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Editorial

PH should act to ban waste imports

THE new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act (Republic Act 11898) lapsed into law on July 22, and was lauded by its House and Senate backers as "a good start" toward improving the Philippines' management of solid waste pollution, in this case, plastic. The Act addresses, at least in part, plastic produced and consumed in this country, and despite some criticisms, is a step in the right direction.

However, its impact is likely to be muted because Congress and the executive branch have for several years ignored badly needed measures to stop the importation of waste from other countries.

Several of our Asean neighbors also face the same problem, but because they are moving quickly to stop waste imports into their countries, unless the government acts quickly, the Philippines may become an even more popular dumping ground for the developed world's garbage.

Under our current laws, a significant amount of waste from other countries — the US is the biggest source by a wide margin — can be legally imported;

this amounted to more than 11,000 metric tons in 2019. Legal waste imports include materials such as scrap metals for reprocessing; sorted scrap plastic; so-called electronic waste or e-waste, discarded computers, and other devices; and scrap paper materials that can be recycled into new paper products. How much waste is illegally imported is anyone's guess, as smuggled shipments are only occasionally detected;

the most recent was a shipment of several containers of mixed trash from the US that arrived in Subic in 2020.

Even though the legally imported waste would appear to have some value, in reality it only adds to an already unmanageable waste problem. According to a World Bank report in March 2021, about 78 percent of the potential value of recyclable or reusable plastics produced domestically is lost each year due to the Philippines' lack of capacity to process it. Other studies indicate that there are similar "recycling gaps" in other forms of waste as well. This situation demands that a complete ban on waste imports be implemented, whether all at once or in phases, as other countries in the region such as China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam have already done or are in the process of implementing.

"The government's failure to take the easy and almost entirely cost-free step to ban waste imports simply undermines every other effort to reduce waste and minimize harm to the environment."



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There are three ready tools to achieve this, but in all three cases the government has so far failed to act.

The first and most broad-ranging is the so-called Basel Ban Amendment, which went into force elsewhere around the world in 2019. The amendment revises the 1992 Basel Agreement, which the Philippines ratified in 1994, that originally codified definitions of waste and set limits on transnational trade in waste. Under the amendment, all exports of waste from developed countries to developing countries is simply prohibited. As recently as this past June, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a public statement calling for ratification of the amendment, but to no avail, as it has been completely ignored by the Senate.

The second tool is the issuance of a DENR order that would impose a ban, modifying a controversial 2013 order that allowed some waste imports. In 2019, the DENR announced that it was undertaking a review to issue such an order, and it was anticipated that the policy change would be announced within a few months. However, no further action was taken, so the problematic 2013 order remains in effect.

Finally, Congress can pass a law to impose a ban on imported waste, which would strengthen the Basel Ban Amendment, provide reasonable protection for the country even if the amendment is not ratified, and obviate the need for action on the part of the DENR. As of the beginning of 2020, there were no fewer than 22 bills on a waste import ban pending in the House, along with a number in the Senate; none of these advanced beyond the committee stage.

As skeptics of the EPR Law have pointed out, its effectiveness depends on there being other laws and regulations that complement what it is trying to achieve in more effectively managing waste. The government's failure to take the easy and almost entirely cost-free step to ban waste imports simply undermines every other effort to reduce waste and minimize harm to the environment.



House panel OKs tax on plastics, e-commerce

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ [@joveemarie](#)

PROPOSALS to apply value-added tax (VAT) on the use of digital platforms, to impose excise tax on plastic bags and to simplify tax payments were approved by the House Committee on Ways and Means on Wednesday.

Committee Chairman Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said his colleagues voted to pass the proposed Digital Economy VAT, the Ease of Paying Taxes Bill and the measure imposing excise tax on plastic bags.

These measures are eligible for swift approval under Rule 10, Section 48 of the House of Representatives as these bills were approved on third and final reading in the Lower House during the 18th Congress.

Salceda particularly noted that the proposed Digital Economy VAT law will close ambiguities in the VAT system that have allowed some digital services and goods sold over the digital space to remain outside VAT-coverage.

The lawmaker added that some P154 billion in incremental revenues over five years could go into government coffers if the bill is enacted into law.

The proposal seeks to impose a 12-percent VAT on providers of online services like the Netflix, Spotify and Lazada platforms.

Rep. Brosas reacts

HOWEVER, Assistant Minority Leader and Gabriela Partylist Rep. Arlene D. Brosas warned against new pass-on charges to subscribers of these online streaming platforms and services once VAT is applied.

"While we need to level the playing field in the digital economy, such aim should not be at the expense of ordinary Filipinos relying on various digital platforms and services," the lawmaker said.

"We cannot be comforted by the assurance that there will be no pass-on charges supposedly because the digital tax will be credited as tax compliance in the platform's origin country," Brosas said. "*Iba ang binabayaran nilang buwis kumpara sa panukalang VAT on digital transactions proposal.*" [They pay different taxes compared to the proposed VAT on digital transactions.]

The lawmaker, a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, noted that aside from the services of foreign-based platforms, the software licenses of Microsoft Corp. and Apple Inc. and even mobile games are covered by the bill.

Brosas moved to exclude scholarly digital services commonly used by educational institutions such as webinar platforms from the coverage of the digital tax bill so as not to further burden students with additional fees.

Internet-based trade

ACCORDING to Salceda, the measure seeks to level the playing field

between traditional and digital businesses by clarifying the imposition of VAT on digital service providers (DSPs).

The lawmaker added he hopes the fiscal space from the proposal will provide fiscal space to support digitalization of small businesses, the national broadband network and jobs centers and training for digital freelancers.

"The digital economy is growing rapidly; but digital economy taxation is falling flat," Salceda said. He noted that in 2019, the digital economy tax collections of the BIR was at P45 billion. By 2020, it was still at around P45 billion.

"That's hardly believable given the increase in digital transactions," the lawmaker said. "In fact, just to clarify, this is not a new tax. We pay VAT for almost all goods and services, except those specifically exempted by law. It goes without saying that the digital economy should be subject to VAT, but we are unable to capture these revenues because of ambiguities in tax laws."

The bill said digital services such as digital advertising, subscription-based services and other online services that can be delivered through the Internet as VAT-able.

The measure also aims to strengthen tax compliance through simplified invoicing and registration requirements for VAT-registered nonresident DSPs.

The bill refers to a DSP as a service provider of a digital service or goods to a buyer, through operating an online platform for purposes of buying and selling of goods or services or by making transactions for the provision of digital services on behalf of any person.

Salceda added they are also considering providing a framework for the taxation of digital assets such as non-fungible tokens, cryptocurrency and others.



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Simplify payment

THE committee has also approved the Ease of Paying Taxes (EOPT) bill, a proposal that's gained a strong backing by the largest foreign and domestic business groups in the country.

Salceda said the EOPT bill is the most important ease of doing business proposal pending in Congress.

"Taxes are often the hardest part of doing business. So, [if] you lift that difficulty, you ease much of the burden of businesses, especially small ones," he added.

The EOPT bill proposes to amend the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) as amended by introducing administrative reforms that will simplify tax compliance and strengthen taxpayer rights.

The proposal mandates the Bureau of Internal Revenue to create taxpayer classifications depending on the capacity to comply with tax rules and regulations, amount and type of tax paid, gross sales and/or receipts as well as inflation, volume of business, wage and employment levels and similar economic and financial factors.

The EOPT bill also calls for the implementation of simplified tax rules and regulations for ease of compliance.

To simplify VAT administration, the proposed bill seeks to eliminate the distinction between the documentation and basis of sales as against services subject to VAT. At present, sales subject to VAT should be evidenced by invoices while services subject to VAT should be covered by official receipts. The EOPT bill makes VAT invoices the sole basis and documentation.

Early filing

THE bill also proposes to add a provision that the P3-million VAT threshold, which was increased by the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law (Republic Act

10963), may be adjusted to its present value not later than January 31, 2021 and every three years hence based on the consumer price index released by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The EOPT also proposes to allow the payment of the taxes before they are due. This impliedly allows payment of tax not necessarily simultaneously with the filing of tax returns.

Salceda said the EOPT bill is aligned with the priority of the Department of Finance to digitalize the taxpaying process.

To allow full digitalization of the taxpayer experience, the EOPT proposes to delete various provisions in the NIRC that require taxes to be paid in the BIR offices or banks within the jurisdiction of the taxpayer's legal residence, principal place of business or principal office, thereby giving taxpayers payment flexibility.

The bill also seeks to introduce provisions on taxpayers' rights in the Tax Code and create a taxpayers' advocate office.

Use of plastic

THE House Committee on Ways and Means on Wednesday also endorsed for plenary approval the substitute bill imposing excise tax on single-use plastic.

House Committee on Ways and Means Vice Chairperson Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, principal author of the bill, said the use of plastic bags as means of transporting fresh produce, meat, clothing and other consumption good has become customary in the conduct of trade not only in the Philippines but in other country as well.

To reduce its costly environmental impact, Suansing said several countries have already imposed taxes on the use of plastic bags, while others have even gone so far as to implement a total ban.

"Given this concern, it is, therefore, necessary that the Congress fi-

nally address the environmental and human costs brought about by the proliferation of plastic bag waste," she added.

Suansing's proposal seeks to impose a P20-excise tax per kilogram on plastic bags.

By imposing this levy, she said all stakeholders will be encouraged to explore and utilize environment-friendly alternatives to single-use plastic bags given its detrimental effects on the individual while generating additional revenue for the government.

This will help fund the government's solid waste management programs under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the lawmaker added.

Salceda earlier said the proposal will provide the government an additional P4.8 billion annual revenue.

Pain to industry

THE bill will also add a new section designated as Section 150-C of the NIRC of 1997.

Under the new section, an excise tax in the amount of P20 shall be imposed for every kilogram of plastic bag removed from the place of production or released from the custody of the Bureau of Customs.

The bill defines plastic bags as secondary level plastics made of synthetic or semisynthetic organic polymer. These products are commonly known as "labo" or "sando" bags, with or without handle, used as packaging for or container of goods.

However, the Philippine Plastics Industry Association Inc. (PPIA) told lawmakers the proposal will hurt and eventually "kill" the industry.

The PPIA said members of the industry are currently facing the negative impact of local ordinances banning the use of plastic bag in their areas. Several local government units have already issued ordinances against single-use plastic bags.

MABAGAL ang usad ng polisiya ukol sa usapin ng water management, utilization and conservation dahil sa isyu ng tubig sa bansa ay pinaghahatian ng 39 agencies na nag-uunahan sa pondo at nag-aagawan sa hurisdiksyon.

Sa mga mauunlad na bansa, ang serbisyo ng tubig ay nakaatang sa isang departamento.

Lubha kasing kinakailangan na ng bansa ang Department of Water Resources para sa pagkakaroon ng water security sa bansa lalonglalo na sa mga high urbanized area katulad ng Metro Manila na ilang beses na ring nakaranas ng water crisis.

Sa panukala ni Albay congressman Jose Ma. Clemente "Joey" Salceda, mahahati sa dalawang hurisdiksyon na lamang ang isyu ng tubig sa bansa, ang pagkakaroon ng Department of Water Resources at pananatili ng National Water Resources Board.

Ipapasailalim din sa DWR ang River Basin Control Office at Manila Bay Coordinating Office na nasa pangangasiwa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources; ang flood manage-



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ment and sediment units ng Department of Public Works and Highways; ang water supply sanitation unit ng Department of the Interior and Local Government; water quality management section ng Environmental Management Bureau; Local Water Utilities Administration; ang Laguna Lake Development Authority; NIA o ang National Irrigation Administration; at ang MWSS o Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Ang paglikha sa DWR ay naaayon sa planong "rightsizing" ng Marcos administration o pagsasagawa ng streamlining sa mga gawain at responsibilidad ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Target na maipasa sa

kasalukuyang 19th Congress ang paglikha sa DWR dahil sa nanganganib na rin ng estado ng seguridad ng tubig ng bansa.

Mismong ang UNDP o United Nations Development Program na ang nagsasabi na kung hindi kikilos ang mga bansa sa kasalukuyan, malaki ang posibilidad ng water crisis sa taong 2027 hanggang 2030.



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Carbon tax under study

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Department of Finance (DOF) is studying the viability of imposing a carbon tax in a bid to generate much-needed revenues and address environmental concerns.

On the sidelines of the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines-San Miguel Corp. economic forum yesterday, Finance Undersecretary Zeno Ronald Abenoja said the DOF has partnered with an international organization to look at carbon taxation.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has said carbon tax is one of the measures that the administration may consider "if feasible."

"We have an agreement already with our partner to look at this proposal. It is something that we are looking at very closely," Abenoja told **The STAR**.

"We will seriously consider, that's why we are devoting resources and studies on this issue," he said.

Abenoja did not name the partner, but another DOF official said the Philippines is partnering with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the study.

UNOPS supports the government and other partners in sustainable procurement, infrastructure, governance, grant management and logistical support services.

The UN-attached agency's work focuses on building national capacity, strengthening community resilience and supporting efforts toward the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

Abenoja said the study aims to assess the current situation in the Philippines right now, as well as the structure of the economy.

"It will look at the options that could be applicable to circumstances and the gains from the experiences of other countries. That is the scope of our engagement... to provide us options as to the possible instruments that we can adopt in terms of carbon pricing and carbon taxation," Abenoja said.

As to the timeline, the DOF official said the study would take a "few months" and that next year would be more reasonable to complete it.

Former finance chief Carlos Dominguez had proposed a tax on carbon emissions as part of the government's fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan.

Under the plan, the proposal on carbon tax may be implemented by 2025.

Global efforts to slap taxes on carbon remain small. Many countries, including the Philippines, have yet to ride on the carbon tax.

The Asia-Pacific region is both highly exposed to climate risk and a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, considering that the region is home to the majority of the world's population and has been the main driver of global growth for the past decades.

Turn to B3

Carbon From B1

But imposing a carbon tax may not always be the best and most preferred choice considering every country's circumstances just like in the Philippines, where power

rates are among the costliest in the region.

No less than the Department of Energy earlier said the Philippines was not ready for carbon tax as this would make the country uncompetitive in terms of power rates.



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Court voids P34-B reclamation of Manila Bay by Gatchalians

Makati judge rules project did not undergo public bidding

By Miguel R. Camus
@miguelrcamusINQ

A Makati City Court has voided the P34-billion Manila Bay reclamation venture of the Gatchalian family, saying it did not undergo the required competitive bidding process.

The Manila Waterfront City proposal is a mixed-use development spanning 318 hectares that would be located west of the Quirino Grandstand up to the breakwater of Manila South Harbor.

The joint venture, signed in 2017, was led by the City of Manila and Waterfront Manila Pre-

mier Development Inc., owned by the Gatchalian family.

But in an order last April 25, the Makati Court nullified the venture for various violations.

No Neda approval

It said the City of Manila and Waterfront "failed to secure the required [National Economic and Development Authority] board approval and because the Manila Waterfront City reclamation project did not undergo public bidding as required."

The court also recognized a project award granted three decades ago to petitioner, Asean Seas Resources and Con-

struction Development Corp., which is led by the heirs of the late construction pioneer Felipe Cruz, founder of F.F. Cruz & Co. Inc.

Thus, the order directed the City of Manila and Philippine Reclamation Authority to "cease and desist from acting on any application submitted by any person or taking any action required by any person except petitioner over the area previously awarded to petitioner embodied in the notice of award dated 21 March 1991."

The Manila Waterfront City was the fourth major reclamation project under then mayor

and former President, Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

It was meant to host commercial centers, residential buildings, hotels, casinos and government buildings and sports facilities.

President Duterte's ban

In 2020, then President Rodrigo Duterte said he would ban private reclamation projects in Manila Bay except for those connected to government projects and those that were previously approved.

The following year, the Philippine Competition Commission approved the Manila-Wa-

terfront venture, saying the project "will expand the existing market and likely create an opportunity for the emergence of new markets for commercial and residential real estate within the City of Manila."

In 2020, Asean Seas Resources filed the suit in Makati after learning of the joint venture agreement.

The company said the Manila Waterfront City would encroach on their 140-hectare reclamation proposal within the boundary of the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road Project known as the MCCR- North Sector Reclamation Project. INQ



BBM reviews water management proposal

BY KRISTINA MARALIT

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is reviewing a proposal to establish an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Program that seeks to balance the country's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

"This program is an approach to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising our ecosystem," a statement released by the Office of the Presi-

dent said.

The Chief Executive mentioned in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last month that it is high time for the Department of Water Resources to be institutionalized and adopt the IWRM. This, in turn, can be used to craft and imple-

ment the "strategic framework for national water management, policymaking and planning."

Passing a bill that would establish the said agency was listed among his Priority Legislative Measures, and he has called on both houses of Congress for its approval.

Marcos had also repeatedly called for a review of the country's supply of fresh, clean and potable water, especially in urban areas, pointing out that many decades-old systems need to be either rehabilitated or replaced.

The President also underscored the importance of having accessible drinking water in emergencies and natural disasters, such as the

big earthquake that hit Northern Luzon late last month. He called for more water purifying systems to be put in place.

Access to safe drinking water in times of calamities, he stressed, is needed as "cholera, diphtheria will come into play" and put affected residents at risk of contracting the said diseases.

Marcos tasked the government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways and even the Department of Agriculture, which he concurrently heads, to collaborate with the private sector and other stakeholders.



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BBM eyes integrated

water resources

program for PH

PRESIDENT Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is studying a proposal to adopt an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) program for the country.

“This program is an approach to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising our ecosystem,” the Office of the President said on its official Facebook page.

Marcos concurrently serves as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

In his first State of the Nation Address on July 25, the President urged Congress to pass a measure creating a Department of Water Resources.

He said the proposed IWRM will be adopted as the strategic framework for

national water management, policymaking, and planning once the department is created.

Marcos also said he wanted the government to look into the freshwater supply situation in the country, especially in urban areas.

He noted that many of the country’s water supply systems date back to the 1950s and must now be rehabilitated and improved.

The President has instructed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways to explore possible partnerships with the private sector to ad-

dress this crucial situation.

Marcos in his SONA enumerated 19 measures which he hoped Congress would pass, including the creation of the said Department of Water Resources.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos said it’s a crucial requirement to manage water resources better.

“It is unfortunate that in this day and age, water is still a luxury for many Filipinos who still do not have access to clean drinking water,” Abalos said. “With the creation of a Department of Water Resources, there will be a dedicated government agency that will integrate and harmonize water management efforts of different water agencies and ensure the optimal management of water resources.”



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Poverty, economic scarring and public policy

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Hearing those tales of some Mangyan servants of God was more than heartbreaking. Their children had to trek for three hours each way to reach school to get some learning. Instead of entering school at seven years of age, they would wait until around 10 before they could enroll. At seven years, they are just too frail to last the distance. And even at 10, because of lack of food and nutrition, they could hang like clothes because they have little flesh and all bones. Protein is scarce because the wild boars and deer have retreated to the hinterland due to illegal logging and kaingin activities of many land grabbers.

Our hearts bled for the two Mangyan pastors, Pastor Nestor-Caoili and Pastor Adan Magallon, and their Alangan tribe in Mindoro when they narrated to us that long years of neglect of our indigenous people have put them in the tail end of progress. They have lost most of their land, while accessing education is like digging for diamonds. Infra for school buildings are marginal, classrooms are limited. Medical facilities close enough to their "settlements" are virtually non-existent. Good the husband-and-wife team of Dr. Neil and Professor Doreen Benavidez put up the MMT Saleng (for 'light') Ministries to minister to them in nearly all aspects of civilized existence.

If education equalizes people's access to opportunities to break out of poverty, then with very few options, many of our indigenous people are destined to remain poor.

Poverty is not unique to the Philippines or to the Filipino people.

International financial institutions and humanitarian organizations share the same view that global poverty is a result of several factors that bedevil around eight percent of the world's population. They include inequality and marginalization, conflict, malnutrition, poor healthcare systems, climate change, lack of education, poor public works and infrastructure, and lack of government support.

The World Bank on April 26, 2022 observed that for almost 25 years, the number of people living in extreme poverty — or on less than \$1.90 per person per day, or roughly a hundred Philippine

pesos — was steadily declining. However, the pandemic disrupted the downtrend and with conflict and climate change, exacerbated poverty incidence. World Bank estimated that due to the pandemic's scarring effects, the Ukraine war and rising inflation, it is possible to see an additional 75-95 million people joining the ranks of the very poor. The goal to reduce poverty to three percent by 2030 would be more elusive.

And last Monday, the ugly truth was reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that the poverty afflicting our Mangyan brothers and the rest of the Filipino people has worsened. NEDA Secretary Arsi Balisacan attributed the rise in poverty incidence to "the strict lockdowns implemented to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease... including income and employment losses."

The preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in 2021 illustrate that poverty incidence among the

The government does not have to guess what would happen if it fails to do anti-poverty policy intervention.

Filipino population, or the proportion of our people whose per capita income cannot sufficiently meet the individual basic food and non-food needs, rose to 18.1 percent, from 2018's 16.7 percent.

Why, that's almost 20 percent of our population, or one in five among us is poor!

This means that nearly 20 million Filipinos lived below the poverty threshold of around ₱12,030 per month for a family of five. The subsistence incidence, or the proportion of Filipinos whose income is not enough to meet even just the basic food needs, also rose from 5.2 percent in 2018 to 5.9 percent in 2021, or 5.9 million Filipinos.

Based on income gap, or the average amount of income required by the poor to be able to get out of poverty relative to poverty thresholds, PSA computed the amount of ₱2,719 in additional income for a poor family to transcend pov-

erty. This is a rough guide as to how much ayuda is necessary to protect the poorest of the poor.

The government does not have to guess what would happen if it fails to do anti-poverty policy intervention.

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) produced an interesting discussion paper entitled "Poverty, the Middle Class, and Income Distribution amid Covid-19" written by Jose Ramon G. Albert, Michael Ralph M. Abrigo, Francis Mark A. Quimba and Jana Flor V. Vizmanos two years ago. Based on the previous FIES data on poverty in 2018, prior to the pandemic, the PIDS fellows estimated the impact of the pandemic on income and poverty. Using simulation, they showed that in the medium scenario with a 10 percent reduction in income, the number of poor Filipinos could increase by 5.5 million over the 17.67 million poor Filipinos during that year. However, if we succeed in implementing public intervention in terms of social amelioration program or the cash transfer, and the small business wage subsidy in place, the number could decline to 1.5 million.

The actual number turned out 19.99 million poor Filipinos three years later in 2021 against the estimated 19.17 million, or around 820,000 more. This means the methodology is robust, and that we must have fallen short of the required public intervention envisioned in the government budget due to possible corruption and poor distribution.

By 2024, unless the national government shapes up its health mitigation program, social amelioration and small business support and economic recovery efforts, the severe economic scarring in both the academe and the labor market could further trigger several million people more joining the ranks of the poor.

We might be seeing raging, rather than bleeding, hearts for our poor Mangyan brethren and for the many among us. In that case, breaking the chains of disempowerment owing to poverty could be quicker.



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(Mal)nutrition

BUSINESS MATTERS

GUILLERMO M. LUZ

We often talk of people as our country's greatest asset. But if that asset is unhealthy, uneducated, and malnourished, we won't be seeing the benefits.

One of the most critical developmental challenges facing the country is a topic that doesn't receive as much attention, discussion, and creative thinking as it deserves: malnutrition. This basically refers to not receiving enough food, nutrients, vitamins, and minerals in one's diet. It has profound effects on a person in terms of poor health, low cognition, and low productivity. It also has long-term effects on society and the economy in terms of lower GDP, higher health care costs, and lower returns on investment in education.

Malnutrition works in a cycle that repeats itself, unless intervention is made to break this cycle at certain points to improve nutrition for people. For instance, babies born with low birth weight (typically from malnourished mothers who exhibit low weight gain during pregnancy) have higher infant mortality rates than regular weight babies, impaired mental development, and inadequate growth. Without some nutritional intervention, they could grow to become stunted children and adolescents with reduced mental capacity. They then could grow into malnourished adults—who may repeat the cycle by giving birth to low birth weight babies—and elderly malnourished who themselves need care and are unable to help in the household.

The problem is more widespread in the country than what most of us might expect. Among children aged five and younger, 30.3 percent are stunted (e.g. have low height for their age), 19.1 percent are underweight, and 5.6 percent are wasted (e.g. have low weight for their height). Incredibly, 40 percent are obese.

Among children aged 6-10 years, 24.5 percent are stunted, 25 percent are underweight, 7.6 percent are wasted, and 11.7 percent are obese. Among adolescents aged 10-19 years, 26.3 percent are stunted, 11.3 percent are wasted, and 11.6 percent are obese. There is no data available for the underweight. Among adults over 20 years of age, 8 percent are wasted. More disturbing is that 20.1 percent of pregnant women are wasted and nutritionally at risk, and 11 percent of nursing mothers are wasted. Both factors contribute to the cycle of low birth weight babies mentioned above.

There are many causes of malnutrition, all of them somehow interrelated. There is, of course, a lack of access to affordable and nutritious food, as well as poor health care for mothers and children. There is also insufficient access to sanitation and clean water. Lack of access to water is a whole other problem in itself, which has an impact on health, disease, and long-term economic productivity, aside from its effects on malnutrition. At its core, the root causes of malnutrition also lie in poverty, environmental degradation, and public services and policy.

On a societal scale, the malnutrition cycle leads to low attendance in school and low cognitive capacity. This, in turn, leads to difficulty in learning and low school performance, which leads to lower skills, lower work output and low productivity, and low income. This brings people to a state of poverty and low nutritious food consumption,

completing the cycle and reinforcing the malnutrition trend. Whatever we spend on education, the returns on investment that we'd like to expect will not materialize if the malnutrition cycle continues.

The situation is difficult, but not hopeless. According to the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, \$1 spent to avert stunting among children two years old and younger saves \$103 in health, education, and lost productivity over the long-term. There are government agencies, international organizations, companies, and civil society organizations engaged in tackling this issue. What it needs is probably more support and market-driven solutions.

Individually and collectively, the business community has embarked on projects, such as Scaling Up Nutrition, Pilipinas Kontra Gutom, and other support projects. There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution because there are too many segments of the population who are vulnerable and in need. However, given the magnitude of the problem and its long-term impact on individuals and on society in general, it makes sense to think through and establish a public-private partnership to reduce malnutrition. Such an effort could accomplish a few things over time: boost the agricultural and food industry, reduce health burdens, improve education outcomes, raise productivity, and spur economic growth.

Guillermo M. Luz is chief resilience officer at the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (pdrf.org)

Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club (makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph).



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Climate change, urbanization threaten to submerge Intramuros

Soon, the famous Walled City of Intramuros in Manila may turn into a water world.

This was the warning raised by the Intramuros Administration (IA) amid the adverse effects of climate change and the rapid urbanization of Metro Manila.

Ramil B. Tibayan, head of the

Cultural Properties Conservation Division of the Intramuros Administration, said there are now alarming indications that Intramuros is heading to that possibility, one of them is the flooding inside the Dungeons of Fort Santiago.

"Regarding the Fort Santiago Dungeons, we came ▶7

Climate change, urbanization threaten to submerge Intramuros 1◀

into conclusion to temporarily close it due to the heavy rains we are experiencing now. This is because of the flooding inside. As you may know, the floor elevation of the dungeons is near the water level of Manila Bay and Pasig River," said Tibayan in an exclusive interview with the Manila Bulletin.

"Perhaps, the ongoing upgrade of pumping stations in Manila Bay could also trigger the flooding in dungeons all along the Parian Gardens, one of IA's managed parks," he said.

The dungeons were originally built to house the weapons of the Spaniards during the colonization. The Philippine's national hero Dr. Jose Rizal was imprisoned in one of its cells.

The prison cells inside the dungeons can only accommodate up to 100 people but after World War II, more or less 600

prisoners were found dead inside.

Tibayan said the flooding inside the dungeons will continue unless the pumping station projects near the Manila Bay are completed.

The massive flooding experienced in Manila the past few days were attributed to the dolomite project which allegedly barred the exit of water into the Manila Bay. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), however, said the flooding was because of the three ongoing projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways near Manila Bay.

"During heavy rains, there is a tendency for the water level in Pasig and Manila Bay to rise, thus causing flood inside the dungeons. The usual high tide is also a factor in the flooding. Since the flood pumps as of today cannot be used, storm water are

directed to the Pasig River," said Tibayan.

Tibayan then expressed fears that excessive flooding may bring peril to the large part of Intramuros and other tourist destinations near Manila Bay.

"Studies show that due to climate change and urbanization, sea levels rise

rapidly and can potentially inundate not only Intramuros but also other tourist destinations near Manila Bay," Tibayan said.

Intramuros houses a lot of historical and popular establishments that include schools and government offices. (In Marcos Tadios)



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LandBank lends P5.8B for agri climate resiliency

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

IN support of building a climate-resilient agribusiness value chain in the country, the Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) has approved loans totaling P5.8 billion to 15 borrowers as of June 30, 2022.

Through the LandBank Climate Resilient Agriculture Financing Program, the bank aims to finance farming technologies, systems, facilities and equipment that will help local farms and fisheries become more adaptive and resilient to the effects of climate change, such as severe storms and prolonged drought.

"LandBank supports investments in innovative technologies that will help address climate change risks in the agriculture sector. This modernization is aimed toward improving the production and

income of our local farmers while ensuring national food security amid the changing global climate," said LandBank President and Chief Executive Officer Cecilia Borromeo.

The program can finance crop, livestock and fishery projects that utilize climate-resilient technologies, such as the adoption of planting materials and seedling techniques for climate-resistant food crops, and pipe irrigation that helps prevent water loss during dry season and climate-adaptive farming systems such as terracing.

Modern facilities and equip-

ment that minimize harvest and post-harvest losses during typhoons can also be financed under the program including rice harvesters, dryers and outdoor grain storage facilities.

The program can also provide credit funds for working capital and the construction of facilities, such as greenhouses, reservoirs, rainwater collecting systems and farm-to-market roads with drainage, and other new and emerging technologies approved and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture and the concerned Municipal Agricultural Office.

Under the LandBank Climate Resilient Agriculture Financing Program, cooperatives, associations and private borrowers categorized as single proprietorships, partnerships or corporations may borrow up to 80 percent of the total project cost. Meanwhile, lo-

cal government units may borrow not more than their net borrowing capacity as certified by the Bureau of Local Government Finance.

Term loans for working capital and permanent working capital are payable up to one year and three years, respectively, while loans for fixed assets and construction of facilities are payable based on cash flow but not more than its economic useful life. The interest rate shall be based on the prevailing market rate.

The LandBank Climate Resilient Agriculture Financing Program underscores the bank's commitment toward advancing a more resilient agriculture sector while promoting environmental sustainability.

In his recent State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. identified climate change and its impact on agriculture as one of the top priorities of his administration.



Expert: Businesses need resilience, sustainability

AN expert on Wednesday said that businesses should adopt eight initiatives to address the pandemic, climate change and other global challenges.

During *The Manila Times* forum entitled "Environmental Practices for Sustainable Businesses," Young Environmental Forum



Executive Director Ludwig Federigan said businesses should embrace resilience and sustainability as top priorities to ensure hu-

mankind will continue to survive and thrive. "We need to build a system that is more resilient in facing pandemic, climate change and other emerging global challenges. There are at least eight environment-friendly initiatives that businesses can adopt to ensure climate-change

considerations are being implemented," Federigan said.

The eight initiatives include the harvesting of rainwater; greening workspaces; reducing energy consumption and harnessing solar and other renewable energy

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■ SUSTAINABILITY FROM A1

Expert: Businesses

sources; implementing solid waste management practices such as reusing, and refusing single-use plastics and reducing food wastes; choosing greener equipment and sustainable suppliers; optimizing employees' transportation and promoting environmentally friendly ways of working; building capacities to prepare and respond to climate change and risks; and raising awareness through information dissemination and capacity building.

"Harvesting of rainwater can provide water when there is a drought and can help mitigate flooding. The water can then be used for cleaning office areas, flushing toilets and gardening," Federigan added.

Republic Act 6716, or the "Rainwater Collection and Springs Development Law," mandates the construction of water wells and rainwater collectors, developing springs and rehabilitating water wells in villages nationwide.

Federigan said that on-site renewable power generation in the form of solar panels will cut emissions related to electricity consumption.

"Choose more environmentally friendly suppliers and equipment, and choose suppliers who demonstrate good environmental practices," he

said. "We do not have the luxury of time if we aim to halt the trend of the devastating impacts of climate change on our businesses. Let us learn from one another, support each other's climate actions, advise on strategies, and go for convergence."

Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute President Glenn Banaguas said he developed the Climate Smart Philippines Science for Service 10 years ago to address climate change.

"We started the program in 81 provinces, 146 cities, 1,488 municipalities and 42,046 barangays so whenever we talk about Climate Smart, we refer to particular solutions, climate-change mitigation and climate-change adaptation," Banaguas said.

He identified the program as a track risk impact policy (TRIP) framework.

"This is always what we consider every time a disaster happens such as tropical cyclones, flooding, drought, and sea level rise. It's not just one particular solution. Under the track assessment, we consider the human resources and demographics, the people who are living in the province. We also want to include the historical analysis. What happened before. What

is happening right now. It is just a matter of comparing what happened in a certain province before," he added.

Banaguas added that the climate scenarios and projections are very important to understand what a particular province is going to experience, including the amount of rainfall and an increase in temperature.

"Under the climate scenarios and projections, we use global climate models that are usually accredited," Banaguas explained.

"During the Covid-19, we made an analysis, what is going to happen to the areas affected by Covid-19, if sea level rise is going to happen, what is going to happen in the areas affected by Covid-19. If flooding is going to happen. The same analysis we also applied in the tropical cyclone or typhoons: which areas are to be considered, low risk, moderate, risk, high risk," he added.

Banaguas said he wants to make sure that the programs in the business sector are aligned with the international action plans and frameworks, with priorities for food security, sustainable energy, water sufficiency, human security, ecological and environmental stability, climate-smart industries and infrastructure, knowledge management and capacity development.

On the other hand, SM Investments Vice President for Corporate Commu-

nications Miguel Mercado said SM has implemented sustainability programs.

He said that the SM Green initiative of the SM Supermalls includes water, waste and energy management.

"We have already implemented our own rainwater catchment in 20 malls. At least in one mall, we capture enough water to fill up about 17 Olympic-sized pools and that has helped reduce flooding. It has also helped us in recycling the water, so that is about 35 percent of the water in the malls are recycled," Mercado noted.

According to Mercado, disaster resilience efforts are also being implemented in SM Supermalls.

"In our mall in SM Marikina, what we did is build the mall on stilts. In fact, the first level of the parking lot is higher than the highest flooding levels. We did that so that business can continue during floods, and we can protect our tenants and our community as well. When a flood happens, people can go to our malls to seek refuge. So, water catchment and disaster resilience are among the things that we are glad to be working on," he said.

The Sustainability forum was hosted by Times editors Dafort Villaseran and Peter Conrad Cariño and was livestreamed on *The Manila Times* Facebook, YouTube and Daily-motions accounts.

BELLA CARIASO



Biden inks major climate, health care law

WASHINGTON, D.C.: United States President Joe Biden signed his fellow Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), delivering what he has called the "final piece" of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before America's midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change — some \$375 billion over the decade — and would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up Internal Revenue Service enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit.

In a triumphant signing event at the White House, Biden pointed to the law as proof that democracy — no matter how long or messy the process — can still deliver for voters in America as he road-tested

a line he is likely to repeat later this fall ahead of the midterms: "The American people won, and the special interests lost."

"In this historic moment, Democrats sided with the American people, and every single Republican in the Congress sided with the special interests in this vote," Biden said, repeatedly seizing on the contrast between his party and the Grand Old Party, or GOP. "Every single one."

The House of Representatives last Friday approved the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the Senate days earlier, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

"In normal times, getting these bills done would be a huge achievement," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said during the White House



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SIGNED AND SEALED United States President Joe Biden signs the Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. (August 17 in Manila). AP PHOTO

ceremony. "But to do it now, with only 50 Democratic votes in the Senate, over an intransigent Republican minority, is nothing short of amazing."

Biden signed the bill into law during a small ceremony in the White House's State Dining Room, sandwiched between his return from a six-day beachside vacation

in South Carolina and his departure for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He plans to hold a larger "celebration" for the legislation on September 6 once lawmakers return to Washington.

The signing caps a spurt of legislative productivity for Biden and Congress, who in three months have approved legislation on

veterans' benefits, the semiconductor industry and gun checks for young buyers. The president and lawmakers have also responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and overwhelmingly supported North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership for Sweden and Finland.

With Biden's approval rating lagging, Democrats are hoping

that the string of successes will jump-start their chances of maintaining control in Washington in the midterms. The 79-year-old president aims to restore his own standing with voters as he contemplates a reelection bid.

The White House announced on Monday it was going to deploy Biden and members of his Cabinet on a "Building a Better America Tour" to promote the recent victories. One of Biden's trips will be to Ohio, where he'll view the groundbreaking of a semiconductor plant that will benefit from the recent law to bolster the production of such computer chips.

He will also stop in Pennsylvania to promote his administration's plan for safer communities, a visit that had been planned the same day he tested positive for Covid-19 last month.

Biden also plans to hold a Cabinet meeting to discuss how to implement the new climate and health care law.

Republicans say the legislation's new business taxes would increase prices, worsening the nation's bout with its highest inflation since 1981. Though Democrats have labeled the measure the Inflation Reduction Act, nonpartisan analysts say it would have a barely perceptible impact on prices. AP



Desperate times, desperate measures

With students trooping back to school in a few days and face-to-face classes about to begin, authorities are now at their wit's end in figuring out ways of easing traffic and transportation woes in the metropolis.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority alone is expecting heavy traffic when thousands of students join the commuting public with the resumption of in-person classes next week.

Pre-pandemic levels of 405,000 vehicles daily are expected to be breached according to the MMDA. During the two-year pandemic, the agency said about half a million vehicles were added to the streets, with 60 to 70 percent of them entering Metro Manila.

Although infrastructure development was emphasized during the time of former president Rodrigo Duterte, the incumbent administration is under pressure to come up with the right solution to the country's traffic woes.

As everybody knows, Metro Manila is regarded as having the worst traffic congestion in the world, costing the economy about P3.5 billion in lost opportunities every day, according to the Japan International Coordinating Agency.

Not even the billions of pesos poured into infrastructure and the shifting of manufacturing sites and container ports in Metro Manila helped abate the situation. Although the Skyway has been opened to divert traffic and new modes of transport, such as the Manila subway system, are being introduced, it would probably take long before the public gets a measure of convenience.

One study showed that the National Capital Region's infrastructure and traffic woes are caused by a range of factors, which include the overreliance on private vehicles, an underdeveloped mass transit system, and the sheer number of residents in the area, which makes it the most congested metropolis in the world.

Improving mass transport, we believe, should be the priority if this administration is to start licking the problem. If mass transport is

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What Metro Manila needs to solve its traffic congestion and management problems... is to create an entirely new government entity that will be dedicated to identifying traffic management solutions.



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good, people will no longer have to keep buying vehicles, which will only add to the volume and to the traffic on the streets.

Anywhere in the world where an adequate mass transport system is in place, commuters need not take cabs or their own vehicles, thereby creating less gridlock on the road.

Then, there's also decentralization where industries or sectors could be moved from Metro Manila to neighboring provinces to spread vehicular volume. A total infrastructure project covering Olongapo to Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, and CALABARZON can be backed up by a major budgetary allocation according to experts.

Identifying future transportation needs is therefore the key to a long-term solution to the mess we're in. The disjointed traffic management schemes implemented in every city in the metropolis are a good example of how to confuse private vehicle users, as well as commuters who rely on jeepneys and buses.

It is evident in these strategies that the mentality of traffic management, according to analysts, is still to reduce volume rather than improve the flow of traffic itself. A holistic approach not only to traffic congestion, but also transport infrastructure planning, they say, is thus required.

An integrated approach to transport and traffic management is therefore needed, but we suppose the MMDA cannot provide solely because of the scope of its services, which also include solid waste management, flood control and prevention, and, yes, even organizing the Metro Manila Film festival, among others.

The MMDA, therefore, is not expected to be a dedicated transport organization and its governance is not composed of planning and traffic management experts.

What Metro Manila needs to solve its traffic congestion and management problems, we believe, is to create an entirely new government entity that will be dedicated to identifying traffic management solutions, planning long-term infrastructure needs, and enforcing policies in the NCR that will ease the traffic situation.

This new agency will be one that is independent of any local government unit and, unlike the MMDA, does not fall under the Office of the President.

Having this powerful decision-making body dedicated to transport-related matters is expected to face a lot of opposition, despite potentially having a meaningful impact on the problem of traffic in Metro Manila.

It will require a tremendous amount of political will from the national government, but radical proposals are definitely needed to lick a radical problem like traffic.

As they say, desperate times call for desperate measures.

“
If mass transport is good, people will no longer have to keep buying vehicles, which will only add to the volume and to the traffic on the streets.”



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Maguindanao split set for vote on Sept. 17

With creation of Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur, local execs see more efficient delivery of gov't services to 1.7M residents

By Edwin O. Fernandez
@InqNational

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set Sept. 17 as the schedule for a plebiscite to decide on the question of splitting Maguindanao into two provinces.

Comelec Resolution No. 10797 set the election period from Aug. 16 to Sept. 24 during which a gun ban is imposed throughout the province.

Police have started laying down security plans to ensure that the political exercise would be peaceful and orderly.

Before leaving his post as regional police director in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Brig. Gen. Arthur Cabalona ordered the Maguindanao police to strictly implement the gun ban.

Under Republic Act No. 11550, which was signed into law by then President Rodrigo Duterte on May 27, 2021, the plebiscite schedule should have been September last year, but the Comelec called off the exercise due to conflict with the preparations for the May 9 general elections.

RA 11550 aims to split the current Maguindanao province of 36 towns into Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur.

Maguindanao del Norte will be composed of the towns of Datu Odin, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura, Talitay, North Upi, Northern Kabuntalan, Mother Kabuntalan, Parang, Buldon, Barira, Matanog and Datu Blah Sinsuat.

Maguindanao del Sur will be composed of the towns of Buluan, Ampatuan, Datu Paglas, Datu Piang, Shariff Aguak, Pagalungan, Sultan sa Barongis, South Upi, Talayan, Salipada Penda-tun, Mamasapano, Datu Montawal, Paglat, Guindulungan,



Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Rajah Buayan, Anggal Midtimbang, Mangudadatu, Pandag, Datu Hofer, Datu Salibo and Saydona Mustapha.

The capital of Maguindanao del Norte will be Datu Odin Sinsuat town while Buluan will be the government center of Maguindanao del Sur. Buluan is also the current seat of Maguindanao province.

Full support

With a month to go before the plebiscite, no group has so far campaigned for the rejection of the law.

Officials of Maguindanao have appealed to all registered voters to come out and vote on Sept. 17, saying the law, when ratified, will boost the delivery of services to some 1.7 million people in the province.

"It is best for the future of the province if you come out and vote, whether 'yes' or 'no,' it is your right to decide," lawyer Cyrus Torreña, Maguindanao provincial administrator, said in a radio interview.

Rep. Bai Dimple Mastura of Maguindanao's first congressional district also campaigned for ratification. She said that

once the new province is created, people would no longer travel far in order to seek assistance from the provincial government.

She said more government projects would be realized since the new province would cater to a lesser number of towns.

"Everybody benefits from this law because it will surely make the delivery of government services faster, quicker and more efficient," Torreña said.

A resident of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Abdilla Kadiguia Abdulbasit, said he had not heard of any group or individual who openly campaigned against the province's split.

"In the absence of groups or persons pushing for a 'no' vote, then Maguindanao will be divided beginning Sept. 18," he said, noting that he would vote to ratify the law.

Early moves

The move to divide Maguindanao dates back to 2006 through the Regional Legislative Assembly of the then Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), with the new province named Shariff Kabunsuan in honor of the Malay preacher who introduced

Islam in central Mindanao.

Although the measure was unanimously ratified, the Supreme Court in 2008 shot it down as unconstitutional as only Congress had the power to create provinces.

The split in 2006 was engineered by the Ampatuan clan who held sway in Maguindanao and the ARMM government during that time. It was to ensure the family's complete hold of a political turf with little resistance during the elections.

During the Ampatuan reign in the province from 1995 to 2009, the provincial capital was transferred from Sultan Kudarat town to Maganoy (now Shariff Aguak) where a P218-million complex was built.

When Esmael Mangudadatu became governor in 2010, at the cost of losing his wife in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, he refused to hold office in Shariff Aguak, setting up a satellite office in Buluan town.

Mangudadatu soon built a P500-million capitol there that was inaugurated by Duterte in 2019.

Maguindanao is the heart of the once vast Empire Province of Cotabato which included what are now Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani provinces, and the highly urbanized city of General Santos.

If the law is ratified, the incumbent governor and vice governor of Maguindanao will each rule over the new provinces. The members of the provincial board elected in May will continue to serve as such but to the new province where their old legislative districts now belong.

President Marcos will have to appoint additional members to fill in the seats left vacant by succession. INQ



NEWS BRIEFS

Bulkang Taal 28 beses umuga, makapal na usok binuga

NAGTALA ng 28 na pagyanig at ibinugang usok na may taas hanggang 2,800 metro ang Taal Volcano sa nakalipas na 24 oras, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Sinabi ng Phivolcs na tumagal ng apat hanggang 12 minuto ang mga pagyanig habang umabot naman sa 4,312 tonelada ang inilabas nitong asupre.

Nagpaalala ang Phivolcs na patuloy ang pagpapakita ng aktibidad ng Taal Volcano kaya patuloy ang panawagan nila sa mga residente na maging alerto sakaling bulagain na naman ang lalawigan ng malakas nitong pagputok anumang oras.

Samantala, ipinagbabawal pa rin ang pagpasok sa permanent danger zone lalo sa paligid ng bunga ng bulkan sa bahagi ng Daang Kastila.

Nananatili rin ito sa ilalim ng alert level 1 na senyales ng abnormal nitong kondisyon na may posibilidad ng panibagong pagsabog. **(Tina Mendoza)**