

01 AUGUST 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# Marcos wants ‘disaster-proof’ communities

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star August 1, 2022 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr delivers his first State of the Nation address at the House of Representatives in Quezon City on July 25, 2022.

Aaron Favila via AFP / pool

MANILA, Philippines — Building “disaster-proof” communities is what President Marcos wants for the country after witnessing the devastation left by last Wednesday’s magnitude-7.0 earthquake in Northern Luzon.

Marcos made the remark in his latest vlog posted on YouTube last Saturday, lamenting the destruction caused by the powerful tremor in Abra and Ilocos Sur that also killed at least six people.a

The President stressed the need to make the country more resilient to natural disasters, given its geographical location, to prevent loss of life and reduce damage to properties.

“The damaged (structures) need to be restored immediately,” he said partly in Filipino.

“That’s why we need to make our planning disaster-proof, from streets, buildings, as well as heritage sites, schools, hospitals, and homes,” he added.

Several cultural and heritage sites in Abra and Ilocos Sur incurred severe damage from the tremor, including centuries-old churches such as the Tayum Church, Sta. Catalina de Alexandria Church, Vigan Cathedral, Bantay Bell Tower and the iconic Calle Crisologo in Vigan City.

Based on the latest report by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), a total of 302 houses were totally damaged by the tremor in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera Administrative Regions as well as in Metro Manila.

Another 21,588 houses were partially damaged.

In terms of infrastructure, the total damage estimated by the NDRRMC has reached P414.2 million.

Meanwhile, Marcos assured the public that national and local government agencies are providing all the needs of quake victims.

He also thanked the private sector for immediately responding to the needs of residents displaced by the quake by sending food, water and generators.

The President earlier expressed support for a proposal of his sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, to create a new disaster response body instead of a new department.



## ROTC for disaster response'

In the same vlog, the Chief Executive also renewed his call for the return of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in the country's education system.

He underscored that re-establishing the ROTC in senior high schools has become more relevant in light of last week's devastating earthquake as it would bolster the civilian population's capability in dealing with disasters.

"We can also prepare more civilians for such disaster response through the ROTC program because they are taught not only national defense, but also disaster preparedness and capacity-building for these so-called risk-related situations," he said in Filipino.

Marcos also deemed it important for Filipinos, especially those who respond to calamities, to be properly trained and equipped with knowledge and skills in disaster response, given that the Philippines is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and the so-called typhoon belt, making the country highly vulnerable to disasters.

The mandatory ROTC was one of the priority measures that he asked Congress to pass during his first State of the Nation Address last July 25.

"The aim is to motivate, train, organize and mobilize the students for national defense preparedness, including disaster preparedness and capacity building for risk-related situations," Marcos said in his SONA. – Paolo Romero



# NDRRMC tallies 82,336 families affected by Luzon quake

By Priam Nepomuceno July 31, 2022, 10:57 am



(DILG Philippines photo)

**MANILA** – The number of families affected by the magnitude 7 earthquake that struck Abra and nearby Northern Luzon areas on July 27 has climbed to 82,336 which is equivalent to 314,161 persons, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

The NDRRMC said the number is higher than the 62,024 families recorded on Saturday.

The affected families are residents of 996 barangays in Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Being aided and sheltered in the now 42 activated evacuation centers are 1,113 families or 3,891 persons with the remainder sheltering with relatives and friends.

The NDRRMC also confirmed that nine persons were killed by the earthquake in the CAR while 357 others were injured -- 355 in the CAR and two in Region 2.

The agency also said that it is still validating reports of one death and 18 injured residents in Region 1.

Houses damaged were placed 21,890 and these were reported in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, CAR and National Capital Region (NCR).

Classified as "partially damaged" were 21,588 houses and while 302 were described as "totally damaged".

Damage to infrastructure has reached PHP414.2 million and these were recorded in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CAR and the NCR.

Meanwhile, the National Irrigation Authority reported PHP4.5 million worth of damage to irrigation systems in the CAR while PHP13.96 million worth of agriculture equipment and machinery were also damaged by the earthquake. (PNA)

# Quake-affected persons reach 300K

By **Victor Reyes** -August 1, 2022



*Helping hand. DSWD personnel distribute relief goods to residents in Pidigan, Abra, who were affected by the quake.*  
DSWD FB POST

THE number of persons affected by the magnitude 7 quake that hit Abra on Wednesday last week rose to more than 300,000 or nearly a hundred thousand more compared to the previous day's count.

In a situation report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council placed the number of affected population affected by the calamity at 82,336 families or 314,161 individuals.

The affected are mostly from the worst-hit Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) with 55,516 families or 201,457 individuals. The rest are from the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions, the NDRRMC also said.

Of the affected, 8,535 families or 34,291 individuals are still displaced — 1,113 families or 3,891 individuals who are staying in evacuation centers and 7,422 families or 30,400 individuals who are outside evacuation centers.

The NDRRMC said P11.67 million in assistance has been provided as of yesterday, P10.98 million of which was given to worst-hit Abra which is under a state of calamity.

The number of fatalities remained at 10 nine in CAR and one in Ilocos. The NDRRMC also said 355 of the 375 injured are from CAR.

Human Settlements Secretary Jose Acuzar ordered the release of up to P30,000 shelter assistance per family in CAR, whose houses were damaged by the earthquake.

Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo, in Facebook post, said Acuzar coordinated with his department about the grant of shelter assistance after he was appointed secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development last Friday.

Tulfo said the assistance will be in addition to the P10,000 emergency shelter assistance that DSWD is extending to the families whose houses were destroyed or damaged during the quake.

Tulfo said Acuzar also pledged to provide house and lot assistance to families whose homes could no longer be repaired.

Data from DSWD-Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center as of July 31 showed 20,533 houses were damaged in Region I (Ilocos), Region II (Cagayan Valley) and the CAR.





## **‘DISASTER PROOF’**

President Marcos Jr. on Saturday emphasized the importance of building “disaster-proof” communities and making the country more resilient to disasters.

In his 220th vlog, Marcos talked about the damage resulting from the earthquake, including to homes, schools and government offices, as well as some heritage sites such as centuries-old churches and watch towers.

“We need to restore them immediately that’s why all the structures we will build should be disaster-proof, from roads to buildings, schools, hospitals, and even the houses,” he said in mixed Filipino and English.

Among the damaged cultural and heritage sites in Abra and Ilocos Sur were centuries-old churches Tayum and Sta. Catalina de Alexandria churches, Vigan Cathedral, the Bantay bell tower, and the iconic Calle Crisologo in Vigan.

Marcos thanked all those who sent aid.

The DSWD, local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations and private groups have provided about P11.246 million worth of assistance. The DSWD still has P1.3 billion worth of cash and stocks composed of family food packs and non-food relief items, on standby.

## **DAMAGE**

The NDRRMC said the cost of damage to infrastructure rose in five regions — CAR, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Metro Manila — is now at P414.22 million. The figure is still expected to rise as damage assessment is continuing.

Damage to agriculture in CAR alone was placed at P13.9 million, the NDRRMC also said.

This is on top of 21,890 houses which were damaged, including 17,434 in CAR. The NDRRMC has yet to provided an estimate as to cost of damage on the houses.

It said three roads – one each in CAR, Ilocos, and Cagayan — remained not passable to vehicles. Officials earlier said 149 roads and 11 bridges were not passable to vehicles or partially open.

Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan said as of July 30, partial cost of damage to roads, bridges, and flood-control structures have reached P596.7 million — P474.1 million in CAR, P119.5 million in the Ilocos Region, P3.1 million in Cagayan Valley.

The Department of Agriculture said damage to the agriculture sector in CAR was placed at P44.2 million as of Saturday.

Affected by the earthquake were irrigation systems, farm-to-market roads and other farm structures in Ilocos Sur, Abra and Kalinga.

The Department of Energy said that the only remaining issue in the sector that was caused by the earthquake is the non-operation of two fuel retail outlets located each in Abra and Benguet.

## **SCHOOLS**

The Department of Education said it would need about P1.4 billion for the rehabilitation of quake-hit schools.



It said 263 of the 9,903 schools affected by the earthquake sustained damage that needed rehabilitation.

Of the 263 schools, the DepEd's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service said 152 are located in CAR, 59 in the Ilocos, 29 in Cagayan Valley, 21 in Central Luzon, and one each in Calabarzon and the National Capital Region.

Of the said schools, 451 classrooms sustained major damage while 706 registered minor damage, it said.

The DepEd also said 4,460 schools have suspended work due to the effects of the earthquake. It said the governments of Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Vigan City, Candon City and Urdaneta City have yet to announce when work will resume in their areas.

DepEd also said 25 schools in Region 1 and CAR are being used as evacuation centers for 583 families.

## RESTORATION

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara, principal author of RA 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act, said there is an endowment fund that can be tapped for the restoration efforts.

Angara said the fund that is being administered by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts is held in a special account in the Bureau of Treasury and can be used exclusively for the implementation of culture and arts programs and projects.

He said RA 10066 states that "all cultural properties declared as important cultural property may also receive government funding for its protection, conservation and restoration."

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) has committed to rehabilitate the damaged historic sites and structures with the help of the local government units concerned and the cultural property owners.

Senators Robin Padilla and Christopher Go yesterday visited parts of Abra and Ilocos Sur and distributed relief items to affected families.

Padilla pushed anew for the need to shift to a federal form of government to empower local government units to better respond to calamities.

He said much of the aid to affected areas comes from the national government whose head offices are based in Metro Manila. Because of this, he said, "ang laki ng delay (there is a delay in help)."

Padilla has filed Senate Resolution 6 calling for a review of provisions in the 1987 Constitution, including considering a shift to federalism and a parliamentary government.

He said federalism will allow local governments to better address the needs of their constituents, instead of the current setup with centralized powers. — **With Jocelyn Montemayor, Ashzel Hachero, Jed Macapagal and Raymond Africa**



# NDRRMC: North Luzon quake death toll climbs to 10

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 31, 2022 3:22:37 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 31)** — The death toll in the magnitude 7 earthquake that rocked North Luzon on Wednesday has climbed to 10, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

In its latest bulletin, the NDRRMC said nine of the casualties have been confirmed, while one is for validation.

NDRRMC spokesperson [Mark Timbal](#) confirmed four more deaths, adding they are just waiting for the official report on the deceased.

The agency also reported that 375 were injured, while no one was missing as of Sunday's update.

It also said 314,161 people or 82,336 families in three regions were affected by the earthquake while 34,291 persons were displaced, of which 3,891 are staying in 42 evacuation centers.

The NDRRMC reported that 21,890 houses and 539 infrastructure worth over 414 million were damaged.

Power supply in 48 cities and municipalities, as well as water supply in three of four cities and municipalities affected by the quake, have been restored.

There were 27 areas placed under state of calamity, the NDRRMC said.

Damage to agriculture was only reported in the Cordillera Administrative Region with estimated value of nearly 14 million.

So far, the government has provided assistance worth over P11.6 million to affected residents, which include family food packs, modular tent, and hygiene kits.

Authorities have recorded over 1,700 aftershocks since Wednesday, ranging from magnitude 1.4 to 5.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/31/NDRRMC-Abra-earthquake-death-toll.html>

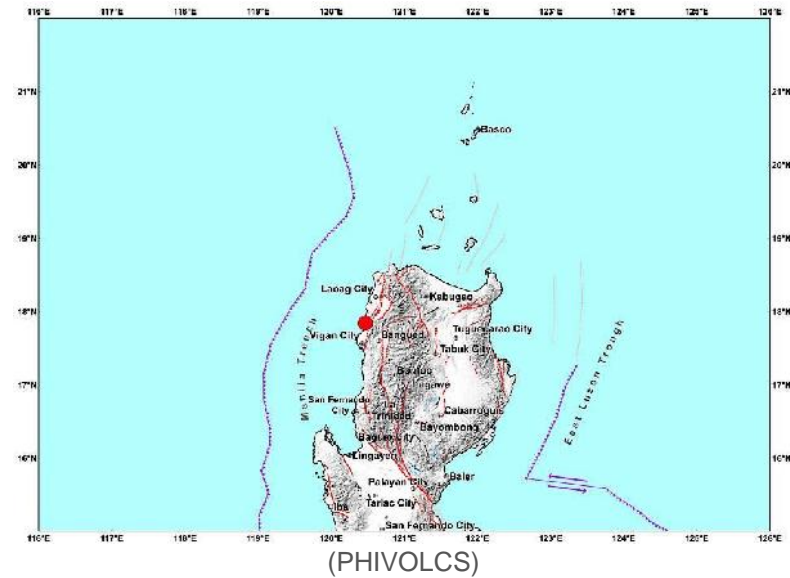




# Magnitude 4.7 quake jolts Ilocos Sur — Phivolcs

Published July 31, 2022, 3:20 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



A 4.7-magnitude earthquake jolted Ilocos Sur at around 1:49 p.m., Sunday, July 31, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

It said the tremor was an aftershock of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Tayum, Abra on July 27.

Phivolcs traced the epicenter of the earthquake on Sunday at 5 kilometers (km) northeast of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.

It was felt at Intensity V as a “strong” tremor in Dolores, Abra and at Intensity IV as a “moderately strong” quake in Sinit, Ilocos Sur.

Bantay in Ilocos Sur and Batac and Dingras in Ilocos Norte felt the quake at Intensity III (weak), and Intensity II (slightly felt) in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte.

Its instruments also recorded the quake at Intensity IV in Sinit and Vigan City in Ilocos Sur; Intensity III in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; and Intensity II in Peñablanca, Cagayan and Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was tectonic, which means it was caused by the movement of an active fault near the area.



# Magnitude 4.8 quake jolts Ilocos Sur, expected to cause damage: Phivolcs

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Jul 31 2022 09:20 PM



A magnitude 4.8 tremor was recorded 7:27 p.m. of July 31, 2022 northeast of Nagbukel, Ilocos Sur.

MANILA - A magnitude 4.8 tremor struck Nagbukel, Ilocos Sur on Sunday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The tectonic quake had a depth of one kilometer and was felt at Intensity V in Bangued and Bucay in Abra and Intensity IV in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

It was also felt at Intensity III in Baguio City

Phivolcs also recorded the following intensities in other areas:

Intensity IV - Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

Intensity II - Sinait, Ilocos Sur; Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

Intensity I - Baguio City; Tabuk, Kalinga; Infanta, Pangasinan; Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Penablanca, Cagayan

Phivolcs said the earthquake is expected to cause damage but no aftershocks are expected.

A magnitude 4.7 tremor, which is an aftershock of the July 27 Luzon earthquake, also struck Cabugao, Ilocos Sur on Sunday afternoon.

The devastating earthquake in the morning of July 27 was at magnitude 7, with epicenter at Tayum, Abra.

It was felt in Metro Manila and in many other parts of Luzon, including Camarines Norte and Sur.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/31/22/magnitude-48-quake-jolts-ilocos-sur?fbclid=IwAR1mgNMafW1PQGrX7XYeeyGUoVeaU4W3Lz\\_aypQkBvbVT\\_0qPhBZn7WTciE](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/31/22/magnitude-48-quake-jolts-ilocos-sur?fbclid=IwAR1mgNMafW1PQGrX7XYeeyGUoVeaU4W3Lz_aypQkBvbVT_0qPhBZn7WTciE)





STRATEGIC  
COORDINATION  
AND  
INITIATIVE  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
INQUIRER

A4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

RAFFER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

PAGE

DATE

# Quake damage at P 414M; Ilocos infra hardest hit

By Frances Mangosing  
and Marlon Ramos  
@Team\_Inquirer

The damage to infrastructure from last week's magnitude 7 earthquake has reached P414.2 million, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

Most of the damage was recorded in the Ilocos region with P393.1 million, followed by Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) with P12.5 million, the NDRRMC said in its report.

Pangasinan incurred the most damage so far in Ilocos region with P255 million to roads and bridges such as the Pangasinan-Nueva Ecija Road-Rodriguez and Agbayani Bridge. All national roads and bridges were passable.

Ilocos Sur had an estimated P52.9-million damage to roads, bridges and government buildings, although all the national roads and bridges remained accessible.

Around P39.7 million worth of damage was recorded in Ilocos Norte-Apayao Road and other roads, but they were passable. In La Union, there was some P44.9 million worth of damage to roads and bridges, the NDRRMC said.

In CAR, there was a P12.5-million estimated damage, with P10 million in Abra's buildings and roads. In the Cagayan Valley region, there was an estimated P8.5-million losses, with P8.3 million in the province of Quirino.

The Department of Agriculture has reported P13.9-million losses to infrastructure, machineries and equipment, while the National Irrigation Administration has reported a P4.5-million damage.

A total of 21,890 houses were damaged in the regions of Ilocos, CAR, Cagayan Valley and National Capital Region, the NDRRMC said.

## Deaths and injuries

The death toll has remained at 10, while the number of injured people has also increased to 375, with 355 coming from CAR.

The earthquake has displaced some 34,291 people, with more than 3,800 currently staying in 42 evacuation centers, the NDRRMC said.

Twenty-seven areas have been placed under a state of calamity from Wednesday's earthquake.

Power was fully restored in 48 cities and municipalities affected, while water supply was 75-percent restored in four municipalities and cities affected, the NDRRMC said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said on Sunday that it has recorded 1,786 aftershocks ranging from magnitude 1.4 to 5.0 since Wednesday, with 586 of these plotted, or detected by at least three monitoring stations.

## Save the cultural properties

Sen. Juan Edgardo Angara on Sunday said the government may use a special fund earmarked for "cultural properties" to bankroll the repair of historical landmarks and structures that were damaged by the earthquake.

Among the centuries-old structures that were partly destroyed were the Santa Catalina de Alejandria Church and the San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine, both in Abra province and the Vigan Cathedral and the historic Bantay Bell Tower in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur province.

Heritage houses, including the famous Syquia House in Vigan, were also not spared from the strong tremor.

"These historical sites are more than just landmarks and tourist attractions, but form part of our country's rich culture and heritage," Angara said in a statement.

"These structures offer us a glimpse into the country's past and should be preserved for fu-

ture generations," he noted.

The rehabilitation of damaged buildings and churches, the senator said, should include improvements to make these structures compliant with the Building Code.

"There should be no letup in the effort to provide assistance to the families affected by the calamity, including the rebuilding of their homes, so that they can return to their normal lives as early as possible," he added.

According to the senator, the government should accept the endowment fund created by Republic Act No. 10066, or the National Cultural Heritage Act, which he principally authored to finance the restoration and rehabilitation programs.

Angara said the National Endowment for Culture and the Arts, which is being held in a special account of the Bureau of the Treasury and administered by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, should be "used exclusively for the implementation of culture and arts programs and projects."

The law, he noted, stipulates that "all cultural properties declared as important cultural property may also receive government funding for its protection, conservation and restoration." INQ





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times



08-01-22

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE

# Strong aftershock jars Ilocos Sur

A MAGNITUDE 4.7 aftershock of last Wednesday's earthquake struck Cabugao in Ilocos Sur on Sunday afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The epicenter of the tremor was located 5 kilometers northeast of Cabugao, with a depth of 2 kilometers.

The aftershock registered as Intensity 5 in Dolores in Abra; Intensity 4 in Sinait in Ilocos Sur; Intensity 3 in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, and Batac and Dingras in Ilocos Norte; and Intensity 2 in Bacarra in Ilocos Norte.

It was Intensity 4 in Sinait and Vigan City in Ilocos Sur; Intensity 3 in Laoag City in Ilocos Norte; and Intensity 2 in Peñablanca in Cagayan and Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday that the magnitude 7 earthquake last Wednesday affected 314,161 individuals or 82,336 families.

The NDRRMC said the death toll remained at 10, and the number of injured rose to 375.

The figures came from 11 provinces, 109 cities and municipalities, and 996 villages in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley Region and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The agency reported that 3,891

persons are staying in 42 evacuation centers.

The quake destroyed 21,890 houses and damaged 21,588. A total of 539 buildings, hospitals and churches also sustained damage.

The NDRRMC said 43 roads and seven bridges are still blocked by rocks and other debris.

Overall damage to infrastructure is estimated at P414 million.

The Department of Education (DepEd) said on Sunday that P1.48 billion is needed to repair or rebuild damaged classrooms in 263 schools.

The DepEd said 152 of the schools were in CAR, 59 in Ilocos, 29 in Cagayan Valley, 21 in Central Luzon, and one school each from Calabarzon and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Overall, 9,903 schools were affected by the earthquake and 4,460 have suspended classes.

Philippine National Police Officer in Charge LtGen. Vicente Danao Jr. instructed all personnel in the earthquake-hit areas to assist in rescue and response operations.

"Our officers must remember that they are duty-bound to continue operating so peace and order won't be a casualty," Danao said.

He said personnel affected by the quake "will undergo necessary debriefing so they can work productively without any

reservations."

Also on Sunday, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. pointed to the importance of having a "disaster-proof" planning of communities to ensure minimal loss of lives and damage to properties during calamities and natural disasters.

After seeing firsthand the devastation left by the quake, the President noted that the government must quickly move to make the country more resilient to disasters.

Several cultural and heritage sites in Abra and Ilocos Sur incurred heavy damage from the quake, including centuries-old churches such as the Tayum Church and Sta. Catalina de Alexandria Church, the Vigan Cathedral, the Bantay Bell Tower, and the iconic Calle Crisologo in Vigan City.

Apart from the rebuilding and restoration of damage infrastructure in quake-hit areas, the President has also ordered all concerned government agencies to make sure the needs of displaced residents are taken care of.

Sen. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara called for the inspection and restoration of the damaged heritage sites.

"It is heartbreaking to see the destruction caused by the earthquake," Angara said in a statement on Sunday.

"There should be no let-up in the effort to provide assistance to the families affected by the calamity, including the rebuilding of their homes so that they can return to their normal lives as early as possible," he said.

While the relief and reconstruction work is underway, Angara said "a parallel effort should be undertaken to protect the historic structures so as not to cause further destruction."

"These historical sites are more than just landmarks and tourist attractions, but form part of our country's rich culture and heritage," he said.

Angara, principal author of Republic Act 10066 or the "National Cultural Heritage Act," said there is an endowment fund that can be tapped for the restoration effort.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines has committed to rehabilitate the damaged historic sites and structures with the help of the local government units concerned and the cultural property owners.

Angara also urged the private sector to take part in the relief and reconstruction efforts, including the repair of the damaged historical sites.

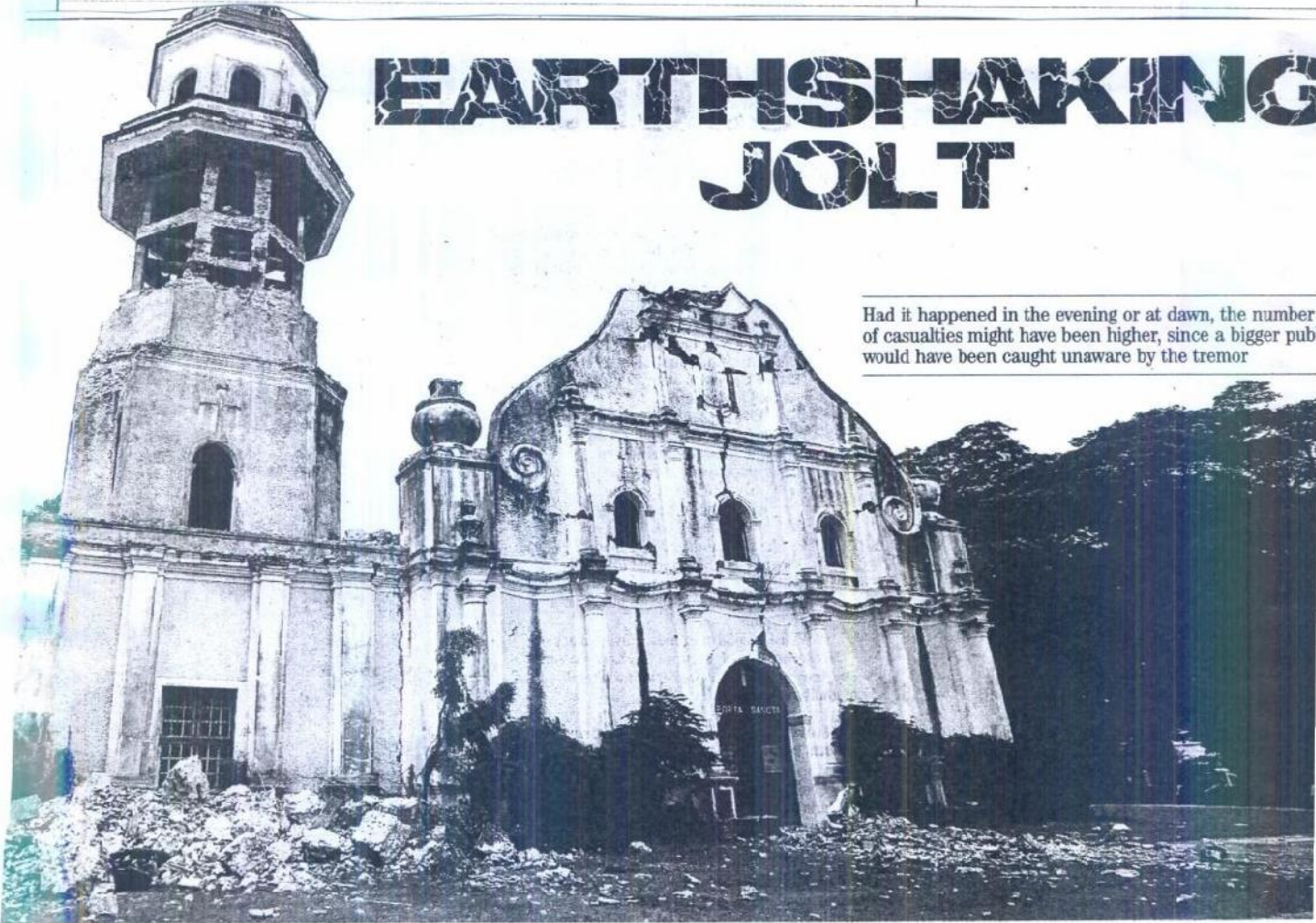
**KAITHREEN CRUZ,  
FRANCIS EARL CUETO,  
BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO  
AND KRISTINA MARALIT**





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# EARTHSHAKING JOLT



Had it happened in the evening or at dawn, the number of casualties might have been higher, since a bigger public would have been caught unaware by the tremor

LAST Wednesday's earthquake sent parts of Saint Catherine of Alexandria Church in Tayum, Abra, the tremor's epicenter, crashing to the ground.

BY JOSEPH CORTES

@tribunephil\_jc

Earthquakes have a way of catching us unaware, whether they happen day or night. Although they are not rare in the Philippines, since the country sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is their suddenness — that element of surprise — that make them deadly. You can only prepare so much for temblors.

If there is a takeaway from the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck the northern Philippines last 27 July, it was that it happened in the morning, and that people were just on their way to work. Had it happened in the evening or at dawn, the number of casualties might have been higher, since a bigger public would have been caught unaware by the tremor.

With an epicenter located in Tayum, Abra, the earthquake's effect was felt as far away in Metro Manila, which is

400 kilometers south, with Malabon and Manila reporting strong (Intensity V) ground shaking activity. It might have lasted for just seconds, but it left a large part of Luzon shaken, including historical structures in the Ilocos region.

Immediately following the quake, local disaster response teams went to work, providing affected residents with emergency assistance. As of 29 July, the Department of Social Welfare and Development reported 15,300 families were displaced by the activity, mostly coming from the provinces of Abra, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, Benguet and Mountain Province, while the death toll has been placed at 10 individuals.

Aftershocks were reported following Wednesday's quake, but families in the affected areas immediately picked up the pieces, rebuilding their homes and returning to their lives.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

D24  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

DATE

TITLE: EARTHQUAKE VOLT

PAGE

2/9



THE national road in Barangay Bio Lagangilang in Abra was damaged by a crack that runs across its length from the 27 July quake.



THIS vehicle was damaged by boulders displaced by a landslide along Halsema Highway in Bontoc, Mountain Province, caused by Wednesday's temblor.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

PAGE 24  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

THE: EARTHQUAKE JOLT

PAGE 3/4

DATE



MANY houses in Bangued, Abra were destroyed by the earthquake that struck the province on 27 July.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANALY LABOR, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND CORDILLERA POLICE FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil\_ana



VOLUNTEERS from the Philippine Red Cross in Abra assist a senior citizen who was injured during Wednesday's quake.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

024  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

REF: EARTH SHAKING JOLT

PAGE 4/4

DATE



THIS building under construction in Buyagan, La Trinidad, Benguet collapsed and killed a construction worker during Wednesday morning's quake.



## Quick response to Abra earthquake aftermath underlines strength of bayanihan spirit

Published August 1, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



After surveying the damage in Abra due to a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that occurred last July 27, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. issued a four-point directive to concerned government agencies: first, provide immediate needs of food, shelter and water; second, expedite the clearing of roads and repair of bridges to facilitate access by people to services within and outside their communities; third, restore power and communications at the household level; and fourth, assess the structural damage to hospitals, schools, residential buildings and houses.

The tectonic earthquake's epicenter was located in the town of Tayum, Abra, at a depth of 17 kilometers, sending shock waves in varying intensities across northern Luzon, Central Luzon, and down to Metro Manila. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), tectonic earthquakes are produced by sudden movement along faults and other boundaries.

Based on initial local government assessment, more than 5,200 houses were destroyed in the Cordillera and Ilocos Regions; these numbers will likely rise as rescue and relief teams reach some of the remote and mountainous areas. At least 33 health facilities were damaged; some 57 schools had reported damaged or destroyed classrooms.

According to the Department of Public Works and Highways, at least 33 road networks leading to the Cordillera and Ilocos Regions were affected by landslides and cracks, including Kennon Road that provides access to Baguio City, a leading tourist destination.

The weather bureau is monitoring a low pressure area 1,000 kilometers east of Luzon that could intensify to tropical depression category, enhance the southwest monsoon and cause rains in the earthquake-affected areas which could trigger landslides and hamper relief operations.

Regional and local authorities are leading the relief efforts while the national government is augmenting local capacities. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has delivered 10,000 family food packs, as well as hygiene, sleeping and kitchen kits; it has also extended cash assistance ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 per family to support shelter repair. Also actively at work are the Department of Health, Office of Civil Defense and units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.





OCHA has also requested the United Nations Satellite Center (UNOSAT) for the activation of the Space Charter for satellite imagery of affected areas, while a Joint Analysis of Disaster Exposure was released by the combined efforts of the Pacific Disaster Centre and the World Food Program.

Socio-civic and nongovernment organizations have also been actively involved in relief work. Concerted efforts on their part to bring cheer, solace and humanitarian aid to those directly affected by natural disasters and calamities have always complemented efforts by the national and local governments. Also pitching in are member corporations of the private sector-led Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation who are supporting the government response by distributing relief packs, supplying fuel, deploying water tankers, and providing free mobile calls, WiFi and charging stations.

Indeed, national calamities always evoke the spirit of bayanihan among Filipinos and their global friends



ONE News ✓  
17h · 🌐

Cracks along the shore

Here's a look at the cracks along the shore of Santa, Ilocos Sur after the magnitude 7.0 #EarthquakePH on July 27. One resident recounted seeing the sand shaking, seemingly like waves, when the tremors occurred. (via News5/Laila Chikadora Pangilinan)



👍👎👨👉 221

💬 12 Comments · 📄 40 Shares

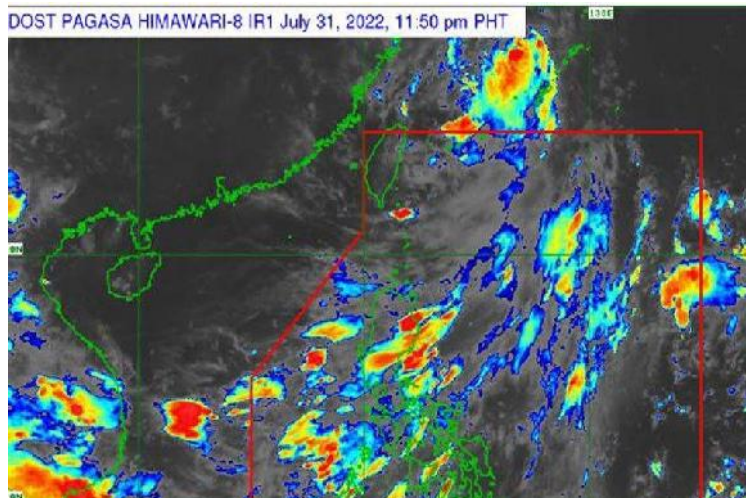
Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/pfbid02ibmV54z31oR2scwdjU3hnJ56rv7TpiDcdURRxV2wsYz9GwWH4uBwbPMatdM4sU9ul/?app=fbl>



## Ester exits PAR

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star August 1, 2022 | 12:00am



Also enhancing the southwest monsoon is Tropical Storm Songda, which is still located outside PAR, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

PAGASA

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical depression Ester left the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) yesterday morning, but will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon, bringing rains to some parts of Luzon.

Also enhancing the southwest monsoon is Tropical Storm Songda, which is still located outside PAR, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

As Ester accelerates northward toward Japan, the state weather bureau said the southwest monsoon would bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over several provinces in the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon.

The tropical depression and the southwest monsoon are also forecast to cause moderate seas over the northern and eastern seaboard of Luzon.

“Considering these developments, the public and disaster risk reduction and management offices concerned are advised to take all necessary measures to protect life and property,” PAGASA said.

“Persons living in areas identified to be highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards are advised to follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials,” it added.

PAGASA also advised the public to monitor its heavy rainfall warnings, thunderstorm and rainfall advisories, and other severe weather information specific to certain areas.





## **NDRRMC: Ester affects 896 families, two regions**

By MEL MATTHEW DOCTOR, GMA News

Published July 31, 2022 3:12pm

A total of 2,979 individuals or 896 families were affected by Tropical Depression Ester, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Sunday.

In its latest situational report, the NDRRMC said that the regions affected by Ester were Region 5 and Region 6.

Ester displaced 377 individuals, with some taking shelter in five evacuation centers.

A total of 27 areas in Regions 5 and 6 experienced flashfloods, while eight other incidents, such as lahar flows and landslides, were reported.

According to the NDRRMC, 50 family food packs worth P24,200 have been provided to the affected areas.

PAGASA said that Ester [accelerated northward over the sea west of Okinawa Island](#) even as it continued to enhance the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat).

In its 11 a.m. weather bulletin, PAGASA said that Ester was 915 kilometers northeast of extreme northern Luzon as of 10 a.m. Ester had maximum sustained winds of 45 km/h near the center, gustiness of up to 55 km/h, and central pressure of 1000 hPa.

Ester was moving northwards at 30 km/h with strong winds extending outwards up to 600 kilometers from the center. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/839998/ndrrmc-ester-affects-896-families-two-regions/story/?just\\_in&fbclid=IwAR1SLPZiPVLEx7Zmn1RtUAMdfuYdoXuBfP3JwxJ6ukR0v1ZvIGiTPJOXqhk](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/839998/ndrrmc-ester-affects-896-families-two-regions/story/?just_in&fbclid=IwAR1SLPZiPVLEx7Zmn1RtUAMdfuYdoXuBfP3JwxJ6ukR0v1ZvIGiTPJOXqhk)



# Habagat to bring scattered rain showers across the country

By GMA News

Published July 31, 2022 5:15pm

The Habagat or Southwest Monsoon will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Metro Manila, Visayas, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, and Zamboanga Peninsula.

In its 4 p.m. daily weather bulletin, PAGASA advised affected residents to prepare for possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms caused by the Habagat.

Flash floods or landslides may occur due to moderate to at times heavy rains, PAGASA said.

The wind speed forecast for the whole country will be light to moderate while coastal water conditions will be slight to moderate, ranging from 0.6 to 2.5 meters.

The sun is set to rise over Metro Manila at 5:39 a.m. on Monday. — **Mel Matthew Doctor/BM, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/840010/habagat-to-bring-scattered-rain-showers-across-the-country/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1SLPZiPVLEx7Zmn1RtUAMdfuYdoXubfP3JwxJ6ukR0v1ZvIGiTPJOXqhk](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/840010/habagat-to-bring-scattered-rain-showers-across-the-country/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1SLPZiPVLEx7Zmn1RtUAMdfuYdoXubfP3JwxJ6ukR0v1ZvIGiTPJOXqhk)



# Heavy flooding hits Bicol anew

By [Rhaydz B. Barcia](#)

July 31, 2022

LEGAZPI CITY: Volcanic materials tumbled down in Guinobatan town triggered by a downpour brought by Tropical Depression "Ester" on Saturday.

The heavy rain also flooded several municipalities of Camarines Sur and Albay.



Volcanic debris from the slopes of Mount Mayon tumbles down in Guinobatan, Albay province on Saturday, July 30, 2022, brought by heavy rainfall. PHOTO BY Christine Joy Antonio Pante

In Guinobatan town, volcanic material flowed along the road of Barangay Masarawag after the heavy rainfall.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Bicol reported that while there is no tropical cyclone wind signal in Bicol, there were flash floods in some parts of the region that rendered several roads impassable to motorists.

Claudio Yucot, OCD Bicol director, said that flooding and landslides were reported by six municipalities and one landslide incident affected Nabua, Baao and Buhi in the province of Camarines Sur and Guinobatan in the province of Albay.

Yucot said that five local roads in the municipalities of Nabua, Baao and Buhi in Camarines Sur were reported not passable as of 11 a.m. because of heavy flooding.

Meantime, Camarines Sur Gov. Luigi Villafuerte issued a memorandum to evacuate residents in flood-prone and landslide-prone areas.

He said early warnings were issued to communities in hazard-prone areas to prevent untoward incidents.

Villafuerte said Iriga City and three municipalities in District 5 reported flooding and rising water levels.

The disaster officials in Iriga City also reported that the spillway between Barangay San Jose and Sagrada and the Waras Bridge was not passable.

In Nabua town, the swollen Waras River also rendered Sta. Elena Baras spillway impassable to all types of vehicles.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/31/news/regions/heavy-flooding-hits-bicol-anew/1852890>





# Families evacuated due to floods in Antique return home

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay July 31, 2022, 7:50 pm



**RELIEF.** An employee of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) gives a family food pack to one of the households affected by flood in San Jose de Buenavista, Antique on Saturday (July 30, 2022). Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer Broderick Train said in an interview Sunday that families who evacuated have returned home as the weather improved. (PNA photo courtesy of DSWD-Antique)

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique** – Some 57 families who were preemptively evacuated due to the southwest monsoon enhanced by Tropical Depression Ester in the province of Antique have returned home with the weather now improving.

Antique Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) chief Broderick Train said in an interview Sunday said the families comprise 198 people who were evacuated due to floods in the three towns of Sibalom, San Jose de Buenavista and Hamtic.

“The families have started to leave the evacuation centers this morning, July 31,” he said.

The PDRRMO together with the Antique Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) reported a total of 855 families affected by floods composed of 2,907 persons in the three towns.

Of the total number, only 57 families transferred to schools in their localities that served as evacuation centers, while 86 families composed of 303 persons opted to stay with their relatives in other areas.

The remaining number of families stayed in their homes despite the rising floodwater.

Train said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was quick to distribute family food packs to the affected households.

Ma. Dominga Zarragoza, a social worker at the Sibalom Municipal SWD, said in a separate interview that there were nine families who stayed at the Odiong Elementary School in Barangay Odiong because of the flood.

“There were also some families who only temporarily stayed with their relatives,” she said.

Zarragoza said Barangays Odiong and Catungan 1, 2, 3 and 4 were affected by the flood.



Meanwhile, Jeffrey Gabucay, the DSWD-Antique Pantawid Provincial Link who was in charge of the relief distribution, said 102 families will receive PHP3,000 each from the agency as aid to individuals in crisis situation (AICS) on Monday, August 1.

“The financial aid will be given to 26 families in Barangay Bugarot in San Jose de Buenavista and then 76 families in the affected barangays in Sibalom,” he said. **(PNA)**





SEPARATE  
COLUMNS FOR  
ADVERTISING  
EDUCATION  
SERVICES

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
INQUIRER  
INQUIRER

AX  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BRIEF  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

PAGE

DATE

SPAWNED BY TROPICAL DEPRESSION 'ESTER'

# SEVERE FLOODS HIT ANTIQUE; 86 FAMILIES EVACUATED

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, ANTIQUE—Severe floods following heavy rains spawned by Tropical Depression “Ester” displaced nearly 3,000 people in three towns in Antique province on Saturday, officials said.

A total of 872 families, consisting of 2,979 persons, were affected by the floods in Antique, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) office in the province.

Of those affected, 86 families, composed of 303 persons, were brought to evacuation centers on Saturday due to nonstop rains spawned by Ester.

No casualties were reported. The families in all three evacuation centers in Antique went back to their homes as floodwaters subsided on Sunday, the office said.

The DSWD distributed



**WATER EVERYWHERE** Roads in Antique are flooded on Saturday due to heavy rains spawned by Tropical Depression “Ester.” —PHOTO COURTESY OF CRIS JOHN

food packs to families who left their homes and stayed in evacuation centers due to nonstop rains last Saturday.

Based on the data of DSWD, food packs and hygiene kits were delivered to the evacuation centers in the towns of

Hamtic, Sibalom and San Jose.

Relief operations in the affected towns were handled by the local social welfare offices, disaster risk reduction and management offices and the police.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Manage-

ment Office advised residents living near mountain slopes and river systems “to take precautionary measures to protect life and property” whenever there were floods or landslides.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said the Antique to Iloilo roads remained passable even during the flood.

No storm signal was raised in the country due to Ester but it brought heavy rains across the Visayas and extreme northern Luzon before it left the Philippine Area of Responsibility at 5 a.m. on Sunday.

The weather disturbance packed a maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 55 km/h, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. —MAXINE FAYE PILI INQ





## GSIS concerned over rightsizing scheme

STATE-RUN Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has expressed concern over the administration's plan to rightsize the bureaucracy, saying it may put a strain on contributions to the pension fund.

New GSIS President and General Manager Jose Arnulfo Veloso warned that the government-owned and -controlled corporation will encounter difficulties if the rightsizing plan is implemented. However, he said GSIS would still abide by the measure if it is passed into law.

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Mar-

cos Jr. urged Congress to pass priority measures, including the National Government Rightsizing Program (NGRP) to enable the government to enhance its institutional capacity to provide better services while ensuring efficient use of resources. It will also entail a comprehensive strategic review of functions, operations, organization, systems, and processes of different agencies, and massive and transformational initiatives in the agencies concerned, such as mergers, consolidation, splitting, transfer, and even the abolition of some offices.

"Ang rightsizing kung ito ay gagawing batas kami po ay magiimplement. Gusto ko lang i-share na talagang mahihirapan kami kasi can you imagine, kakaunti na lang ang contribution na makukuha...at hahabang naman ang aming pagbibigay ng pera kaya talagang mahihirapan kami," Veloso told reporters in a chance interview.

Sought to clarify whether the proposed rightsizing would mean a shorter fund life for GSIS, Veloso said in a message: "Rightsizing initiative of the government is still in the early stages and determining the corresponding effect on the fund life is premature.

GSIS shall proactively assess the fund impact as the rightsizing initiative firms up."

At present, Veloso said GSIS has a fund life of 31 years, noting that this will be further sustained if they push through with their planned investments in infrastructure projects.

Of its maximum investment limit of P104 billion, P35 billion has already been released for private equity and infrastructure.

"I think it has been steady at that level of 31 [years], pano pa natin mapapahaba pa lalo at yan ho ang aming pagtutulung tulungan.

SEE "GSIS," A2

### GSIS...CONTINUED FROM A1

Makakatulong [sa fund life] ang infra projects dahil talagang napakahaba ang mga cash term requirements niyan kasilong term ang kailangan natin," he said.

With the proposed rightsizing, Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman earlier said the government will be able to save a "significant amount of the budget" which in turn may be used to fund priority projects such as building much-needed infrastructure, for social services, programs in the health sector, agriculture, among others.

Pangandaman also said those who will opt to retire among those who will be affected by the government's rightsizing program will receive appropriate retirement benefits while the others may also apply for positions that will be created as an effect of rightsizing.

Meanwhile, Veloso said GSIS is also eyeing joint ventures with the private sector on their 65 big-ticket real estate properties.

"Yung aming mga large-ticket items, ang plano namin ay joint venture, magkakaroon kami ng announcement kung papaano namin

ma-fasttrack na magkaron ng fair bidding for them to participate para magkaron ng joint venture projects so hindi namin ibebenta," he said.

On the proposed Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP) Pension Reform bill, Veloso said GSIS would be willing to serve as the fund manager.

If the current MUP pension system would be retained, Veloso said capital infusion is needed since there is no mandatory contribution from this personnel. The government is the one subsidizing the MUP pension fund through the national budget.

"Pag nagkaron ng discussion dyan, sisiguraduhin namin na kami ay tutulong na pagmanage pero hindi lang namin pwede isama pondo ng gobyerno dun sa pondo ng military, magseserbisyo lang kami," he said.

Based on an earlier GSIS actuarial study, the current MUP pension system entails a funding requirement estimated at P9.6 trillion. If the current system prevails, the national government would be required to allocate around P850 billion to MUP pensions annually for the next two decades.

Bernadette D. Nicolas





SEPARATE  
COLUMNS FOR  
ADVERTISING  
SERVICES

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
INQUIRER

PAGE 1  
PAGE 2  
PAGE 3  
PAGE 4  
PAGE 5  
PAGE 6  
PAGE 7  
PAGE 8  
PAGE 9  
PAGE 10

08-01-22

# BSP, MGB back changes to 'people's mining law'

There should be little distinction between small-scale and big miners

BAGUIO CITY—A renewed demand for changes to the 31-year-old law legalizing the country's artisanal and small-scale miners got much needed support from officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) last week.

The National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners of the Philippines, in an assembly held here on July 28 and July 29, laid out a set of amendments and proposed new provisions for the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7076) to uplift the lives of an estimated 500,000 pocket miners all over the country.

Noel Malimban, BSP north Luzon cluster director, said updating and improving RA 7076 would "open up more access to finances for miners."

Small-scale miners generate gold that is sold directly to the BSP, he said.

Efren Carido, MGB director for Soccsksargen region (formerly Central Mindanao), and Alfredo Genetiano, MGB mining department chief for the Cordillera, also expressed support for the amendment of RA 7076, during a July 29 news conference organized by the coalition.

In the last 30 years, many pocket miners still toil underground without licenses because the government required them to put up a Minahang Bayan and the associated licensing contracts have been laborious and expensive, said



ORE These are samples of mineral ore that are often extracted by pocket miners in the outskirts of Baguio City and Benguet province. This year, a coalition of small-scale miners is asking Congress to outfit the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 with new safeguards so they can proceed with their livelihood. —RICHARD BALONGLONG

Rogelio Data Jr, a mine leader from Camarines Norte. "They always risk being arrested and jailed or forced to pay the authorities in order to get a pass," he said.

"There are too many requirements which are impossible for us to comply with because it would need so much money," said Panfilo Luis, a mine leader from Agusan del Sur. He added: "Government should understand that [small-scale mining] is not a commercial enterprise, but a family's livelihood."

### Indistinguishable

Mindanao mine leaders said that some of their organizations spent up to P10 million

to secure a Minahang Bayan. In the Cordillera, where indigenous Filipinos have been panning for gold as far back as the 19th century, only 13 Minahang Bayan have been approved in the course of 30 years but many of them are yet to operate because the necessary pocket mine contracts have not yet been perfected.

Part of the problem, the coalition leaders said, was that government regulators treat small-scale miners as distinct from large-scale mines, but have applied requirements that are barely indistinguishable from those given to large-scale mining operations.

"For example, why does MGB require IP (indigenous

people) miners to secure a free prior and informed consent (FPIC) from their own communities? Wouldn't that be like the IP miners giving their own selves permission to operate the Minahang Bayan?" said Leoncio Na-oy, president of the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners.

The FPIC prerequisite is normally applied to big miners developing sites inside ancestral domains, so one of the coalition's proposals is to form regulations suited for small-scale mine operators, Na-oy said.

MGB is working out an exemption for IP miners from the FPIC requirement, Genetiano said.

### Need for equipment

RA 7076 also prevents pocket miners from using heavy equipment that would protect them when they extract ore from small tunnels.

"For MGB Cordillera, we want the law's definition of small-scale mining to be amended. The law may create a category for medium-scale mine operations that would capture some small-scale operations which use equipment," Genetiano said.

"In previous small-scale summits held in Baguio, miners wanted to be given the right to use explosives and chemicals because some of them have training specially for former employees of big mines... I used to be a small-scale miner so I am aware of your problems," he said. —VINCENT CABREZA INQ





# Sustainable mining pushed

[Danessa Rivera](#) - The Philippine Star August 1, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government will need to strike a balance on expanding the mining sector and putting in more teeth to protect the environment as it sets its sights on growing the controversial sector.

While the country is rich in mineral reserves, the mining sector has only been contributing less than one percent to gross domestic product (GDP).

This may change under the Marcos administration, as it sees the high growth potential of the mining industry.

In his inaugural State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Marcos said the country has excellent laws on the environment and these laws should be properly enforced through “a great deal of coordination and cooperation” between concerned government agencies and private stakeholders.

“Companies who exploit our natural resources must follow the law. We all have the responsibility to preserve this earth, for we are but custodians, and we will pass on this treasure to future generations,” he said.

When asked about her marching orders in the mining sector, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said mining firms are urged to comply with laws, as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) looks to expand measures protecting environment.

“Those who are exploiting natural resources will just have to follow the law. And so, we are expanding on that now, we are seeing how in fact we can implement that,” she said.

While President Marcos mentioned the mining sector in his SONA, non-government organization Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) was not satisfied with the President’s plans for the industry and the environment.

“What the President said was only limited to motherhood statements about ‘preserving the earth is preserving life’ and that ‘corporations exploiting our natural resources are expected to comply with our laws,’ ” the group said.

“This confirms our fear that Marcos has very low awareness about environmental issues in general and mining issues and conflicts in particular. It is either Marcos doesn’t recognize the links between mining, deforestation, and climate change or he is careful not to offend the mining industry, which has connections to some powerful politicians in the current government, including many who hold elective positions,” ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said in a statement to The STAR.

While ATM agrees that the country has enough environment laws, the government has been lacking on the enforcement side.

“We have enough laws, but the gap is in the proper and consistent implementation and enforcement of our environmental laws,” Garganera said.

In the past, ATM said the DENR has failed to properly exercise its regulatory function when it comes to monitoring and penalizing erring mining companies that violate environmental laws or fail to comply with their own contractual obligations.

Before government can ramp up the mining sector, it should come out with a national industrialization plan for mineral extraction and management.



“We must ensure that any mineral we extract will benefit the host-communities at the minimum, and the whole country as an ideal target. The Department of Trade and Industry, together with National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance and the DENR, must first produce a national industrialization plan that will properly guide the Philippines’ minerals management,” Garganera said.

For its part, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said it would continue to foster and promote responsible minerals development in the country.

“In fact, our members are prepared to go beyond mere compliance with the law with our commitment to the Towards Sustainable Mining Initiative (TSM), which COMP has made mandatory to all its members,” COMP chairman Michael Toledo said in a statement to The STAR.

TSM is a performance system that helps mining companies evaluate and manage their environmental and social responsibilities. It is a set of tools and indicators to drive performance and ensure that key mining risks are managed responsibly at participating mining facilities.

COMP, whose members consists of large-scale metallic minerals development companies, has called on the new administration to ensure a stable business environment for the mining industry.

After all, it was only recently that government lifted the nine-year moratorium on new mining projects and four-year ban on open pit mining.

Toledo said compliance with the law was the fundamental duty and obligation of any individual or corporation.

“Those who harness our national resources for economic purposes are also bound to protect the environment and promote the social wellbeing, as well as health and safety of host and neighboring communities,” he said.

Earlier, the COMP said it would throw its full support to the new administration, especially in weeding out illegal miners and curtailing irresponsible mining practices, which have tarnished the reputation of the mining industry.





# Miner optimistic, MGB to launch compliance portal

By **Malaya Business Insight** -August 1, 2022

Philex Mining Corp. expressed optimism over the prospects of the minerals industry following government's pronouncement of support to the sector.

This developed as the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said it is developing a digital platform for the submission of compliances by mining companies and stakeholders.

Eulalio Austin Jr., Philex Mining president and chief executive officer, cited the Department of Finance's recent statement the government wants the revival of the mining industry to support the country's economic rehabilitation.

"While we do not expect global uncertainty to wane because of the continuing threat of COVID-19 (new coronavirus disease 2019) and the emerging variants, not to mention the Russian invasion of Ukraine that has disrupted the global supply chain and raised concerns on food and energy security, we are optimistic that 2022 will be another good year for Philex, and for the mining industry in general," Austin added.

Manuel Pangilinan, Philex Mining chairman, said the global outlook on metal prices continues to be positive, alongside the demand for metals such as copper.

"Recent government pronouncements under President Marcos Jr. are supportive of the mining industry. These should encourage renewed investor interest and confidence in responsible mineral resource development. It is time to slay the dragon of our much maligned past and welcome right and principled mining as a major participant to authentic nation building," Pangilinan said.

Meanwhile, the MGB said it is preparing a system where it will process online submissions of mining companies' compliance and reportorial requirements on terms and conditions of contracts, permits or other similar mining tenements and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

MGB said the project will improve the organizational productivity of the agency and mining companies' technical personnel in terms of monitoring activities and mining compliance apart from easier generation of information that can be shared to the public as well as to ensure the integration of other government policies such as the Ease of Doing Business, E-Commerce Law and the Data Privacy Act, among others. – **Jed Macapagal**

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/news\\_business/miner-optimistic-mgb-to-launch-compliance-portal/](https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/miner-optimistic-mgb-to-launch-compliance-portal/)



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B-2  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## RTNMC to expand limestone quarry

By DANESSA RIVERA

Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp., is planning to spend P410 million to expand its Gotok Limestone Quarry area by another 46.9 hectares to extend its lifespan up to 2033.

In a filing with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), RTMNC proposed to expand its limestone quarry area from 13 hectares to 59.90 hectares in Iwahig and Sandoval, Municipality of Bataraza, Palawan.

"To extend the minelife of the Gotok Limestone Quarry, RTNMC is proposing to expand its development area to 59.90 hectares," the company said.

The proposed additional 46.9-hectare area is still within the company's 84.5-hectare mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA).

"By applying for the expansion of the area, the RTNMC's operation is projected to extend up to 2033 as seen in the proposed long-range plan," RTNMC said.

The company said its operations would only last up to 2021 with the continuous limestone extraction.

It currently supplies the limestone requirement of Coral Bay Nickel Corp. (CBNC) and Graymont (Philippines) Inc. located within the Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone (RTEPZ).

"CBNC and GPI will have to resort to finding another supplier that will be able to satisfy their limestone requirement in



terms of size, grade and volume," RTNMC said.

Despite the expansion area, the company's extraction rate shall be maintained at 725,000 wet metric tons (WMT) annually, as allowed under its environmental clearance certificate (ECC) granted in 2019.

Based on the Feasibility Study conducted for this proposed expansion project, the Gotok Limestone Quarry has a total resource of 24.32 million WMT with an average grade of 94.49 percent.

The company said it was already granted with a Strategic Environmental

Plan Clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development on May 27, 2021.

RTNMC secured its initial ECC for its Gotok Limestone Quarry operation in 2003. It then started its commercial production of limestone in 2005.

RTNMC is recognized as one of the largest corporate taxpayers in Palawan. It has paid the provincial coffers P340 million in real property tax from 2016 until 2020.

Meanwhile, RTNMC is one of the four mining operations that showed excellent benchmarks for future mining entrants, whether open-pit or underground mining.

This is based on the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC)'s review of 45 large-scale metallic mining operations in the Philippines released by the National Economic and Development Authority.

The MICC is mandated to assess and review all mining operations concerning their compliance with existing laws and regulations. It also reviews mining-related laws, rules, and regulations, and provides corresponding policy recommendations to improve their effectiveness and relevance.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PEOPLES  
JOURNAL  
**Tonight**

2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Raps files vs 7 arrested for illegal quarry in Rizal

By **HECTOR  
LAWAS**

FORMAL charges have been filed against seven persons following their recent arrest in Rodriguez, Rizal for alleged illegal quarrying activities.

The National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) identified the suspects as Alexander Bando, Rochelo Austral, Raul Navarro, Alber Epanto, Kenneth Cornelia, Berny del Rosario, and Menardo Maligaya.

The suspects were brought for inquest before the Office of the Provincial



Photo courtesy of the NBI Public Information Office

Prosecutor, San Mateo, Rizal for violation of Section 103 of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining

Act of 1995." Their arrest stemmed from an information received by the NBI-EnCD regarding the alleged ram-



## Samal resort owners seek review of bridge project's environmental certificate

July 31, 2022 | 7:15 pm



AMBASSADOR HUANG XILIAN FACEBOOK PAGE

A FAMILY that owns beach resorts in Samal Island has asked the new administration to intervene in the Samal-Davao bridge project by canceling its environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and undertake a reassessment.

Lawyer Julito R. Sarmiento, one of the legal counsels of the Rodriguez family, said the ECC issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on January 4, 2021, was null and void as it did not undergo clearance from the Protected Area Management Board.

Mr. Sarmiento said they sent a letter on July 20 addressed to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, and Public Works Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan asking them to revisit the bridge alignment.

The bridge's landing site on the Samal side will cover a reef in between Paradise Island Park and Beach Resort and Costa Marina Beach Resort, both owned by the family.

"We are appealing to the current administration to cancel the ECC and conduct a new environmental impact assessment (EIA), honest to goodness, and... inform the people," he told the media last week.

"The EIA should look at what are the alternative sites."

Another family legal counsel, Marcelino C. Rongo, said all possible alignments should have an EIA to determine which one would be the best option.

"An EIA is a planning tool and if you assessed only one area with the sole purpose to justify a decision that was already made, then that is not a genuine EIA. That makes the ECC void," he said in mixed English and Filipino.

Mr. Rongo also cited that the entire Samal Island was proclaimed a protected area in 1981 and that a proposal reducing the coverage area of that declaration has yet to be approved either through a presidential order or legislation.

Mr. Sarmiento said they are prepared to take the matter to court but will first exhaust all other possible appeal routes.

"Part of the key agenda of the present government is for sustainable development and environment protection. This is what the President mentioned in his State of the Nation Address so we are hoping and waiting from the Office of the President to respond to us," he said.





Mr. Sarmiento emphasized that the resort owners are only calling into question the alignment, and that they fully support the bridge project, which is seen to bring faster economic development to the island.

The Philippine government under the previous administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed a \$350-million loan deal with China on June 13 for the bridge linking Samal Island to mainland Mindanao in the country's south.

The bridge was proposed years before Mr. Duterte was elected as the country's chief executive. It was included in his administration's priority infrastructure program.

In January 2021, the Department of Public Works and Highways and China Road and Bridge Corporation signed a P19.32-billion design and build contract for the project, which was a prerequisite for the loan agreement application with China. — **Maya M. Padillo**





**REMATE** OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

Gayundin sa mga automated teller machines, domestic point-of-sale terminals, at sa mga over-the-counter transactions.

Ang mga interesado ay kailangan lamang magtungo ng personal sa pinakamalapit na Landbank sa inyong lugar.

Sa kasalukuyan, tanging ang Landbank lamang ang may branch office sa 81 na mga lalawigan ng bansa.

Mayroon din itong 608 branches nationwide, may 2,847 ATMs, at 233 cash

**DENR MALUGOD NA SINALUBONG ANG PHILSPADA LADY WARRIORS**

Malugod na sinalubong ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., ang mga miyembro ng Philippine National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team sa ilalim ng Philippine Sports

Association for the Differently Abled (PHILSPADA) sa ginanap na courtesy call sa DENR Central Office noong Hulyo 20, 2022 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng 44th National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week.

Nanawagan din si Adobo sa publiko na suportahan ang Lady Warriors sa paglaban nito sa 11th ASEAN Para Games na gaganapin sa Solo, Indonesia mula Hulyo 30 hanggang Agosto 6, 2022. Ang empleyado ng DENR na si Cathreen Gem Tanyag ay miyembro ng national team.

Kabilang sa larawan sina Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil S. Bayam, Stakeholders Management and Conflict Resolution Division Chief Julie G. Ibulan, Climate Change Service Director and Gender and Development Office concurrent Director Elenida Dr. Basug.





# Baguio City council seeks to protect pines as 'heritage trees'

[Artemio Dumlao](#) - Philstar.com July 31, 2022 | 12:25pm



This 2018 file photo shows Baguio City, known as the country's summer capital and as the City of Pines.  
The STAR / Artemio Dumlao

**BAGUIO CITY, Philippines ?—** The Baguio City Council is deliberating on a measure to declare all pine trees in the city "heritage and protected trees", making cutting them down punishable by fines and imprisonment.

Councilor Leandro Yangot, Jr. said his proposal will be applicable in the entire city and, if passed, will penalize violations with a fine of P5,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The proposal allows cutting pine trees only in "heavily meritorious" cases as when they pose a danger to life or property.

If approved, the ordinance will mandate the Office of the City Mayor and the City Environment and Parks Management Office to come up with guidelines and implement the measure.

The measure aims to prevent Baguio City from losing its pine trees to urban development.

Pine trees help absorb carbon dioxide and also help replenish ground water and help prevent landslides and erosion.

"That is why the need to declare them as heritage trees for them to be protected and preserved," Yangot said.



# Mimaropa cops ordered to plant 1M trees before end of 2022

Published July 31, 2022, 11:56 AM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Mimaropa Regional Police is planning to plant at least one million trees before the end of this year in a move to support the government's reforestation efforts.

Mimaropa covers the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.



photo: PRO4B

Police Brig. Gen. Sidney Sultan Hernia, director of the Police Regional Office 4B, said they already planted more than 400,000 seedlings in the last seven months and the focus is to plant more than 570,000 more in the next few months of the year.

He said the task was given to all police units in the region that include police stations and the Regional Mobile Force Battalion, and the Regional Headquarters.

"They are all tasked to plant a total of 572,976 seedlings by December 2022, or 95,496 seedlings per month within a period of 5 months," said Hernia.

Based on its records, PRO4B already planted 427,024 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit-bearing trees in active partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and various stakeholders in the entire region.

Hernia said the tree-planting project will be complemented with the aggressive campaign against illegal loggers in the entire region.

Citing records from the Regional Operations Division, a total of 195 illegal loggers were arrested since January. The operations also resulted in the confiscation of 39,313.80 board feet of illegally-cut lumbers worth almost P1.5 million.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/31/mimaropa-cops-ordered-to-plant-1m-trees-before-end-of-2022/>





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Villar pinutol 100 taon balete para sa daan

**NABAHALA** ang mga residente ng BF Resort Village sa Las Piñas City nang putulin ang ilang puno sa tabi ng Zapote River para sementuhan at gawan ng kalsada sa tabi ng isang subdivision.

Ayon sa mga residenteng nakausap ng **Abante**, nakita na lamang nilang may mga backhoe at heavy equipment sa maliit nilang kalye at simulang putulin at hukayin ang mga puno.

May puno ng narra at mangga na mahigit 40 dekada nang nakatayo sa tabi ng ilog ang pinutol at may puno rin ng balete na mahigit 100 taon na ang tanda ang sasagasaan ng gi-

nagawang kalsada na ipinatayo ng mga Villar papunta sa kanilang farm sa Bacoor.

Walang nakalagay kung ang gumagawa ng kalye ay taga-munisipyo ng Las Piñas at wala ring nakapaskil na building permit o tree cutting permit nang puntahan ito ng **Abante**.

Gayuman ay inamin ng kampo ni Senadora Cynthia Villar na sila ang gumagawa ng kalye at mayroon silang permit mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa pagputol ng puno.

Aniya, kailangan daw putulin ang mga puno para makagawa ng kalye.

Ang kalyeng ginagawa ay katabi lamang ng F. De La Cruz Street sa loob ng BF Resort na naghigpit na sa pagpasok ng mga tagalabas sa subdivision na walang sticker para mapangalagaan ang seguridad ng mga residente.

"We have DENR permit," sabi ni Villar. Magtatanim umano sila ng 1,000 puno para palitan ang 16 na puno na kanilang puputulin.

Tinutulan ng mga residente ang pagpapatayo ng mga Villar ng tulay mula sa kanilang subdivision papunta sa Villar farm sa Bacoor ngunit tinuloy pa rin ang proyekto. (**Eileen Mencias**)





TITLE:

PAGE

## Kennedy due in PH to lead conservation efforts



Robert S. Kennedy

By MIGUEL DAVID DE LEON, M.D.

Author and conservationist Robert S. Kennedy is scheduled to return to the country this week to study birds and to advance the conservation of what he calls "the naturalness of this unique archipelago and country."

Kennedy will also mark 50 years since his first visit to the Philippines on Aug. 6, 1972 as a Smithsonian Institution and Peace Corps Environmental Program volunteer.

He followed the footsteps of Charles Lindbergh to help the Philippine Parks and Wildlife Office establish a conservation program for the critically

▶6

## Kennedy due in PH to lead conservation efforts 1◀

endangered Monkey-eating Eagle (now known as the Philippine Eagle).

Then 24 years old, Kennedy helped save the rarest eagle in the world by launching the Monkey-eating Eagle Conservation Program which grew into the Philippine Eagle Foundation, one of the premiere conservation efforts in Asia.

He also helped establish The Haribon Foundation (then called The Haribon Society), a leading conservation organization in the Philippines and Asia that helped produce several award-winning documentary films on the Philippine Eagle with Films & Research for an Endangered Environment, Ltd (FREE, Ltd).

He also authored the "A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines" (Oxford 2000), referred to by birders and researchers as the "KG" or "Kennedy Guide." It is a book on Philippine birds that is loved and treasured by birders, researchers and book collectors.

Before publishing the Kennedy Guide, he co-led over 25 major biodiversity expeditions for the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History from Batan Islands in the north to Tawi-Tawi Island in the south, mostly with the National Museum.

He published over 65 popular and scientific articles on the Philippine Eagle and Philippine Biodiversity, including "Saving the Philippine Eagle" in the June 1981 issue of the National Geographic Magazine, and the descriptions of three new bird species and one new mammal.

His second visit to the Philippines, which Kennedy refers to as his "second home," he will be visiting the

Philippine Eagle Center in Davao and various parts of the country not just to promote conservation but also to reconnect with Filipinos who helped him do field work.

An avid runner specializing in long distance running, he advocates the value of wellness through running and exercise. Though retired from ornithology, he ran for certain causes, particularly with regard to the wellness of forests and habitats in the Philippines to raise funds for research and conservation.

Kennedy will take the Bataan

Death March route to do the 102-kilometer marathon "The Solidarity Run for Peace, Health, and the Philippine Eagle" on Aug. 6-7. Visit the Philippine Eagle Foundation Facebook page to join the marathon and for more details.

The National Museum of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Robert S. Kennedy Bird Conservancy, will hold "Call of the Wild, The Life's Work of Robert 'Bob' Kennedy" on August 4, 1 p.m., at the North Function Hall of the National Museum of Natural History. On August 8 at 6 p.m. at Poco Deli BGC, the Robert S. Kennedy Bird Conservancy will host a dinner in honor of Kennedy.



**PHILIPPINE VISITOR** — Robert S. Kennedy returns to the Philippines on Wednesday, August 3, to celebrate 50 years since first arriving in the Philippines to study birds and spearhead conservation of what he calls "the naturalness of this unique archipelago and country." Kennedy arrived in the country for the first time on August 6, 1972 as a Smithsonian Institution/Peace Corps Environmental Program volunteer. He followed the footsteps of Charles Lindbergh to help the Philippine Parks and Wildlife Office establish a conservation program for the critically endangered monkey-eating eagle (now known as the Philippine Eagle).





# Waste management facility opens in Lapu-Lapu

By [Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#)(The Freeman) - August 1, 2022 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Lapu-Lapu City now has a private waste management facility that converts solid waste to usable materials and will soon provide training to waste collectors.

The facility owned by Vic Metal Fabrication and Environmental Services Incorporated sits on a one hectare property in Sitio Soong, Barangay Mactan. Mayor Junard “Ahong” Chan and DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Director William Cuñado led its inauguration and groundbreaking Thursday last week.

Cuñado lauded the company for helping the Lapu-Lapu City government and private companies in the city in managing their waste and sewage.

“Lapu-Lapu City is a tourist area, kabalo man ta nga kung masira ang environment nato sa Lapu-Lapu, ang atong mga properties mo-decline sab kay wala nama'y value, so atong i-prevent ni siya, mao ning atong gibuhad karon,” said Victoriano Ocon, president and chief executive officer of VMF.

For now, Ocon said they only accept solid and liquid waste from the city. However, the facility will open to all companies outside of Lapu-Lapu City and even other local government units once they start their training center by the second quarter of next year. He promised to help teach each town in the province the proper waste disposal.

Ocon added that the company is willing to sell its waste management system to any interested LGU. The VMF is capable of processing 220 tons of solid waste daily. With a number of treatment ponds, its sewage treatment plant (STP) can treat 150,000 to 200,000 liters of sewage water daily.

Its covered facility has the size of two huge gymnasiums with various equipment to process solid wastes.

Engr. Jonathan Capeding, VMF operations head, said it has a 50-meter long automatic waste segregation machine that sorts out organic items, plastics, glass and metal. The facility also has a heavy-duty crusher to break hard and even pulverize waste materials, shredders to reduce plastics and rubber into smaller pieces, and a composter that processes organic materials into compost.

It also has an incinerator equipped with air purifier that is capable of burning waste without producing harmful smoke.

“Ang kadtong malata himoong fertilizer, ang dili malata naa tay option nga himoon natong chair, bricks, himoon natong hollow blocks. Kung sobra kadaghan di' maapas ato ibaligya sa Cemex paliton sab nila,” said Ocon in a statement.

Although they have yet to come up with a formal working agreement with the mayor, Ocon said they already supplied the city with waste processing equipment.

The city government’s Solid Waste Management Office, the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in particular, is already manufacturing concrete slabs mixed with shredded plastics, for walkways and sidewalks. — **FPL (FREEMAN)**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2022/08/01/2199414/waste-management-facility-opens-lapu-lapu/amp/>



## Pollution watchdog calls for chemical-free, zero-waste Brigada Eskwela

Published July 31, 2022, 8:53 AM

by [Jel Santos](#)

As different campuses prepare for the upcoming Brigada Eskwela 2022, a waste and pollution watchdog has urged principals, teachers, parents, students, and community volunteers to ensure a chemical-free and zero waste conduct of the so-called annual “Bayanihan sa Paaralan”.



(Photo courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition)

According to the EcoWaste Coalition, Brigada Eskwela offers an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and promote practical measures that will contribute to a healthy, toxic-free school environment.

“We encourage our school administrators and the rest of the school community to keep chemical safety and zero waste in mind as they make preparations and excitedly take part in the actual clean-up, repair, and renovation of our public schools,” said EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen Lucero, as the group releases a set of guidelines for a toxic- and waste-free implementation.

For a start, the group encouraged Brigada Eskwela participants to avoid the use of plastic tarpaulins, which may contain toxic cadmium and/or lead, for public announcements; simply opt for coconut or taffeta cloth for banners; and maximize the social media to reach out to school stakeholders. Bringing single-use plastics into the school is also discouraged.

“In lieu of disposables, bring food and water in reusable containers that can be washed and safely reused,” the group noted.

The EcoWaste also emphasized the importance of proper waste handling segregation by encouraging the participants to facilitate reuse, recycling, or composting, and to cut the volume of garbage for disposal.

“Compost biodegradable discards such as grass clippings and fallen leaves to produce natural fertilizer or soil enhancer for the school garden,” it added.

The group also reminded everyone to avoid burning, which is an illegal act.

“Say no to open burning, an illegal act, which releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and particulate matter, persistent organic pollutants such as dioxins, and heavy metals and other toxic chemicals,” it stated.





The group also provided guidance when it comes to managing the school's Materials Recovery Facility.

"Spruce up the school's Materials Recovery Facility; clean the containers or segregators for properly-labeled recyclable and compostable discards; assign a separate container for hazardous waste such as fluorescent lamps and other e-waste," it maintained. "Handle busted fluorescent lamps with care to prevent mercury spill; do not burn or mix such lamps with ordinary trash; properly store and dispose of them as hazardous waste."

As for the selection of lights, the EcoWaste advised, "Go for mercury-free and more energy efficient LED lights and only pick those with ICC stickers or PS marks."

It was also noted how the importance of choosing the right cleaning products matters, especially in shunning unsafe substances.

"Choose safer cleaning products and refrain from using hazardous cleaning agents that are corrosive to the eyes, skin and respiratory tract such as oxalic and muriatic acid; read product labels carefully, be mindful of hazard pictograms and precautionary warnings, and follow safety instructions," it was explained. "Do not mix bleach with other cleaning products such as ammonia and acids to prevent the formation of extremely injurious toxic vapors, which can poison or kill."

The group also gave warnings on the use of unsafe paints, particularly the ones that contain lead.

"Use only lead-safe paints, as required by DepEd D.O. 4, s.2017, for school interiors, exteriors, furniture and fixtures, gymnasium, play equipment, and other school amenities," it stated, noting further that scraping is not advised, especially when there are children and pregnant women in the area.

"Refrain from dry sanding or dry scraping painted surfaces as it might contain lead and thus disperse lead dust into the surroundings; keep children and pregnant women out of the work area (lead is hazardous to babies in the womb)," it continued.

The guidelines also recommended the use of a moist mop or rag in getting rid of the dust on floors, windows, window frames and sills, chairs and tables, and other surfaces of dust.

Observing proper hygiene is also important, the group maintained, reminding participants to wash hands properly with soap and water before meals and after the Brigada Eskwela conduct.

Meanwhile, keeping the school premises smoke-free by not smoking or vaping is highly encouraged, as well.

"Implementing the essential tips we have crafted will surely help in minimizing waste and pollution, including avoiding toxic exposures, during the Brigada Eskwela and beyond," Lucero stressed.

Next week, the EcoWaste Coalition will release another set of tips focusing on reducing lead-based paint hazards in the school setting.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

08-01-22

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DOLOMITE CLEANUP.

A volunteer joins the clean-up drive of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach along the stretch of the bay walk on Sunday. **Avito Dalan**







STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-01-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



*Nagtulong-tulong ang mga kawani mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at mga volunteers sa pag-alis ng mga basura na pinadpad ng alon sa baybayin ng Manila Bay Dolomite Beach. -Edd Gumban-*



GMA News

16h · 🌐



Mga sako-sakong basura na nahakot ngayong hapon sa dolomite beach. | via Jhomer Apresto/Super Radyo DZ88 594khz

Bisitahin ang [www.gmanews.tv](http://www.gmanews.tv) para sa pinakabagong balita.

See Translation



👍 🥰 🙄 Ricky Calipay and 4.7K others

1.5K Comments 73 Shares





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



08-01-22

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

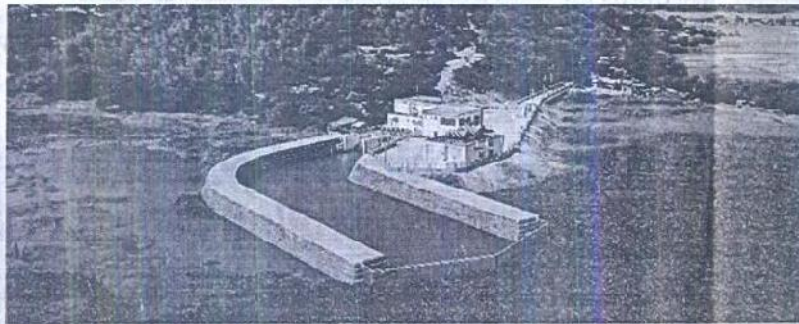
## Manila Water marks 25 years, renews commitment to quality water and environmental services

Like the movement of water, continuous and life-giving, the journey of Metro Manila's East Zone concessionaire Manila Water Company, Inc. has taken a similar motion.

Since its establishment in 1997, the company has maintained its mission of creating an exceptional customer experience in the provision of sustainable solutions vital to health and life.

As it celebrates its 25th anniversary this 1st of August, Manila Water acknowledges that its work will not be done without the solid alliances it has fostered. "None of these would have been possible if not for the strong collaboration and partnership through the 25 years, primarily with our regulator, MWSS, and our national and local government partners, the business community, and of course, our customers and other stakeholders," said Manila Water President and CEO Jocot De Dios.

Prior to 1997, Metro Manila was in a serious water crisis. Illegal connections, low water pressure to no water, massive leaks, and poor customer



Intake facility of Cardona Water Treatment Plant at Laguna Lake, Manila Water's major alternative source of raw water apart from Angat Dam.

service abound.

To address this, former President Fidel V. Ramos signed into law the Republic Act No. 8041, also known as the "National Water Crisis Act". The Act ordered the transfer of water distribution to the private sector in 1997. Manila Water took over the East Zone concession, and started its service obligations which include water, sewerage, and sanitation.

The privatization has resulted in expanded service coverage, improved service delivery, and increase in operating efficiency. Since then, Manila Water has been working doubly hard to continuously improve its water and wastewater services.

### Milestone transformation

From its 3.1 million customers at the start of operations, Manila Water's

clients has grown into seven million in 2021, reaching significant milestones such as residents gaining access to 24-hour water supply, expansion of water mains and distribution lines, and more water delivered to customers. Apart from these, systems losses or non-revenue water (NRW) was significantly reduced, from a dismal 63% of production pre-1997 to the current world-class rate of 12%. This trans-

lates to increased operational efficiency and more water saved and subsequently distributed to customers.

"Enduring the height of the pandemic, we made sure to supply our customers with clean and safe water, 24/7. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we remain relentless in improving our services and infrastructure to fulfill our commitments to our stakeholders and the environment," De Dios added.

Through the years, Manila Water's capabilities have created positive transformations to water and wastewater system development and service delivery. It built water supply infrastructures such as the East La Mesa Water Treatment Plant and the Rizal Province Water Supply Improvement Project, central to which is the Cardona Water Treatment Plant, with one million and 788,000 household beneficiaries, respectively. It has also developed the Novaliches-Balara Aqueduct 4 (NBAQ4) Project which ensures the continuity and reliability of raw water supply.



# Manila Water sets bold carbon emission targets

[Iris Gonzales](#) - The Philippine Star August 1, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Razon-led Manila Water Co. Inc. has set a bold target of reducing and avoiding carbon emissions by 60 percent by 2025 through the use of renewable energy and wastewater treatment.

The goal is to reduce and avoid Scopes 1 and 2 carbon emissions. Scope 1 refers to direct emissions from owned or controlled sources while Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the company.

These targets form part of Manila Water's medium-term environment, social and governance (ESG) policies as the East Zone water concessionaire marks its 25th year today (Aug. 1).

"We have reimagined the company with a new purpose, vision and mission. We are drawing on our heritage as an industry pioneer in sustainability practices and reporting to further focus on and embed ESG into our overall business operations," said Manila Water president and CEO Jocot De Dios.

De Dios, a former CEO of General Electric Philippines and undersecretary at the Department of Energy, is part of the team that took over the leadership of Manila Water last year when ports and casino tycoon Enrique Razon took over the helm of the company.

Manila Water's clients has swelled to seven million in 2021, more than double the 3.1 million customers at the start of operations, as residents gained access to 24-hour water supply, expansion of water mains and distribution lines, and more water delivered to customers.

Manila Water has likewise significantly reduced system losses or non-revenue water (NRW) to the current world-class rate of 12 percent from a dismal 63 percent of production pre-1997 or prior to privatization.

"Even during the height of the pandemic, we made sure to supply our customers with clean and safe water, 24/7. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we remain relentless in improving our services and infrastructure to fulfill our commitments to our stakeholders and the environment," De Dios said.

Manila Water already made headway with its carbon emission targets, specifically on using green or renewable energy (RE). In 2021, the company utilized 13.8 million kilowatt hours (kwh) of renewable energy using onsite solar panels and purchasing RE through open access.

In the area of wastewater management, Manila Water aims to be the leading provider of wastewater and environmental services in the country.

The company has already built wastewater treatment infrastructure—including the North and South Pasig Sewer System with the Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant, the Taguig North Sewage Treatment Plant, and the Marikina North Sewerage System Project.

To sustain these efforts, Manila Water also capitalized on proactive technical solutions, such as a separate sewer system and combined sewer-drainage system.

As of 2021, the East Zone has a total of 41 sewage treatment plants (STPs) and two septage treatment plants. With its 78 vacuum tankers, the company has also desludged more than two million households.





Manila Water aims to become a value-creating global water company that delivers world-class products and services tailored to the needs of the communities it serves.

“We will continue to explore new methods and apply new approaches to create innovative and sustainable solutions that will deliver lasting impact to our customers and the communities where we operate in,” De Dios said.

Manila Water was established in 1997. Prior to that, Metro Manila was in a serious water crisis, marred by illegal connections, low water pressure to no water, massive leaks, and poor customer service abound.

Thus, former president Fidel Ramos signed into law Republic Act 8041, also known as the “National Water Crisis Act,” which ordered the transfer of water distribution to the private sector in 1997.



## Water is life

By [Marit Stinus-Cabugon](#) August 1, 2022

THE sitio where I live had just celebrated the second night of the annual fiesta with a "Hot Mama" pageant. A few hours later we woke up to voices yelling, "Sunog!" (Fire!) The sight of the orange flames dancing in the dark night and the frantic activity outside was surreal. Fortunately, a few minutes later fire trucks arrived and the fire was put under control.



WATER IS LIFE Climate change-induced extreme heat and prolonged periods of drought are posing challenges to water authorities and governments across the planet. PHOTO BY MARIT STINUS-CABUGON

Two months ago, 3,000 individuals were displaced when a fire destroyed 600 homes in Punta Princesa, also in Cebu City. The Cebu City Fire Office has reported that properties worth about P500 million have been lost to fires, this year alone. This represents a big loss not only for the affected individuals, families and business establishments, but for the city as well.

I wonder to what extent small fires become big because households don't have running or stored water. The Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) serves a franchise area with a total population of about 2.5 million and thousands of establishments, yet the number of connections is only about 200,000. Households — including some in my neighborhood — are denied connections because MCWD is already having a problem servicing existing ones.

Many customers only have water a few hours in a day. Low pressure, we are told, which means there simply isn't enough water to meet demand.

The MCWD recently announced that rates will be increased effective July 2023. The last increase was in 2015. The cost of producing and delivering water has gone up, thus the need to adjust the tariff. The rate hikes of the water fees — a flat rate covering connection and up to 10 cubic meters water consumption per month and which varies according to meter size and the different consumption brackets — reach about 60 percent. The power cost adjustment (PCA) which constitutes the biggest of three charges aside from the water fee — purchased water adjustment (PWA) and franchise tax being the two others — has reportedly been incorporated in the new rate.

The proposed water rate hike doesn't sit well with Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama who finds the increase excessive. But MCWD's basic rates are actually low when compared to, for example, the cities of Metro Manila, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro. Davao City has lower rates but is scheduled to implement 30 percent, 20 percent and 10 percent rate hikes in 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively.





Mayor Rama is also opposed to the MCWD's plan to source more water from desalination plants, knowing that the desalination process is costly. Instead the mayor is requesting the national government to fund a dam that would capture rainwater.

There is no doubt that better systems to capture and utilize rainwater would contribute significantly to easing Metro Cebu's water shortage problems. However, it is doubtful that it would suffice. During the dry, hot summers existing dams dry up, causing major drops in MCWD's already insufficient water production. We must keep in mind that climate change is causing more frequent, longer and more extreme weather: higher temperatures and drought have caused lakes to dry up around the world. NASA is warning that Lake Mead, the biggest reservoir in the US, could soon reach dead pool — meaning, the level of the lake, created with the construction of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River almost 90 years ago, would drop "so low that it can't flow downstream from the dam" (Robert Glennon, University of Arizona in *The Conversation*, May 13, 2022). "[T]ens of thousands of acres [of land] lie idle because farmers can't get enough water to grow crops," BBC reports. Cities like Las Vegas and Los Angeles depend on Lake Mead for water. Water that starts its journey as snow in the Rocky Mountains. But there is less snow and rain now. A dam that will collect Cebu's rainwater is unlikely to suffice in meeting current and future water demand.

Singapore, whose success Mayor Rama aspires for Cebu City, used to depend on imported water. However, while still importing water, Singapore — as of 2019 — got 30 percent of its water requirements from desalinated water. "High-grade reclaimed water" — recycled sewage water — and water from local catchment are the other two important sources of water ([www.wateroam.com](http://www.wateroam.com)).

Nobody likes water rates to increase, but the fact is that buying water by the gallon from private water vendors is a lot more expensive, not to mention time-consuming and inconvenient. Water is a basic necessity and every consumer ought to be serviced by the local water district. The importance of clean water in safeguarding public health cannot be overemphasized — the recent increase in typhoid fever cases in Central Visayas is a case in point. Our already inadequate water supply is further challenged by climate change-induced extreme heat and prolonged periods of drought, increasing the risk of fires and disease outbreaks. We must prepare. No stone can be left unturned.

# Bringing tax transparency into focus for life sciences companies

BY **KPMG PERSPECTIVES** AUGUST 1, 2022



ARE you aware of the tax transparency issues regarding ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and sustainability within life sciences companies? Is your business prepared for the challenge?

There's a reason you should be.

Recently, there has been a dramatic cultural shift as governments and communities increase their focus on social and health issues, environmental concerns, sustainability, and corporate governance.

They want businesses to operate responsibly. This has led to more calls for ESG initiatives, where life sciences companies are expected to also measure "success" as more than just profitability. It's about what they "give back" to society, e.g., to patients and communities worldwide, what they do to protect the environment, and how they conduct and govern themselves.

It's no surprise then that ESG is now at the heart of boardroom discussions.

How well you can demonstrate your commitment, and contribution, to meeting ESG and sustainability goals, and whether you can directly deliver on the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (such as "no poverty," "zero hunger," and "sustainable cities and communities"), is becoming a clear measure of such success—and tax transparency is increasingly seen as both an essential element of ESG disclosure and a key metric when demonstrating your responsible attitude towards tax.

## Preparing for the challenge

Becoming a more ESG-friendly organization, however, is a complex journey. It involves changing how your company processes business while being transparent and accountable—not an easy task as there is no general agreement on measures.

While every life sciences business has its own unique requirements, and most are at different stages of their tax reporting and ESG development, there are still several common questions that should be addressed:

- Has your business committed to meeting and reporting under any ESG standards or metrics?
- Are you adequately collecting and analyzing the right data about your ESG activities?
- Can your technology support you?
- Are your employees properly trained?





Do you have the right partnerships and alliances in place—ones that can help you create progressive approaches that drive your ESG initiatives?

Do you have a true idea about your company's environmental impact?

Is your board aligned with what you want to achieve, and do they have access to the right information so they can provide effective oversight?

As investors increasingly integrate ESG factors into investment decisions, they are taking a closer look at how organizations manage their tax risk. Have you developed a tax risk policy? Do you have a tax risk appetite statement and are you adequately disclosing tax risks?

There are no easy answers to these questions. But getting them right can give you a competitive advantage.

For life sciences and chemical firms, this is especially relevant as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, climate change, and other environmental and social/health issues keep them firmly in the spotlight. As governments, shareholders, and the public focus on your taxes, getting your tax transparency reporting right is not only essential but potentially beneficial.

Therefore, your ESG strategies should factor in tax transparency and demonstrate how you serve the communities in which you do business. Your tax planning should also align with, and support, the ESG agenda.

You should be seen to not just be “talking the talk” but “walking the walk.” If it is felt that you are treating tax as solely a cost center that should be reduced by all means, your ESG efforts can be questioned, if not outrightly undermined.

Everyone has a vested interest in climate change, sustainability, and social justice. Tax transparency should take a central part in any conversation around these issues. This means that you should be involved in ESG and sustainability discussions. That way everyone helps, and everyone can win.

The excerpt was taken from the KPMG Thought Leadership publication: <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2022/03/bringing-tax-transparency-into-focus.html>

© 2022 R.G. Manabat & Co., a Philippine partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. For more information on KPMG in the Philippines, you may send a message via social media or visit [www.home.kpmg/ph](http://www.home.kpmg/ph).

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/08/01/bringing-tax-transparency-into-focus-for-life-sciences-companies/>



# Rich nations still failing to honor \$100-B climate funding pledge

July 31, 2022, 11:38 am



**ANKARA** – Rich countries are still failing to fulfill their pledge to provide USD100 billion for climate action in poorer nations, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said on Friday.

In 2020, USD83.3 billion were given to developing countries, USD16.7 billion short of the target set at the 2009 Copenhagen climate conference.

The figure, however, marked a 4 percent increase from 2019, primarily driven by a rise in public flows, according to the OECD.

Receiving 42 percent of the total on average, developing countries in Asia have been the main beneficiaries of climate finance between 2016 and 2020, followed by Africa (26 percent) and the Americas (17 percent).

“We know that more needs to be done. Climate finance grew between 2019 and 2020, but as we had expected, remained short of the increase needed to reach the USD100 billion goal by 2020,” OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said in a statement.

He warned that climate change continues to cause “widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people.”

“Developed countries need to continue to ramp up their efforts in line with their stated commitments in the lead-up to COP26, which would mean the USD100 billion goal would be reached from next year,” he said. “This is critical to building trust as we continue to deepen our multilateral response to climate change.”

Previous projections by the OECD showed that “if all commitments put forward by bilateral and multilateral providers up to that point are delivered, the USD100 billion level would be met in 2023 and be exceeded in the period to 2025,” the statement said. **(Anadolu)**





## This nation is scorching in a heat wave and wildfires, yet it's returning to planet-baking coal

By Anna Pantelia, for CNN

Photographs by Anna Pantelia for CNN

Updated 1249 GMT (2049 HKT) July 31, 2022

**Western Macedonia, Greece (CNN)**Dimitris Mitsaris opens his garage door and the smell of fermenting grapes emerges, as the first morning light bounces off dozens of steel tanks. Mitsaris and his family live here, in Agios Panteleimonas, a mountainous village of just 800 residents in northern Greece, and have made their home [into a small winery](#). "I don't even have electricity here yet," Mitsaris says with a laugh.

It's funny to Mitsaris because just until December last year, the 40-year-old had spent 17 years of his life working the coal mines for the state-run Public Power Corporation (PPC) to keep the lights on in people's homes. He finally [gave up coal for wine](#), understanding that the fossil fuel was on its way out.

Mitsaris, whose father also worked in coal mining, bought 44 acres of vineyard. But he's now wondering if he made the right choice -- coal here is refusing to quit.

"I'm afraid about the future," he said. "I have two young daughters to bring up."



Dimitris Mitsaris in his garage, which is now part of his home winery.

Coal is the most polluting of fossil fuels and is the biggest single contributor to the climate crisis, and Greece had been trying hard to wean off it. But the country -- alongside other European nations -- is [delaying those phaseout plans](#) in response to the energy crunch, which has turned into a full-blown crisis since Russia launched its war on Ukraine.

Just a year ago, Greece was confident it could close all existing coal-burning plants by 2023. It planned to build one last coal plant this year in the wider region where Mitsaris lives, Western Macedonia, which generates more than half the nation's electricity. The new plant, Ptolemaida 5, would in 2025 then run on natural gas, another polluting fossil fuel, but one that is generally less carbon-intensive than the lignite, or brown coal, found in this part of Greece.



That whole timeline is now up in smoke.

The deadline to end the use of coal in all existing plants has been delayed from 2023 to 2025, and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis recently suggested the new Ptolemaida plant will realistically need to burn coal until at least 2028. And Greece is planning to [hike its coal mining output by 50%](#) over the next two years to make up for the dearth of natural gas, as Vladimir Putin tightens the taps flowing to the EU.

Already the changes are glaring. In June 2021, coal generated 253.9 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity. This June, coal was responsible for 468.1 GWh, nearly twice as much.

And this is while the country has been battling wildfires on the mainland and its islands, fueled by a scorching heat wave supercharged by climate change -- which comes mostly from humans' burning of fossil fuels like coal. The fires have left homes in ashes, people have been rescued from beaches and business owners on islands like Lesbos are facing an economically painful holiday season.



Dimitris Matisaris' father, a retired PPC worker, fills a bottle of wine at his son's winery.

Major life choices, like where to live and work, are difficult to make when the government's plans keep changing. For Mitsaris, leaving his village where he was born and raised isn't an option right now.

"My wife used to work in a dairy factory, which also closed few years ago. They offered her a job in Athens but back then my salary was enough to support the whole family, so we decided to stay," he said. "If I knew that we would end up in the situation we are now, I would have gone to Athens back then."

The Greek government is trying to convince people that its return to coal is only temporary. But coal's resurgence is tempting people in Western Macedonia back into the industry.

The PPC energy company has offered steady employment to thousands of people in Western Macedonia, where almost 1 in 5 are jobless.

Here -- where everyone refers to coal as a "blessing and a curse" -- a return to the fossil fuel can make all the difference between staying and leaving.

Already, so many have left for bigger cities, or even moved abroad, to find new lives.

### **A village in decay**

In terms of the transition away from coal, Greece had been something of a success story. Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Greece only relied on coal for around [9% of its energy supply](#), down from 25% just six years ago. It was the first country in the coal-dependent Balkans to announce a near-term target to end use of the fossil fuel.

But the transition has always had its challenges -- mainly, what opportunities can the country offer to former workers in coal towns?



In Western Macedonia -- which provides 80% of Greece's coal -- the PPC has expropriated dozens of villages so that it can mine the coal beneath them, moving entire communities to the peripheries. And they were the lucky ones.



A general view of the village of Akrini covered by the snow during winter.

During this awkward in-between phase -- when coal is still being mined but its years are numbered -- residents in the village of Akrini find themselves unable to move, even as everything around them crumbles.

Residents here have been in a dispute for more than a decade with the PPC, saying they are entitled to compensation that will help them relocate from the village, which has for years been exposed to high levels of ash from the coal operations that surround them. They successfully lobbied for the right to be relocated, which is now enshrined in a 2011 law.

The PPC told CNN in an email that it was not responsible for the people in the village, and did not answer follow up questions when presented with the law that states they are entitled to relocation assistance by 2021.

Charalambos Mouratidis, 26, doesn't really know what to do next.

Like Mitsaris, he has sought to make a new life after leaving a job with the PPC at a coal mine, where his father also worked. But Mouratidis never had the same kind of job security as his dad. He worked shifts for eight months on a short-term contract cleaning the ash from the machinery inside the mine. The instability, low pay and the heavy impact of the toxic ash on his health pushed him out of the industry.



A general view of the hill where Charalambos Mouratidis' farm is located in Akrini, with a coal plant in the background.

He now runs a cattle farm, which sits on a hill overlooking Akrini as plumes of smoke and steam rise from the chimneys and cooling towers of the coal plants all around it in the background.

On top of his cattle farming, he works a second job for a solar panel company, typically putting in 13 hours a day between them to make ends meet.

Working for the solar panel company is a green job that provides Mouratidis with some extra income. But solar expansion is also taking up more and more land, leaving less for cultivation or grazing, so getting permission to expand farmland in Akrini is near impossible, he said.

Besides the solar farms, all other infrastructure projects in Akrini have been canceled. The village is being left to slowly die.

"I started farming, hoping to have some kind of a more stable future, and now even that effort is at stake," Mouratidis said. "Everyone has reached a dead end in this village."

### What comes next

The Greek government has devised a 7.5 billion euro (\$7.9 billion) plan to help the country transform from a fossil fuel-based economy to a green innovative nation. Its Just Transition Development Plan, as these are known across the European Union, has received 1.63 billion euros in EU funding.

Western Macedonia is a focus in the plan and should receive plenty of the money, partly to become a center for renewables in the country. And while the plan is welcomed by a lot of people here, many doubt it can all be achieved in the six years before the last coal plant is to go offline.

Mouratidis is skeptical the money will help him at all.



The exterior of Charalambos Mouratidis' farm in Akrini.

"I'm not sure that much of it will reach people like me, who run small businesses. Some money will end up with the ones who openly support the current government and the majority of it will stay with those who manage these funds," he said. "This is what history has shown us. Even during Covid-19, the support given to big companies and businesses was much higher than the support we got."

But not all hope is lost. As many workers turn from coal to agriculture, some EU support is trickling through. Just a few kilometers from Akrini, Nikos Koltsidas and Stathis Paschalidis are trying to create sustainable solutions for those who have lost their jobs in the green transition, and who are willing to get involved with sheep and goat farming.

Through their ["Proud Farm" initiative](#), they act as incubators for Greeks who want to farm in sustainable ways, offering them access to training and knowledge around the newest technologies available to them.



Nikos Koltsidas and Stathis Paschalidis, founders of "Proud Farm Group of Farmers" initiative.





"We want to create a network of self-sustainable farms, with respect to the environment and the animals, which will demand very low capital from new farmers," Paschalidis said, his sheep bleating in the background.

Koltsidas said he wanted to spread the word to the local population that farming isn't what it used to be, and can provide a stable future. "It doesn't require the effort it did in the past, where the farmer had to be on the farm the whole day, grazing the animals or milking them with their hands," he said.

"To those thinking about going back to working in coal, they should look at all the regions that are thriving without it," he said. "There's no need to stay stuck in these outdated models of the PPC."



## Animal health important for helping cut greenhouse gas emissions—report

**I**MPROVING animal health can help cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but more granular approaches to measuring progress are vital if countries are to be able to include it in their national climate commitments, according to a report.

Diseases affecting animals, how long they live and how productive they are all have a significant impact on GHG emissions, said the report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Dairy Platform and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, titled "The role of animal health in national climate commitments."

This means greater investments are needed to establish systems for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV). There is currently no standardized method to include improved animal health in most countries' GHG national inventories or nationally determined contributions (NDCs). As a result, the

of animal health is often not clearly reflected in countries' commitments to fight climate change.

"This report marks a breakthrough in highlighting the importance of animal health and guiding countries towards a much more granular approach in evaluating its role and how it needs to be incorporated into national commitments to help mitigate the climate crisis," said FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo.

"The livestock sector provides vital nutrition and livelihoods for more than a billion people worldwide," said Donald Moore, Executive Director of Global Dairy Platform. "This brief demonstrates how governments and industry can work together on climate solutions and is part of the global dairy sector's Pathways to Dairy Net Zero initiative," he said.

"While this report clearly demonstrates the opportunity for improved animal health to contribute to cli-

mate mitigation, it also highlights the need to address critical data gaps and build capacity in low- and middle-income countries, in particular.

Governments and the sector should support long-term investments in research and create the enabling environment for animal health policies and programmes to realise their full potential," said GRA Special Representative, Hayden Montgomery.

The report shows how countries can develop an MRV system at national level to be able to include animal health improvements in national climate commitments.

To do that, the report says, it's essential for countries to use the detailed methodologies known as Tier 2 or 3, developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

While the commonly used Tier 1 approach only allows for estimating GHG emissions per animal with regional averages, Tier 2 looks at spe-

cific local production systems. This includes herd parameters to estimate impacts on animal numbers such as mortality, fertility, age at first parturition and replacement rate, as well as production data including milk yields and animal weights at different life stages.

Data on feed for different categories of animals and manure management systems are also critical as these have a strong influence on emission factors. Measuring parameters such as the methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) conversion factor may even require using Tier 3 approaches with more complex modeling and associated data, the report says.

A key challenge concerns how emissions from the livestock sector are reported in national GHG inventories and included in NDCs. In their inventories, FAO said countries report direct emissions at sector level. "These emissions in the livestock sector include CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from enteric fermentation in

animals' digestive systems and CH<sub>4</sub> and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from manure management. Emissions from feed production, processing and transport and energy use are reported under "agricultural soils" or the energy sector."

At the same time, animal health interventions cannot be considered in isolation at animal level as affecting only direct emissions. For example, supply-chain emissions may diminish due to reduced needs for replacement animals or changes in the feed ration. Therefore, it is important to adopt a systems perspective and understand the drivers of supply-chain emissions.

FAO said it considers animal health vital for sustainable livestock production. "Animal products not only represent a source of high-quality food but are also a source of income for many small farmers and animal holders, making a significant contribution to livelihoods and GDP in many developing countries."





# Invasive frog and snake species cost world economy \$16 billion, study shows

By **Brian Ellsworth via Reuters** - July 31, 2022 - 4:24 PM



An American Bullfrog is seen in a mating pond at the Jurong Frog Farm in Singapore December 11, 2008. (Reuters/Tan Choon Huat)

MIAMI — Two invasive species, the American bullfrog and the brown tree snake, cost the world an estimated \$16 billion between 1986 and 2020 by causing problems ranging from crop damage to power outages, according to a study published on Thursday.

The brown-and-green frog known as *Lithobates catesbeianus* that can weigh over 2 pounds (0.9 kilos), had the greatest impact in Europe, according to research published in *Scientific Reports*.

The brown tree snake, or *Boiga irregularis*, has multiplied uncontrollably on Pacific islands including Guam and the Mariana Islands, where the species was introduced by U.S. troops in World War II, said researcher Ismael Soto.

The snakes have at times been so abundant that they caused power outages by crawling on electrical equipment, he said.

This signals the need for investment controlling global transport of invasive species to avoid paying for mitigation after the invasions occur, said Soto, a PhD student at the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic, the study's lead researcher.

"Nowadays, the pet trade is the main pathway for these species, especially now that everyone wants to get the most exotic snake," Soto told Reuters. "We propose continuously updating the black list of forbidden species for trade."

The figures were derived by aggregating costs associated with invasive species as described in peer-reviewed literature or studies deemed of high reliability, and predominantly came from estimates and extrapolations rather than empirical observations.

—Reporting by Brian Ellsworth Editing by Sandra Maler

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2022/07/31/223659/invasive-frog-and-snake-species-cost-world-economy-16-billion-study-shows/>



# Nepal has nearly tripled its wild tiger population since 2009

By Zoe Sottile, CNN

Updated 0600 GMT (1400 HKT) July 31, 2022



A tiger in Bardia National Park, Nepal is photographed by a motion-triggered hidden camera.

**(CNN)**[Wild tigers in Nepal](#) have clawed their way back from the brink of extinction. There are now almost three times as many wild tigers in the country as there were in 2009, according to the Nepalese government.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba announced the conservation success Friday morning, [according to a news release from the World Wildlife Fund](#).

Nepal's National Tiger and Prey Survey 2022 found there are now 355 wild tigers in the country, a 190% increase since 2009.

The exhaustive survey covered 18,928 square kilometers -- more than 12% of the country -- and required 16,811 days of field staff time.

Ginette Henley, senior vice president for wildlife conservation at the World Wildlife Fund-US, told CNN the announcement represents a major win for conservationists and tigers alike.

"Tigers in Nepal and everywhere else that they live in Asia, about 10 countries, were on a steady decline because of two key reasons," said Henley. "The most immediate reason was poaching for the illegal animal trade. The second reason was loss of habitat."

"In 2010, it was clear we were going to lose tigers unless we made a concerted effort to turn things around." Governments of countries home to tigers then set a goal [to double the number of wild tigers by 2022](#) at the St. Petersburg International summit on tiger conservation. Nepal is the first country to release updated tiger numbers in 2022.

Henley said Nepal "really does stand out as a leader in conservation, especially for tigers."

"There is support for conservation of tigers at the highest level of government," she said. "That has translated into really effective habitat conservation, bolstering the protection of tigers in national parks, the wildlife reserves."

According to Henley, one of Nepal's major conservation strengths is its focus on wildlife corridors, which are forested pathways to help connect otherwise fragmented pieces of tiger habitat.

"Nepal has been a pioneer in reforesting areas to make sure those connections are restored and maintained," she explained. As they mature and move away from their parents, "tigers need to disperse. That dispersal is only possible if tigers can move around safely."





The other key factor in Nepal's tiger comeback is community involvement in conservation projects, said Henley.

"Communities are the driving force behind this," she said. "They are employed to do reforestation, maintain that habit, and are directly involved in conservation."

The World Wildlife Fund has become involved in ecotourism projects in Nepal, added Henley. As the tiger population has recovered, protected national parks for tigers have become popular tourist attractions, with the revenue from parks helping to support community needs. This fosters a sense of community investment in conservation projects, Henley explained.

Another key ingredient in recovering tiger populations is finding ways for humans and tigers to safely coexist, said Henley.

"What's really needed is a holistic approach," she said. "Monitoring tigers, knowing where they're living, can help communities stay safer."

Nepal has also found success with practical tools, like predator-proof fencing for livestock and lighting the perimeters of villages at night to ward off tigers.

Deploying compensation programs for farmers whose livestock are killed by tigers also enables better human-tiger coexistence, said Henley.

Conservationists refer to a concept known as "social carrying capacity" to describe the capacity for a certain community to tolerate a certain number of animals like tigers. "Understanding that dynamic and that social carrying capacity is a new area of focus for us," said Henley.

"Unless people living with tigers want them there, we're not gonna have them there," she said.

Protecting tigers also helps protect other endangered or threatened species. "Effectively, if we're gonna protect one tiger, we're gonna protect 10,000 hectares of forest," said Henley. Tigers also live in "some of the most carbon-rich forests." It will "help us mitigate climate change as well if we protect these very rich forests."

But while Nepal is a tiger success story, Henley pointed out there are still many countries where tigers are in "crisis." Tigers have gone extinct in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos since 2000, she said. "We have to look at the elements that have led to success in Nepal and India and try to get them replicated. The most important piece of it is political will and political leadership."

The United States also plays a role in tiger conservation. Henley [pointed to the Big Cat Public Safety Act](#), a piece of legislation which would set limits on the private ownership of tigers in the US and hopefully help prevent the big cats from entering the illegal animal trade.

There are around 3,900 tigers in the wild, [according to the World Wildlife Fund](#), and the species is considered endangered.



01 AUGUST 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Metro Manila COVID positivity rate jumps to 15%, several others over 20% — Octa

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:05 AM July 31, 2022



FILE PHOTO A health worker collects a swab sample from a passenger to test for the Covid-19 coronavirus, at a train station in Quezon City. (Photo by Maria Tan / AFP)

MANILA, Philippines — The positivity rate for COVID-19 in Metro Manila climbed to 15 percent, while 14 other provinces had a “very high” positivity rate at above 20%, said Octa Research fellow Dr. Guido David on Sunday.

Based on the data posted by David, Metro Manila’s positivity rate rose from 14.2 percent.

But the most notable increase was Albay’s, which has a positivity rate of 25.4 percent on July 29 from 14.2 percent on July 23.

Isabela and Quezon each also recorded a steep rise in positivity rates from 25.7 percent to 36.3 percent, and 16.3 percent to 27.5 percent, respectively.

Other areas that recorded “very high” positivity rates, or rates above 20 percent, included Cagayan, Camarines Sur, Cavite, La Union, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Rizal, Tarlac and Zambales.

**Dr. Guido David**  
@iamguidodavid · Follow

Positivity rates in Luzon as of July 29. In NCR this increased slightly from 14.2% to 15%. Positivity rates were very high (above 20%) in Albay, Cagayan, Camarines Sur, Cavite, Isabela, La Union, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Rizal, Tarlac, Zambales. [#COVID19](#)

LUZON Province/Region	July 23, 2022	July 29, 2022
NCR	14.2%	15.0%
Albay	13.8%	25.4%
Bataan	12.3%	19.9%
Batangas	15.4%	15.4%
Benguet	14.1%	18.9%
Bulacan	11.7%	13.0%
Cagayan	15.7%	22.7%
Camarines Sur	26.4%	28.4%
Cavite	23.5%	27.1%
Isabela	25.7%	36.3%
La Union	15.4%	20.9%
Laguna	28.5%	30.9%
Nueva Ecija	29.5%	25.8%
Pampanga	26.1%	23.2%
Pangasinan	17.5%	21.0%
Quezon	16.3%	27.5%
Rizal	22.5%	21.7%
Tarlac	25.7%	31.6%
Zambales	21.3%	27.2%

9:55 AM · Jul 31, 2022

39 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Read 6 replies](#)



The Department of Health (DOH) previously said that while an [uptick on COVID-19 cases](#) have been recorded in the past several weeks, the Philippines remained at low-risk classification, as the rise in infections did not translate to a rise in severe or critical cases.

It has, however, placed Metro Manila at moderate risk classification after it recorded a daily moving average of 1,100 cases per day and an average daily attack rate of 7.25 cases per 100,000 population.

The rest of the country's regions, on the other hand, remain at low risk.



01 AUGUST 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PpTa6OFJwQ>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY TODAY,CHINESE AMBASSADOR NASA DOLOMITE SAND BEACH! Miz July

4,465 views • Jul 31, 2022

165 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



Miz July

85.1K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update July 31,2022

maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

#Denr

SHOW MORE





Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj4G7CTgASQ>

#DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay #manilabay

BAYANIHAN SA DOLOMITE BEACH BAGO ANG KOMPETISYON!

5,847 views • Jul 31, 2022

332 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS CLIP SAVE ...



engr. berto

206K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#DolomiteBeach  
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRDA0gj5PrU>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY,BAGO SUMALANG SA BAKBAKAN SA LAOT!BUMIRA MGA BARAKO SA SHORELINE NG DOLOMITE!Miz July

458 views • Jul 31, 2022

37 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



Miz July

85.1K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update July 31,2022  
maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

#Denr

SHOW MORE





Please click this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lW\\_zCEjxugI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lW_zCEjxugI)

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

FIRST BIG EVENT SA DOLOMITE BEACH | PHILIPPINE DRAGONBOAT COMPETITION

4,618 views • Jul 31, 2022

299 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS CLIP SAVE ...



enr. berto

206K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach  
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJsR6sxVmeA>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY TODAY,NGAYON LANG NANGYARI ITO SIMULA BUKSAN ANG DOLOMITE BEACH! Miz July

244 views • Aug 1, 2022

16 DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



Miz July

85.1K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update July 31,2022  
maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone  
#Denr

SHOW MORE





Miz July

11h · 🌐



Grabe wagi sa International Competition Dragon Boat Team, Nag sama sama hakutin ang mga water hyacinth sa dolomite sand beach, Maraming salamat po sa pag like share follow ng page ko, keep safe everyone

See Translation



👍👍 89

5 Comments · 9 Shares

**Please click this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/1911122322274674/videos/1163588607525171>



 **Engr. berto**  
20h · 🌐

Bago ang mismong dragonboat competition sa dolomite beach, nagbayanihan muna ang ibat-ibang kahalok sa kompetisyon. 🇵🇭 😊

See Translation



0:00 / 9:17


Fely BBM, Wandering Maria and 18K others · 736 Comments · 569 Shares

**Please click this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/100050625783224/videos/825631281678298>





 KaJuander was live:  
Yesterday at 8:24 AM · 🌐

Philippine Dragon Boat now in Manila Bay



  313

63 Comments 41 Shares

**Please click this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/KaJuanderPinoy/videos/1479276629187813>