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# 'Climate emergency' drives next Makati gov't projects

By Dexter Cabalza  
@dexcabalzaINQ

Makati City, the country's financial capital, has declared a "state of climate emergency," becoming the first local government in Metro Manila to acknowledge it is in crisis due to climate change.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," Mayor Abby Binay said during a webinar on Friday organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," she warned.

In declaring a climate emergency, Binay identified several measures the local government was planning to take in order to reduce its carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions and to improve the city's climate resilience.

Among the plans are procuring an entire fleet of electric vehicles for the city, and using solar panels in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consumption and

ensure the continuity of services during calamities.

The mayor called on the leaders of the cities' 33 barangays to take the lead in educating residents and businesses about the impact of climate change, and involving them in plans to make their communities more climate resilient.

"We must promote sustainability and climate consciousness in all our actions. We must be the change we want to see in our city and the world," Binay said.

## 9 flood-prone barangays

Among the cities in southern Metro Manila, Makati is known to suffer moderate to severe flooding during the monsoon season, including areas close to the financial district.

Former tidal flats, or level marshy lands that get swamped with the rising of the tides, are located at the western portion of the city. As a result, nine of its barangays are flood-prone, according to a profile on Makati in the Making Cities Resilient website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Three barangays are also identified to be near the course of Pasig River, the website added, noting that "the city faces



Abby Binay

the potential of liquefaction and landslide."

With Makati being in a state of climate emergency, Binay said she wanted to see the active involvement of the business sector, communities and other stakeholders to address the problem.

"We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change," she said during the webinar.

It was not the first time that Makati has shown the way in addressing the worsening impact of climate change on urban centers.

The city, for instance, was among the first local government units in Metro Manila to ban the use of single-use plastics and sty-





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# Makati declares climate emergency

Makati Mayor Abby Binay on Friday declared a state of climate emergency in the city as she called on all stakeholders to implement a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change.

Binay said the city will gear up on green initiatives to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to help address the global issue.

She noted that climate change poses threats to countries and individual cities that will disrupt services and displace countless communities.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become

more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides. This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," the mayor said.

Among the initiatives the city government is looking to implement include the use of electric vehicles and putting up solar panels in schools and government offices.

She noted that this will not only minimize energy consumption but also ensure continuity of services even during calamities.

Following the declaration, Binay said that she hopes for more involve-

ment of all sectors, including businesses and the grassroots.

"We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure the aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change," she said.

Binay said that there should also be campaigns to educate residents and businesses about the effects of climate change and also involve them in planning to make communities more climate-resilient.

She cited data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration that there has been an increase of

0.75° Celsius in the country's annual temperature over the past 70 years.

The temperature increase in the Philippines could reach as high as 1.8° Celsius by 2050, Binay said.

Makati has been implementing several green initiatives, including enforcing the Waste Management Code and Makati Green Building Code as well as ordinances to reduce greenhouse gases and against smoke belching.

The city government has also banned the use of plastic bags and utensils in households and businesses and prohibited cigarette smoking in public places. - Romina Cabrera



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## Binay declares climate emergency in Makati

The lady mayor said there are many grounds to back her declaration to achieve the environmental goals of Makati as a smart and green city

BY ALVIN MURCIA  
*@tribunephil\_alvi*

Mayor Abby Binay has declared a climate emergency in Makati City Friday following a meeting with officials of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST).

Binay said there are many grounds to back her declaration to achieve the environmental goals of Makati as a smart and green city.

The meeting between Makati local government and DoST officials tackled the use of electric vehicles, provision of healthy food for students, disaster-mitigation through

technology, and hydroponics.

The mayor announced days back that e-buses will soon form part of the city's transportation mix following the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency officials.

"Apart from the Makati Subway, this new public transport system is in line with our efforts to transform Makati into a smart city," Binay said.

"We need to upgrade our systems because smart transportation is more convenient, safe, and cost-effective for both the city and commuters," she pointed out.





# STATE OF CLIMATE **P.3** EMERGENCY, IDINEKLARA NG MAKATI

## Makati City nagdeklara ng state of climate emergency

Nagdeklara ng state of climate emergency si Makati Mayor Abby Binay at nangakong gagawa ng aksyon para mabawasan ang greenhouse gas emissions sa lungsod.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," ani Binay.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," ani Binay sa "Cafe Talk for Resilient Makati."

Ang pamahalaang lungsod ay bibili ng isang buong fleet ng mga de-kuryenteng sasakyan at gagamit ng mga solar panel sa mga pampublikong paaralan at mga tanggapan ng gobyerno upang mabawasan ang pagkonsumo ng enerhiya at matiyak ang pagpapatuloy ng mga serbisyo sa panahon ng kalamidad, ayon sa alkaide.

Aniya, nais niyang makita ang aktibong partisipasyon ng sektor ng negosyo, komunidad, at iba pang stakeholder.

"We call upon everyone to come together and act now. We must ensure aggressive application of the whole-of-society approach in combating climate change. Now is a crucial time to act, and we need to act fast. We need thinkers, doers, and movers," aniya pa.

Hinimok niya rin ang mga lokalidad na turuan ang mga residente at negosyo tungkol sa mga epekto ng pagbabago ng klima at isali sila sa paglikha ng mga plano upang gawing mas matatag sa pagbabago ng klima ng mga komunidad.

Sinabi ng PAGASA weather bureau na ang average na temperatura sa lahat ng lugar sa bansa na inaasahang tataas sa pagitan ng 1.8 at 2.2 degrees Celsius pagsapit ng 2050 dala ng climate change.

Kabilang ang Pilipinas sa historic agreement sa Paris noong Disyembre 2015 upang mabawasan ang greenhouse gas emissions upang mapanatili ang pagtaas ng global temperatures na mas mababa sa two degrees Celsius. (Ludy Bermudo)



# ***Bunsod ng matinding pagbaha*** **'State of climate emergency'** **idineklara sa Makati** Pahina 2

## ***Bunsod ng matinding pagbaha*** **'State of climate emergency'** **idineklara sa Makati**

Dahil sa nararanasang pag-ulan at pagtaas ng mga tubig-baha bunga ng climate change, nag-deklara na ng "state of

climate emergency" si Makati Mayor Abby Binay at nangakong gagawa ng aksyon para mabawasan ang greenhouse gas emissions sa lungsod.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," ani Binay sa isang webinar noong Biyernes.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but also the displacement of families and even entire communities," ani Binay sa "Cafe Talk for Resilient Makati."

Ang pamahalaang lungsod ay bibili ng isang buong fleet ng mga de-kuryenteng sasakyan at gagamit ng mga solar panel sa mga pampublikong paaralan at mga tanggapan ng gobyerno

upang mabawasan ang pagkonsumo ng enerhiya at matiyak ang pagpapatuloy ng mga serbisyo sa panahon ng kalamidad, ayon sa alkalde.

Aniya, nais niyang makita ang aktibong partisipasyon ng sektor ng negosyo, komunidad, at iba pang stakeholder.

Hinimok din ng alkalde ang mga lokalidad na turuan ang mga residente at negosyo tungkol sa mga epekto ng pagbabago ng klima at isali sila sa paglikha ng mga plano upang gawing mas matatag sa pagbabago ng klima ng mga komunidad. Ayon sa PAGASA Weather Bureau, ang average na temperatura sa lahat ng lugar sa bansa ay inaasahang tataas sa pagitan ng 1.8 and 2.2 degrees Celsius pagsapit ng 2050 dala ng climate change. -Ludy Bermudo-





## Climate change is intensifying the water cycle, bringing more powerful storms and flooding

**P**OWERFUL storm systems triggered flash flooding across the US in late July, killing at least 37 people in eastern Kentucky as floodwater engulfed homes and set off mudslides. Record rainfall also inundated St. Louis neighborhoods, and another deluge in Nevada flooded the Las Vegas strip.

The impact of climate change on extreme water-related events like this is becoming increasingly evident. The storms in the US followed extreme flooding this summer in India and Australia and last year in Western Europe.

Studies by scientists around the world show that the water cycle has been intensifying and will continue to intensify as the planet warms.

An international climate assessment I coauthored in 2021 for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change lays out the details.

It documented an increase in both wet extremes, including more intense rainfall over most regions, and dry extremes, including drying in the Mediterranean, southwestern Australia, southwestern South America, South Africa and western North America.

It also shows that both wet and dry extremes will continue to increase with future warming.

### Why is the water cycle intensifying?

A CYCLES through the environment—moving between the atmosphere, ocean, land and reservoirs of frozen water. It might fall as rain or snow, seep into the ground, run into a waterway, join the ocean, freeze or evaporate back into the atmosphere.

Plants also take up water from the ground and release it through transpiration from their leaves.

In recent decades, there has been an overall increase in the rates of precipitation and evaporation.

A number of factors are intensifying the water cycle—but one of the most important is that warming temperatures raise the upper limit on the amount of moisture in the air.

That increases the potential for more rain.

This aspect of climate change is confirmed across all of our lines of evidence discussed in the IPCC report.

It is expected from basic physics, projected by computer models, and it already shows up in the observational data

as a general increase of rainfall intensity with warming temperatures.

Understanding this and other changes in the water cycle is important for more than preparing for disasters.

Water is an essential resource for all ecosystems and human societies, and particularly agriculture.

### What does this mean for the future?

AN intensifying water cycle means that both wet and dry extremes and the general variability of the water cycle will increase, although not uniformly around the globe.

Rainfall intensity is expected to increase for most land areas, but the largest increases in dryness are expected in the Mediterranean, southwestern South America and western North America.

Globally, daily extreme precipitation events will likely intensify by about 7 percent for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) that global temperatures rise.

Many other important aspects of the water cycle will also change in addition to extremes as global temperatures increase, the report shows.

It includes reductions in mountain glaciers, decreasing duration of seasonal snow cover, earlier snowmelt and contrasting changes in monsoon rains across different regions, which will impact the water resources of billions of people.

### What can be done?

ONE common theme across these aspects of the water cycle is that higher greenhouse-gas emissions lead to bigger impacts.

The IPCC does not make policy recommendations. Instead, it provides the scientific information needed to carefully evaluate policy choices.

The results show what the implications of different choices are likely to be.

One thing the scientific evidence in the report clearly tells world leaders is that limiting global warming to the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 C (2.7 F) will require immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Regardless of any specific target, it is clear that the severity of climate-change impacts are closely linked to greenhouse-gas emissions: Reducing emissions will reduce impacts. Every fraction of a degree matters. *Mathew Barlow, UMass Lowell/The Conversation (CC) via AP*





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## DEPED, YSEALI strengthen climate change education through online teacher training

THE Department of Education (DEPED) partnered with the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) to strengthen climate change education through the conduct of "Climate Changemakers."

"Climate Changemakers" is the first climate change training course recognized by the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) as part of the Professional Development Priorities of the Department. The program aims to increase the capacities of teachers to effectively teach climate change competencies, integrate climate change in competencies, and commit to climate action.

"Time is of the essence. Climate change is an emergency. The time to act is now," DEPED-DRRMS director Ronilda Co said.

Some 400 teachers completed the ten-week online course that utilized synchronous and asynchronous modalities focusing on correcting misconceptions about climate change. It also provided a space for teachers to reflect on their learning and share challenges and good practices.

The course featured lectures from exchange alumni of the YSEALI program of the U.S. Department of State, representatives and former and present members of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission, technical specialists and teachers from the Department of Education, and climate change-focused organizations like the Oscar M. Lopez (OML) Center and Youth Strike for Climate Philippines.

The first batch of the training was held from November 2021 to March 2022 where the completers were trained to be mentors in partnership with the Divisions of Apayao, Sorsogon, Iloilo City, Eastern Samar, and Surigao Del Sur from the Cordillera Administrative Region, Region V, VII, VIII, and Caraga, respectively.

The second batch was opened to all K-12 teachers from public and private schools across the country where hundreds applied and completed their synchronous and asynchronous activities.

**Arlene Rivera**





## More climate change subjects in schools backed

THE Department of Education (DepEd) is supporting the call of the Climate Change Commission for the strengthening of climate literacy and the inclusion of climate action in the basic education curriculum.

It added that the inclusion of climate action in the curriculum will hone learners and personnel who are climate-literate and proactive in championing resilient and sustainable schools.

In a statement on Saturday, DepEd said that its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service has been promoting climate education through different programs, projects and activities aligned with the updated K to 12 curriculum as per Republic Act 9729 or the "Climate Change Act."

It added that climate change concepts have been integrated with the curriculum in subjects such as Science, Health, Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies), Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (Values Education), Mathematics, English, Filipino, Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (Home Economics and Livelihood Education), Technology and Livelihood Education, and Music, Arts

and Physical Education.

It added that while climate change concepts are integrated in the curriculum, there is a need to "strengthen its presence in the curriculum by refining learning competencies and standards and monitoring learning delivery."

"The department is committed to reviewing learning competencies relevant to climate change education (CCE), and coordinates various offices and experts with the enhancements needed in developmentally-appropriate and multi-disciplinary climate change education," it added.

The call comes after DepEd held a climate change training course for teachers to strengthen climate change education.

The climate change training course is a program developed together with the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.

Around 400 teachers participated in the 10-week online course that utilized synchronous and asynchronous modalities that focuses on correcting misconceptions about climate change.

It also provided a space for teachers to reflect on their learning and share challenges and good practices.

RED MENDOZA





## DENR enforcing Asean GEF-funded project on Large Marine Ecosystems

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is implementing an extensive Asean collaborative project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) which face serious threats amid their vast marine resources.

The project "Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in LMEs in Asean (Enmaps)" was deliberated in an inception workshop as it prepares for implementation of the United Nations Development Programme, the DENR said in a news release.

LMEs in Asean are a huge source of livelihood and jobs for struggling fishers.

They are huge marine areas extending beyond boundaries among countries which make collaboration important.

Enmaps has a cost of \$77.596 million. Of this, \$12.548 million consists of GEF grant.

The workshop validated data and gathered inputs from stakeholders from the national and regional government agencies, private sector, nongovernment organizations and academe.

The project's concept will be elaborated during the full proposal development.

The Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Asean is known to have 20 percent of the world's seagrass beds, a third of world's mangrove forests with 45 to 75 species, and a third of the world's coral reefs with more than 75 percent of species of coral, and 40 percent of fish species.

Enmaps will involve at least five countries in Asean, including the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand, and South China Sea.

The workshop also provided the opportunity to discuss the project partners' potential role and contribution in project implementation.

The Asean Enmaps project will be executed by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity in collaboration with the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau under the GEF funding.

It aims to develop and improve the management of networks of marine protected areas and marine corridors within selected LMEs in the Asean region for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

It will support sustainable fisheries and other ecosystem goods and services.

As the oversight office for foreign-assisted and special projects, the DENR Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service with Director Al Orolfo, highlighted the importance of the establishment of MPAs.

Orolfo pointed out the need for management of the Asean network as an effective approach to address challenges, such as climate change, marine pollution and biodiversity loss.

"The project is expected to complement our existing efforts in the Philippines toward productive partnerships with the neighboring countries in terms of scaling up management under the regional MPAN (marine protected area network) approach," Orolfo said.

GEF has been concerned that the world's oceans have been reaching their ecological carrying capacity, a limit to their ability to produce fish for food.

"More than 75 percent of world fish stocks are already fully exploited, overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion," according to GEF web site.





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# Solidarity run for Philippine eagle held in Bataan

**BALANGA City, Bataan:** The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) on Saturday kicked off its two-day solidarity run from Mariveles, Bataan to the City of San Fernando in Pampanga to raise awareness for the preservation of the Philippine eagle while underlining the importance of wellness.

Dr. Robert Kennedy, ornithologist of PEF research and conservation, and JC Santa Teresa, holder of Guinness world record on most consecutive days running an ultramarathon, joined the runners.

The activity dubbed "Agilaya

Solidarity Run for Peace, Health and Philippine Eagles" flagged off at 4 a.m. on Saturday, August 6, at the Kilometer Zero mark of the Death March trail in Mariveles. The first leg ended at the Kilometer 51 mark in Abucay, Bataan.

On Sunday, the run will continue up to the Kilometer 102 mark at the old train station in San Fernando City.

In a press briefing Friday, Kennedy said the Philippine eagle is considered as the third largest eagle in the world with a maximum weight of 7 kilograms and a wing

span of 2 meters.

He said that there are only 300 to 600 pairs of eagles in the world left, and the Philippine eagle is one of the rarest that can be found in Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao.

Kennedy said he is happy that the PEF and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are working together to save this bird. He was one of the first who conducted research on monkey-eating eagles in the Philippines.

Dr. Jason Ibañez, PEF director for research, said that aside from

those who had signed up for the ultramarathon, there would also be small groups of runners in Bataan who would join them along the way.

He said that although the forests of Bataan are still vacant habitat and there is no Philippine eagle yet, they are excited to explore these forests to become a future home for the eagle. Dr. Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, said they have 35 eagles in captivity at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City and two in Singapore through a breeding agreement. **ERNIE ESCONDE**





## Asean: Biodiversity conservation through protected area legislation\*

*Last of 2 parts*

**C**URRENTLY, a law is needed to strengthen the status as a protected area in the Philippines and ensure an annual budget for conservation. Some of these sites are the Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro, Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes in Negros Oriental and Samar Island Natural Park in Samar.

Indonesia's Conservation of Living Resources and their Ecosystems Act (1990) is concerned with the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem function in the context of sustainable utilization of living natural resources. Selected areas under this law are designated either as nature sanctuary (nature reserve, game reserve) or biosphere reserve (nature conservation area, national park). These designations, applicable to both terrestrial or marine areas, provide different degrees of legal protection for nature reserves. While no human activities are allowed in national parks, utilization of natural resources by local people is permitted within a system of protected area management zoning. In Thailand, the National Protected Areas Act is the legislation in point. It defines the meaning of protected forests to include mountains, creeks, marshes, swamps, waterways, lakes, islands and unoccupied land adjacent to the sea. The law states that changes of areas, or the withdrawal of parts or the whole of protected forests, may only be made by a Ministerial Regulation. However, the State is allowed to use the protected forests for the benefit of the State.

Singapore, on the other hand, has a number of laws establishing protected areas for various purposes. Nature reserves were created through the Nature Reserves Act. Bird sanctuaries were created through the Bird Sanctuaries Order.



AMBASSADORS'  
CORNER

**AMADO S.  
TOLENTINO JR.**

The Parks and Trees Act provided for public parks and the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. The National Parks Act repealed the Nature Reserves Act, made provisions for natural parks and nature reserves and set up the National Parks Board. In connection therewith, environmental policy in Singapore dictates that 5 percent of the land area should be set aside for nature reserves, national parks, catchment areas, bird sanctuaries and gardens. In 1990, the Singapore Nature Society formulated a Master Plan for the Conservation of Nature which identified 28 sites, with or without protected status, as the most important sites for biological diversity. Three are within gazetted nature reserves, while the rest includes four wetland areas (Kianji, Khatib Bungsu, Tekong and Pulau Ubin) and a mangrove area (Mandai).

Prior to Cambodia's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1995, it already had a Royal Decree (1993) on the establishment of protected areas about which forest and natural habitat areas covering about 3.3 million hectares (18.2 percent of the country's total area) were designated as national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, protected landscapes and multi-purpose management areas. Responsibility for the enforcement and implementation of all laws against illegal activities in Cambodia's protected areas rests with the Ministry of Environment through its park rangers. Difficulties encountered, however, are specifically due to the lack of legislation on protected area management and the park rangers' limited capacity to implement and enforce environmental laws.

While conservation of biological re-

sources is an objective of the government of Vietnam, a protected area legislation is not yet in place. In the meantime, the subject is covered through its Law on Forest Protection and Development (2004), the Law on Environmental Protection (2005), the Law on Fisheries (2003), and the Ordinance on Protection and Quarantine of Plants (2001).

Likewise, Laos does not appear to have formulated any special law on protected areas. Indirect references to biological diversity issues are made in the Environmental Protection Law, Water and Water Resources Law and Forestry Law. Reference could also be made to the Lao Criminal Law on matters like forest destruction, illegal animal hunting, illegal fishing or hunting of other aquatic species and illegal exploitation of natural resources.

### Political will, public support

A protected area legislation by itself does not guarantee the conservation of biological diversity. It needs backup by people's participation in the implementation process. There is a further need to develop and strengthen a cadre of environmental lawyers that can bring forward their indigenous experience to assist in the enforcement, monitoring and compliance aspects of the legislation. Finally, the interest of the judiciary in this important task needs to be cultivated, encouraged and enhanced.

To sum it all up, the important key to our future vision of protected areas vis-à-vis biological diversity is legislation reinforced by political will, public participation, institution building and capacity building, especially for lawyers, law enforcers, prosecutors and judges.

\*2002 is the Year of Protected Areas to commemorate the 90th year of establishment of the national parks system in the Philippines by virtue of the 1932 National Parks Act (RA 3915).





## BIODIVERSITY STUDY ON MOUNT HAMIGUITAN

### YIELDS NEW PLANTS, ANIMAL SPECIES

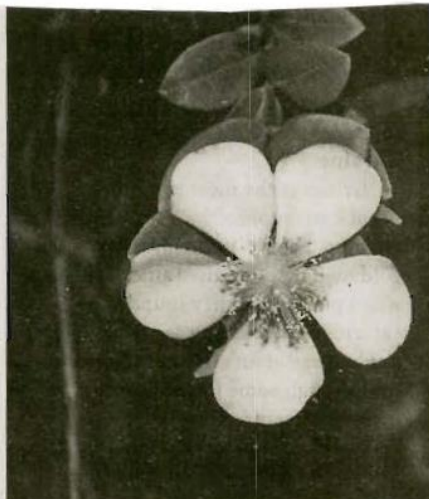
# Unrecorded for 100 yrs, grasshopper discovered on Mount Hamiguitan

**N**EW species—including a pygmy grasshopper that has not been recorded for more than a century—were discovered on Mount Hamiguitan on Davao Oriental recently.

The other species discovered were a snout beetle, two flowering plants, a terrestrial orchid species and a grass fern, said Butch S. Pagcaliwagan of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD).

"*Arulenus validispinus*, commonly known as the four-spined pygmy devil, has not been recorded for more than a century," explained Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, leader of the Central Mindanao University (CMU) research team.

The flowering plants are *Hypericum perryongii* Galindon, sp.



**FLOWERING plant (*Hypericum perryongii* Galindon, sp. nov)** PHOTO FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES (NMP)

*Nov* and *Gymnosiphon syceorosen-sis* (*Burmanniaceae*).

A type of snout beetle, *Metapocyrtus* (*Artapocyrtus*) *brons* sp. Nov, was also recorded, Pagcaliwagan said.



The terrestrial orchid species is the *Dilochia deleoniae*, and the grass fern is called *Actinostachys minuta* Amoroso and *Coritico*, Pagcaliwagan added.

These findings were part of





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## Hamiguitan fields New Plants, Animal Species



A SNOUT beetle (*Actinostachys minuta*  
*Amoroso and Coritico*) PHOTO FROM NMP



GYMNOSIPHON *syceorosensis*  
(Burmaniaceae) PHOTO FROM NMP

the study, "Biodiversity in selected mountain ecosystems of Mindanao for conservation and sustainable development," of the Biodiversity Science and Tech-

nology Program that is funded and monitored by the DOST-PCAARRD.

Mount Hamiguitan is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(Unesco) World Heritage Site.

It has already been declared as an Asean Heritage Park. The mountain range showcases terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and includes threatened and endemic flora and fauna species.

Besides Mount Hamiguitan, Mount Apo in North Cotabato, and Mount Pantaron and Mount Tago, both in Bukidnon, were included in the study also conducted by the University of the Philippines Los Baños-Museum of Natural History, Davao Oriental State University and the Philippine National Museum, Pagcaliwagan pointed out.

Mountains offer much more than spectacular views. A great part of its beauty lies in its being a home to varied and abundant life species, many of which are waiting to be discovered to this day, he noted. *S&T Media Services*





## LTFRB allows school service to resume

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has approved the resumption of school transport service operations as part of the preparations for the return of face-to-face classes.

In its Memorandum Circular 2022-066, the LTFRB will allow transport units with active Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) or Provisional Authority (PA) to operate for the looming resumption of classes.

It said those with expired CPCs but with pending application for extension of validity would also be allowed to operate.

Transport services with CPCs that have an expiry date from March 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2022 will be allowed to file an application for extension of validity with the LTFRB waiving penalties.

"This is in recognition of the adverse financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on operators and drivers of school transport services," it said.

In addition, the LTFRB will also waive penalties for school transport units with "pending confirmation" from March 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2022.

It reminded drivers and operators of school transport that their vehicles must have secured steel-grilled windows, seat belts for all passengers, a working portable fire extinguisher, and stop-and-go signage to be carried by the conductor when children cross the street, while drivers and conductors must wear a prescribed uniform.

The LTFRB said the school transport units must also comply with health and safety protocols prescribed by the Department of Health and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

These protocols include regular temperature and health screening of drivers and conductors, regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, and mandatory wearing of face masks.

"The LTFRB is reminding operators, drivers, and conductors of school transport services to adhere to the guidelines to avoid sanctions, such as revocation of their CPC and PA," it said.

The Department of Education (DepEd) earlier set the start of classes for the school year 2022-2023 on August 22.

The DepEd said so far the number of enrolled students has reached 13.15 million.

The LTFRB is also planning to open more than 100 public transport routes around the university belt in Manila and other areas with a "high concentration of students" to address the expected influx of public transport passengers during the return of face-to-face classes.

In a related development, several groups have urged school transporta-

tion service providers to use lead-safe yellow paints.

Environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition and advocacy group for commuters' rights and mobility Passenger Transport Forum (PTF) on Saturday urged school transportation service providers to use lead-safe yellow paints for their vehicles.

"Yellow paints used to repaint or touch up school vehicles should not pose lead-based paint hazards to young learners who are at higher risk of lead exposure. Even small doses of lead can harm a child's brain and nervous system and result in lower IQ, poor school performance, inattentiveness, and aggressive behavior," EcoWaste Coalition Adviser Manny Calonzo said.

LTFRB Memorandum Circular 2006-006 identified yellow as a mandatory color "to properly and easily identify school transport services and for the protection of [their] passengers."

Calonzo added that school bus operators, as well as owners of jeepneys, tricycles and pedicabs ferrying learners to schools, should use lead-safe paints when repainting or touching up their vehicles.

"Aside from charging reasonable service fees, operators of buses and other vehicles for transporting students to and from school should ensure a clean, hygienic and safe service. Among other things, school vehicles should be properly maintained and coated only with lead-free paints," PTF convenor Primo Morillo added.

A report released in 2021 by the EcoWaste Coalition and the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN) found 21 of the 68 analyzed industrial paints in breach of the 90 part per million (ppm) total lead content limit for paints, including automotive paints.

Of the automotive acrylic, enamel and lacquer paints included in the study, 19 passed and five failed the 90 ppm limit. All the failed samples were yellow with lead concentrations ranging from 16,000 to 210,000 ppm.

Another EcoWaste study released in 2022 found 37 of 60 spray paints, which are often sold as touch-up paints for cars, motorbikes and bicycles, loaded with lead up to 97,100 ppm. Of the 37 lead samples, 30 had extremely high lead levels in excess of 10,000 ppm and of these 30 samples, 23 had lead above 40,000 ppm.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2013-24 established the 90 ppm total lead content limit for all paints as phased out lead-containing decorative paints in December 2016 and lead-containing industrial paints in December 2019.

**FRANCO JOSE C. BAROÑA  
AND BELLA CARIASO**





## Metro Baguio Devt Authority now a law

**BAGUIO CITY:** The bill that seeks to create the Metropolitan Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (MBLISTTDA) is now a law.

Republic Act (RA) 11932 lapsed into law on July 30, creating MBLISTTDA as a government entity with corporate powers that will plan and implement basic area-wide services without diminishing the LGUs' autonomy on local matters.

Under RA 11932, Baguio City and the neighboring towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay will be assigned as a special development and administrative area. The MBLISTTDA will be placed under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Baguio Rep, Mark Go, the law's principal author, said the establishment of MBLISTTDA will foster sustainable development in the city and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay and will promote the efficient delivery of basic services.

"The city of Baguio and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon,

Sablan, Tuba and Tublay have so much to offer for the growth of business, agriculture and tourism. With the passage of time, however, the problems of the environment, tourism, traffic, water supply, waste management and the provision of basic services have become more evident," Go said.

The MBLISTTDA will be tasked to centralize and oversee the development efforts and initiatives that address the challenges within the area.

Aside from planning the use of infrastructure, transport and traffic management, the MBLISTTDA shall perform medium- and long-term development responsibilities, including urban renewal, land use planning, housing and shelter, solid waste disposal and management; flood control and sewerage management, water resource management system; health, sanitation and pollution control; public safety and order; and tourism.

The MBLISTTDA Council will govern and create policies for the area. The council will be composed of the Benguet governor and the mayors of Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay

as ex-officio voting members.

Meanwhile, ex officio non-voting members comprise the vice mayors of the aforementioned city and municipalities, two private sector members selected by the council, and representatives of the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Science and Technology (DoST), Commission on Higher Education, and Philippine National Police. A chairman will be elected from the regular members and will head the council, while an administrator will be appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the council, with

a term of six years. Go said the passage of MBLISTTDA will take Baguio City and the towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay to a new level of growth that would achieve sustainable social and economic growth for the benefit of the people.

"Through the MBLISTTDA, the principle of synergy would be emphasized when towns in a contiguous area could achieve more by planning and implementing together. This is the convergence of the cities and municipalities for a common purpose, complimentary support with each other, cooperation by sharing their resources and active collaboration," the Baguio lawmaker said.

"Through the years, we have been experiencing issues and concerns related to urban development, resource management, health, and the environment. With the establishment of MBLISTTDA, we can tackle these issues collectively, planning and addressing them in a holistic and inclusive manner. With unity, we will be able to plan, strategize, and work together for the betterment of our locales," Go added. **GABY KIETH**





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



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## Sustainability thrust keeps Tagaytay Highlands thriving

World-class residential and leisure estate Tagaytay Highlands is visualizing a secure future for generations to come with its self-

contained townships that provide an abundance of lifestyle amenities and infrastructure within the vicinity while strongly focused on

environmental conservation.

Sprawled across 1,290 hectares of rolling terrain, it is the only mountain resort of its kind

and scale that boasts a profusion of flora and fauna, year-round nippy weather, and stunning vistas of Taal Lake, Mt. Makiling, Canlubang Valley, and Laguna de Bay.

Whether as a picturesque getaway or as an alternative primary home for harried urbanites, Tagaytay Highlands has proven to be conducive to productivity, spurring career-driven homeowners to continue working from home. And to refresh mind, body, and spirit, one can indulge in its tranquil green spaces for leisurely walks, jogging, and breathing in fresh air.

Complementing nature's bounty, Tagaytay Highlands is considered one of the most environment-friendly and sustainable leisure estates in the Philippines. Its environmental conservation programs have, in fact, earned for it the "Friend of Biodiversity" recognition from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.





PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNDP INDIA

IN India, a woman demonstrates how to use a solar dish for cooking.

# UN chief slams 'immoral' profiteering amid global energy crisis

The combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion

As the war in Ukraine continues to rage, skyrocketing energy prices are compounding an existential cost-of-living crisis for hundreds of millions of people, the United Nations (UN) chief said over the week, introducing the third in a series of briefings from the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) on Food, Energy and Finance.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said it was "immoral" that major oil and gas companies are reporting "record profits," while prices soar.

"The combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion," he said, urging governments to "tax these excessive profits, and use the funds raised to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times."

## Funding green energy

The brief from the GCRG – set up by the UN chief in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine – recommends that governments find effective funding for energy solutions, such as

publicly financed cash transfers and rebate policies to protect vulnerable communities, including windfall taxes on the largest oil and gas companies, while also advocating for a transition to more cost-effective renewables.

It notes, however, that rising energy costs may price out developing countries, especially the most vulnerable communities, from energy markets.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the countries that are already bearing the brunt of the cost-of-living crisis continue to experience major difficulties accessing affordable energy.

## 'Workable options' lacking

More worrying is a potential "scramble for fuel" whereby only rich countries can afford to access energy as prices continue climbing, the GCRG brief warns.

"Governments need the fiscal space to support their most vulnerable populations to avoid worsening levels of energy poverty or losing energy access altogether. Developing countries don't lack reasons to invest in renewables. Many of them are living with the severe impacts of the climate crisis, including storms, floods and droughts," Guterres said.

"What they lack are concrete, workable options," he stressed.





TITLE: UN chief slams 'immoral' profiteering amid global energy crisis.

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### Switch to renewables

The brief comes on the heels of the landmark Black Sea Grain Initiative agreement between the UN, Russia, Türkiye and Ukraine, to allow the commercial shipment of grain to world markets, from Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

And it makes clear that the Ukraine war and global energy crisis that it has caused is a stark reminder that energy resilience and a stronger push for a renewable energy transition is needed.

However, as outlined by the Secretary-General, policies must be in place and readily available that include social protection measures for those affected by the transition and materials to support renewables.

The brief stresses that short-term policies and protection measures be used to mitigate the crisis, while in the medium-to-long-term, renewable energy should be championed to meet net zero goals, tackle energy poverty, and boost and diversify the global energy mix.

But this requires a significant increase in global investment.

"We have to scale up financing and technology transfer for the developing countries and the energy poor of the world," Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and GCRG brief coordinator, said.

### Opportunities abound

The brief upholds that by 2030, an ambitious renewable energy transition could create an additional 85 million jobs in the renewables and other energy transition-related sectors.

Renewable energy production is often the lowest cost option, with the shortest installation time, thanks to current technological development, providing countries with energy security, while also reducing future exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices.

"Renewable energy is often the cheapest and most quick to deploy source of electricity for many countries," Grynspan said.

"But this is only true if we ensure that supply chains work well and without bottlenecks; that the workforce has the right skills and that enough funds will be made available for the initial investments," she added.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN

SWITCHING to renewable energy could prevent four to seven million deaths from air pollution annually worldwide.





## 'Sustainable self-care' pushed by eco-enterprise

I feel like as human beings, we are all consumers. We're here and we consume Earth, and Earth can't provide for everybody

It seems that self-care is here to stay even as the world gradually settles back into normalcy from the pandemic. But when the practice of self-care comes at a cost to the environment due to the high volume of plastic waste from online deliveries, how can businesses and consumers strike a balance?

In 2021, Oceana reported that Amazon failed in its recycling commitment as shown by the 29 percent increase in the online retailer's plastic waste, which ended up polluting waterways and the ocean. This was similar to the findings of an earlier study in 2020, which estimated that 710 million metric tons of plastic waste would make its way into the environment by 2040 despite the ongoing efforts to curb plastic consumption.

The situation is far more unsettling for the Philippines, which has been tagged as one of the biggest contributors of plastic waste in the world. A 2021 peer-reviewed study published in the *Science Advances* journal named 19 rivers in the country, including Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan, Pampanga and Libmanan, in the top 50 waterways that emit plastic into the ocean.

For perfumer Ilka Mara Po, being aware of the global plastic crisis and having environmental advocacy are essential in creating and promoting her sustainable and plastic-free fragrance and self-care brand Ilka.

"We need to stop plastic from the source, and I think, as a business owner you are one of the sources of trash. If nobody



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ILKA

CONCERNS over the impact of the global plastic crisis led perfumer Ilka Mara Po to create sustainable and plastic-free self-care brand Ilka.

will make (products with plastic), nobody will buy. If nobody buys, nobody will make it. I think it would be best to become plastic-free; always find ways to eliminate plastic as much as you can," Po explained.

"I've always been an environmental advocate. I've been trying to volunteer ever since I was in high school. I feel like as human beings, we are all consumers. We're here and we consume Earth, and Earth can't provide for everybody. If you're a business owner, do a lot of research about innovating products and packaging," she added.

Ilka started offering refillable candles to Filipino clients searching for self-care products during the massive pandemic lockdown. Made from natural wax, essential oils and fragrance oils, each candle comes hand-poured in ceramic jars, which Po sources from a local pottery studio. Once the jars are empty, she says her customers can either reuse them for other purposes at home or return them for refills at a lower cost.

Even in securing parcels for delivery, Ilka strives to be plastic-free. Po says that an order bound for a Metro Manila address arrives in a reusable canvas pouch or a cloth bag for orders with multiple items. Meanwhile, customers outside Metro Manila can expect their orders to come in a box, with the jars carefully wrapped in honeycomb paper and nestled on a bed of paper shavings.

With Ilka, international advocacy organization Oceana continues its efforts to engage with innovative local eco-enterprises that promote alternatives to plastic products and packaging and encourage Filipino consumers to make the switch to a healthier, plastic-free lifestyle.

Po encourages fellow entrepreneurs, who might still be having second thoughts on whether going sustainable would be worth the risk, to simply make the switch as customers are now more aware and appreciative of eco-enterprises.





STRATEGIC  
CORPORATION  
AND  
INITIATIVE  
SERVICE

UNENVIABLE LIST INCLUDES TAYLOR SWIFT, KIM KARDASHIAN, JAY-Z

# 'CLIMATE CRIMINAL': CELEBRITIES RAPPED OVER JET USE

PARIS—From a 14-minute flight by Drake's private plane to Taylor Swift's carbon footprint, celebrities are struggling to shake off a firestorm over their jet emissions amid the climate crisis.

Fury erupted in July when reality star Kylie Jenner shared a picture to her 364 million Instagram users of her and her partner, rapper Travis Scott, in front of two jets with the caption: "you wanna take mine or yours?"

Critics on social media swiftly attacked Jenner, calling her a "climate criminal."

Then last week, British sustainability marketing firm Yard named and shamed the "worst private jet CO2 emission offenders" among celebrities.

Normally used to topping music charts, US pop star Swift headlined the unenviable list, prompting a torrent of social media outrage, memes and jokes that she was using her jet to pick up food.

Her jet has flown 170 times since January, with total flight

emissions for the year reaching 8,293.54 tonnes, or 1,184.8 times more than the average person, Yard said.

In second place was boxer Floyd Mayweather followed by rapper Jay-Z.

Jenner's half-sister, reality TV star Kim Kardashian, ranked seventh, having recently flaunted her jet's cashmere-clad interior. Rapper Scott was 10th while Jenner herself was 19th.

Yard cautioned that its list was "not conclusive to the biggest offenders" as it is based on the "Celebrity Jets" Twitter account, which tracks the flights thanks to public data. It was also impossible to determine if the stars were on all the recorded flights.

"Taylor's jet is loaned out regularly to other individuals," Swift's publicist told media. "To attribute most or all of these trips to her is blatantly incorrect."

While Drake escaped the top 10 list, the Canadian rapper faced heat over a 14-minute flight between Toronto and Hamilton in July, especially af-



Taylor Swift —REUTERS

ter he said that the "Air Drake" plane was empty.

"This is just them moving planes to whatever airport they are being stored at for anyone who was interested in the logistics... nobody takes that flight," he said on Instagram.

"It's even worse if it flew empty," said Beatrice Jarrige, long-distance mobility project manager at Shift Project, a non-profit focused on climate change.

## 'Fly with climate bombs'

The aviation sector is responsible for 2 to 3 percent of carbon dioxide emissions.

Mark Zuckerberg and even Russian oligarchs.

Sweeney has inspired copycat accounts.

Sebastien, a 35-year-old aerospace engineer who refused to give his real name, created in April the "I Fly Bernard" account that follows flights by French billionaires, including Bernard Arnault, the head of luxury giant LVMH.

"What I wish to condemn is their use of private jets like taxis," he said, pointing to their multiple domestic and European flights.

Jarrige hopes the anger on social media turns into political action. "It is not a question of totally banning such flights, but the richest must make an effort to be more restrained," she said, calling for more investment in railways.

Todts said celebrities can and should do more to encourage the development of biofuels rather than kerosene. "If they actually use their power to buy clean fuels, it would encourage the industry to develop them," he said. —AFP



Kim Kardashian —REUTERS



Drake —AFP

But a report in May by Transport & Environment, a European nongovernment group, showed the carbon footprint of private jets is five to 14 times higher per passenger compared with commercial flights, and 50 times bigger than that of train riders.

"We are allowing people to fly with climate bombs," said William Todts, executive director of the clean transport campaign group.

The usage of private jets has soared since the coronavirus pandemic, with wealthier customers seeking to avoid any cancellations.

Private jet flights increased by 7 percent in 2021 compared to 2019, according to aviation data research firm WingX.

In Europe, celebrities using private jets could use the continent's vast train network for the majority of their journeys instead, Todts said.

## Jets 'like taxis'

The Celebrity Jets account was created by 19-year-old student Jack Sweeney in 2020 after he started following Elon Musk's private plane.

He now has 30 accounts tracking sports stars, Meta boss