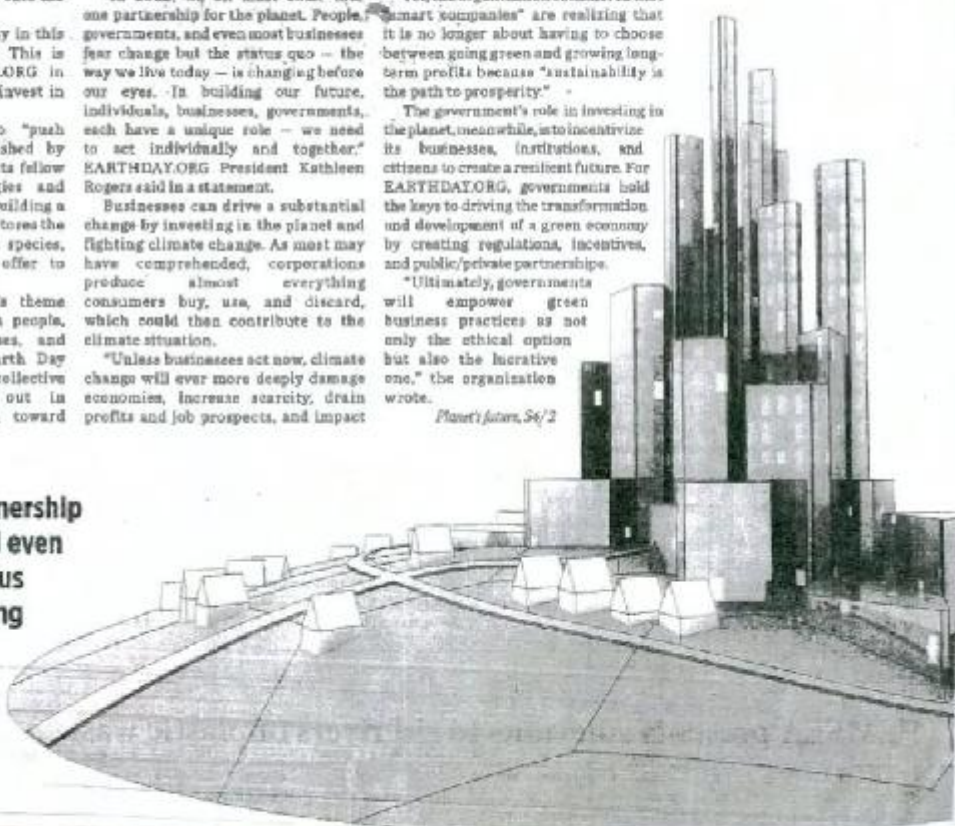
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Steering the country towards a greener tomorrow

AS WE APPROACH the middle of 2022, the world inches closer to the agreed upon deadline for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the international treaty pledging the cooperation of 196 countries towards tackling the threat of artificially-induced global warming.

With a goal to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century and limit global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius, the agreement is a massive undertaking that would mark one of the biggest collaborative efforts in history, a common cause that brings all the world's nations together.

For its part, the Philippines has pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions to a 70% reduction by 2030 in the agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors. Broken down, 72.29% is conditional on the support of climate finance, technologies and capacity development provided by developed countries, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement, while the remaining 2.71% of the target would be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

As one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, the Philippines should spare no effort in transitioning the country towards an adaptable, carbon-neutral, environmentally sustainable society.

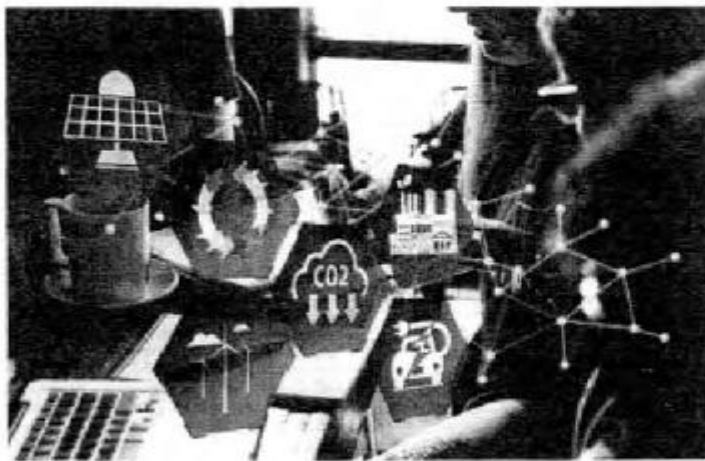
In pursuit of this, the government had implemented a number of programs like the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change that lays the foundation for national

and local government policies toward a climate-resilient Philippines with "healthy, safe, prosperous and self-reliant communities, and thriving and productive ecosystems". Of which, adaptation is the anchor strategy, using the Philippine Agenda 21 for Sustainable Development, and with mitigation actions pursued as a function of adaptation.

There is also the National Climate Change Action Plan, which focuses on public financing that prioritizes adaptation for vulnerable and marginalized communities, and policymaking that encourages the private sector to optimize mitigation opportunities toward sustainable development. The seven key outcomes of the plan are food security; water sufficiency; ecological and environmental sustainability; human security; climate-friendly industries and services; sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development.

Furthermore, eleven chapters in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 involve climate-related policies and measures. These promote climate-resilient infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, forest rehabilitation, and improved health services for disaster and climate-related illnesses.

Most recently, the government further enhanced its efforts this year to build climate resilience among communities nationwide and address climate change to better protect the environment, lives and property.



"We have drawn up a Sustainable Finance Roadmap to help orchestrate public and private sector efforts to green our economy," Department of Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission (CCC) chairperson-designate Carlos Dominguez III said in his 2021 message for the country's annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week observance.

The government identified the Philippines' top climate-induced risks as rising sea level, coastal erosion, flooding, increasing frequency and severity of tropical cyclones, extreme drought, temperature increase and rising urban heat index, extreme rainfall, climate-influenced diseases, wind patterns and biodiversity loss.

Calling for stronger international collaboration, Mr. Dominguez raised the urgency for action, noting climate change "is a battle we cannot afford to lose."

"We expect that developed nations, which historically caused the global climate crisis, will deliver their commitments to Paris Agreement with the right speed and scale to keep global average temperature from breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius survival threshold," he said.

Moreover, he added that he considers the present time until 2030 "critical", noting this period is an opportunity to undertake low-carbon and resilient development as well as other climate action that will ensure Earth's well-being "before it's too late."

The Philippines is "very reliant" on international financial support for capacity-building and technology transfers which climate projects need, he admitted.

"We hope this COP26 will result in positive action and will start the flow of funds to help countries," he said at the conference.

In the conference, the CCC revealed that various local projects worth an estimated P810 million have already been supported through the government's People's Survival Fund, a fund created in 2012 to help local government units and accredited community organizations implement climate change adaptation projects in the country.

Furthermore, to help promote public and private investment in green undertakings nationwide, the government developed the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap anchored on three strategic pillars: policy (creating a conducive environment), financing (mainstreaming sustainable finance) and investment (developing a sustainable pipeline).

The government also reconstituted the CCC's National Panel of Technical Experts, to include Filipino experts who can help promote double climate action on the ground.

"We are no longer in the business of building a grand theory about climate change. Science has accumulated enough evidence about what is happening and what all of humanity needs to do to reverse the apocalyptic course of planetary warming. We are now in the business of implementing concrete projects and programs to build the resilience of our communities, reverse degradation and protect our vital food sources," Mr. Dominguez said.

"What is global must now be addressed at the local level. What was theoretical now demands practical applications on the ground. No red light can stop us from moving towards a greener future. We have brought together brilliant minds to ensure that our race towards our planet's survival will be coherent, concerted and compelling," he added. — Bjorn Eiel M. Beltran



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Climate change, big agriculture slashing insect populations 'by half'

A WARMING world and intensive agriculture are causing insect populations to plummet by nearly half compared to areas less affected by temperature rises and industrial farming, researchers said.

The researchers measured both insect abundance and number of species in areas across the world and compared that to insects in more pristine habitats.

The study published in *Nature* found that the double whammy of global warming and shrinking habitats has not just hit population numbers, but also provoked a 27 percent drop in the diversity of species.

The calculations may also be too conservative because areas used to benchmark change — while the most pristine on the planet — have already been degraded to some extent by human activity.

While in line with earlier estimates of insect decline, the new findings are based on different methodologies.

Covering 18,000 spe-



cies from beetles to butterflies to bees, the study drew from 750,000 data points collected from 1992 to 2012 at 6,000 locations.

Some three-quarters of 115 top global food crops depend on animal pollination, including cocoa, coffee, almonds and cherries.

Some insects are also crucial for pest control — especially of other bugs.

Ladybugs, praying mantis, ground beetles, wasps and spiders all play crucial roles in keeping pest insects in check, from

aphids and fleas to cutworms and caterpillars.

Insects are also crucial for decomposing waste and nutrient cycling.

The study was the first to look at the combined impact of rising temperatures and industrial agriculture, including the widespread use of insecticides.

Even without climate change, converting a tropical forest into agricultural land leads to drier hotter areas due to the removal of vegetation that provides shade and retains moisture in the air

and soil.

Add a degree or two of warming, and these regions become even hotter and drier, pushing certain species of insects up to or beyond their limits.

In some regions, insects are now experiencing extended periods in which temperatures exceed the highest extremes of less than a century before.

Up to now, intensive agriculture and habitat loss have been the major driver of insect decline.

Earlier research, for example, estimates the number of flying insects across Europe has dropped 80 percent on average, causing bird populations to shrink by more than 400 million in three decades.

Insects comprise about two-thirds of all terrestrial species, and have been the foundation of key ecosystems since emerging almost 400 million years ago.

Moles, hedgehogs, anteaters, lizards, amphibians, most bats, many birds and fish all feed on insects.

AFP/Marlowe Hood



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Cleene Alcohol joins drive to cut ocean-bound plastic waste

CLEENE Ethyl Alcohol, a trusted Filipino brand that provides high-quality and affordable alcohol products from Philusa Corporation, extends its effort in reducing ocean-bound plastic waste as it partners with social enterprise Plastic Bank Corporation.

The initiative was recently unveiled during the virtual launch of Cleene Ethyl Alcohol's campaign dubbed "Towards a Cleaner Philippines," a movement encouraging the public to be more mindful of the environment by adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle. This is in collaboration with Plastic Bank, which is known for building recycling ecosystems in coastal areas through its community of plastic collectors.

The country was tagged as one of the top producers of marine waste. That's why Cleene Ethyl Alcohol took steps to cut waste on the environment.

Philusa Corporation President and General Manager Neogin Evange-



lista said the brand supports the Plastic Bank's Impact Program which intends to help prevent 1.25 million plastic bottles from entering the ocean. Cleene Ethyl Alcohol will also help improve the lives of more than 600 plastic waste collectors in vulnerable coastal communities in Makati, Pasig and Mandaluyong.

"It's always been our commitment to finding sustainable ways to help our environment. And we hope that through this effort, we can contribute to minimizing ocean plastic waste and be of help to our hardworking Plastic Bank collectors," Evangelista said.

Also, the company

would be distributing health kits in several cities nationwide to help improve the health of the collectors.

To date, the Impact Program has stopped over 2,401,315,100 from entering the ocean, impacting over 588 communities.

"We are honored to be joining Cleene in their journey in making this project come to life. As a partner, we at Plastic Bank are driven to strengthen our ocean-bound plastic recycling efforts and give Cleene the opportunity to take a leadership position in the regenerative society," said Plastic Bank Philippines Country Manager Rene Guarin.



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RESIDENTS of Navotas City plunge into the water of Manila Bay to beat the heat, despite government warning not to swim in the polluted bay. (Ali Vicoy)



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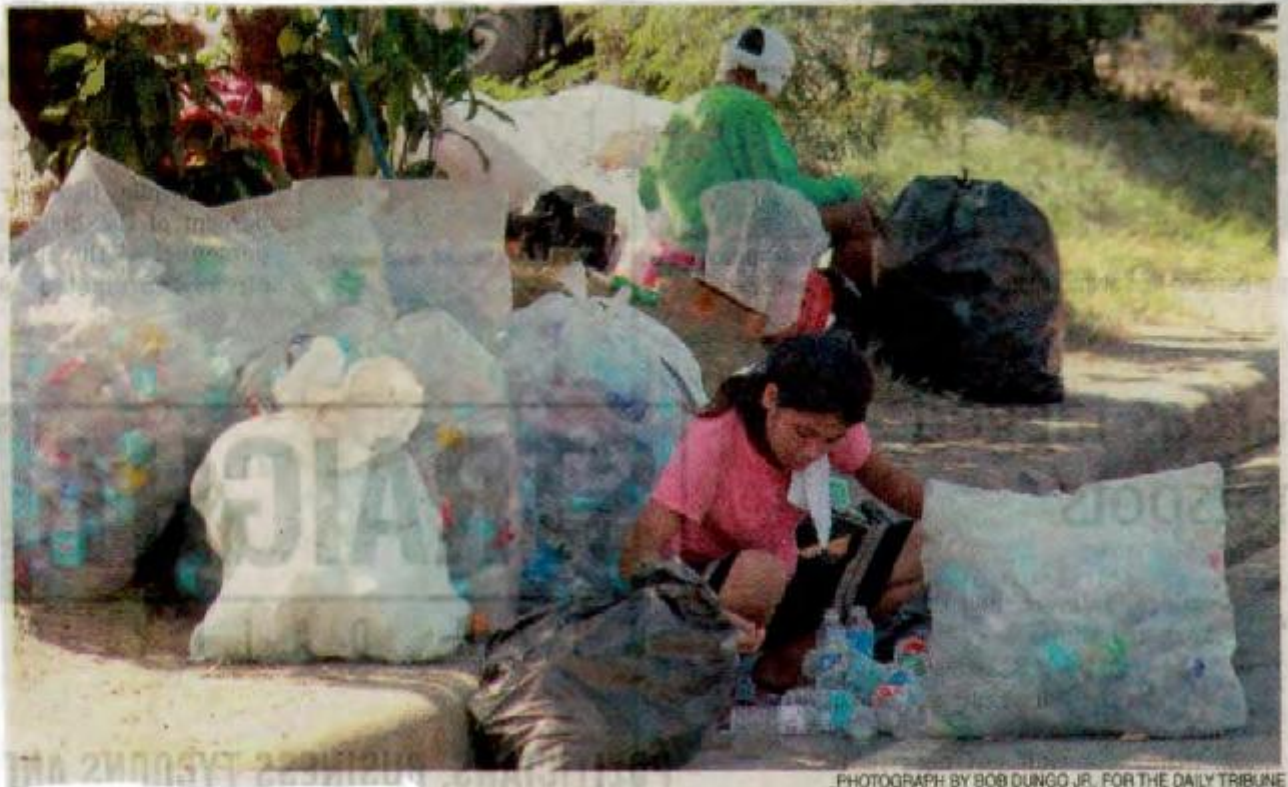
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PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

Plastic fantastic Following the birthday bash cum campaign rally of Vice President Leni Robredo at Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City Saturday, traders on recyclable materials collect plastic water bottles discarded by the people during the event.



25 APRIL 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH names 13 areas logging increase in COVID-19 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 23, 2022 3:08:00 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 23) – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday identified 13 areas in the country where a rise in new COVID-19 cases has been observed.

In a media briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje listed these areas as Marinduque, Davao City, Butuan City, Surigao del Sur, Ilocos Norte, Kalinga, Batanes, Quirino, Catanduanes, Olongapo City, Tarlac City, Angeles City, and Eastern Samar.

She said the increase in infections is currently not significant, but stressed close monitoring should still be done.

According to the health official, they have not yet seen a common factor among these localities which may have led to the growth in cases.

However, among the possible reasons they are looking at are the influx of tourists and of people going home to their provinces, as well as the conduct of more election campaign activities.

Earlier, the DOH warned the country may see another spike in cases in the middle of May if adherence to minimum public health standards wanes.

Citing the [projections](#) of disease surveillance tool FASSSTER, the department said active cases may reach 332,000 by then, should there be a 30% decline in compliance with health protocols, such as proper wearing of face masks and social distancing.

Based on DOH data, active coronavirus cases in the country stood at 15,782 as of April 22. This is out of 3.68 million people infected since the start of the pandemic.

Some 3.608 million have already recovered, while at least 60,118 died, it also said.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/4/23/DOH-13-areas-COVID-19-cases-increase.html>



Nasa 10k, inaasahang tatanggap ng 2nd COVID-19 booster sa Lunes

Michael Delizo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 24 2022 04:34 PM

MAYNILA — Nasa 7,000 hanggang 10,000 na immunocompromised adults ang inaasahang mabakunahan ng Department of Health (DOH) sa unang araw ng pagtuturok ng ikalawang booster shot ng COVID-19 vaccine sa Lunes.

Ayon kay DOH Undersecretary at National Vaccination Operations Center chair Myrna Cabotaje, tinatayang nasa 690,000 ang mga immunocompromised na nakatanggap na ng unang booster.

“Ang nabakunahan natin ng third shot na A3 ay 2.3 million. Mga 30 percent ang ine-estimate nating mga immunocompromised. So, 30 percent of 2.3 million is about 690,000. Tapos 1 percent of that, mga 7 [thousand] to 10,000,” sabi ni Cabotaje sa panayam ng ABS-CBN News ngayong Linggo.

Babakunahan lang sa initial phase ng rollout ng ikalawang booster shot ang mga edad 18 pataas na nasa immunodeficiency state, may HIV, active cancer o malignancy, transplant recipients, sumasailalim sa steroid treatment, pasyenteng may mahinang prognosis o bed-ridden, at iba pang kondisyon ng immunodeficiency na sertipikado ng doktor.

Kailangan ay nasa tatlong buwan na ang pagitan mula nang huli silang mabakunahan.

Maaari silang makipag-ugnayan sa lokal na pamahalaan o sa health facility ng komunidad para sa appointment.

Hindi pa kasama sa babakunahan ng ikalawang booster ang mga healthcare worker at senior citizen, pero maaari silang tumanggap ng karagdagang dose kung immunocompromised din sila.

“Hindi pa binibigyan ng go signal ng ating Health Technology Assessment Council [ang second booster sa A1 at A2]. ‘Yung EUA natin ng FDA ay puwede na sa A1, A2, and A3. Pero ‘yung HTAC recommendation ay immunocompromised. Mayroon namang mga immunocompromised sa A1 at saka sa A2, ‘yan puwede nang bigyan pero hindi po lahat ng A1 at A2,” saad ni Cabotaje.

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