

02 AUGUST 2022, TUESDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

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5.2 quake strikes Abra anew; More shocks expected

A MAGNITUDE 5.2 earthquake hit Abra at 2:48 a.m. on Monday, five days after it was hit by a deadly 7.0-magnitude quake last Wednesday that damaged structures in the region and killed at least 10 people.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the tremor's epicenter was three kilometers from Villaviciosa town at a depth of 22 km.

The following intensities were felt in Abra and nearby provinces: Intensity V - Bantay, Ilocos Sur; Intensity IV - Bangued, Abra; and Intensity III - Baguio City.

Instrumental Intensities were: Intensity V - Vigan City, Ilocos Sur; Intensity IV - Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Intensity III - Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Sinait, Ilocos Sur; Intensity II - Tabuk, Kalinga;

Claveria and Penablanca, Cagayan; and Intensity I - Baguio City; Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Ilagan, Isabela.

Phivolcs said it expects damage and aftershocks from the quake.

The number of individuals affected by the magnitude 7 earthquake is now at 381,614, the state disaster response agency said Monday.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, this translated to 100,665 families. Of the tally, some 3,781 individuals or 1,070 families are staying in evacuation camps.

In its latest report, the NDRRMC also said the number of fatalities remained at 10 while those injured have

reached 394.

Damage to infrastructures such, as roads, bridges, health facilities, schools, and cultural heritages in Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region, and Ilocos Region was pegged at P704 million.

According to the NDRRMC, some 354 houses were destroyed by the major tremor while 24,547 were damaged.

Meanwhile, power in 48 cities and municipalities has been restored. Water service is also back in three out of four cities and municipalities.

The NDRRMC said 27 cities and municipalities were declared under a state of calamity. So far, assistance worth P25 million has been provided to victims of the earthquake. **Willie Casas**



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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Magnitude 5.1 aftershock jolts Abra, nearby provinces

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded a 5.1-magnitude earthquake in Abra province early Monday morning, Aug. 1.

Phivolcs said the quake struck four kilometers northeast of Villaviciosa, Abra at 2:48 a.m., with a depth of 13 kilometers.

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

The earthquake on Monday was felt at Intensity V as a "strong" tremor in Dolores, Abra; Vigan City, Sinait, Bantay, Banayoyo, Nagbukel, Gregorio del Pilar, Suyo, Sugpon, San Ildefonso, Santa, Magsingal, San Juan, and Cabugao in Ilocos Sur; Pinili and Badoc in Ilocos Norte; and Besao and Sagada in the Mountain Province.

It was registered at Intensity IV (moderately strong) in Bangued, Abra; Laoag City, Bacarra, and Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte; Sto. Domingo, San Vicente, Sta. Catalina, Candon City, Santa, Narvacan, San Esteban, Sta. Maria, Caoayan, Sta.

Lucia, Sta. Cruz, and Tagudin in Ilocos Sur; Sudipen, Luna, Balaoan, Bangar, Bacnotan, and City of San Fernando in La Union; and Bontoc and Sadangga in Mountain Province.

Baguio City; Flora and Santa Marcela in Apayao; Tabuk City in Kalinga; Bauko and Tadian in Mountain Province; Luna, Apayao; and Tuguegarao City, Lal-lo, Allacapan, Gattaran, Lasam, Amulung, Claveria, Sanchez Mira, and Abulug in Cagayan felt the quake at Intensity III (weak) while Santiago City, Ramon, and Quezon in Isabela; Cabarroguis, Quirino; and Aparri, Cagayan felt the quake at Intensity II (slightly felt).

It was also recorded at Intensity I (scarcely perceptible) in Itogon, Benguet.

As of 7 a.m., Phivolcs had recorded 2,009 aftershocks, with magnitudes ranging from 1.4 to 5.1.

Of the recorded earthquakes, Phivolcs had plotted 672 earthquakes close to the epicenter of the main shock in Tayum, Abra.

It said that 53 of these tremors were felt.



Abra muling nilindol

Muli na naman nilindol ang lalawigan ng Abra sa lakas na 5.1 magnitude naganap kahapon ng alas-2:48 ng madaling araw.

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) ang sentro ng lindol ay nasa may 004 kilometro ng hilagang silangan ng Villaviciosa, Abra at nasa 013 kilometro ang lalim ng lupa ng lindol at tectonic ang origin ng lindol.

Naramdaman ang lindol sa lakas na Intensity V sa Dolores, Abra; Vigan City, Sinait, Bantay, Banayoyo, Nagbukel, Gregorio del Pilar, Suyo, Sugpon, San Ildefonso, Santa, Magsingal, San Juan, at Cabugao, Ilocos Sur; Pinili at Badoc, Ilocos Norte; Besao, at Sagada, Mountain Province; Intensity IV sa Bangued, Abra; Laoag City, Bacarra and Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte; Sto. Domingo, San Vicente, Sta. Catalina, Candon City, Santa, Narvacan, San Esteban, Sta. Maria, Caoayan, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Cruz, and Tagudin, Ilocos Sur; Sudipen, Luna, Balaoan, Bangar, Bacnotan at City of San Fernando, La Union; Bontoc, at Sadangga, Mountain Province.

Intensity III sa Baguio City; Flora, Santa Marcela, Apayao; Tabuk City, Kalinga; Bauko at Tadian, Mountain Province; Luna, Apayao; Tuguegarao City, Lal-lo, Al-lacapan, Gattaran, Lasam, Amulung, Claveria, Sanchez Mira, Abulug, Cagayan.

Intensity II sa Santiago City, Ramon at Quezon, Isabela; Cabarroguis, Quirino; Aparri, Cagayan at Intensity I sa Itogon, Benguet. - *Angie dela Cruz* -



PROBINSYA

Ilocos Sur muling nilindol

Isa na namang lindol ang nagpayanig sa Northern Luzon nitong Linggo ng gabi.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, isang magnitude 4.8 earthquake ang tumama sa Nagbukel, Ilocos Sur alas-7:27 ng gabi.

Tectonic ang origin ng lindol, na ang ibig sabihin ay sanhi ng paggalaw sa crust ng Earth, at may talim na isang kilometro.

Narandaman ang

Intensity 5 sa Bangued at Bucay, Abra; Intensity 4 sa Bantay, Ilocos Sur; at Intensity 3 sa Baguio City.

Matatandaang nauna nang niyanig ng magnitude 7 na lindol ang Luzon na sentro ang Abra noong nakaraang linggo, kung saan sampu na ang iniulat na nasawi dahil dito, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. **(Issa Santiago)**



NDRRMC: Families affected by Luzon quake breach 100K

By Priam Nepomuceno August 1, 2022, 10:10 am



(Photo courtesy of DSWD Cordillera Administrative Region)

MANILA – The number of affected families from last week's magnitude 7 earthquake that rocked Abra and other nearby Northern Luzon provinces have now climbed to 100,665.

In its Monday morning update, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said this figure is equivalent to 381,614 persons living in 1,030 villages in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Some 1,070 families or 3,781 individuals remain in 40 evacuation centers while some are taking shelter with their relatives or friends.

The number of confirmed fatalities is placed at nine along with 376 injured.

All deaths are from the CAR while the injured are from Cordillera with 374 and Cagayan Valley with two.

Undergoing validation are reports of one death and 18 injured, all from Ilocos Region.

Some 24,901 houses in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, CAR and the National Capital Region were damaged from the tremor -- 24,547 of which were partially damaged while 354 were totally damaged. **(PNA)**



Over 20K houses damaged by Northern Luzon quake

By Marita Moaje August 1, 2022, 5:08 pm



(Photo courtesy of PIA-Abra)

MANILA – A total of 20,533 houses in Northern Luzon were heavily damaged by the magnitude 7 earthquake that jolted the provinces of Abra, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Kalinga Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, and Mountain Province on July 27.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) assured during the “Laging Handa” public briefing on Monday that its local shelter cluster teams and regional offices are on the ground and monitoring the situation.

“Per our monitoring, *tumaas ang* damaged houses. *Kahapon nasa* 14,798. *Kanina pag* update, 20,533 *na*. At out of that number, 302 *ang* completely destroyed (the number of damaged houses have increased. From 14,798 yesterday [Sunday] to 20,533 this morning. And out of that number, 302 houses were completely destroyed),” DHSUD Undersecretary Avelino Tolentino said.

The DHSUD has activated local shelter cluster teams in Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Based on records, a total of 54,504 families or 215,313 individuals were affected by the strong quake, Tolentino said.

Meanwhile, 1,047 families or 3,747 individuals sought refuge in 42 evacuation centers, but have since decreased since some victims decided to stay with relatives and friends.

Overall, from the initial 27,213 individuals who were staying with relatives or friends in Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province, the number has risen to 30,345.

“*Nag-shift ‘yung numero natin mula sa* evacuation centers. *Nagsilipat ang iba sa mga kamag-anak at kaibigan* (The number in the evacuation centers shifted. Some transferred to their relatives and friends),” Tolentino said.

Partners

He said the DHSUD Regional offices 1, 2, and CAR are in continuous coordination with other government agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Transportation, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, among others, to ensure that the needs of the affected families are taken care of.



On the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program, Tolentino said that newly appointed Secretary Jerry Acuzar will have a meeting with DSWD Secretary Erwin Tulfo.

“On top of that, *meron din kasing* Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) *ang aming* National Housing Authority (NHA) and there are still funds available *sa aming* budget *at ‘yun ang titingnan namin kung papano namin* ‘to ire-release (the NHA has an EHAP and there are still funds available from our budget, and that’s what we are looking at, on how we could release this budget),” he said.

During Typhoon Odette in December last year, Tolentino said the NHA released the EHAP within two weeks and distributed cash assistance to the local government units, with each affected family receiving PHP5,000.

“*Itong* EHAP is arranged *na ayuda na* up to PHP30,000 depending *sa* damage *sa ating mga* (This EHAP is an assistance of up to PHP30,000 depending on the damage on the) structures,” he added.

Tolentino said the DHSUD has distributed shelter-grade tarpaulins, donated by the International Organizations for Migration, and is still waiting for the availability of donated lumber from the Environment department.

The DSWD likewise distributed cash assistance and food packs to family beneficiaries. **(With a report from Lade Kabagani/PNA)**

Over 2-K aftershocks recorded after Abra quake

August 1, 2022



(Photo courtesy of MDRRMO Dolores)

By Gabriela Baron

Over 2,000 aftershocks were recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) following the magnitude 7.0 quake that rocked Northern Luzon on July 27.

As of 2:00 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, Phivolcs recorded a total of 2,083 aftershocks and plotted a total of 696 earthquakes.

However, of the number, only 54 were felt.

The quakes ranged from magnitudes 1.4 to 5.1.

Based on the Sunday, July 31, data provided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, at least 10 individuals perished from the major tremor. **-ag**



NIA: No damage to Pantabangan, Magat despite quake

BY BUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 1, 2022



NIA Administrator Antiporda (right) and Sulaik brief reporters on the status of major dams after the July 27 earthquake. NIA PHOTO

THE two major dams in Luzon, the 48-year-old Pantabangan Dam in Pantabangan Nueva Ecija and the 39-year-old Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela, were undamaged by the July 27 Magnitude 7.0 Earthquake in Tayum, Abra, the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) said on Monday. This attests, it added, to the structural integrity of NIA dams which can stand 50 years and even beyond a half century.

In a press conference at NIA Convention Hall, Acting Administrator Benny D. Antiporda and Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik assured the public that the earthquake had no major damage to the dam structures/embankment, building facilities, roadway, canal structures, and electro-mechanical components.

Antiporda said the public does not need to worry about safety and irrigation service delivery because NIA has precautionary measures. "*Wala pong damage ang ating dams* [Our dams have no damage]. The Agency only wants to ensure the safety of the public, especially the communities located on downstream areas," said Antiporda.

Even though the major dams were not affected by the earthquake, some communal irrigation projects of NIA incurred damage. Based on initial assessment of the Agency, a total of 27 irrigation projects covering about 3,167.50 hectares of agricultural land incurred damage amounting to P243.33 million. Twenty-six of these are located in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and one in Ilocos Region: the Banaoang Pump Irrigation System located in the Municipality of Bantay, Ilocos Sur which Antiporda was set to personally visit after the press conference.

Despite the earthquake, NIA assured the public of the unhampered delivery of irrigation service to the Filipino farmers in adherence to the food security program of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos, Jr.



Mga dam ligtas sa lindol - NIA

TINIYAK ng National Irrigation Administration na walang naitalang pinsala ang ahensya sa mga pasilidad ng patubig sa katapos na 7.0 magnitude na lindol na tumama sa Luzon noong nakalipas na Hulyo 27, 2022.

Ito ang paniniyak ni NIA

Acting Administrator Benny Antiporda at sinabing walang naitalang pinsala ang Central Office ng NIA sa mga dam sa bansa.

Sa ginanap na press conference kahapon ng umaga, tiniyak ni Antiporda na base sa pagtatasa at pagsusuri ng ahensya, walang naitalang

pinsala ang katatapos na lindol sa mga dam.

Kabilang sa mga binanggit niya ang Magat River Integrated Irrigation System, Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System at integrated ng Pantabangan Dam na hindi naapektuhan ng lindol.

Nabatid pa sa NIA na ipinakita ng mga ulat na walang malaking pinsala sa mga istruktura/embankment ng dam, mga pasilidad ng gusali, daanan, mga istruktura ng kanal at mga electro-mechanical na bahagi sa ilalim ng UPRIS Dam Reservoir.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ng NIA na bagama't walang naitalang pinsala sa mga dam, may 27 sistema ng patubig o proyekto ang napinsala at tinatayang aabot sa P243.33M ang napinsala at aabot sa 3,167.50 hektarya ng lupang pang-agrikultura ang apektado.

Ayon pa sa NIA, tinatayang aabot sa P193M ang repair works para maibalik ang pasilidad sa orihinal na function. **SANTI CELARIO**



By **Malaya Business Insight** -August 2, 2022



Source: https://malaya.com.ph/news_opinion/159596/



DDR posibleng malikha sa ilalim ng Marcos administration - solon

[Joy Cantos](#) - Pang-masa August 2, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Maaaring malikha ang isang ahensiyang pang-kalamidad sa ilalim ng administrasyong Marcos at isusulong ang panukalang ilagay ito sa ilalim ng Office of the President.

Ito ang nakikita ni Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Ways and Means chairman na kung saan ay binalangkas ang unang bersiyon ng 'Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) bill' sa '17th Congress'.

Sa panukala niya, magiging isang malaking ahensiya ang Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) na ilang beses nang inihain sa Kamara na dalawang beses din inaprubahan, ngunit hindi pumasa sa Senado kahit ilang beses din itong idineklarang 'priority' ni Pangulong Duterte.

Naging usap-usapan na naman DDR matapos padapain ng malakas na lindol ang Abra na matindi ring nanalasa sa ilang probinsiya sa hilagang Luzon at sapat na dahilan ito upang magkaroon ng DDR.

Sinabi naman ni Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, na isinusulong ng mga senador ang paglikha ng higit na maliit na DDR at ilalagay sa ilalim ng 'Office of the President' na mabisang ikatutugon sa mga kalamidad na hindi tulad ng kasalukuyang sistema.

Kinatigan ni Salceda ang panukalang higit na maliit na ahensiya ni Zubiri, at sinabi niyang isusulong niya ito sa mga kasamahan niya sa Kamara, para "magkatotoo."



Villar wants to place Philippine Rise under NIPAS

Published August 1, 2022, 3:48 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar wants to place the Philippine (Benham) Rise under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) in order to monitor and maintain the high biodiversity and pristine habitats in the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve (PMRR).

Legislation of the PMRR, Villar stressed, would not only institutionalize and provide funds for its management, but would also be in keeping with the exercise of Philippine sovereignty over its waters and resources.

Villar thus filed Senate Bill (SB) 51, or An Act Declaring a portion of Philippine Rise within the exclusive economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippine Sea, as a protected area with the category of Marine Resource Reserve under NIPAS.

Villar is the chairperson of the Senate Environment Committee.

The bill also seeks to establish a mechanism that would ensure measures toward this objective are enforced and implemented.

The majority of the Philippine Rise including the Benham Bank Seamount, has always been within the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UN-CLCS) adopted the recommendation of the Philippines on the limits of our Continental Shelf.

“Following the discoveries in the Benham Rise, four more research expeditions were conducted in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2022 to further assess its biodiversity and extent of habitats,” Villar said.

The lady legislator noted that the data and information obtained from the past expeditions supported the recognition of the Philippine Rise as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSMA) under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

This also refers to the declaration of a portion of the Philippine Rise, namely Benham Bank, and its surrounding waters as a marine resource reserve under NIPAS in 2018 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 489.

The proclamation of the portion of the Philippine Rise as a marine protected area (MPA) in 2018 was just an initial step towards fulfilling the requirements for a full-fledged protected area to be finally declared as part of ENIPAS in 2018.

Since the PMRR is the first MPA in the Philippine EEZ wherein fisheries operations are regular, Villar said the state of habitats and biodiversity in the Benham Bank must be closely monitored.

Villar said this would ensure the sustainability of the resources found in the area.

Also, she said that regular expeditions in the area must be conducted in order to establish long-term trends in the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the Benham Bank.

The bill also provides that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group would be involved in maritime patrolling, maritime safety for Filipino fishers, and enforcement of fisheries and conservation laws.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/08/01/villar-wants-to-place-philippine-rise-under-nipas/>



Philippine Rise inclusion in NIPAS sought

[Paolo Romero](#) - The Philippine Star August 2, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar wants the Philippine Rise included in the National Integrated Protected Areas System or NIPAS for easy monitoring and maintenance of its biodiversity and habitat.

The Philippine Rise, formerly known as Benham Rise, is located more than 500 kilometers east of Luzon.

Villar, chair of the committee on environment and natural resources, filed Senate Bill 519 or “an act declaring a portion of the Philippine Rise as a protected area with the category of Marine Resource Reserve under NIPAS.”

In May 2017, then president Rodrigo Duterte issued an executive order renaming Benham Rise to Philippine Rise.

The legislation, Villar said, would not only institutionalize and provide funds for the management of the Philippine Rise, but would also exercise sovereignty in the country’s territorial waters and marine resources.

The proposal seeks to ensure that measures crafted for this objective are well implemented.

A vast portion of the Philippine Rise including the Benham Bank Seamount is located within the Philippines’ 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

Villar said data obtained from past expeditions supported the recognition of the Philippine Rise as an ecologically and biologically significant marine area.

The bill also provides that the Bureau of Aquatic Resources, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Police Maritime Group should patrol the area to secure Filipino fishermen and enforce fisheries and conservation laws.



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Villar files bill placing Philippine Rise management under NIPAS program

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Cynthia A. Villar wants to place the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve (PMRR) under the government's National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Villar said under the measure, the PMRR will be institutionalized and provided with funds for its management. The measure will strengthen Philippine sovereignty over its waters and resources.

Villar filed Senate Bill 519 or An Act Declaring a portion of Philippine Rise within the exclusive economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippine Sea as a protected area with the category of Marine Resource Reserve under NIPAS.

Villar, the chairperson of the Senate Environment Committee, said this would be "referred to as PMRR."

The bill also seeks to establish a mechanism that would ensure measures towards this objective are enforced and implemented.

The majority of the Philippine Rise in-

cluding the Benham Bank Seamount, has always been within the Philippines EEZ.

The United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UN-CLCS) adopted the recommendation of the Philippines on the limits of the country's continental shelf.

"Following the discoveries in the Benham Rise, four more research expeditions were conducted in 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2022 to further assess its biodiversity and extent of habitats," Villar said.

She noted that the data and information obtained from the past expeditions supported the recognition of the Philippine Rise as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSMA) under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

This also refers to the declaration of a portion of the Philippine Rise, namely Benham Bank, and its surrounding waters as a marine resource reserve under NIPAS in 2018 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 489.



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NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

Bill declaring part of Benham Rise as protected area filed at the Senate

A BILL declaring a portion of Benham Rise, locally known as the Philippine Rise, as protected area has been filed at the Senate.

Senate Bill 591, filed by Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chair of the Senate Environment Committee, seeks to proclaim the part of Benham Bank within the Philippine's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as a Marine Resource Reserve under the

National Integrated Protected Areas System. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



WETLAND PARK PROTECTION PRAYORIDAD PA RIN SA 19TH CONGRESS

July 31, 2022 jake



Senator Cynthia A. Villar received a souvenir stuffed flamingo from Mr. Chris Rostron International Engagement Manager Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Head, Wetland Link International – Global. The United Kingdom where Roston hailed has 7 species of flamingo in their wetland; this is part of their flamingo conservation program.

UPANG iangat ang kaalamang “cradle of biodiversity” sa mga wetland, muling inihain ni Senator Cynthia A. Villar ang Senate Bill 124 o ang National Wetlands Conservation Bill sa pagbubukas ng ika-19 Kongreso.

Sa kanyang pahayag sa pagdiriwang ng 8th Wetland Link International – Asia Conference sa Villar SIPAG noong July 28, 2022, iginiit ni Villar na layunin ng panukalang batas na gabayan ang lahat ng concerned national government agencies at local government units na gawin ang mga polisiyang naaayon sa wetland conservation at matalinong paggamit nito.

Isinusulong din niya ang pagtatayo ng matibay na “buffer zone” sa Manila Bay at nilalaban ang anumang balak na reklamasyon para mapigil ang pagkasira ng Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

Inamin niya na marami pang dapat gawin ang Pilipinas para alagaan ang ating wetlands.

“With our country’s archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention,” ani pa ng chairperson ng Senate Committee on Environment.

Base sa 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves, meron tayong 314 inland wetlands at 2,487 river systems. Sa bilang na ito, 314 wetlands ang 221 lakes, 12 marshes at swamps, 9 peat lands, 39 water storage, at 31 ang ponds.

Ipinagmalaki rin niya ang wetland sa kanyang hometown sa Las Piñas City- ang Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

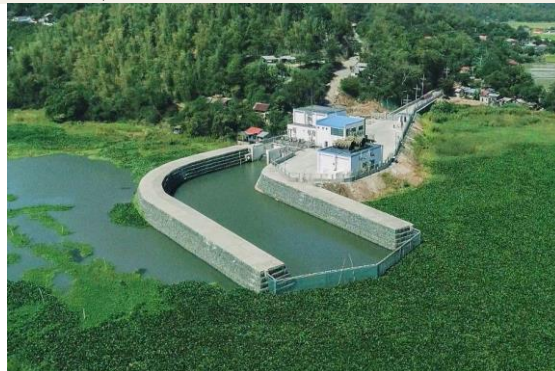
Pinasalamatan din ng senador ang Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, DENR – NCR, Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia, at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust UK sa pagdadala ng 8th Wetland Link International – Asia Conference sa bansa, partikular sa Las Piñas City. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: <https://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/wetland-park-protection-prayoridad-pa-rin-sa-19th-congress/?fbclid=IwAR05LJvsLDYH1EJp5F2rbkPyjLGvNuPR5jez8QUduTSmcRzncNt1pjPk uHM>



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

BY BUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 1, 2022



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

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.

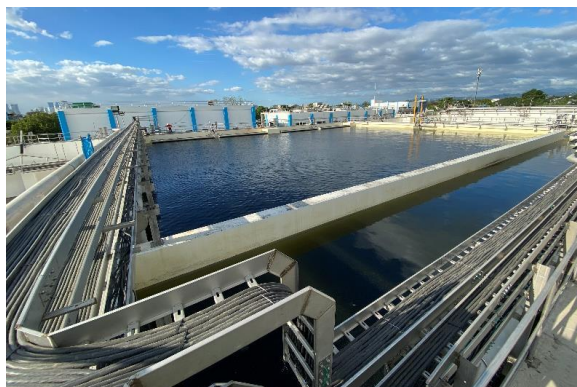
Since its establishment in 1997, the company has maintained its mission of creating an exceptional customer experience in the provision of sustainable solutions vital to health and life.

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 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 an increase in operating efficiency. Since then, Manila Water has been working doubly hard to continuously improve its water and wastewater services.



The sequence batch reactor at the Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant in Pasig City. As of 2021, the East Zone has a total of 41 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), with a total wastewater treatment capacity of 410 million liters per day (MLD).



Milestone transformation

From its 3.1 million customers at the start of operations, Manila Water's clients have grown to 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) were significantly reduced, from a dismal 63% of production pre-1997 to the current world-class rate of 12%. This translates to increased operational efficiency and more water saved and subsequently distributed to customers.

"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 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.



A Manila Water territory manager responds to a customer's concern on the ground. Manila Water continues to empower its people with a customer-centric mindset while providing quality services and sustainable solutions for its customers.

Wastewater management

Manila Water also aims to be the leading provider of wastewater and environmental services in the country.

With this, the company has built wastewater treatment infrastructures—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—with thousands of households expected to benefit from efficient sewerage services and cleaner rivers and waterways in the metro.

Apart from building infrastructure, Manila Water primarily practiced community and customer engagement, seeking information directly from the ground to be able to deliver quality sewerage and sanitation service obligations to the entire East Zone concession. This initiative successfully addressed the problem even back in 1997, wherein only 3% of the population is connected to a sewerage system and 85% of Metro Manila homes relied only on septic tanks. To sustain these efforts, Manila Water also capitalized on proactive technical solutions such as



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 President and CEO Jocot De Dios

Water for all, convenience for all

Manila Water has always sought for business inclusion. Through its “Water for the Poor” (Tubig Para sa Barangay or TPSB) program, nearly two million people from marginalized communities were granted access to potable supply and affordable water with adequate pressure.

TPSB addresses various situations prevalent in some communities, such as the so-called spaghetti or illegal water connections, low water pressure to no water, leaks, and poor customer service in general.

“This program provides a sustainable solution to one of the common problems in various communities across the country. TPSB addresses the water needs of low-income communities while reducing systems losses or water wastage,” explained De Dios.

Manila Water will continue to empower its people with a customer-centric mindset while providing quality services and sustainable solutions for its customers. This mindset led to the birth of the Manila Water App, a simple, easy-to-use tool that provides customers the convenience of accessing their account information, transactions, and concerns on their mobile gadgets. Truly “Your App in a Tap”!

Even when its brand of excellent service is now being exported to local and international shores outside of the East Zone, Manila Water aims to continuously develop critical infrastructure, with a growth strategy focused on penetrating unserved and underserved territories in the country and beyond, through flexible business and service models while expanding and deepening services to existing business areas with more innovative solutions.

“This is anchored in our vision of becoming a global leader in providing quality water and environmental services supportive of sustainable development that help build better lives and resilient economies,” De Dios said.

As a testament to these efforts of fulfilling its mission on its way to realizing its vision, the company recently received a significant nod of approval from the International Water Association (IWA) as it recognized Manila Water as Water Company of the Year, the first from the Philippines and from any third-world country to be awarded as such.



Focusing on ESG agenda

Manila Water has also released the first series of its medium-term sustainability goals that outline its progress and plans on embedding Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) policies into the company's business strategies.

"We have re-imagined the company with 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 De Dios.

The company's mid-term sustainability targets, set to be achieved by 2025, include reducing and avoiding scopes 1 and 2 carbon emission by 60% through renewable energy and wastewater treatment; building infrastructures to satisfy service commitments and improvements; and ensuring water access and security by allocating at least 15% supply buffer from expansion and additional water sources.

Manila Water already made headway with these 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 from Open Access.

In addition to forging progress towards its environmental goal, the company formed its ESG Committee at the board level earlier this year. The CEO-led committee exercises oversight to ensure that sustainability remains entrenched in the company's strategy, provides purpose to the day-to-day work of over 2,000 Manila Water employees, and extends to quality water and wastewater service globally.

"These ESG goals highlight Manila Water's belief that long-term viability is dependent on management of environmental impacts and commitment to improve social outcomes in the communities we serve," De Dios added.

Forging ahead

Through these achievements and milestones, hurdles and challenges, plans and vision,

Manila Water continues to move forward, aiming to become a value-creating global water company which 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," declared De Dios.



Sa kanilang ika-25 anibersaryo **MANILA WATER NANGAKO NG "QUALITY WATER" AT "ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES"**

KASABAY ng ika-25 anibersaryo ngayong Lunes, 1 Agosto, muling ipinangako ng Manila Water ang pagkakaloob ng "quality water" at "environmental services" sa kanilang mga konsumer.

Ayon kay Manila Water President at CEO Jocot De Dios, tulad ng paggalaw ng tubig, tuloy-tuloy at nagbibigay-buhay, ang paglalakbay ng Metro Manila East Zone concessionaire Manila Water Company, Inc., ay gumawa ng katulad na mosyon.

Mula nang itatag ito noong 1997, napanatili ng kompanya ang kanilang misyon sa paglikha ng mga katangi-tanging probisyon at solusyon na mahalaga sa kalusugan at buhay ng kanilang mga kostumer.

"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," pahayag ni De Dios.

Bago ang 1997, nagkaroon ng krisis ng tubig sa Metro Manila, ilegal na mga koneksiyon at low water pressure sa mga walang tubig, napakalaking pagtagas, dahilan kaya hindi naging masagana ang serbisyo sa mga kostumer.

Upang malutas ang problema, nilagdaan ni dating Pangulong President Fidel V.

Ramos ang Republic Act No. 8041, mas kilalang "National Water Crisis Act" na nag-aatas sa paglilipat ng water distribution sa pribadong sektor noong 1997.

Ang Manila Water ang pumalit sa East Zone concession, at sinimulan ang kanilang obiligasyon sa pagse-
serbisyo na kinabibilangan ng water, sewerage, at sanitation.

Nagresulta ang pagsasa-pribado sa pinalawak na saklaw, pinabuting paghahatid ng mga serbisyo, at pagtaas ng kahusayan sa pagpapatakbo.

Mula noon hanggang ngayon, ang Manila Water ay nagtatrabaho nang doble upang patuloy na mapabuti ang kanilang water at wastewater services.

(ALMAR DANGUILAN)

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Private firm to open waste treatment facility, offer training in Lapu-Lapu

MAE FHEL K. GOM-OS

August 01, 2022

A PRIVATE firm based in Barangay Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City will soon offer training on solid waste management and provide waste treatment services.

Vic Metal Fabrication and Environmental Services Inc., owned and operated by Victoriano Ocon, held a ground breaking ceremony at its future site on Thursday, July 28, 2022.

Ocon, president and chief executive officer of the company, told reporters on Thursday, that the training center is expected to be operational starting next year and that it is open for all the local government units (LGUs) whose personnel would like to be trained in using their system.

Ocon noted that proper waste segregation has not been professionalized, adding that this is part of their advocacy to train them apart from supplying the system nationwide.

Ocon said their training center is already accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Should the LGUs avail of the training, they are expected to pay a price amounting to P10,000 per personnel apart from the P60 million for the purchase and transfer of the system or equipment.

Apart from Lapu-Lapu City, Ocon said they had turned over the equipment in Tagbilaran and Dumaguete City while there is ongoing transfer of their equipment in the towns of Tuburan and Alegria in Cebu Province.

Waste treatment services

Aside from their training center, Ocon said their facility will also cater to the treatment of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes and even septage or liquid waste.

Ocon said their waste management facility also offers sewage treatment services.

But he emphasized that the facility could only cater to waste collected in Lapu-Lapu City, adding that he himself is a resident of the city and that there is a need to prevent possible damage caused by pollution since it is a tourism area.

Ocon said the P200 million facility could process about 220 tons of solid waste a day while 15,000 liters of liquid waste.

He said it would cost P3,500 per ton of garbage once the city government, including the small private companies, avail of their services.

Ocon added that their system is in accordance with the provisions of the law, adding their facility will be inspected by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources every month.



Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard Chan said this will be a big help to the city since there is a need for the cleanest and greenest environment, being a tourism hotspot.

Chan said proper waste segregation and collection have become a challenge for the City due to the city's growing population.



Metro Clark expands landfill capacity

August 2, 2022 | 12:02 am



METRO CLARK Waste Management Corp. (MCWM) announced that it completed its expansion project at its landfill facility in Kalangitan in Clark, Pampanga as part of its efforts to meet the country's growing waste disposal requirements.

"The country's first engineered sanitary landfill was expanded to fulfill MCWM's mission to provide world-class waste disposal services to more cities, municipalities, and industrial clients in Central Luzon. The company pointed out that all projections by both local and foreign experts show that the volume of Philippine waste will continue to increase, and already exceeds the total capacity of existing landfills in the country," the firm said in a statement on Monday.

Citing a study by the Stockholm Resilience Center, MCWM said that the Philippines currently ranks as the top contributor to plastic pollution in the oceans, putting the country among the five largest producers of plastic waste worldwide.

"It is our job to monitor these studies and projections, and proactively plan accordingly. The yearly increase in solid waste in the Philippines, while sobering, was expected. While recycling and other trash reduction measures do help and must be done, there's just so much waste that the only solution is to expand," MCWM Executive Vice-President and General Manager Victoria E. Gaetos said.

"We made the decision to invest in this expansion even during the height of the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic because this is in the best interests of our clients, and ultimately, of the communities we serve," she added.

The expansion covered the development of seven more hectares within MCWM's 100-hectare grounds. It will be used for municipal waste disposal, the addition of leachate treatment plants for the proper eradication of waste by-products, and a new separate disposal cell for treated industrial waste.

The company also acquired new vehicles, equipment, and other fixed facilities to increase operational efficiency. The expansion will also allow the firm to dispose of its clients' waste to the same international standards and according to global best practices.

Ms. Gaetos added that the firm hopes to widen its coverage as more local government units (LGUs) and industry players look for waste management solutions that are cost-effective, efficient, and strictly compliant with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.



MCWM is the country's first engineered sanitary landfill. It is the exclusive developer of the solid waste management system of the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone, including New Clark City.

The 100-hectare landfill can handle up to 4,000 tons of waste per day, which services multiple industries as well as over 150 LGUs including the cities of Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Pangasinan. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



Ultra-fast fashion charms young despite damaging environment

THE so-called "ultra-fast fashion" has won legions of young trend-setting fans who snap up relatively cheap clothes online amid surging inflation, but the booming genre masks darker environmental problems.

Britain's Boohoo, China's Shein and Hong Kong's Emmiol operate the same internet-based business model—produce items and collections at breakneck speed and rock-bottom prices.

They are giving intense competition to more well-known "fast fashion" chains with physical stores, like Sweden's H&M and Spain's Zara.

Young people under the age of 25—widely known as Generation Z—love placing multiple orders for ultra-fast fashion, which then arrive in the post.

Greenpeace has, however, slammed the "throwaway clothing" phenomenon as grossly wasteful, arguing it takes 2,700 liters of water to make one T-shirt that is swiftly binned.

"Many of these cheap clothes end up... on huge dump sites, burnt on open fires, along riverbeds and washed out into the sea, with severe consequences for people and the planet," the green pressure group says.

Photographs of mountains of shoddy clothing, returned to the vendor or dumped soon after purchase, have gone viral, highlighting the vast amount of waste.

Demand for low-price

By Emeline Burckel/AFP

garments has nevertheless soared due to decades-high inflation, while many Covid-hit high-street shops with big overhead costs struggle to compete.

And it is wildly popular: SHEIN generated \$16 billion in global sales last year, Bloomberg says.



Customers purchase T-shirts for £4.0 (\$4.80), while bikinis and dresses sell for as little as £8.0 apiece.

For French high-school student Lola, 18, who lives in the city of Nancy, SHEIN shopping has become a cheap hobby.

The brand simply allows her to follow the latest trends "without spending an astronomical amount", she told AFP, oblivious to the environmental cost.

Customers post so-called "haul" videos online—where they unwrap SHEIN packages, try on clothes and review them.

That has boosted its popularity on TikTok, which is favored by teenagers and young adults, while there are also such videos on Instagram and YouTube.

On TikTok alone, there are 34.4 billion mentions of the hashtag #SHEIN and six billion for #SHEINhaul.

Brands extend their reach via low-cost partnerships with a large

number of people on social media, to build trust and increase sales.

Irish social-media influencer Marleen Gallagher, 45, who works with SHEIN and other firms, praised them for offering broader size ranges than regular stores.

Yet the industry has a reputation for devouring valuable resources and damaging the environment.

Ultra-fast fashion companies have also been plagued by scandals over allegedly poor working conditions in their factories.

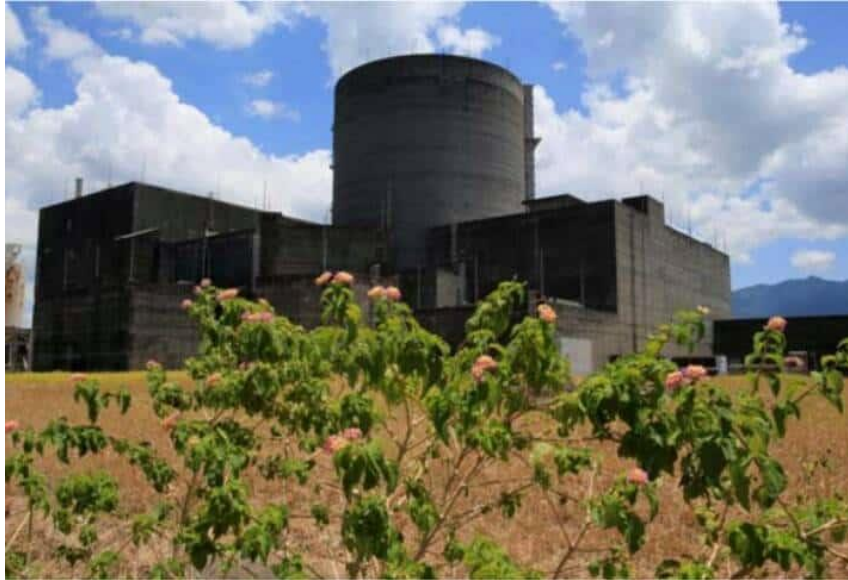


DOST-PNRI official on going nuclear: ‘A lot more are dying from air pollution’

Published August 1, 2022, 5:52 PM

by [Dhel Nazario](#)

The top official of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST-PNRI) reiterated on Monday, August 1 that nuclear power could offer the country with the cleanest source of power at a lesser cost.



The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) is seen during a tour around the BNPP compound in Morong town, Bataan province. (Reuters file)

During a Laging Handa Public Briefing, DOST-PNRI Director Carlo A. Arcilla stated that nuclear power is the safest and cleanest large-scale energy available. He mentioned that across the globe, there are 450 active nuclear power plants, approximately 100 of which are in America, supplying 20 percent of its electricity needs minus the pollution.

“Ang daming namamatay dahil sa air pollution; ang namatay sa nuclear power accidents kasama na po Fukushima at saka Chernobyl ay napakakaunti. So, kung unsafe iyong nuclear, bakit may halos 100 na nasa Amerika? (A lot of are dying from air pollution; those who died from nuclear power accidents including those in Fukushima and Chernobyl are few in comparison. If nuclear power is unsafe, why is there 100 of it in America?),” Arcilla explained.

He said that these plants have operated for more than 60 years and were given a license to operate for 20 more.

He added that the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich countries also have nuclear power plants. Now that the world is in a difficult situation because of the problem in Russia, Arcilla mentioned that nuclear delivers high-energy density and energy security.

The country’s current energy mix is composed of 60 percent coal which is imported mostly from Indonesia and 20 percent from the Malampaya gas field. Arcilla suggested that nuclear power can help in supplying the 20 percent presently supplied by the Malampaya gas field which is fast depleting.

He said that the country has no choice since it has no coal and the Malampaya gas field is depleting. So what’s important according to him, is to handle the energy mix responsibly and put nuclear power in it.



“Actually, renewables and nuclear can complement each other. Wind and solar depend on the weather whether it’s sunny or not and it only has a 30 percent capacity factor unless you have an expensive battery),” Arcilla said in an earlier statement.



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OPINION

To infinite energy and beyond

According to the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), the Philippines is made up of 7,641 islands, which contain significant natural resources. Despite the abundance of such resources, the country is still in the early stages of exploiting these natural assets to produce renewable and sustainable energy. The main constraint appears to be the lack of investment due to the high cost of developing, producing, and sustaining renewable energy.

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. said renewable energy is at the top of his climate agenda. The President called for increased use of hydropower, geothermal, solar, and wind. The increased use of renewables will help expand the power supply to meet growing demand.

To help attract investment to renewable energy (RE), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 7-2022, setting guidelines for the availment of fiscal incentives under Republic Act (RA) No. 9513, otherwise known as the Renewable Energy Act of 2008.

The salient provisions of the RR are discussed below.

CERTIFICATIONS/ACCREDITATIONS TO AVAIL OF THE TAX INCENTIVE

RE Developers and manufacturers, fabricators, and suppliers of locally produced

RE equipment must register with the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB). They must secure and submit to the BIR the DoE Certificate of Registration or the DoE Certificate of Accreditation. Other certifications required are the DoE Certificate of Endorsement (CoE), Registration with the Board of Investments (BoI), and Certificate of Income Tax Holiday (ITH) Entitlement (CE).

INCENTIVES FOR RE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

a. Income Tax Holiday. ITH of seven years from the start of commercial operations (SCO) is provided to existing RE Projects and New investment in RE Resources. RE

Developers undertaking discovery and development of new RE resources distinct from their registered operations may qualify as new projects and must set up a separate book of accounts to be registered with the BIR. In such a case, a fresh ITH from start of commercial operations applies. For additional investment in RE projects, the ITH only applies to the income attributable to the additional investment.

b. Corporate income tax of 10%. Following the expiration of the ITH, all registered RE Developers pay a corporate income tax of 10% on their net taxable income; *Provided*, that the RE Developers pass on the savings to the end-users in the form of lower power rates.

To avail of this incentive, the RE Developer must submit the following to the BIR:

1. Copy of the Certificate of Endorsement issued by the DoE prior to the first year of its availment of the 10% corporate income tax rate;
2. Valid and subsisting renewable energy service/operating contract and the corresponding Certificate of Registration; and
3. Sworn Undertaking attached to the ITR stating that for the year of availment of the 10% corporate income tax rate incentive, it has not been found to have breached its obligations under the renewable energy service/operating contract and that it intends to pass on the savings derived from this incentive in the form of lower power rates.

The RE Developer must also attach to its ITR and submit to the BIR proof of submission to the DoE and ERC of the report, supported by technical and financial documents, in the years succeeding its initial availment of the 10% incentive. To prove that savings derived from incentives during the previous year were passed on to end-users, the RE Developer must submit to the BIR the rates approved by the ERC.

c. Net operating loss carry over. In addition to the above incentives, the net operating loss carry over (NOLCO) of RE Developers during the first three years from the SCO may be carried over as a deduction from gross income for the next seven consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss. *Provided*, that the NOLCO has not been previously offset as a deduction from gross income, and that the loss

LET'S TALK TAX
LORENZO MIGUEL A. SORIANO



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To infinite energy...

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should be from the operation and not from the availment of incentives.

d. Accelerated Depreciation. If an RE project fails to receive an ITH before full operation, an RE Developer may apply for accelerated depreciation on its plant, machinery and equipment that are reasonably needed and used for the exploration, development and utilization of RE resources. Once applied, the project or its expansions shall no longer be eligible to avail of the ITH. The RE Developer is to inform the BIR of availment of accelerated depreciation instead of ITH.

e. Zero Percent VAT Rate. Sale of power or fuel generated through RE sources is subject to 0% VAT. The local purchase by RE Developers of goods, property, and services needed for the development, construction, and installation of power plant facilities, and the whole process of exploration and development of RE sources up to its conversion of power, is subject to 0% VAT. Accordingly, local suppliers of goods, properties, and services of duly registered RE developers should not pass on the 12% VAT, provided, that the RE Developer provides a copy of its BoI and DoE registration to avail of the VAT incentive.

f. Tax exemption of carbon credits. All proceeds from the sale of carbon emission credits are exempt from any and all taxes.

INCENTIVES FOR RE COMMERCIALIZATION

Sale of locally produced RE equipment and components by accredited and registered DoE and BoI manufacturers, fab-

ricators, and suppliers to RE Developers are subject to the following incentives:

1. VAT-free imports of components, parts, and materials subject to conditions;
2. ITH and exemption for seven years starting from date of registration and accreditation with DoE and BoI; and
3. VAT zero-rating on their transactions with local suppliers of goods, properties, and services needed in the manufacture/fabrication of RE equipment.

By creating policies and guidelines for availing of incentives, the RE industry is encouraged to invest more in the renewable energy market. Considering the uncertainty hanging over the price of oil, the adverse impact of climate change, and the increasing demand for electricity, it is high time to shift the focus to maximizing the use of natural resources to achieve self-reliance in energy. Relying on renewable energy will not only save billions of pesos; it can also save the country from the catastrophic effects of climate change.

Let's Talk Tax is a weekly newspaper column of P&A Grant Thornton that aims to keep the public informed of various developments in taxation. This article is not intended to be a substitute for competent professional advice.

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Energy China pledges to plant 25K trees in PH in 2022

August 1, 2022, 4:11 pm



COMMITMENT. Dai Longcai (2nd from right), project manager of Energy China in the Philippines, holds the company's pledge of commitment to join the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's (MWSS) annual "Million Trees" project in a ceremony held at the La Mesa Nature Reserve in Quezon City on June 29, 2022. Energy China pledged to plant 25,000 trees in the Philippines in 2022. *(Contributed photo)*

MANILA – Energy China has joined the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's (MWSS) annual "Million Trees" project, vowing to plant 25,000 trees in the Philippines in 2022.

The Chinese firm made the promise to plant 25,000 trees during the signing of the pledge of commitment ceremony held at the La Mesa Nature Reserve in Quezon City on June 29.

A total of 26 Chinese-funded companies operating in the Philippines also joined the event where the MWSS officials introduced the "Million Trees" project to them.

The MWSS called on the Chinese and Philippine constructors to take part in and promote the construction of ecological civilization, facilitate the Philippines' reforestation efforts and jointly create a liveable environment for future generations.

Over 30 representatives from Chinese enterprises in the Philippines, including Energy China, jointly planted a tree at the La Mesa Nature Reserve to commemorate the ceremony and show their determination to honor their promise to voluntarily plant trees.

They said Chinese enterprises in the Philippines will continue fulfilling their social responsibility and actively take part in activities for afforestation, tending to and management of seedlings, volunteer services, as well as other activities held near their project sites, so as to contribute to the efforts to make the country's skies bluer, mountains greener, water cleaner, and ecological environment better.

Kicked off in 2017, the "Million Trees" project is aimed at realizing the government's goal of planting 10 million trees before the year 2030. **(PR)**



Wakasan ang ilegal na pagpuputol ng mga puno

PAGKATAPOS ng malupit na bagyo o kahit minsan ay habagat lang, susunod na ang mga pagguho ng lupang bundok sa mga komunidad at bayan.

Pagkatapos ng isang lindol, pagguho din ng lupa ang maaasahan.

Tila kakambal ng anumang delubyo ang pagguho ng lupa.

Napanood ko sa isang ulat pan-telebisyon ang mga tipak ng bato na halos kasinlaki na ng bahay na hirap na inaalang isang backhoe sa kalsada upang ito'y madaanan. Maraming bahay ang puwedeng durgin ng malaking tipak ng bato o buhay ng tao ang puwedeng kitlin ng malaking tipak na batong ito.

May isang pinuno ng pamahalaan noon na naging senador ang naitalaga sa isang lugar sa Norte upang mag-sagawa ng pagmamatyag, pagtataya, at pagtatasa, kung bakit naganap ang isang malaking pagguho sa isang lalawigan pagkatapos ng isang malakas at matagal na pag-ulan.

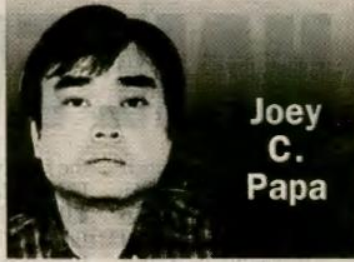
Pagkatapos ng kanyang paglibot, sinabing opisyal na wala sanang namatay sa pagguhong 'yon kung walang nakatira sa ibaba ng burol, Hindi naman dapat aniya tinitirahan ang ga-noong klaseng lugar.

Sumasang-ayon ako sa kanya sa isang puntong 'yon ngunit hindi sa ugat ng problema ng pagguho.

Hindi magkakaroon ng pagguho sa panahon ng malalakas na bagyo o habagat maging ng lindol man kung hindi talamak ang ilegal na pagpuputol ng puno sa mga kabundukan at kagubatan.

Matibay ang lupa kahit sa mga burol at bundok na binibigwasan ng

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

malalakas na bagyo at lindol.

Ang malalaki at matitibay na mga ugat ng puno ang masel ng kagubatan. Hindi nito binibitiwan ang tubig at sinisipsip lamang ito upang kalaunan ay maging tubig-inumin ng mga tao. Sa madaling sabi, hindi magaganap ang pagguho kung maraming puno na may maraming ugat sa mga kagubatan at kabundukan.

Naranasan ko ito at may ilang ulit ko nang ginawang halimbawa ito sa aking kolum. Nasawi ang aking tiya na nakatira sa isang maliit na bungalow sa Cainta, Rizal noong bagyong Ondoy.

Ang Cainta ay nasa ibabang bahagi ng mga kabundukan ng lalawigan ng Rizal na kung saan matatanaw ang bundok ng Sierra Madre.

Hanggang ngayon ay pinag-iinitan pa rin ng mga illegal loggers ang Sierra Madre dahil sa kapal ng kagubatan nito na mayaman sa mga malalaking puno.

Nang kalakasan noon ng bagyong Ondoy, bumababa ang tubig-ulan sa mga maraming lugar kasama ang bayan ng Cainta at lumubog ito. Hindi

namin masaklolohan ang aming Tiya na nababad sa tubig mula sa bagyo at nababad ang buong katawan niya nang may pitong oras sa tubig kasama ang nakababatang lalaki na wala ring magawa dahil sa lakas hamos ng alon sa kanilang katawan.

Walang tigil daw ang hamos ng alon sa kanilang magkapatid. Nag-dasal umano ang aking tiya at ibinagsak na lang ang kulay suka na niyang katawan nang hindi na niya makayanan ang lamig, pagod at hirap. Malungkot ang pangyayaring 'yon dahil malakas pa naman siya. Isa siyang senior citizen.

Nang nakaburol siya sa kanilang bahay, mapulang lupang galing sa mga kabundukan ng Rizal ang nakita ko sa kalsada hanggang sala ng bahay ng tiya ko. Patunay ito na wala nang pumipigil sa lupa sa bundok kaya tinangay ng tubig-ulan ang mga lupa ng bundok papunta sa mabababang lugar tulad ng Cainta.

Sa nakaraang lindol sa Norte, higit na maraming namatay sa mga pagguho kaysa sa lindol Mamamatay nga raw sa atake sa puso ang isang tao sa lindol dahil sa matinding takot.. Ngunit kung handa at alam ang gagawin ay tiyak na namang makaliligtas naman sa lindol ang sinuman.

Ngunit kung ang mga bahay na kung bakit pinayagang itayo ito sa mga paanan ng bundok o burol, tiyak na may masasaktan kapag gumuho na ang lupang pinalambot na ng kawalan na ng mga ugat ng mga punong pinutol ng mga illegal loggers..

Itigil na ngayon din ang ilegal na pagtotroso!



Birdwatching takes flight as eco-tourism gains popularity in Philippines

[Cristina Chi](#) - Philstar.com August 1, 2022 | 7:41pm



This composite photo shows birding guides-in-training conduct birdwatching in Lower Tibolo, Sta. Cruz, Davao Del Sur and apo myna.

Photos courtesy of Julius Paner

MANILA, Philippines — The tough trails that lead to the summit of Mount Apo typically draw in hikers and mountain climbers. But backpackers trekking rough terrain won't be the only tourists navigating the Philippines' highest peak for long if Julius Paner had his way.

Holding binoculars in one hand and a bird book in the other, the avid birder — people who watch birds and make their identification a hobby — has enthused that birdwatching has “slowly but surely gained popularity in the region.”

"Tourism nowadays is going back to basics. Ang mga tao really want to go outdoors. Wala na gusto pumuntang malls every weekend. They want to go to forests," Paner said. "It's important to offer a lot of activities other than hiking and camping. Birdwatching can be a good alternative."

By allowing people to get to know magnified images of avian creatures big and small, the hobby can even serve as a "catalyst" for conservation, described Paner, who himself began to birdwatch in 2018 under the mentorship of expert birders from the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines-Davao.

As pandemic fatigue makes tourists flock to green spaces, birdwatching has taken flight in regions with plenty of natural attractions: from mountain ranges to lush forests. Local tourism offices are grabbing the opportunity to promote the quietly loved activity to first-timers while championing its potential to raise awareness of wildlife protection.

Citizen science or 'Pokemon Go'

Birdwatching, for the unfamiliar, seems like the naturalist's "Pokemon Go." One uses binoculars to look at and identify different bird species while listening to their calls. It can involve walking and standing for long hours to catch a glimpse of elusive birds before they fly away.

But the hobby is far from being a passive (and boring) activity for citizen science. Lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic led to a surge of first-time birdwatchers [in the Philippines](#) and in other countries as people yearned for the outdoors. Some became rookie naturalists overnight by observing the feathered friends literally pecking at them from their windows.



Birdsongs, which previously faded into the daily humdrum of life, suddenly became interesting, and more people started to join Facebook groups like “[Birdwatch Philippines Community](#)” to help them identify birds other than the [house maya](#).

Birdwatching – which may be easy to dismiss as a pandemic quirk – has led to greater interest among ecotourism lovers even after lockdown restrictions eased, [Birding Philippines](#) webmaster Adrian Constantino said.

"With more sites opening up, yung mga dati na confined to backyard birding they are starting to go out more. Social media is a big help," said the bird guide and naturalist.

Paner said that it's about time that local tourism offices whose regions house plenty of endemic birds embrace the activity as a tourist attraction.

"In the Philippines, we have around 700 species of birds. We are one of the most biodiverse countries for birds, and only a few people are going into it," Paner said.

Rather than asking why more local government units should promote birdwatching to tourists, Paner said the more important question is: why not?

"We have been receiving a lot of people from England [and other countries] in Europe who do birdwatching in the Philippines. Our endemic birds are considered one of the best and most sought after by birdwatchers," he added. "It's high time we take advantage of that."

Aside from being home to the Philippine Eagle, one of the world's most majestic birds of prey, the Philippines has [more than 200 endemic bird species](#) that are arguably just as beautiful and majestic. Some of these are the [Rufous Hornbill](#), which may appear as a Pokemon-looking bird for fans of the franchise, the [Philippine Fairy-bluebird](#), which looks like a character straight out of a Disney movie and the [Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove](#), whose plumage is splashed by bright and striking colors.



Rufous Hornbill
eBird/Forest Jarvis

Mount Apo itself hosts the [Apo Myna](#), a large glossy-black bird with a yellow circle around its eye, and the Turquoise Flycatcher, a bright turquoise-blue bird with a white belly.

It's also only one of the many bird species that Paner and a team of ten birdwatching guides studied in a three-day training session to revitalize their local tourism's birdwatching activities. With assistance from the Provincial Tourism Office of Davao del Sur, mountain guides of Sta. Cruz' Tourism Office hunkered down to study the various birds in the area and the proper handling of binoculars from June 16 to 18 to assist birders for future birding tours.



Apo Myna

Photo courtesy of Julius Paner



Turquoise flycatcher

Photo courtesy of Julius Paner

Paner got the idea to train mountain guides into birdwatching guides after two birdwatchers in Manila called him to ask for assistance in climbing Mt. Apo – not to see the summit, but to see the birds on the trail, Paner quipped.

Because birding on narrow trails can be difficult even for old-timers, birdwatchers in the area typically hire a birding guide, Paner said.

"I am myself a birdwatcher and can guide them. But what if I'm busy? Wala akong mapapasahan. There's this indicator already that birdwatching will somehow be the next activity of ecotourism, so we did the training," Paner added.





Livelihood and biodiversity protection

Birding can also generate more livelihood opportunities while lending a hand toward biodiversity protection, Paner added. Sta. Cruz Tourism Office's birdwatching guides, for instance, also double as patrollers who monitor and assess threats to local biodiversity such as illegal logging.

"Somehow in terms of conservation, malaki ang papel ng tour guides, especially when they become aware of the floral and fauna na dun lang makikita," he added. "We are lucky enough to have a huge forest area in Mount Apo. We intend to keep it that way."

Places with lesser-known eco-sites are also jumping on the opportunity to train eco-guides. The tourism office of Palayan City in Nueva Ecija, for instance, devoted one whole day out of a seven-day training in June on ecoguiding towards identification of flora and fauna.

"Palayan City is a landlocked city. Wala siyang large bodies of water na macoconsider namin as tourism attraction. More on mountains and farmlands. So we specifically requested the Ecoguiding Training from [the Department of Tourism Central Luzon] para mas appropriate sya sa constituents namin," said Princess Camacho, tourism officer of Palayan City.

More than 20 Aeta and Igorot participants joined the training sessions facilitated by the local government of Palayan City, which Camacho said would hopefully lead to an opportunity for them to work as official tour guides of the city.

"One of the reasons why we chose [indigenous people] as participants is that they are the ones who live near mountains and semi-forests. Sila ang nakatira doon, sila ang mas nakakaalam, at sila yung all the more kailangan mabigyan ng acknowledgment since they are the ones who protect the place," Camacho added.



Bonded by birding.

Photo courtesy of Princess Camacho

Constantino, who facilitated the training on birding and wildlife appreciation, said that he had banked on the locals' knowledge of the birds in training them to be birding guides. In just two hours, they saw at least 40 species, according to his estimates.

While Paner said that birdwatching may not be everyone's cup of tea, he hopes that more local tourism offices introduce the hobby alongside promoting usual activities like mountain climbing and hiking. Aside from its benefits to the local economy, the hobby can also inspire more people to protect endangered species of birds and their habitats, he said.

"Sa 100 na mountain climbers, kahit 5% lang sa kanila maging birder, OK na ako," Paner said.



Inconvenient facts about climate change theology and the climate agenda

First of a series

By [Yen Makabenta](#) August 2, 2022

First word

I AM asked by readers and fellow skeptics (on the climate apocalypse and the climate change movement) to comment on a privilege speech delivered by Sen. Loren Legarda at the Senate last Tuesday, July 26.

She tackled in one swoop the twin challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the eschatological climate crisis.

The senator beat her Senate colleagues to the draw in winning the distinction of delivering the very first privilege speech in the Senate of the 19th Congress.



This July 25, 2022 file photo shows Sen. Loren Legarda posing for pictures ahead of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s first State of the Nation Address at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

Two crises

In her speech, Senator Legarda urged the national government (both the President and the legislature) to match the aggressive program to promote full national recovery from the pandemic with an equally determined pouring of funds and effort into the fight against climate change.

I shall quote her words lest I misrepresent her thinking:

"As we pull ourselves up from the pandemic, we must also put in the forefront of our collective awareness how we should deal with the graver and irreversible impacts of the climate crisis.

"We are obviously living in challenging times of climatic changes that are unparalleled over thousands to millions of years.

"More troubling is that the Philippines ranked fourth among countries most affected by long-term climate change, according to the 2021 Global Risk Index. This is all the more reason for us to accelerate our efforts in climate action, paralleling our fight with this pandemic.



"Only through a climate pathway can we truly recover in a resilient and sustainable manner. As concluded in the Paris Agreement, among others, all countries must commit to limiting global warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to achieve this, a net-zero global economy must be targeted worldwide by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45 percent by 2030, or by 7.6 percent every year from 2020 to 2030, to reach net zero by 2050.

"We are committed to support this global goal through our Nationally Determined Contribution, which intends to avoid and cut emissions to 75 percent by 2030 and modernize our carbon-intensive sectors on agriculture, waste, industry, transport and energy.

"We believe that climate-resilient development is the right path to improving the lives of our vulnerable population, while also unlocking our potential for green growth."

She recited all the familiar nostrums and warnings of the climate change movement.

There can be no doubting her bona fides in worshipping in the church of climate change, and in marching to save the planet.

But there are also holes in the climate movement and its proposed policies that should be explained before Congress and the executive rush to place our country on the frontlines of the global fight against climate change.

Climate change agenda weaknesses

My chief comment on this screed on climate change is to enumerate innumerable inconvenient facts in the climate change movement and contrarian developments in climate policymaking that are now unraveling amid the global food and energy crises.

It was the late Washington Post columnist and author Charles Krauthammer who characterized climate change theory and belief as "the church of global warming." In his book, *Things That Matter* (Crown Forum, New York, 2013). He wrote:

"Predictions of catastrophe depend on models. Models depend on assumptions about complex planetary systems — from ocean currents to cloud formation — that no one fully understands. Which is why the models are inherently flawed and forever changing. The doomsday scenarios posit a cascade of events, each with a certain probability. The multiple improbability of their simultaneous occurrence renders all such predictions entirely speculative."

The late British prime minister Margaret Thatcher pointedly titled a brief section in her book *Statecraft* (Harper, New York, 2002), "Hot air and global warming."

Other notables labeled global warming or climate change a "travesty" (George Will), a "hoax" (Cal Thomas) and "science fiction" (Sen. Jim Inhofe).

The name-calling and putdowns are dispiriting, but tougher still are the serious lapses in the theory and the movement of climate change that serious analysts have pointed out.

And these, I submit, must be brought to the attention of Congress and answered before our legislators move to legislate actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

Legarda's rhetoric will not be enough. Her proposals must weather serious scrutiny and debate, including a Senate inquiry.

In order of seriousness, I list down the following as vulnerabilities of the entire climate change agenda. These are:

1. The continuing struggle of climate change theory and belief to find a name that it can stick to.



2. The retreat to silence of Nobel Peace laureate Al Gore and acknowledged pope of global warming. The former US vice president has gone into the climate movement and debate. He seems to have nothing more to say about climate change.
3. The authoritarian threat of President Joe Biden to declare a climate emergency, and his subsequent retreat from the initiative.
4. The publication and release of two opinion polls in the US that show the great majority of the American people do not rate climate as a major concern. In one poll, climate ranked last.
5. The growing reversal of the gains in the loud campaign against fossil fuels and for renewable energy. The US media now report a comeback by both coal power and nuclear energy. The American people long for the return of their fossil fuel economy.
6. The global sentiment against green inflation, as the green agenda is increasingly perceived as the chief cause of runaway inflation today.
7. The testimony of many scientists, some of whom worked in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that there is to date no scientific evidence to prove the case of the climate change movement.

Religion in search of a name

First, the alarmist community cannot even agree on what to call the problem.

As the would-be high priestess of climate change in the Philippines, Senator Legarda needs to explain a striking phenomenon: climate change advocates and believers are still struggling up to now to find a name for their theology and church.

Their adherents in the media are bewildered by the frequent change in name for a problem that is supposed to be existential and will herald the end of the world.

In the beginning, the problem was called "inadvertent climate modification."

Then it became "global warming."

From global warming, they then decided to substitute "climate change."

And now there is a move to drop "climate change" and replace it with "climate emergency."

Ed Henry of Fox News mocked the science community's terminology on man-made climate change.

"Before it was 'global warming', then it was 'climate change', now maybe 'extreme weather'?" he observed. "The left keeps rolling out new terms but pushing the same agenda change. Why do they keep shifting the language?"

However, climate change, which references the overall impact on the planet as a result of human carbon emissions, is not the same thing as global warming, a term used to describe the increased temperature on the earth's surface as one effect from climate change. In the 1970s, the term "inadvertent climate modification" was used to refer to the impact of increased carbon dioxide on the planet, but the science community shifted from that phrase after realizing the changes are no longer inadvertent since awareness of the effects had grown.

Radio host Mike Slater believes he has the real answer though, as he told Henry progressives are changing terms "because they are not winning the argument."

"That's what the left does when they don't win the argument, they change the words," he said. "'Alien', to 'illegal immigrants', to 'undocumented', and now 'Dreamers', right?"



The term "climate change" was first suggested by Republican adviser Frank Luntz who reportedly penned a memo to President George W. Bush that advised using the new term over the then more threatening term, "global warming."

The latest development in this name-changing saga is the move of Scientific American in 2021 to drop the term "climate change" and replace it with "climate emergency," a term that they feel is more appropriate for the state of the planet and humanity.

Comparing Earth's environmental concerns to medical situations that require 911 help, senior editor Mark Fischetti said there was no mistaking the planet is in an emergency of its own. "...you have the biggest environmental emergency to beset the Earth in millennia: climate change."

"Journalism should reflect what science says: the climate emergency is here," he said.

The magazine joins Columbia Journalism Review, The Nation, The Guardian, Noticias Telemundo, Al Jazeera, Japan's Asahi Shimbun and La Repubblica of Italy in making the change in terminology.

"The planet is heating up way too fast. It's time for journalism to recognize that the climate emergency is here," their statement read in part. "This is a statement of science, not politics."

"Why 'emergency'? Because words matter. To preserve a livable planet, humanity must take action immediately," the publication continued.

The statement said the decision was spurred in part by the media's use of "emergency" when covering the coronavirus pandemic.

If climate change is passé, what is Senator Legarda going to do now? (To be continued on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022)yenobserver@gmail.com

Inconvenient facts about climate change theology and the climate agenda



Visitors to the world's tallest tree face \$5,000 fines

Lilit Marcus, CNN • Updated 1st August 2022

(CNN) — Hyperion, certified by Guinness World Records as the world's tallest living tree, is officially off-limits to visitors.

California's Redwood National Park issued a statement last week that anyone who is caught near the tree can face up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

The tree, which is deep in the park and has no trails leading to it, has faced serious environmental degradation from thrill-seekers who have visited since 2006, when it was found by a pair of naturalists.

The coast redwood (*sequoia sempervirens*) tree is 115.92 meters (380 feet) tall and its name is derived from Greek mythology -- Hyperion was one of the Titans and the father of sun god Helios and moon goddess Selene.



Hyperion's trunk diameter is 4.84 meters (13 feet).

Stephen Moehle/Shutterstock

"Hyperion is located off trail through dense vegetation and requires heavy 'bushwhacking' in order to reach the tree," reads a statement on the national park's website.

"Despite the difficult journey, increased popularity due to bloggers, travel writers, and websites of this off-trail tree has resulted in the devastation of the habitat surrounding Hyperion," the statement says. "As a visitor, you must decide if you will be part of the preservation of this unique landscape - or will you be part of its destruction?"

Leonel Arguello, the park's Chief of Natural Resources, told news site San Francisco Gate that the area has limited cellphone and GPS service, which means it can be very challenging to rescue any lost or injured hikers in the area.

In addition to erosion and damage caused at the base of the tree, there are secondary issues that come from an influx of people.

"There was trash, and people were creating even more side trails to use the bathroom. They leave used toilet paper and human waste -- it's not a good thing," Arguello said.

Human visitors are not the only risk to these giant trees.

Wildfires are a growing concern throughout California's national parks.

In 2021, officials at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks took extreme measures to protect some of the world's biggest trees from fire.



General Sherman, considered the world's largest tree -- determined by density not height, as it is shorter than Hyperion -- was wrapped in an "aluminum-based burn-resistant material" akin to tinfoil as a way to keep it safe during the devastating KNP Complex Fire.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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Heat waves: Kanluran inihaw sa katotohanan

HINDI basta mainit kundi nakakapaso ang summer sa Europe, North America at northern China nitong 2022. Pumatay ang heat waves ng mahigit isang libo sa Portugal at isang dosena sa Spain. Daan-daan ang naospital sa Britain, Netherlands at Scandinavia nang pumalo sa mahigit 40° C ang temperatura. Sabay-sabay ang maraming bushfires.

Natauhan ang Kanluran sa katotohanan ng climate change. Ngayon lang nila dinanas ang ganitong nakakadurang na summer. Dati-rati tatlong araw sa isang taon sila nakakaramdam ng labis na init. Nitong 2022, tatlong linggo sila naprito. Naging usap-usapan sa mga pamilya ang masamang epekto ng carbon emissions. Inasahang uulit-ulit ito sa mga darating na taon.

Sa mga bansang malapit sa equator, tulad ng Pilipinas, dekada nang umaangal sa global warming. Ang epekto nito ay labis na tagtuyo at bagyo. Hindi na malaman ng mga



magsasaka kung kailan dapat magtanim. Nahihilo ang mangingisda sa pag-init ng tubig-dagat dulot ng bagong klima. Bagsak tuloy ang ani at huli. Gutom ang mga tao. Mas maraming namamatay sa init.

Mahihirap ang mga bansang malapit sa equator. Ang karaniwang kita sa isang buwan ay isang maghapon lang sa Kanluran. Kaya walang pambili ng air-con ang Asians, Africans at South Americans. Kung may air-con man sila, lalong lalala ang climate change. Lalamig nga ang mga kuwarto pero mas maraming petrolyo ang makokonsumo para gumawa ng kuryente at air-con units. Lalong wasak ang kalikasan.

Sa Kanluran ang malalaking industriya—malalaking sanhi rin ng global warming. Mas maraming pabrika, kotse,

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

SAPOL... Mula pahina 4

gusali at kagamitan sa bahay na gumugugol ng petrolyo, nagpapasok, at nagpapatit. Gusto ng Kanluran magtiis ang mas malaking populasyon sa equator para komportable sila. Ngayon batid nila na maski nagtitiis ang iba, hagip na

rin sila ng krisis. Sana kumilos na sila.



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PAGE 1/2

DATE



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. IV-CALABARZON
8th Floor, DENR by the Bay Bldg, Roxas Boulevard
Ermita, Manila, Philippines
Telephone No. (+632) 5210-88-87 E-mail: region4a@mgpb.gov.ph
Website: mgpbiv4a.mgpb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF CAVDEAL-CAVITE IDEAL INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 76 of Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Consolidated Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1990, that CAVDEAL-Cavite Ideal International Construction and Development Corporation with address at Governor's Drive, Brgy. Gregorio, Trece Martires City, Cavite has filed an application for Exploration Permit particularly described, as follows:

- I. Application No. : EPA-IVA-188
- II. Date of Filing : May 18, 2022
- III. Area Location : Municipalities of Ibaan and Taysan, Province of Batangas
- IV. Description of the Applied Area

A. Geographical Coordinates

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	13° 47' 00.00"	121° 08' 30.00"
2	13° 47' 30.00"	121° 08' 30.00"
3	13° 47' 30.00"	121° 09' 00.00"
4	13° 48' 00.00"	121° 09' 00.00"
5	13° 48' 00.00"	121° 10' 30.00"
6	13° 47' 00.00"	121° 10' 30.00"

Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"

Size: The applied area covers Five Hundred Eighty One and 4819/10000 (581.4819 hectares) hectares.

B. Restrictions

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 ("Entry to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- a. The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, old growth/virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b. The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads reservoirs, dams and other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- c. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CADC/CALC/CADT/CAL), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- d. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking sand and gravel extraction therein;
- e. Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by RA No. 867 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- f. Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- g. Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations, such as, but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

V. Activities to be undertaken

For the submitted Exploration Work Program the following activities will be conducted:

1. Research Work

Research studies shall be made on works undertaken by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), i.g. Geological Quadrangle Mapping and Mineral Resource Evaluation/ Canvassing of Bulacan Province and Provincial Socio-Economic Profile and digitized maps/plans and reports.



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All research work shall be completed within three (3) months after the approval of the exploration permit coverage of the abovesaid undertaking in the entire project area covered by the Application for Exploration Permit.

All available data from government and private entities concerned shall be compiled and collated on the following aspects. Lithological data previously identified in the project area shall be compiled and collated to determine focal areas for mapping and projecting possible buried and/or satellite mineralization. Existing lithological data will facilitate interpretation of rock types, geology and mineralization of the project area.

2. Regional Geological Mapping

Regional geological mapping shall be undertaken to verify lithologies, contacts and gross extent of alteration and mineralization within the entire applied area and its immediate vicinities.

Identified outcrops with remarkable grades shall be followed-up by trenching the bedrock to verify the vertical extension of mineralization. Trenching is necessary to be implemented in areas where enormous outcrops of basaltic to andesitic rocks and other related non-metallic and metallic minerals are highly exposed.

The topographic survey is programmed to be implemented laying out the 100 meters by 100 meters grid pattern and topographic survey employing Total Station and GPS will cover the entire project area where the auger grid sampling will be undertaken.

3. Detailed Geological Mapping

Detailed geological mapping shall be concentrated in areas where significant extension of known mineralization is already identified in the semi-detailed geological mapping. GPS shall be used in the implementation of this program.

4. Drilling Activities

Drilling types a minimum of 15 drill holes will be sink using man-portable drill machine, NQ size at areas warranted for detailed follow-up. Essential targets are projected areas where big outcrops are identified, within and outside the main ore body. Man-portable drilling machine will be used for easier mobilization.

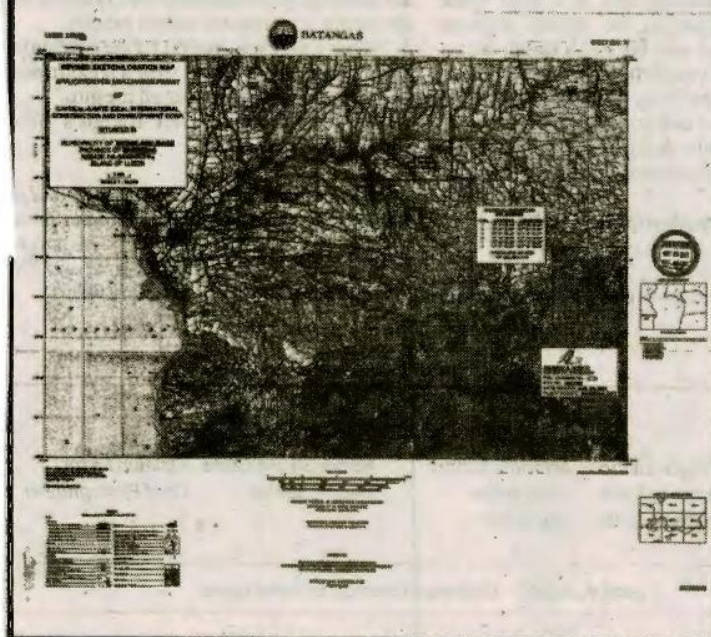
5. Laboratory Analysis

All samples to be collected in the forgoing exploration activities shall be forwarded to a competent and DENR Accredited Geotesting Laboratory for analysis of its physical characteristics for vary-sizes rock aggregates production.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims, protests and/or opposition should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of posting with the MGB Regional Office (RO) No. IV-CALABARZON or through any Community Environment and Natural Resources Office or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office concerned for filing in the MGB RO No. IV-CALABARZON for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of R.A. No. 7942 and DAO No. 2010-21. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director, MGB RO No. IV-A (CALABARZON) located at 6th floor, DENR by the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

DONDI S. BARMIENTO
Regional Director



02 AUGUST 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Daily average of Covid-19 cases from July 25-31 up by 24%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 1, 2022, 4:51 pm



MANILA – The country's daily average of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases went up by 24 percent from July 25 to 31, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Monday.

From 2,791 per day from July 18 to 24, the number of Covid-19 cases reached 3,443 daily from July 25 to 31.

The latest case bulletin showed that there were 24,100 new cases and one verified death in the recent week.

For the same period, 44 cases were added to the tally of severe and critical infections, which went up to 744 from the previous week's 666.

Only 23.3 percent or 601 out of the 2,583 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are in use, while 29.5 percent or 6,505 of 22,051 non-ICU beds are utilized.

To date, about 71,700,612 or 91.81 percent of the country's target population (78,100,578) are vaccinated against Covid-19, including 77.87 percent of 8,721,357 senior citizens.

As of July 31, a total of 16,215,466 have received booster shots out of the total 71,700,612 who are fully vaccinated.

Over the weekend, the DOH said it was confident in the accuracy of case reporting and surveillance performed by its units.

While the antigen test results are not yet counted in the case reports, the DOH said they are being monitored through the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units which track the compliance of antigen test reporting from local government units and health facilities.

The agency said Covid-19 hospitals beds and intensive care unit utilization rates stay low despite an observed increase in cases. **(PNA)**



24,100 bagong COVID-19 cases naitala mula Hulyo 25-31

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa August 2, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Mula Hulyo 25 hanggang 31 o sa loob ng isang linggo ay nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 24,100 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa

Ang average na bilang ng bagong kaso kada araw ngayong linggo ay nasa 3,443 mas mataas ng 24 porsyento kung ikukumpara sa mga kaso noong Hulyo 18 Hanggang 24.

Sa mga bagong kaso ,76 sa mga ito ang may malubha at kritikal na karamdaman, habang mayroon namang naitalang 44 na pumanaw at wala sa mga ito ang naganap noong Hulyo 18 Hanggang 31. Noong ika-31 ng Hulyo, mayroong 744 na malubha at kritikal na pasyente na naka-admit sa mga ospital dahil sa COVID-19 at sa 2,583 ICU beds para sa mga pasyente ng may COVID-19 ay 601 o 23.3 porsyento ang okupado.

Samantala, 29.5 porsyento naman ng 22,051 non-ICU COVID-19 beds ang kasalukuyang ginagamit.



‘Household risk’ for COVID-19

[POINT OF VIEW](#) - [Dr. Susan Mercado](#) - The Philippine Star August 2, 2022 | 12:00am

Ask anyone who has caught COVID-19 in recent weeks about how they got it. They are likely to say “it entered my household.” They will also tell you that some had mild or no symptoms, and others in the family were incapacitated for a few days and continued to have symptoms way over the seven-day isolation.

We sighed with relief when we found out that Omicron BA.5 results in less severe symptoms compared to the other variants; however it is highly transmissible. While that sounded better, in reality what has happened is that people have been programmed to think less about what could happen to their families, and more about their individual risk.

Using the principle of “individual risk” is a Western notion in public health prevention. This is probably because Western societies are individualistic. Western public health prevention programs – that we tend to copy – focus on what “a person should do” to stay healthy. But in our context in Asia and the Pacific, prevention must be grounded in collective action and “taking care of each other” – rather than just “taking care of myself.” This is why approaches to public health prevention that rely on the principles of “individual behavior change” have not resulted in better public health outcomes for the public health challenges of the Philippines today.

Take tuberculosis for example. We have at least a million active cases every year, with about 70 deaths every day. We have gotten to this disastrous level of tuberculosis using an individual risk approach. When we diagnose one person with tuberculosis, shouldn’t our health teams check the whole family, look at household ventilation and nutrition, even check the workplace? No, we just treat the individual patients – and send them back to the conditions that made them sick in the first place.

Take hypertension as another example. A fourth of the adult population, possibly 17 million Filipinos, are hypertensive. This does not include 32 percent of those with hypertension who drop dead without knowing their blood pressure. Then there are the 5 million Filipinos who know they have hypertension, but take no medications. The yearly deaths from heart attacks are estimated at 100,000 that translate to roughly 274 deaths per day. When we have a death from a heart attack, shouldn’t we be taking everyone’s blood pressure in the family? Should we not be educating entire households about reducing salt and fat in the family meals? Should we not be encouraging household physical activity and recreation in groups?

Against this backdrop of co-morbidities from tuberculosis and hypertension – not to mention diabetes, asthma, cancer and the like – should we not be educating our people about household risk to COVID-19?

A big and resounding yes to minimum public health standards – mask wearing, social distancing, staying home when one is sick, handwashing. We already know that. But we need a household risk approach in our public health communication for Omicron BA.5 because of its high transmissibility.

Families need to understand their “household risk” and take care of each other, because of the co-morbidities that run into millions, and the presence of seniors in the home who are unvaccinated and at risk because of their age, and when there are children below the age of six – as Dr. John Wong of Epimetrix has recently reported – who have higher severe COVID and death rates compared to other age groups of children.



In 2021, WHO published guidelines on family approach; but in the context of Asia and the Pacific and its many informal settlements and poor housing conditions where multiple families live in under one roof, a household approach is more appropriate.

What are your household risks for COVID-19 when the variant is highly transmissible? The more of these you have in your living quarters, the greater your household risk: unvaccinated adults; unvaccinated children; seniors who refuse vaccination; adults who refuse boosters; a health worker who sees patients; an employee who uses public transportation; young adults who go to crowded areas; poorly ventilated house; cramped living conditions; working adults who refuse to stay home when they are sick; refusal to wear a mask at home when symptoms occur; household helpers who go home on weekends; anyone in the household who does not inform the others of possible exposure.

The way to survive this new wave of Omicron BA.5 is for the household to make sure that every eligible person is fully vaccinated and boosted. This has got to be a collective effort. We need to be responsible for each other – including the seniors who are refusing the shots. You are only as safe as the people you live with. If you answered yes to any of the above, it is time to have a household meeting and discuss your collective risk.

Omicron BA.5 is contagious and is notorious for “immune escape” – vaccination and previous infection is NOT a guarantee that you cannot get it. However, if you are fully vaccinated the likelihood of severe disease is minimal.

So why not just let everyone get infected and develop natural immunity? Well, the more this virus reproduces, the greater the chances it will mutate further. And who knows what the next mutation will be like?

I caught COVID-19 a few weeks ago from a household exposure. I’ve evaded this nasty bug in the community for more than two years through all the things an individual must do. But when it entered my household, there was very little I could do. I had fever, chills and vomiting. Couldn’t get up for a few days. Couldn’t eat. I have recovered well. But now into my fourth week, I occasionally feel a little weak and wonder what would have happened if I had not been fully vaccinated and fully boosted.

What WHO calls the “wall of immunity” has to start in your household. It is your responsibility to see to it that everyone is vaccinated and boosted and following minimum health standards. The consequences of continuing with an individual approach to risk are unthinkable – but we are headed in that direction unless we all reduce our household risk.

* * *

Dr. Susan Mercado is co-chair of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission and adjunct faculty, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines, Manila.



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

August 1, 2022

Official DOHgov
@DOHgovph

Healthcare Utilization

(as of July 31, 2022)

29.5%
Non-ICU Bed Utilization
6,505 out of 22,051 non-ICU beds used

23.3%
ICU Bed Utilization
601 out of 2,583 ICU beds used

744
Severe and Critical Admissions
9.2% of total COVID-19 admissions

Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of July 31, 2022)

91.81%
% Coverage of Target Population*

77.87%
% Coverage of Target A2 Population**

Fully Vaccinated Individuals
71,700,612
+154,257 vaccinated on Jul 25 to Jul 31

Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose
16,215,466
+281,215 vaccinated on Jul 25 to Jul 31

(added on Jul 25 to Jul 31)



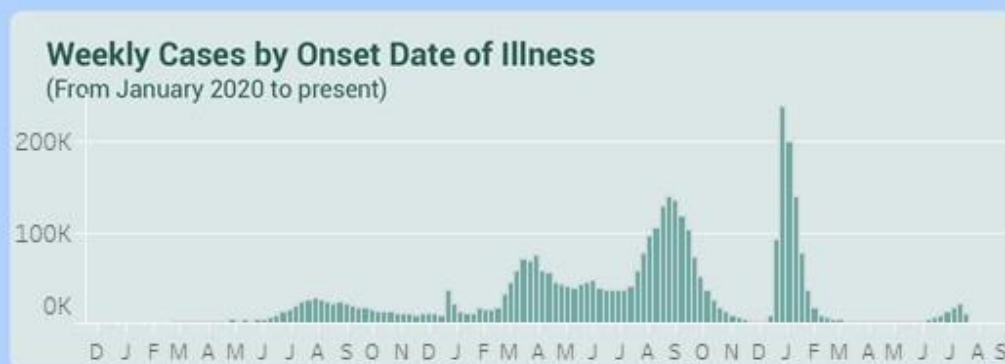
COVID-19 Cases

(as of July 31, 2022)

+24,100
New Cases
Daily Average Cases = 3,443
(24% higher than cases on Jul 18 to Jul 24)

Severe and Critical Cases
+76
(0.32% of new cases)

Deaths Verified During The Past Week
+44
(0 deaths occurred on Jul 18 to Jul 31)



*Target population refers to 70% of the total population (78,100,578 individuals)
**Target A2 population refers to 85% of the total Senior Citizen population(8,721,357 individuals)

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

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02 AUGUST 2022, TUESDAY



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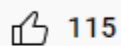
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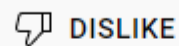
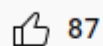


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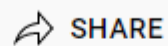
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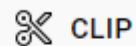
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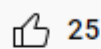


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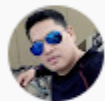
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