

26 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Job Well Done in Environmental Compliance Monitoring

Monday, April 25, 2022 Journal Online



Undersecretary for Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna (3rd from left) awards a certificate of appreciation to Anselde Edrian Diaz of Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 13 during the closing ceremony of the month-long saturation drive and intensified Environmental Compliance Monitoring of establishments in Metro Manila held at the Biodiversity Management Bureau Amphitheater on April 7, 2022. Diaz is one of the 314 inspectors from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Regional Office ([DENR-NCR](#))’s four Metropolitan Environmental Offices, EMB regional offices, and Laguna Lake Development Authority recognized for their active participation in the conduct of the activity. Also in the photo are (L-R): South Field Office OIC-Chief Environmental Officer Bobby Tagapan, [DENR-NCR](#) Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan, and OIC-Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Luzon and Visayas Gilbert Gonzales.



DENR Earth Day clean up nets 2,000 kilos of waste

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

April 25, 2022

OVER 200 government employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando and partner agencies converged in a fun run and cleanup activity in support of the annual celebration of the Earth Day.

The group collected over 2,000 kilos of solid waste from canals and creeks within the Diosdado Macapagal Government Center in Pampanga.

The event, dubbed as “KapaligiRUN: Kalinisan at Kalusugan, Dahil Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan,” was a plogging activity that combined running with cleaning and picking up of trash.

DENR Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Arthur Salazar noted that the activity called for strategic partnership and cooperation among government agencies to uphold environmental protection and sustainability.

He said the initiative was a value-adding component to the government’s continued efforts to clean and rehabilitate creeks, tributaries and river systems that drain to the Manila Bay.

The theme for this year’s Earth Day celebration is “Invest in Our Planet” that promotes sustainability to safeguard biodiversity and the environment.



13h

Bro. Armin Luistro of La Salle and former Puerto Princesa mayor Edward Hagedorn lead over 30 environmentalists urging Pres. Rodrigo Duterte and the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel the mineral production sharing agreements in the Upper Marikina River Basin, noting that mineral exploration, mining, and quarrying are prohibited inside protected areas.

The group also said there are threats to remove the reforestation work of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation in the area.

Joint Letter to President Duterte and DENR Secretary Sampulna: PUT CONSERVATION FIRST IN MASUNGI & THE UPPER MARIKINA WATERSHED

We, concerned leaders, experts, and citizens, appeal to Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, to immediately cancel the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements found within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBSPL, Presidential Proclamation 2967) and the Unnamed National Park (Presidential Proclamation 1636P).

According to Section 18 of the e-NIPAS Act (RA 11038), mineral exploration, mining, and quarrying are prohibited inside protected areas. In addition, based on documents from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself, the subject quarry companies have committed "gross violations constituting breach in their contracts".

We believe these are more than enough grounds to merit the expeditious cancellation of the said MPSAs. We are deeply concerned that despite the orders from former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu to cancel the MPSAs, no formal cancellation has been issued by the DENR for two years hence and until his resignation. We condemn the reported moves of certain officials to approve similarly harmful and contradictory activities inside the protected area, such as the construction and operation of certain swimming pool resorts that disrupt and divert waterways inside the critical watershed.

It is ironic and disheartening that instead of canceling the quarrying agreements and removing illegal permanent structures, there are now threats of removing the award-winning reforestation work of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation in the area.

In the period 2014 to 2018, the Manila Observatory found a persistent decline in the tree-covered areas of the UMRBSPL despite its most recent proclamation as a protected area in 2011. Independent scientific studies estimate the remaining forest cover of the Upper Marikina Watershed to be 10.4% in 2016 and only 11% in 2021. This dire situation could significantly worsen the extent of flooding in low-lying reaches of the Upper Marikina Watershed, including the cities and communities of Metro Manila and Rizal Province.

SIGNATORIES

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Armin Luistro Environment Lawyer | Edward S. Hagedorn Former Mayor of Puerto Princesa City, United Nations Global 500 Awarder | Dr. Armin Luistro, PSC Principal Superior, De La Salle Brothers | Prof. Rey Duane S. Pineda, Ph.D. Dean, College of Science University of Santo Tomas | Fr. John Herman T. Vilakis, SJ, Executive Director, Manila Observatory |
| Joseph A. Lopez Chairman, ARAACT Center for Tourism | Gabe Kaban Treasurer, Association of Young Environmental Journalists | Eddie Brondon Executive Director, Reserve The Youth Land Trust | Dr. Conarion PB. Claudio Conarion-Clacio, Climate Action & Sustainability Alliance | Loida Dulac National Coordinator, Pulong People's Network for the Environment |
| Jefferson B. Bala Lead Convenor, Youth SMRE 4 Climate Philippines | Rodolfo T. Amador National Ambassador, WWF-Philippines | Bobby Francisco Co-Founder, UP Mountainers | Noel DuBlera Governor-Photographer, International League of Conservation Photographers | Ivan Arribas, BSc Secretary General, ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee |
| Maria Luisa B. Lopez President, Laguna Environmental Research Institute Philippines | Gailie Ann Lapus President, Animal Biological Organization Laguna Environmental Center | Loly Linderbach Loly Linderbach, Ph.D. CEO, Alivian People & Wildlife | Nelia Lamotan Managing Director, Phil Parks and Biodiversity | Robert Lopez Falciano Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation |
| Margie Jay M. Loran President, Environmental Law Society of Manila | Michael C. Lu President, Asia Golf Club of the Philippines | Dr. Audrin Mallan President, The Center for Conservation Innovations, Inc. | Jose Carlo M. Mapa National Youth Council MWF-Philippines | Garry T. Montinola Co-Founder, Manila Ge Foundation, Inc. |

106

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Loren sa Earth Day: Kalikasan pangalagaan

By [Joy Cantos](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - April 26, 2022 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Legarda na kilala bilang kampeon sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan na hindi lang dapat ‘pahalagahan ang daigdig’, kundi dapat mamuhunan ang lahat sa pagsusulong ng isang malinis, masigla at malusog na ‘Mother Earth.’

MANILA, Philippines — Hinikayat ni Deputy Speaker at Nationalist People’s Coalition senatorial bet Loren Legarda ang mga mamamayan na maging aktibong “Earth Defenders” sa pamamagitan nang pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Ginawa ni Legarda ang pahayag sa 52th Earth Day celebration na may pangdaigdigang tema na ‘Invest in our Planet’.

Ayon kay Legarda na kilala bilang kampeon sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan na hindi lang dapat ‘pahalagahan ang daigdig’, kundi dapat mamuhunan ang lahat sa pagsusulong ng isang malinis, masigla at malusog na ‘Mother Earth.’

Sa harap ng mga nagaganap na kalamidad, dulot na rin ng mapanirang galaw ng sangkatauhan at climate change, sinabi ni Legarda na dapat lang kumilos ang publiko bilang ‘Earth Defenders’ o tagapagtanggol ng daigdig hindi lang ngayon, kundi gayundin sa hinaharap.

Aniya, kapag nakabalik siyang muli sa Senado ay lalo pa niyang pag-iibayuhin ang mga batas kalikasan para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

Hinimok niya rin ang publiko na sama-samang payabungin ang ganda at sigla ng ating kalikasan.

Sa lahat ng mga tumatakbong kandidato sa darating na halalan sa Mayo, tanging si Legarda lamang ang may mahabang karanasan, malinaw na adbokasiya at epektibong action plan sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan.



Legarda wants stricter implementation of Solid Waste Law



Published 18 hours ago on April 25, 2022 01:23 PM
By TDT [@tribunephil](#)



Senatorial aspirant Loren Legarda pushed for a stricter implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Law.

Senatorial aspirant Loren Legarda pushed for a stricter implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Law.

“It is lamentable that years after the measure was enacted into law, compliance rate is still very low,” Legarda said.

Legarda added that she remains optimistic that more LGUs will be able to properly implement the law.

“We have allocated funds for capacity building programs and concerned government agencies are also looking into LGUs that are not compliant so that legal actions may be undertaken,” she added.

Furthermore, all LGUs should have a solid waste management plan, which should be submitted to and approved by the NSWMC.

More importantly, the law dictates that there should be mandatory segregation of waste at source and a “no segregation, no collection” policy. All barangays should have a materials recovery facility (MRF), where waste materials are sorted for composting and recycling and the residual waste will be brought to sanitary landfills.



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“There are very few LGUs that have effectively and efficiently complied with the ESWM Law. The fact that there are compliant LGUs only means that it is doable and there is no reason why other LGUs could not follow suit. I hope our leaders will have the political will to implement the law at full speed,” Legarda concluded.



Legarda shares tips to protect environment through daily practice



Published 17 hours ago on April 25, 2022 02:16 PM
By TDT [@tribunephil](#)

Senatorial aspirant Loren Legarda shared how she has been incorporating her advocacies on environmental protection and climate change mitigation in her daily practice, hoping that more people would be inspired to do the same.

“I wish to share how each individual can be part of the effective implementation of our laws. These practices do not demand much from us. In fact, many of these can immediately be practiced as soon as today. It has every bit of potential to become second nature to us. We just have to take that first crucial step of actually taking action,” said Legarda.

Legarda added that people should eat more local, plant-based food, noting that food that comes from distant places utilizes more energy for transportation and preservation, therefore resulting to greater carbon emission.

“I plant vegetables in my garden so I am able to eat them fresh. We should encourage families to plant vegetables in their backyards or community vacant lots, or to cultivate pinakbetgardens to provide food on the table and address the needs of growing numbers of malnourished children,” she said.

She also said that traditional energy and water conservation measures remain relevant—use low-wattage appliances, turn off and unplug electronics when not in use, turn off lights when leaving a room, open curtains for natural lighting, gather and store rainwater for daily chores, turn off faucets properly, repair leaking pipes and running toilets immediately, and other similar practices.

Moreover, energy- and cost-efficient transport modes, like walking, biking, taking public transport, and carpooling, should be considered whenever possible.

She likewise stressed the importance of practicing ecological solid waste management, starting with segregation at source.

“Every household should have separate trash cans for biodegradable and food waste, recyclables or residual waste, and special or hazardous waste, including busted lamps, radio and cellphone batteries; while paper that can be recycled should be placed flat in a box or in a paper bag,” Legarda added.

Bring containers when going to market or the grocery to avoid using plastic bags. Reusable containers can be used in purchasing fish, meat and other poultry products; while bayong and reusable cloth bags can be used for other items.

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



Davao hazard maps showcased in weeklong Earth Day celebration

By Christine Cudis [April 25, 2022, 5:43 pm](#)



SPREADING AWARENESS. Maps containing the current hazard areas in Davao City are featured in an Earth Day exhibit that runs until April 28 at SM Mall-Ecoland. The city government aims to offer the public a comprehensive guide for investing in the right spaces of the city and at the same time urging them to take an active effort in solving climate change. *(Photo courtesy of SM Malls)*

DAVAO CITY – As a guide for businesses and potential property buyers here, the city government has issued hazard maps indicating disaster risks for specific areas.

Ivan Cortez, the city planning and development Office (CPDO) coordinator, said Monday the maps aim to guide the public on which locations offer the best deal for their investments.

“We want the people to be aware of the current hazards already mapped in our zoning ordinance such as landslide-prone areas, areas that are prone to flooding, areas that are prone to storm surge, and areas that are within the fault line,” Cortez said.

The maps can be viewed at the exhibit organized by the CPDO and City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in SM City Ecoland until April 28.

Apart from the maps, local government offices also post information on the efforts being implemented to address environmental damage.

Cortez said the activities allow Dabawenyos to mitigate the risks they might face due to climate change.

The exhibit also allows Dabawenyos to learn some interesting facts about the 2013 zoning ordinance, which includes the declaration of Shrine Hills as an Urban Ecological Enhancement Sub-Zone.

Cortez said the ecological zone "will start providing something of a lung to the urban center because we cannot allow the entire area to be a concrete jungle. We also need the real jungle to be within us as we continue to enjoy living in Davao City."

To institutionalize greening initiatives, he said the city government also requires every subdivision project "and every commercial institutional project to have 10 percent of their total area devoted to greening."



In addition, he said the city has also recently approved the "Single-Use Plastic Ordinance" and another law requiring all parks, sidewalks, and pavements to use the permeable pavement to allow water to seep into the ground.

"We are part of the solution. Everything that we do will always redound to something that will destroy or benefit the environment. The choice is ours," Cortez said.

The exhibit also intends to solicit suggestions from the public to further improve the environmental and infrastructure services of the city government. (PNA)



50 years of Earth Day: Celebrating gains

[BIZLINKS](#) - [Rey Gamboa](#) - The Philippine Star April 26, 2022 | 12:00am

The celebration of Earth Day last Friday in the Philippines was muted by the election campaign noise, while in other parts of the world, matters of war or the rising cost of living dominated concerns over environmental problems.

It's been 50 years since the International Mother Earth Day became a global movement. In 1972, the UN Conference on Human Development in Stockholm first raised the protection of the human environment as a major issue. The broad framework of action agreed then became the basis for a more detailed platform in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro where the sustainable approach to environment protection was agreed on.

We live in a world today that is far more endangered than half a century ago, but awareness continues to be high and growing despite the many different distractions that from time to time divert people's attention from the task of protecting and saving Earth.

For the Philippines, the more apparent need to focus attention to the environment is brought about by the prevalence of stronger and more destructive typhoons, likewise of hotter summers. Many now believe that this change in climate conditions is an issue that should be tackled with more resources and commitment.

Where the feeling of powerlessness was once dominant, humans are now inspired and being galvanized to act. Never has there been a time when so much science is being utilized to understand weather conditions and to devise ways of avoiding and dealing with damage from natural disasters.

More importantly, never has there been a time when innovation is the overriding force in developing new technologies that can provide solutions to the phenomenon of global warming caused by excessive carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

Collective action

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted in commemorating 50 years of Earth Day, "we have seen what is possible when we act as one." People's efforts over the last decades have yielded quite remarkable feats. According to Guterres, "We have shrunk the ozone hole. We have expanded protections for wildlife and ecosystems. We have ended the use of leaded fuel, preventing millions of premature deaths. And just last month, we have launched a landmark global effort to prevent and end plastic pollution."

We must add to these achievements the unmistakable tide against the use of finite fuels for power generation and transportation as nations adopt programs that lean to and direct more use of renewable energies in the coming years.

Wind and solar are just two of the emerging technologies for power generation that clearly are winning the war against fossil fuels, even if and when global crude oil prices normalize.

Such renewable energies have also inspired the shift of personal mobility from combustion engines to electric engines. We are seeing the production and sales of more electric cars and electric bikes, the former becoming even cheaper than the current gas and diesel vehicles.

Food production, similarly, is slowly embracing sustainability and healthier tenets. Agriculture is increasingly cognizant of the damage that can be done to the environment due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, or the razing of forest lands to support industrial commodity farming.



A growing community of “smart” eaters recognize the need to support farms that produce food sustainably while protecting the environment, while also preaching against the practices of commercial farms that “waste” produce that do not meet the standards of mass consumers or when farmgate prices are too low.

There are so many other stories: plastics and disposable diapers made into bricks or road pavers, abandoned coal mines replanted with indigenous trees and vegetation, better light bulbs to replace incandescent, and the emerging technology to capture carbon dioxide from the air on a commercial scale.

People have put their hearts and minds into finding solutions to repairing the damage done to Earth. By putting together such collective efforts, it was possible to introduce remedies to the triple planetary crisis of climate disruption, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

During his video message for Earth Day 2022, Guterres said, “This triple crisis is threatening the well-being and survival of millions of people around the world. The building blocks of happy, healthy lives – clean water, fresh air, a stable and predictable climate – are in disarray, putting the Sustainable Development Goals in jeopardy.”

For Earth Day 2022, the rallying cry for those who care is Invest in Our Planet. It’s a call not only to the youth, but also for businesses to continue tackling the monumental challenges of restoring back Earth’s health.

Facebook and Twitter

We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.

Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.



'Bike Action for Climate' takes off in Davao

By [Ruth Palo](#) April 25, 2022

DAVAO CITY: At least 40 bikers from different groups here participated in Davao Bike Action for Climate simultaneously held across the Philippines and Asia on Sunday, April 24.

The route of the bike ride started at Freedom Park along Roxas Avenue to MacArthur Highway, Quimpo Boulevard and back.

In its report, Davao Sustainable Movement (DSM) said that through bike riding, the organizers and participants expressed their solidarity and demands to highlight the gravity of the climate crisis and the urgency of bold, ambitious, just and equitable climate solutions.

The activity also aims to raise awareness of the worsening impacts of climate change and to pressure governments and corporations to take urgent and necessary actions.

The group also demanded an urgent resolution to various local environmental issues in the city such as refusing dirty energy, rejecting waste-to-energy incineration and investing in true zero waste solutions.

DSM are also calling on the city to increase green spaces in the city, saving heritage trees, urban wetlands and watersheds.

Rara Ada, campaign coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, said that it is high time for highly-urbanized cities such as Davao to intensify their support for renewable and clean energy and stop dependence on deadly fossil fuels, improve their roads to be conducive for bikers and pedestrians and invest more in green infrastructure.

Ada said this effort will ultimately help in the fight against climate change.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability Executive Director lawyer Mark Peñalver said that cities are now becoming major sources of higher carbon emissions due to unsustainable development in the area of transportation, infrastructure, energy and industry.

He said cities should improve public transportation and cut travel time and time spent on the road to reduce carbon emitted by vehicles.

He added that cities should invest more in green infrastructure and incorporate nature-based designs in order to mitigate flooding and reduce the urban heat island effect by increasing green spaces.

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Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/25/news/regions/bike-action-for-climate-takes-off-in-davao/1841154>



PH bats for climate financing to nations vulnerable to global warming

Published April 24, 2022, 3:36 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

Asia-Pacific nations should forge stronger partnerships to address the impact of changing climate by making climate financing available and accessible to developing countries that bear the brunt of global warming, the Philippines' top climate official said.



Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje delivers his speech at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto City, Japan, on April 24, 2022. (Malacañang photo)

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje made this pronouncement during the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto City, Japan, on Sunday, April 24.

In his speech, Borje noted that every country was responsible for formulating and implementing water development strategies and trajectories in the era of climate change – up to the last mile, up to the last person.

“To this end, we need climate financing. Make it more accessible and available. Unlock it for the developing world,” he said.

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

According to Borje, the core of climate change adaptation and mitigation is climate justice and underscored that more should be done to the least responsible for climate change and with the least resources and the most exposed and vulnerable.

“Through the 4th Asia Pacific Water Summit, the Philippines hopes this message is heard clearly and acted on urgently,” he said.

The Filipino official raised the Philippines' experience following the onslaught of recent series of typhoons in the country.

He particularly mentioned Tropical Depression Agaton, which inundated large swaths of the Visayas region at the height of summer and displaced many residents. He noted that the total damage was estimated at \$1.6 billion, representing the country's health insurance budget for around 60 percent of the total population.

“The narrative can still be transformed: from frustration and desperation to one of action and inspiration,” Borje 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.

Borje’s speech echoed President Duterte’s pronouncement in his Talk to the People last week, where he stressed that wealthy countries must be held accountable for erratic severe weather events caused by climate change drivers that caused damage and destruction to developing nations like the Philippines.



Due to foul smell: CH shuts down waste management firm

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman) - April 26, 2022 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama has ordered the issuance of a cease-and-desist order against Bio-Nutrient Waste Management, Incorporated, acting on complaints of offensive smell found to be coming from the company's composting facility in Barangay Inayawan.

"What is needed and urgent is for them to cease operating. And definitely, they will be made to do this and that. As your mayor, I cannot be waiting with our constituency howling, making an outcry on the indescribable, filthy, obnoxious odor," Rama said.

Residents nearby have been complaining over the past week about the smell, which has reportedly worsened lately.

After a series of site inspections conducted by the Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO), Department of Public Services (DPS), and the City Environmental Sanitation Enforcement Team (CESE in Inayawan, the city found out that the smell originated from the private composting facility of Bio Nutrient Waste Management Inc.

The facility handles biodegradable market wastes.

"Mga kuan siya, tae sa manok, and kanang tinae... Mao toy naka-cause og baho kaayo labi na kaning tinae sa manok, grabeng baho, nag-juice naman siya," said CESET's head, Grace Luardo.

Luardo said someone called their office to complain about the foul smell, albeit the person could not determine the exact source of the odor.

"Naa gyuy nanawag namo kay di na nila maagwanta ang kabaho... hadlok sila nga masakit sila, ing-ana," Luardo said.

Acting on the complaint, CESET personnel went to the area and found more residents complaining.

"Pag-adto nato, daghan gyung nanuol. Lipay sila ug nagpasalamat pud nga naaksyonan gyud dayon," Luardo said.

Right after investigation, CESET issued a citation for air pollution that is hazardous to health.

The company will have to report to CCENRO after receiving the citation.

"Muado pa na sila sa CCENRO, mu-meet pa na sila sa gi-assign and mo-checkup pa na sa sila didto kay dili ra citation ang order ni mayor gud," Luardo said.

CCENRO head, Engr. Editha Pero, for her part, said they have invited the facility officials to a meeting to discuss the situation.

This is the first time that the facility received a complaint.

"Sa akong pagkahibawo, taud-taud na gyud na sila diha and sa akong knowledge, karon pa pud sila nakadawat ug complaint. Sa time nga naa na kos DPS, and katong sa CCENRO pa ko, mao pa niy nitumaw nga complaint sa ilaha," said DPS head, Atty. Jigo Dacua.



The facility serves only private clients and does not serve the city.

The Freeman tried to get the side of Bio-Nutrient Waste Management, Inc. but to no avail.
– **Sanden J. Anadia, JMO (FREEMAN)**



A call to invest in nature

[Dr. Selva Ramachandran](#) - The Philippine Star April 26, 2022 | 12:00am

(Second of two parts)

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.



Can we heal the damage we have already done to the Earth?



Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to curiouskidsus@theconversation.com.

Is it possible to heal the damage we have already done to the Earth? – Anthony, 13



Sometimes it may seem that humans have altered the Earth beyond repair. But our planet is an incredible system in which energy, water, carbon and so much else flows and nurtures life. It is about 4.5 billion years old and has been through enormous changes.

At some points in Earth's history, fires burned over large areas. At others, much of it was covered with ice. There also have been mass extinctions that wiped out nearly every living thing on its surface.

Our living planet is incredibly resilient and can heal itself over time. The problem is that its self-healing systems are very, very slow. The Earth will be fine, but humans' problems are more immediate.

People have damaged the systems that sustain us in many ways. We have polluted air and water, strewn plastic and other trash on land and in oceans and rivers, and destroyed habitats for plants and animals.

But we know how to help natural processes clean up many of these messes. And there has been a lot of progress since people started waking up to these problems 50 years ago.



There still are problems to solve. Some pollutants, like plastic, last for thousands of years, so it's much better to stop releasing them than to try to collect them later. And extinction is permanent, so the only effective way to reduce it is to be more careful about protecting animals, plants and other species.

Reversing climate change

The most serious damage humans are doing to the Earth comes mainly from burning coal, oil and gas, which is dramatically warming its climate. Burning these carbon-based fuels is changing the fundamental chemistry and physics of the air and oceans.

Every lump of coal or gallon of gasoline that's burned releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. There it heats the Earth's surface, causing floods, fires and droughts. Some of this added carbon dioxide dissolves into the oceans and makes them more acidic, which threatens ocean food webs.

Climate change is a problem that will get worse until humans stop making it worse—and then it will take many centuries for the climate to return to what it was like before the Industrial Revolution, when human actions started altering it on a large scale.

The only way to avoid making things worse is to stop setting carbon on fire. That means societies need to work hard to build an energy system that can help everyone live well without the need to burn carbon.

The good news is that we know how to make energy without releasing carbon dioxide and other pollution. Electricity made from solar, wind and geothermal power is now the cheapest energy in history. Cleaning up the global electricity supply and then electrifying everything can very quickly stop carbon pollution from getting worse.

This will require electric cars and trains, electric heating and cooking, and electric factories. We'll also need new kinds of transmission and storage systems to get all that clean electricity from where it's made to where it's used. The rest of the carbon mess can be cleaned up through better farm and forest management that stores carbon in land and plants instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. This is also a problem that scientists know how to solve.

The Earth will certainly heal, but it may take a very long time. The best way to start is with everyone doing their part to avoid making the damage any worse.

26 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



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TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

MPIC builds a biodiversity-friendly city, forges partnership with DENR and QC LGU

METRO Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), the country's leading infrastructure investment company, partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), and the local government unit of Quezon City to implement the project "Building a Biodiversity-Friendly Environment in Metro Manila."

The parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement to signify their three-year commitment to implement the urban biodiversity program in Quezon City. To jumpstart this partnership, MPIC will adopt the Madison Park along Aurora Boulevard and develop it into an urban green park model, which will be formally known as the Gabay Kalikasan Park.

"We at MPIC have embedded environmental stewardship into our key business and investment strategies, which emphasizes our commitment to building a biodiversity-friendly environment for all," MPIC Chairman, President and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan said. "This partnership is another step that helps us move towards uplifting the lives of Filipinos by ensuring that environmental sustainability is a top priority," he added.

In his recorded keynote speech, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said, "While our focus is largely directed at managing natural ecosystems through the establishment of protected areas, we also need to address the importance of enhancing our urban ecosystems to be able to provide a quality and livable environment for urban dwellers."

Through this partnership, the project aims to pilot the Adopt-a-City approach in



At the MOU signing, from left: DENR-BMB Director Natividad Y. Bernardino, DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caangan, QC-LGU City Administrator Michael Victor Alimurung, and MPIC Chief Finance, Risk and Sustainability Officer Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla.

the implementation of the Urban Biodiversity program, encouraging business sector support in creating green urban communities at the city and barangay/village level.

Quezon City Mayor Hon. Joy G. Belmonte expressed her gratitude to the partners for starting the project in their city. "Expanding our green spaces has always been one of the priorities of the City Government, and the development and sustainable management of Madison Park in Brgy. Mariana, which they have proposed to be named as Gabay Kalikasan Park, is an initial step to hopefully gain more support from the national government and the private sector in advancing the City's urban biodiversity goals."

MPIC, guided by its thrust to design, build, and operate its key businesses with minimal environmental and social disruption, will invest the needed financial support to ensure the project's sustainability and success. Aligned with MVP's Gabay Advocacies for a Sustainable Philippines, the

partnership also cements the conglomerate's significant role in both infrastructural progress and environmental stewardship.

"We recognize that the essential nature of our businesses has a pervasive impact both in our country's progress and sustainable development. We are a firm believer that public-private sector partnership is important to create greater environmental responsibility. By investing in green public spaces and transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces, we hope to be a catalyst for inclusive, safer, resilient, livable, and sustainable cities and communities," said MPIC Chief Finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla.

Aside from the establishment of the green linear park, the parties will also jointly implement important project activities such as development of Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plans and capacity-building trainings and workshops for the partner communities, among others.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04-26-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Boracay rehab projects to continue even after Duterte's term

P1.9-billion circumferential road, removal of beach-encroaching structures among to be completed by 2023

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Several rehabilitation projects on Boracay Island will be continued after President Duterte steps down on June 30.

The projects will be implemented by concerned government agencies since the term of office of the Duterte-created Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), which manages the island's rehabilitation, will end also in June, according to Martin Jose Despi, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group, the implementing body of the task force.

Despi said among the major rehabilitation projects that would still be completed was the clearing of structures encroach-

ing on the beachfront, the main road and on forest lands.

The BIATF is targeting the removal of 38 remaining structures encroaching on the 30-meter beach easement by June.

These include seven commercial properties, six big residential structures and 25 houses by local inhabitants.

Around 158 structures encroaching on the road easement along the island's circumferential road have yet to be removed. These are mostly residential structures along the road from City Mall to Barangay Yapak, Despi said.

The City Mall-Yapak road section is under Phase 4 of the rehabilitation of the 21.64-kilometer circumferential road, costing P1.94 billion.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS In this photo taken on May 3, 2018, a week after the six-month closure of Boracay Island started, workers dismantle structures encroaching the road easement. Nearly four years later, the rehabilitation of the island is still unfinished. —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

The circumferential road is the main access connecting the three villages of the island—Manoc-Manoc, Balabag and Yapak. Phase 3 was completed last month while Phase 4 is targeted to be completed in 2023.

Despi said unfinished projects will be implemented by various agencies and by the local governments—the municipality of Malay and Aklan province—when the BIATF's term ends.

The BIATF was formed to su-

pervise Boracay's rehabilitation in 2018. Its term was supposed to end in May 2020 but Mr. Duterte extended it twice until June 30.

Bida issue still unresolved

The creation of the controversial Boracay Island Development Authority (Bida), intended to replace the BIATF as a permanent body, is still pending in Congress. The House of Representatives last year approved a bill that provides for the creation of Bida as a corporate body but counterpart bills are still pending in the Senate.

The Bida bill is being opposed by Aklan officials and various sectors because it will create a government-owned and-controlled corporation with corporate powers.

Boracay Island was closed to

tourists from April 26 to Oct. 25, 2018, to undergo rehabilitation after Mr. Duterte called the island-resort a "cesspool" due to problems on pollution, unregulated development and other environmental concerns.

During the closure, thousands of workers and residents lost their jobs or livelihood. Many businesses shut down or suspended operations.

The island had just recovered when it was closed to tourists several times over the course of two years since March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The island has reopened since the start of the year to fully vaccinated travelers and has been bursting at the seams with tourists eager to resume leisure travel held back by the pandemic. INQ



TITLE:

PAGE

12

DATE

50 years of Earth Day: Celebrating gains

The celebration of Earth Day last Friday in the Philippines was muted by the election campaign noise, while in other parts of the world, matters of war or the rising cost of living dominated concerns over environmental problems.

It's been 50 years since the International Mother Earth Day became a global movement. In 1972, the UN Conference on Human Development in Stockholm first raised the protection of the human environment as a major issue. The broad framework of action agreed then became the basis for a more detailed platform in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro where the sustainable approach to environment protection was agreed on.

BIZLINKS



REY GAMBOA

We live in a world today that is far more endangered than half a century ago, but awareness continues to be high and growing despite the many different distractions that from time to time divert people's attention from the task of protecting and saving Earth.

For the Philippines, the more apparent need to focus attention to the environment is brought about by the prevalence of stronger and more destructive typhoons, likewise of hotter summers. Many now believe that this change in climate conditions is an issue that should be tackled with more resources and commitment.

Where the feeling of powerlessness was once dominant, humans are now inspired and being galvanized to act.

Never has there been a time when so much science is being utilized to understand weather conditions and to devise ways of avoiding and dealing with damage from natural disasters.

More importantly, never has there been a time when innovation is the overriding force in developing new technologies that can provide solutions to the phenomenon of global warming caused by excessive carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

Collective action

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted in commemorating 50 years of Earth Day, "we have seen what is possible when we act as one." People's efforts over the last decades have yielded quite remarkable feats. According to Guterres, "we have shrunk the ozone hole. We have expanded protections for wildlife and ecosystems. We have ended the use of leaded fuel, preventing millions of premature deaths. And just last month, we have launched a landmark global effort to prevent and end plastic pollution."

We must add to these achievements the unmistakable tide against the use of finite fuels for power generation and transportation as nations adopt programs that lean to and direct more use of renewable energies in the coming years.

Wind and solar are just two of the emerging technologies for power generation that clearly are winning the war against fossil fuels, even if and when global crude oil prices normalize.

Such renewable energies have also inspired the shift of personal mobility from combustion engines to electric engines. We are seeing the production and sales of more electric cars and electric bikes, the former becoming even cheaper than the current gas and diesel vehicles.

Food production, similarly, is slowly embracing sustainability and healthier tenets. Agriculture is increasingly cognizant of the damage that can be done to the environment due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, or the razing of forest lands to support industrial commodity farming.

A growing community of "smart" eaters recognize the need to support farms that produce food sustainably while protecting


PAGE UPPER
 LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

TITLE :

50 Years of Earth Day ...

PAGE

2/2

04-26-22

DATE

the environment, while also preaching against the practices of commercial farms that “waste” produce that do not meet the standards of mass consumers or when farmgate prices are too low.

There are so many other stories: plastics and disposable diapers made into bricks or road pavers, abandoned coal mines replanted with indigenous trees and vegetation, better light bulbs to replace incandescent, and the emerging technology to capture carbon dioxide from the air on a commercial scale.

People have put their hearts and minds into finding solutions to repairing the damage done to Earth. By putting together such collective efforts, it was possible to introduce remedies to the triple planetary crisis of climate disruption, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

During his video message for Earth Day 2022, Guterres said, “This triple crisis is threatening the well-being and survival of millions of people around the world. The building blocks of happy, healthy lives – clean water, fresh air, a stable and predictable climate – are in disarray, putting the Sustainable Development Goals in jeopardy.”

For Earth Day 2022, the rallying cry for those who care is Invest in Our Planet. It’s a call not only to the youth, but also for businesses to continue tackling the monumental challenges of restoring back Earth’s health.

Facebook and Twitter

We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.

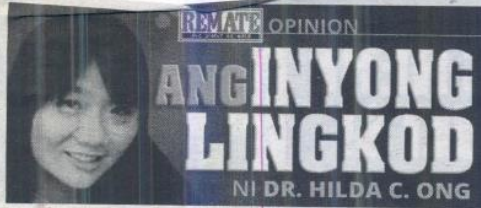
Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



REMATE OPINION
**ANGINYONG
LINGKOD**
NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM NANATILING NASA 195 METERS

SA panayam ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady, binanggit ni Dr. Seville "Bill" David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Director David na ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 195.07 noong April 18, 2022, bahagyang pagtaas kung ikukumpara noong ika-4 ng Abril 2022, (6:00am) na nasa 190.75 metro lamang.

Base sa ulat kahapon (April 25, 2021) ang dam elevation mula sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, nasa 195.54 meters ang level

ng tubig sa Angat Dam, 100.13 meters sa Ipo Dam at 78.82 meters sa La Mesa Dam.

Dahil sa patuloy o paminsan-minsan ang pag-ulan sa may paligid ng Angat Dam nanatiling nasa 195 meters ang lebel ng tubig.

Sa pamumuno ni Dr. David, patuloy ang pamamahala at pagbabantay ng NWRB sa lahat ng water sources sa buong bansa. Layunin nito ang pagbibigay ng maayos na serbisyo ng patubig tungo sa mas magandang kalidad ng buhay para sa bawat Pilipino.

Hinihikayat niya na makiisa ang lahat sa pag-

gamit nang tama ng tubig, "Napakahalaga ng tubig sa ating buhay. Huwag nating sayangin ang bawat patak para maseguro na may tubig pang magagamit ang mga sunod na henerasyon."

Sa gitna ng pangamba na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna sa publiko na mananatili ang NWRB sa itaas ng sitwasyon dahil na rin sa mga isinasa-gawang hakbang upang maging sapat ang suplay ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-init.

"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move to solve the looming problem," saad ni Sampulna.

Ang NWRB ay attached agency ng DENR na responsable sa pamamahala at regulasyon ng lahat ng water resources at services sa bansa.

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



04-26-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

House, Senate probes sought on IP issues highlighted in Bukidnon shooting

RESOLUTIONS have been filed in both chambers of Congress seeking investigations on a shooting incident in Bukidnon province during a protest activity of an indigenous peoples (IP) community that was attended by labor leader and presidential candidate Leodegario "Ka Leody" de Guzman on April 19.

"This violence and the attacks against indigenous people have been ongoing with impunity for quite some time now without resolution and proper intervention by the government," Bayan Muna Party-list representatives said in House Resolution 2561.

Five members of the Manobo-Pulangihon IP community in Quezon town were injured after private security personnel shot at the group. The police regional office said last week that charges have been filed against the suspects.

"The recent shooting incident that includes the party of Ka Leody de Guzman is emblematic of how our justice system continues to fail them, an act which members of Congress should not countenance," they added.

The Manobo-Pulangihon are asserting their claim on their ancestral domain, which

they said has been illegally taken by a private firm that grows and exports pineapples.

Meanwhile, Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros-Baraquel has also filed a Senate resolution to probe the land-grabbing allegation.

"Land disputes have been a longstanding issue in our country that often end in violence," she said in a statement on Monday.

"Such incidents are repeated because we do not have a proper policy that will finally end the violence, especially against our indigenous people."

"It's time we have proper legislation that can address this," she added. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



BABOY-RAMO NAISPATAN SA MOUNT APO

SA isang pambihirang pagkakataon, nasilayan ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang baboy-ramo o baboy-ihalas sa kanilang isinagawang monitoring sa Mount Apo, kamakailan.

Ang uri ng hayop na ito ay matatagpuan lamang sa Pilipinas o tinatawag na endemic. Mayroong itong scientific name na *Sus philippensis* o tinatawag din na Philippine warty pig.

Ayon sa DENR, nakita ng kanilang team ang nasabing baboy-ramo nang habang nagsasagawa sila ng monitoring activity sa Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) na nagsimula noong Abril 11 hanggang 17.

Inikot ng iba't ibang team mula sa DENR Regional Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources. Officer (PENRO) at Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) sa Davao del Sur ang Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) para sa taunan nilang Lenten climb monitoring.

Inikot ng mga team ang mga trail at entry point sa barangay ng Tamayong, bayan ng Bansalan, Digos City at Sta. Cruz. Sa kanilang pag-iikot hanggang sa makarating sa tuktok ng Mt. Apo ay direktang nakita ng mga taga-DENR ang nasabing baboy-ramo.

Anila, indikasyon ito na patuloy ang recovery sa lugar. Sa isang panayam kay Dr. Franklyn Buenafior, assistant technical services division chief ng Penro-Davao del Sur, ito umano ang kauna-unahang pagkakataon na naidokumento ang aktuwal na nakitang baboy-ramo.

"We have two Asean Heritage Parks in Davao Region, Mount Hamiguitan and Mount Apo, nakakita lang tayo ng warty pig through 'yong camera traps na nilalagay nila, but this one is a confirmed

visual sighting so very possible na nag-increase ang kanya ng population or safe haven sa kanya 'yong peak area," sabi ni Buenafior sa ulat.

Ayon sa DENR, bagama't protektado ng batas ang

mga baboy-ramo nananatiling nanganganib ang kanilang lahi dahil sa kakaunti nilang populasyon dahil na rin sa pagpatay sa kanila at pagkabalbo ng mga kagubatan.

"If the said threat worsens, they may soon be listed as endangered," babala ng ahensya.

Paalala naman ng ahensya para sa mga trekker na makakakita ng hayop sa kagubatan, dumistansya sa kanila at iwasan na bigyan sila ng pagkain upang hindi mawala ang natural instinct nila na maghanap ng sarili nilang pagkain.



(DENR Davao, FB)



BBM unveils environment initiatives; eyes IT-based Disaster Risk Information Roadmap

A COMPREHENSIVE Internet-based Disaster Risk Information Roadmap as part of a program to protect the general population and environment from the ill-effects of natural disasters is on the agenda of presidential frontrunner Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. if he is elected in the May 9 polls.

In a news statement, Marcos bared plans to replicate and use as model the United Nation Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) system.

Under such program, UNDRR has comprehensive information on all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity, related to persons, communities, organizations and countries and their assets.

The road map will be implemented through an IT program accessible in all parts of the country, the former senator said.

"This is very important to protect our environment as we institute programs to balance economic gains and environment," said Marcos.

In UNDRR, disaster risk information includes all studies, information

and mapping required to understand the disaster risk drivers and underlying risk factors.

Earlier, Marcos cited environment protection and preservation as part of his priority program, as he stressed the need to institute policy reforms and programs that create a peaceful balance between economic development and the environment.

"Nature has its rights that should be protected. It should be allowed to flourish, reproduce and attain its abundance side-by-side with human civilization in perfect balance and harmony with our growing communities," he said in a recent sidelines interview while on a provincial sortie.

"We should do this if we want to safeguard the most vulnerable members of our society from the onslaught of natural calamities," he added.

Among his plans is to create the Department of Disaster Resilience, taking the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an effective model of disaster resilience that integrates many other agencies.

Promoting reforestation and pushing for stricter anti-illegal logging law will also be given priority in a Marcos administration, as he will push industrial forest plantations to supply market demand for wood.

In mining, Marcos said his administration will forge a collaborative relationship with all stakeholders to guard against abuse, and ensure mining helps the economy recover from the pandemic.

He is also eyeing a Department of Water and Resources Management to ensure that clean and potable water is available to every Filipino.

Marcos vowed to also focus on solid waste management including "waste to energy programs" that he deems an income-generating initiative of his administration.

Likewise, the presidential frontrunner said he plans to create an ecology-based Disaster Risk Reduction program that should be addressed from the point of view of environmental degradation especially on forests, wetlands, coastal and marine and dry lands.



Loren sa Earth Day: Kalikasan pangalagaan

Hinikayat ni Deputy Speaker at Nationalist People's Coalition senatorial bet Loren Legarda ang mga mamamayan na maging aktibong "Earth Defenders" sa pamamagitan nang pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Ginawa ni Legarda ang pahayag sa 52th Earth Day celebration na may pangdaigdigang tema na 'Invest in our Planet'.

Ayon kay Legarda na kilala bilang kampeon sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan na hindi lang dapat 'pahalagahan ang daigdig', kundi dapat mamuhunan ang lahat sa pagsusulong ng isang malinis, masigla at malusog na 'Mother Earth.'

Sa harap ng mga nagaganap na kalamidad, dulot na rin ng mapanirang galaw ng sangkatauhan at climate change, sinabi ni Legarda na dapat lang kumilos ang publiko bilang 'Earth Defenders' o tagapagtanggol ng daigdig hindi lang ngayon, kundi gayundin sa hinaharap.

Aniya, kapag nakabalik siyang muli sa Senado ay lalo pa niyang pag-iibayuhin ang mga batas kalikasan para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

Hinimok niya rin ang publiko na sama-samang payabungin ang ganda at sigla ng ating kalikasan.

Sa lahat ng mga tumatakbong kandidato sa darating na halalan sa Mayo, tanging si Legarda lamang ang may mahabang karanasan, malinaw na adbokasiya at epektibong action plan sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan. *(Joy Cantos)*



04-26-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

MGA KANDIDATO, MAGPLANO SA ISYU NG CLIMATE CHANGE

HINAMON ang lahat ng kandidato na ibahagi ang kanilang plano kung paano mapangangalagaan ang kalikasan at tumugon sa isyu ng climate change.

Ayon kay senatorial candidate at House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng mga kandidato ang kalikasan lalo na't nararasan ang masamang epekto ng climate change.

Nanawagan din siya sa publiko na dapat kumilos bilang 'Earth Defenders'. Hinikayat din ang pamahalaan, pribadong sektor at civil society na aktibong makilahok at isulong ang mga programa at proyektong lulutas sa pang-aabuso sa kalikasan, pagkawala ng mga tirahan ng hayop at pagkasira ng mga komunidad dahil sa polusyon.

(Mylene Alfonso)

26 APRIL 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH logs average of 209 Covid-19 cases daily from April 18 to 24

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 25, 2022, 4:59 pm



MANILA – The country's daily average Covid-19 cases went down to 209 from April 18 to April 24 or 12 percent lower than the new infections prior to the week in review, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Monday.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH said there are 1,456 new cases of the coronavirus in the recent week.

For the same period, there were no cases added to the tally of severe and critical infections, which stood at 726.

Only 16.9 percent or 479 out of the 2,841 intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the country are used while 16.9 percent or 4,112 out of 24,309 non-ICU beds are utilized.

Meanwhile, there were 213 verified deaths recorded during the past week.

About 74.98 percent of the country's target population has been vaccinated against Covid-19.

The DOH also reported that 76.35 percent of the senior citizens have been inoculated against the disease.

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

As of April 22, DOH data showed 67,485,479 individuals are fully vaccinated while 12,939,274 people have received their booster shots. **(PNA)**

Source:

[https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172881#:~:text=MANILA%20%E2%80%93%20The%20country's%20daily%20average,Health%20\(DOH\)%20reported%20Monday.](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172881#:~:text=MANILA%20%E2%80%93%20The%20country's%20daily%20average,Health%20(DOH)%20reported%20Monday.)



DOH logs 1,465 new COVID-19 cases from April 12 to 24

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com April 25, 2022 | 4:45pm



An individual receives a COVID-19 vaccine at SM City Baguio on April 9, 2022.
National Task Force against COVID-19

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines recorded 1,465 new COVID-19 cases and verified 213 deaths from April 18 to 24, the Department of Health said Monday.

The daily average during that period was 209 infections, which was 12% lower than a week earlier.

Local health authorities have registered over 3.68 million COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started in 2020.

There are currently 726 patients with severe or critical illness, which represent 12.7% of the country's total COVID-19 admissions.

According to the DOH, 16.9% of 2,841 intensive care unit beds nationwide have been used, while 16.9% of 24,309 non-ICU beds have been utilized as of Tuesday.

Of the 217 deaths verified during the past week, 31 occurred from April 11 to 24.

More than 67.4 million Filipinos have completed vaccination against COVID-19. Of the figure, only 12.9 million people have received booster shots.

The country on Monday began administering second COVID-19 booster shots to immunocompromised individuals. The government targets to give around 690,000 immunocompromised people with additional protection against the virus.



Philippines rolls out 2nd COVID-19 booster shots to immunocompromised

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com April 25, 2022 | 10:32am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Monday began administering second COVID-19 booster shots to immunocompromised individuals in a bid to provide Filipinos additional protection against the virus.

The Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City, Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (Tala) in Caloocan City, Valenzuela Medical Center, and the local government of Makati are scheduled to give second booster doses to vulnerable sectors, the Department of Health said in a message to reporters.

More vaccination sites will start administering second booster shots in the coming days. The National Vaccination Operations Center targets to give additional protection to around 690,000 immunocompromised individuals. Immunocompromised individuals are defined as those with or are:

- Immunodeficiency
- HIV
- Active cancer
- Transplant recipients
- Undergoing steroid treatment
- Bedridden

According to the DOH, the initial rollout aims to reach approximately 1 to 2% of the target, or about 7,000 to 13,000 individuals. Then, local government units will take the lead in expanding the rollout.

The Food and Drug Administration earlier authorized a second booster shot for senior citizens, immunocompromised individuals and health workers. For immunocompromised individuals, the second booster shot should be administered at least three months after the first booster dose.

More than 66 million Filipinos have completed vaccination against COVID-19. Of the figure, only around 12 million have gotten booster shots.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

April 25, 2022

Official DOHgov
@DOHgovph

Healthcare Utilization

(as of April 24, 2022)

16.9%
Non-ICU Bed Utilization
4,112 out of 24,309 non-ICU beds used

16.9%
ICU Bed Utilization
479 out of 2,841 ICU beds used

726
Severe and Critical Admissions
12.8% of total COVID-19 admissions

Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of April 22, 2022)

74.98%
% Coverage of Target Population*

76.35%
% Coverage of Target A2 Population**

Fully Vaccinated Individuals
67,485,479
+881,680 vaccinated on Apr 16 to Apr 22

Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose
12,939,274
+297,387 vaccinated on Apr 16 to Apr 22

(added on Apr 18 to Apr 24)



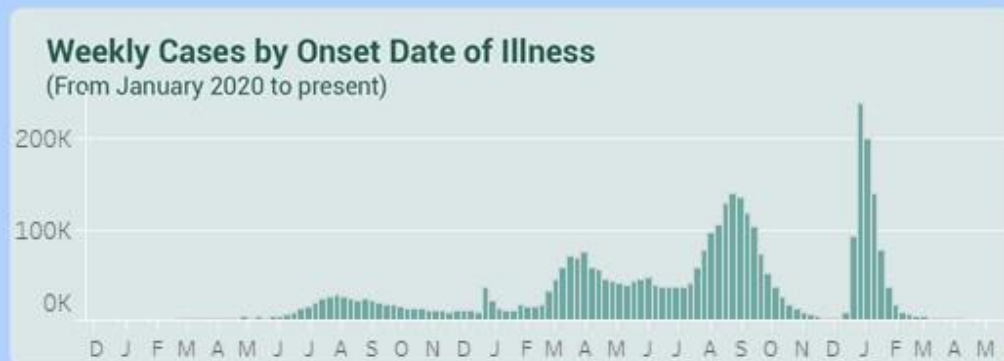
COVID-19 Cases

(as of April 24, 2022)

New Cases
+1,465
Daily Average Cases = 209
(12% lower than cases on Apr 11 to Apr 17)

Severe and Critical Cases
+0
(0.00% of new cases)

Deaths Verified During The Past Week
+213
(31 deaths occurred on Apr 11 to Apr 24)



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

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
✉ konsulta.md
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CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

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

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

TelAventusMD
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
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




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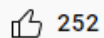
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