

20 August 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# DPWH to keep off no-build zones

By Vito Barcelo

**D**EPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan has directed all the agency's planning and implementing offices to comply with the laws on "no build zones and protected areas" in the implementation of infrastructure projects.

In a memorandum, Bonoan ordered all service directors, bureau directors, project directors, regional directors, and district engineers to strictly adhere to the laws, in view of the department's thrust to implement infrastructure projects that mitigate disaster risk.

"Implementing offices are expected to

be more cognizant of the existing and imminent hazards that should be deliberately considered in all the DPWH planning and construction activities," Bonoan said.

Bonoan reiterated that DPWH offices should ensure that projects are not located in geo-hazard areas and no-build

zones identified or certified by the Mines and GeoSciences Bureau.

The standards of construction, rehabilitation, improvement or repair of all infrastructure projects in all areas and zones should be consistent with the rules determined by the DPWH, considering among others, the structural strength and climate and disaster resilience required for infrastructure projects in all areas and zones.

The DPWH must also guarantee that all projects carried out within the National Integrated Protected Area System are implemented in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and "in a manner that eliminates or reduces the risk of biodiversity loss."

"Furthermore, ecosystem functions

and services such as drainage, aquifer recharge, heat island effect, analysis of population dynamics which would engender the requirements of solid waste and wastewater management, and the need for softscape and vegetative cover shall be taken into consideration in all public infrastructure projects. These considerations shall be incorporated into the project Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and commitments to protect these services shall be included in the project contracts," Bonoan said.

Bonoan said a certificate of non-coverage or an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is required prior to the commencement of government infrastructure projects covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System.





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COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

 PAGE

 UPPER  
 LOWER

 PAGE 1  
STORY

 BANNER  
STORY

 EDITORIAL

 CARTOON

08-20-22

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# ECC to be required in all gov't infra projects — DPWH

**T**he Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered its officials to observe strict compliance of laws and policies relative to the implementation of infrastructure projects in high-hazard areas, no build zones, and national protected areas.

In a memorandum released to media on Friday, Aug. 19, DPWH Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan made a stern notice to all service directors, bureau directors, project directors, regional directors, and district engineers to strictly adhere to laws, in view of the department's thrust to implement infrastructure projects that mitigate disaster risk.

Bonoan instructed all offices na-

tionwide to reassess their systems to ensure strict compliance with national law and policies, noting that DPWH projects should not be located in geo-hazard areas and no build zones identified or certified by the Mines and Geo Sciences Bureau (MGSB).

"Implementing offices are expected to be more cognizant of the existing and imminent hazards that should be deliberately considered in all planning and construction activities," warned Bonoan.

The standards for construction, rehabilitation, improvement or repair of all infrastructure projects in all areas and zones should be consistent with the rules determined by the DPWH.

"Among others, the structural

strength and climate and disaster resilience [shall be] required for infrastructure projects in all areas and zones," Bonoan added.

The DPWH chief also assured that all projects within the National Integrated Protected Area System are implemented and coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to reduce biodiversity loss.

Finally, Bonoan emphasized that a certificate of non-coverage or an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) in all government infrastructure projects shall be required prior to the implementation of government infrastructure projects that are covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System. (Jun Marcos Tadios)



## Diokno bet ₱20 buwis sa single-use plastic

Isinusulong ni Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno na patawan ng P20 excise tax ang bawat kilo ng single-use plastic kasama na ang value-added tax (VAT) sa digital goods and services.

Ang kilalang plas-

tic labo na ginagamit sa mga palengke para lagyan ng isda ay isang halimbawa ng single-use plastic na minsan lamang ginagamit at basura na agad.

Inilatag ng Department of Finance (DOF) ang mga panukalang

batas na isusulong nito sa pagdinig ng House committee on ways and means nitong Miyerkoles.

Sabi ng DOF, ang pagpataw ng excise tax sa single-use plastic ay bahagi ng pagsisikap ng pamahalaan para

maibsan ang epekto ng climate change.

Irihayag pa ng DOF na maprubahan na ng House committee on ways and means ang VAT sa digital goods and services at excise tax sa single-use plastic. (Eileen Mencias)





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

A1  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08-20-22

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE

1/2

**UK RESEARCH**



**Climate change causes wonky bumblebee wings**

LONDON—Warmer and wetter weather linked to climate change appears to stress out bumblebees and make their wings more asymmetrical, which could ultimately affect their future development, according to UK scientists in a new research paper.

“With hotter and wetter conditions predicted to place bumblebees under higher stress, the fact these conditions will become more frequent under climate change means bumblebees may be in for a rough time over the 21st century,” scientists at Imperial College, London, wrote in the **AS** Animal Ecology journal on Wednesday.



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# CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES WONKY BUMBLEBEE WINGS

FROM A1

The large furry bees, known for their distinctive buzz, only feed on flowers, making them vulnerable to changes to the countryside due to intensive farming.

Their population has declined in Britain over the past century, with two species becoming extinct, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

The Imperial College scientists looked at more than 6,000 bumblebee specimens in natural history museums, collected across Britain during the 20th century.

## Stress indicator

The scientists examined the right-left symmetry between the bees' four wings, because asymmetry is an indication that the insect experienced stress during development.

They found that bees from the second half of the 20th century consistently had a higher average rate of asymmetry.

Asymmetry was also "consistently higher in warmer and wetter years," according to the



**STRESSED** Scientists in the United Kingdom have observed that hotter and wetter weather is stressing out bumblebees, making their wings grow uneven. Weather conditions linked to wonky or asymmetrical wings "will likely increase in frequency with climate change," according to their study.

—MARIEJO S. RAMOS

paper's senior coauthor Richard Gill.

"Overall, these results could suggest bumblebees experienced increasing stress as the century progressed and that aspects of climate change could have contributed to this trend," the paper said.

The weather conditions linked to wonky wings "will likely increase in frequency with climate change," it continued.

## Lower heat tolerance

In April, scientists in the United States who studied

more than 20,000 bees in the Rocky Mountains found that bumblebees had lower heat tolerance than smaller bees and were "more threatened under climate warming than other bees."

Insects are facing a huge impact from both warming climate and intensive agriculture.

Another study released in April in the journal *Nature* found that these factors cause insect populations to plummet by nearly half compared to areas less affected by temperature rises and industrial farming. —AFP





TITLE:

PAGE

1 1/2

DATE

## Mining industry gets much-needed boost

If there is any remaining doubt as to whether or not Filipinos are going to embrace electric vehicles or EVs, then San Miguel Corp.'s newest venture should be enough to dispel it.

Just recently, Dinagat Islands Gov. Nilo Demery Jr. confirmed that SMC is building an EV battery plant in the province at a cost of \$500 million or around P28 billion. Construction of the facility is expected to begin this September.

### HIDDEN AGENDA



MARY ANN  
LL. REYES

According to reports, the plant to be built within SMC's 25,000-hectare mining claim in the province will reportedly generate 10,000 jobs, not to mention increase the income of the province and uplift the lives of its people.

Any new business activity, especially those of this magnitude, has a huge multiplier effect on the economy.

Nickel, for instance, is a major component of batteries. And since SMC would need to source out battery components, the establishment of the battery plant would be a boon to the local mining industry, particularly those mining for nickel.

Everything seems to be going in the right direction for the mining industry in the Philippines.

There was of course the lifting by former president Rodrigo Duterte toward the end of last year the four-year ban on open pit mining for copper, gold, silver and complex ores.

Mining companies shut down by former environment secretary Gina Lopez were also given a clean bill of health by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. There are around 27 mining companies which are now allowed to operate, but

in Ontario, Canada, which is today's The Butchart Gardens, could become a National Historic Site of Canada? Remnants of the original cement plant and millions of bedding plants in over 900 varieties await tourists as they wander The Gardens.

As cement production exhausted the limestone deposits, Jennie Butchart envisioned a grand garden in its place and began transferring top soil by horse and cart. Between 1906 and 1929, the Butcharts expanded The Gardens, designing the Japanese Garden on the seaside, the Italian Garden on their former tennis court and the fragrant, overflowing Rose Garden.

We wouldn't even go that far. In Malaysia, The Mines Resort & Golf Club was built upon the world's largest open cast tin mine in 1993, uniquely transforming a barren wasteland once rich in precious minerals into a wonder that is a manifestation of aesthetic beauty and the splendor of nature.

Just recently, Diokno said that the mining industry could help ensure a sustainable recovery of the economy from the disruptions of the pandemic since this activity requires sizable investments while demand for mine output is high.

He emphasized that the mining industry holds the greatest potential to be a key driver in the country's economic recovery and long-term growth, especially now that world metal prices are high.

Diokno also stressed that the government expects the mining industry to strictly adhere to responsible and sustainable mining practices, and that it should strike a balance between protecting the environment, uplifting local communities, and supporting the government's socio-economic agenda.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

08-20-22

DATE

TITLE: MINING INDUSTRY LETS INUCH - NEEDED BOOST

PAGE 2/2

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines has welcomed the new government's push for the mining industry.

COMP chairman Michael Toledo has said that it has always been their belief that responsible minerals development, when allowed to flourish, could substantially contribute to economic recovery, particularly in terms of increasing government revenue, job generation, and poverty alleviation that are most needed in this time of pandemic and beyond.

For comments, e-mail at [mareyes@philstarmedia.com](mailto:mareyes@philstarmedia.com)

four nickel miners in Zambales felt vindicated the most because of the immeasurable financial losses they suffered during the shutdown.

Each of them passed with flying colors the stringent mining audit done by the government. According to published reports, these mining companies, namely Benguet Corp. Nickel Mines, Eranden Minerals Inc., LNL Archipelago Minerals Inc. and Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., received an aggregate score of 97.86 last year from 93.07 the previous year. They were assessed for safety and health, environment, and social development management performance. Their individual scores for 2021 were: BNMI (98.75), ZDMC (98.25), EMI (98.20) and LAMI (96.24).

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the mining industry is a potential source of sustained economic growth as he underscored the benefit of mobilizing investments for mine development.

He noted that the mining industry holds the greatest potential to be a key driver in the country's economic recovery and long-term growth, especially now that world metal prices are high. The Philippines, after all, is one of the world's most richly endowed countries in terms of mineral resources.

The industry lives in exciting times indeed. According to a report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA), global battery and minerals supply chains need to expand 10-fold to meet projected critical minerals needs by 2030. The IEA report said that the industry needs to build 50 new lithium mines, 60 more nickel mines and an additional seven cobalt mines by 2030 to meet global net carbon emissions goals.

Pressure on the supply of critical materials will continue to mount as road transport electrification expands to meet net-zero ambitions. According to the IEA, demand for electric vehicle batteries will increase from around 340 GWh today to over 3,500 GWh by 2030.

Anti-miners would always try to find ways to push back the industry's development. But with the way modern mining rehabilitation is being done, mined out areas could be turned into something spectacular. And fears of environmental catastrophe could already be a thing of the past.

Who would have thought that a former limestone quarry





08-20-22

TITLE:

PAGE

1 1/2

DATE

# Renewable energy transition

BY MARIA ROMERO  
@tribunephil\_mbr

A few months since its inauguration, the Marcos administration has reinvigorated the government's efforts to shift to renewable energy.

What we do between now and 2030 will have a profound impact on the global goal to decelerate climate warming to 1.5 degree Celcius, the level experts said would avert the worst consequences of global warming.

In the Philippines, mitigating the impact of climate change is directly proportional to the need to look for alternative sources of energy to lessen the nation's heavy reliance on cheap yet harmful to the environment coal-fired power plants.

A few months since its inauguration, the Marcos administration has reinvigorated the government's efforts to shift to renewable energy. RE is an essential part of the country's low emissions development strategy and is vital to addressing the challenges of climate change, energy security, and access to energy. Thus, the development and optimal use of RE or indigenous resources are central to the Department of Energy's sustainable energy initiative.

The transition also hopes to address the perennial trouble of unscheduled blackouts and other associated energy security woes that have prompted a massive call to ramp up the investments

in renewable energy development.

Barely half a year into the administration, the Ferdinand Marcos Jr.-led government vowed to unveil the massive potential of the country's indigenous resources to generate additional power and eventually cut our import dependence. Indigenous resources are the power that may come from wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, or natural gas.

Based on the latest DoE data, over half or 56.8 percent of the country's total power needs were imported, while only 43.2 percent were indigenous or locally sourced.

It also revealed that of the indigenous resources, natural gas only has a 19.3 percent share in the total power generation mix as of last month. Hydropower takes up only 4.5 percent; solar power, 2 percent; oil-based, 2.8 percent; biomes, 0.9 percent; and wind, 0.2 percent.

### Private firms step in

To complement the government's efforts, young businessman Leandro Leviste, founder of Solar Philippines, is leading a massive expansion that would augment the share of RE, particularly solar power, in our existing energy mix.

However, before the company carries out its plan, it said it would

need to raise funds to support its projects. Solar Philippines Nueva Ecija Corporation said it would finish its planned Stock Rights Offering over the coming weeks, which would pave the way for the completion of its asset-for-share swap with its parent company, Solar Philippines.

SPNEC previously disclosed that it would consider various options to increase its public float and is currently in discussions with investors for private placements. This is in addition to its SRO, with an offer period from 30 August to 5 September.

Early this week, SPNEC said it would transform its operations in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan into the world's largest solar farms with a combined capacity of four gigawatts – surpassing India's Bhadla Solar Farm, currently the world's largest solar farm with over 2.2 gigawatt of capacity.

The planned solar farm, once complete, will also surpass the capacity of the total grid-connected solar operating in the Philippines as of the end of 2021, which was recorded at over 1.3 GW only. To put things into perspective, one GW of power is equivalent to 3.125 million photovoltaic panels, 333 utility-scale wind turbines, or 100 million LED lights.

Turn to page 11





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



B11  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

08\_20-22

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

PAGE 2/2

DATE

# Renewable energy transition

*From page 9*

The pioneering solar net-metered community features residential houses that generate optimal solar energy and export excess electricity to the grid in exchange for net-metering credits.

Apart from this, Solar Philippines aims to complete nine terawatt-hours per year of contracted energy and potentially bring its contracted capacity to 8 GW. It is scheduled to commence operations mostly between 2025 to 2026. Once complete, the development is estimated to take up at least two-thirds of the country's total contracted RE capacity.

### Big savings amid sustainable push

Relatedly, more private companies are seeing the urgent need to develop a more sustainable business model. Early this month, PLDT, Inc., the country's largest integrated telecommunications firm, expects to save millions of pesos yearly in operating expenses by switching to clean power.

The company can slash at least P2.2 million from generating approximately 591,550 kWh of clean energy annually in its five business centers in the Visayas amid a shift to more sustainable operations. It was after Spectrum, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Manila Electric Company, completed the installation of solar facilities in the PLDT facilities.

The solar rooftop panels, which have a combined capacity of 431.21 kilowatt-peak, were installed in PLDT's offices in La Paz in Iloilo; Mandaue City in Cebu; Roxas City in Capiz; Cebu City; and Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

Apart from substantial cuts in its yearly expenses, PLDT also reduces its carbon footprint by an estimated 421 MT, which translates to 845,000 trees planted over 20 years and 1,678,262 kilometers reduced in vehicle travel per year.

### Households pitch in, too

Fortunately, it's not only large and private companies that can aid the shift to clean power.

Following the launch of the country's first-ever solar net-metered community last June in Imperial Homes Corporation's Via Verde Trecē Martires development in Cavite, Filipino households can now participate in helping the country shift towards cleaner and more sustainable energy.

The pioneering solar net-metered community features residential houses that generate optimal solar energy and export excess electricity to the grid in exchange for net-metering credits. The net-metering program allows solar owners with less than 100 kWp capacity to export their excess electricity to the grid in exchange for electricity bill credits.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Founded Since 1985

# The Manila Times

A4  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

PAGE

1/2

08-20-22

DATE

TITLE:

## Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development: More essential than ever

WE awaited with some interest President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s appointment of the head of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD). The original executive agency of the Philippine government dealing with the subject of human settlements and urbanization was headed by no less than his mother, the former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

When President Corazon Aquino assumed power after the 1986 EDSA Revolution, her government abolished the Ministry of Human Settlements and Urban Development for no apparent serious reason than its being associated with Mrs. Marcos. Detractors of President Aquino criticized her move as a sign of her "sheer vindictiveness." President Aquino's decision would be proved a mistake when in 2018, the DHSUD was created by law.

### No mere whimsy

The idea of such a ministry was actually not a mere whimsy of Mrs. Marcos. There was at the time a growing international and national consciousness of the need to address the problems attending the rapid



AMBASSADORS'  
CORNER

JAIME  
YAMBAO

urbanization of developing countries, particularly the mushrooming of congested, unhealthy and unsafe slum areas. The country's capital, Manila, had emerged as one of the most densely populated cities harboring among the largest concentrations of slums.

Mrs. Marcos was a leading figure at the UN Conferences on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development or Habitat. She addressed the very first one creating the Habitat program and the next one inaugurating the Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. (These are the ones we remember because we were part of the delegation.) The Philippines offered to host the fourth one in Manila, and Mrs. Marcos was elected by acclamation as its chairperson.

After President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law the bill creating the DHSUD, columnists wondered whether the department was the same as the ministry. The statements of purpose of the documents creating the ministry and the

department are worded differently but they are not far from each other in meaning. Their goal is the same: to provide every Filipino a home in a community, whether in an urban or rural setting, that attends to at least its basic needs and resources.

If the department lacked anything, it seems that would be the research, innovating and piloting arms that Mrs. Marcos had in the University of Life, the Technological Resource Center, and Metro Manila, of which she was concurrently governor. She herself did her own research. On a diplomatic mission to the United Nations, she made a side trip to Tucson, New Mexico to observe how adobe was used by an American Indian tribe. One purpose of her visit to Cuba was to inspect how a convention center there was designed to save on electricity by not using air-conditioning and relying exclusively on natural ventilation.

### Inventive, pioneering

Her annual reports to Habitat impressed other delegates for her inventive and pioneering solutions to the problems of Metro Manila. She had the BLISS homes constructed

to provide suitable shelters for the underprivileged right in the city where they could find means of livelihood. For the cleanliness and sanitation of the city, she employed armies of uniformed, largely female street sweepers called Metro Aides, who not only kept the streets immaculate but admonished the public on the proper disposal of garbage. She had private companies use the latest technology to transform garbage into biomass energy. To stop the floods that paralyzed the city during the rainy season, she installed a flood control pumping system that made rainwaters drain and subside. The Light Rail Transit system was introduced during her term as governor of Metro Manila to decongest traffic and improve the mobility of the people. She had specialized hospitals for lung, kidney, heart and children's ailments established making world-class medical treatment accessible to all no matter their station in life. Because Habitat prescribed the satisfaction of the people's cultural and artistic needs (or was she the one who brought the notion to Habitat?), she had the Cultural Center built.

A main difference between the ministry and the department was

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TITLE:

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## Department of Human Settlements and

# Urban Development: More essential than ever

surely the quality of leadership that Mrs. Marcos provided. She was missed in the aftermath of the Super Typhoon "Yolanda" and the terrorists' attack in Marawi when the rehabilitation of victims proceeded at a slow pace. Many remembered her as someone like the fairy godmother of nursery tales who with a wave of her wand gets things done quickly.

The Philippines' report to Habitat 3 spoke of a good number of important accomplishments, particularly in providing socialized and low-cost housing to the underprivileged, but also of difficulties fighting the odds due to a high rate of population

growth and the relentless migration of people from the countryside to urban areas due to inter alia the mismatch of education to job opportunities.

### Climate change

To these odds must be added the effects of climate change. A Habitat report has the problems of human settlements conjoining with the effects of climate change: Most of the cities of the world are located in coastal areas which rising sea levels brought by global warming threaten with "inundation and flooding, saltwater intrusion of water supply,

increased coastal erosion and reductions in livable space. All of these are compounded by other climate impacts, including increase in the duration and intensity of storms, hurricanes and cyclones, creating extreme hazards for both rich and poor populations." Rising global temperature has brought heat waves, drought and wildfires, especially in forested areas. Actually, the Philippines has already proved itself particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because as an archipelago it has among the longest coastlines in the world. Both urban and rural areas have suffered from them.

Because the climate impacts directly threaten habitations with destruction and the people who live in them with death and injury, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development may have to take the leading role in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It appears to be the logical choice to head the Commission on Climate Change.

As some quarters in the construction business have suggested, it is time that the legislation providing standards in the planning, development and construction of human habitations and settlements, dating back to the ministry when climate

change was largely a theoretical concept, be updated and revised to take into consideration the effects of climate change. For this endeavor, it might need some sort of Center of Excellence for guidance.

We are heartened by the appointment of well-known developer Rivalino Azucar as secretary of the DHSUD. We were at first discomfited by his purchasing and carting away two colonial-period houses from my hometown of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, to what we thought was a theme-park project of his in Bataan. Our initial reaction was that he had diminished our town's cultural heritage. But no

one else in our town minded his action, including the descendants of the owners who live in Metro Manila and seemed resigned to their inheritance falling into disrepair and decay. And when we watched a video of Las Casas Filipinas de Azucar, we changed our minds and thought it was wonderful. It was a beautiful display of the country's cultural heritage in a beach resort and convention center. The Azucar project has won the praises of local and foreign visitors and construction and tourism associations. We are inclined to hope Secretary Azucar will do wonders at the helm of the DHSUD.





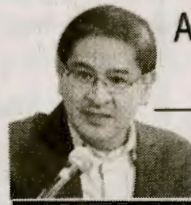
## Young people may be the most significant answer

THE Filipino youth are either hopeful or worried about a climate emergency for the next five to 10 years, according to **The World We Want Philippines Report**. It, along with good governance and post-Covid recovery, are the top three issues they are most hopeful about, based on consultations with 150 Filipino youth from August 9 to 15, 2022 that coincided with the celebration of International Youth Day.

Asked about what they were most worried about, meanwhile, climate emergency and good governance again topped the list along with conflict and disasters.

Republic Act 8044, or the "Youth in Nation-Building Act of 1995," defines the Filipino youth to be those who are 15 to 30 years old. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, through Bangsamoro Autonomy Act 10, extended the definition to 40 years old. Per the national definition and according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, 29.31 percent of the population belong to the youth. As of Aug. 26, 2021, there were 32,621,500 young Filipinos.

**The World We Want Philippines**



### ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

Report, produced through Youth Co:Lab — an initiative co-led by the United Nations Development Program and the Citi Foundation — calls on the youth "to continue to raise your voices, come together and lead the remaining years of the decade of action for the UN Sustainable Development Goals."

These new outcomes give rise to the fact that our economic system moves from one crisis — education, food, unemployment, financial, ecological, climate, etc. — to another, destroying human lives, livelihoods and the futures.

A global study entitled "Young people's voices on climate anxiety, government betrayal and moral injury: A global phenomenon," released last September, manifested the growing anxiety of the Filipinos youth about climate change. Ninety-two percent were said to be frightened about their future while 84 percent were very

extremely worried about their future under climate change.

The study found that "climate change has significant implications for the health and futures of children and young people, yet they have little power to limit its harm, making them vulnerable to increased climate anxiety."

"Climate anxiety and eco-anxiety — distress relating to the climate and ecological crises — are increasing across society as people become increasingly aware of the current and future global threats associated with our warming planet," the authors said. The anxiety involves many emotions: worry, fear, anger, grief, despair, guilt and shame as well as hope.

Other findings: 93 percent of Filipino youth feel that their fellow Filipinos failed to care for the planet; 77 percent feel that their family security is threatened; 73 percent think that humanity is doomed; 70 percent feel they have less opportunity than their parents; and 47 percent are hesitant to have children of their own.

The study, led by the University of Bath, polled around 1,000 Filipino youth who were chosen based on income, climate, climate





08-20-22

DATE

TITLE: Young People may be the most PAGE 2  
significant answer

vulnerabilities and exposure to differing intensities of climate-related events.

Another survey conducted among the Filipino youth in the municipalities of North Upi and Datu Abdullah Sangki in Maguindanao, part of the study entitled "Hack Maguindanao: Youth's Responses to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction" and submitted to the Asian Institute of Management, revealed that "all youth in both towns are 'worried' to 'very worried' about climate change."

Asked the question "Do you think climate change will harm you and your family?", all the youth said that climate change "will moderately harm" or "will harm" them and their families. As to the question "Do you think climate change will harm future generations?", almost all said that climate change would harm future generations, except 5.3 percent of the youth in North Upi, who said they did not know.

What is then the role of the Filipino youth? The Philippine Constitution "recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect

their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs."

Empowering the Filipino youth is essential in addressing the effects of climate change. This will only be successful if people are empowered to make a difference in their communities. Since the youth play a vital part, increasing their climate change knowledge is fundamental. In addition, this generation has a growing sense of social and environmental responsibility. It is crucial that climate change awareness and understanding among the youth be considered in the development process.

Young people have historically been underrepresented in decision-making processes even though they have shown leadership in several climate initiatives. But it is also important to acknowledge that young people's lifestyle and consumption habits contribute to increasing emissions.

For the Filipino youth, acting against climate change is a way to strengthen their resilience and sustainability. When they are ac-

tively engaged, they have a lot to contribute and a lot to gain.

They can lead and make educated decisions, giving value to organizations and communities. Moreover, improving their lives offers a wide range of benefits. For example, climate change risk assessments and adaptation designs can be enhanced.

The Filipino youth must get more involved in every effort to prepare for the increasing impacts of climate change. They are an invaluable resource and their development is linked to long-term economic, political and social stability, among other things. Young people may be the most significant answer to the climate emergency, both nationally and globally.

*The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a nonresident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. You can email him at [ludwig.federigan@gmail.com](mailto:ludwig.federigan@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter at @WiggyFederigan.*





08-20-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Climate change driving unprecedented forest fire loss

By PATRICK GALEY

**P**ARIS (AFP) — Forest fires supercharged by climate change are burning twice as much global tree cover as 20 years ago, according to a data Wednesday showing the equivalent of 16 football pitches are now lost every minute.

The research showed in unprecedented detail how wildfires have progressed over the past two decades, with the blazes claiming an estimated three more million hectares each year — an area the size of Belgium — compared with 2001.

The study showed that the majority of tree cover loss is occurring in the boreal forests that blanket much of Russia, Canada and Alaska, which are among the largest storers of carbon on Earth.

Researchers from the University of Maryland used satellite imagery to map areas of tree cover lost, including that burned by what are known as stand-replacing forest fires.

These are fires that kill all or most of the forest's canopy and which cause long-term changes to forest structure and soil chemistry.

The data showed 2021 to be one of the worst years for forest fires since the turn of the century, causing 9.3 million hectares of tree cover loss globally.

That was more than a third of all the forest lost last year, according to the data, compiled by Global Forest Watch and the World Resources Institute research group.

"Forest fires are getting worse worldwide," James McCarthy, research analyst at Global Forest Watch, told AFP.

The European Union's satellite monitoring service said last week that western Europe had experienced record fire activity so far in 2022, with tens of thousands of hectares of forest lost in France, Spain and Portugal.

The researchers said that climate change was likely a "major driver" in increased fire activity, with extreme heat waves that

render forests tinder dry already five times more likely today than a century and a half ago.

These drier conditions lead to higher emissions from fires, further exacerbating climate change as part of a "fire-climate feedback loop," they said.

## Best defense

The vast majority — some 70 percent — of fire-related tree cover loss over the last two decades occurred in boreal regions, likely

has accumulated in the soil over hundreds of years and has been protected by a moist layer on top," said McCarthy.

"These more frequent and serious fires are burning off this top layer and it's exposing that carbon in the soil."

This century, fire-related tree cover loss in the tropics has increased round five percent — some 36,000 hectares — a year, the study showed.

Fire is not the principal cause



2021 WAS one of the worst years for forest fires since the turn of the century. (AFP)

because high-latitude regions are warming at a faster rate than the rest of the planet.

Last year, Russia lost 5.4 million hectares of tree cover due to fires, the highest on record at an increase of 31 percent over 2020.

"This record-breaking loss was due in part to prolonged heatwaves that would have been practically impossible without human-induced climate change," said the study.

The team warned that increased changes to climate and fire activity could eventually turn boreal forests from a carbon sink into a source for carbon emissions.

"In these boreal regions carbon

of forest loss in these regions, with deforestation and forest degradation the main drivers.


But the researchers said that forest loss from deforestation was making it more likely that forests would be lost to fire, as the practice leads to higher regional temperatures and drier vegetation.

They called on governments to improve forest resilience by ending deforestation and limiting local forest management practices that include controlled burning, which can easily burn out of control particularly during dry spells.

"Forests are one of the best defenses we have against climate change," said McCarthy.







Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

**PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.,**  
Applicant. Case No. 22-3339

**SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Bella Vista Subdivision, Barangay Santiago, General Trias, Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

**Residential and Institutional**

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	P161.50	32.60	36.30	37.40	38.80	40.20
¾"	P258.50	52.20	58.00	59.90	62.10	64.20
1"	P517.00	104.40	116.00	119.80	124.30	128.50
1 ½"	P1,292.50	261.10	290.00	299.60	310.70	321.20

**Residential and Commercial**

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	P161.50	32.60	36.30	37.40	38.80	40.20
¾"	P258.50	52.20	58.00	59.90	62.10	64.20
1"	P517.00	104.40	116.00	119.80	124.30	128.50

**Commercial and Industrial**

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	P1,017.00	74.30	80.80	96.90	96.90
¾"	P1,627.50	118.90	129.20	155.00	155.00
1"	P3,256.50	237.70	258.40	310.10	310.10
1 ½"	P8,139.00	594.30	646.00	775.20	775.20
2"	P20,349.00	1,485.80	1,615.00	1,938.00	1,938.00
3"	P36,628.50	2,674.40	2,907.00	3,488.40	3,488.40
4"	P73,257.00	5,348.90	5,814.00	6,976.80	6,976.80

**Bulk** **Others**

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
1"	P208.70

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
¾"	P103.40

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **5 September 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.


**At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing**, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

  
 By Authority of the Board:

**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Bayan  
General Trias, Cavite

The Barangay Chairmen  
Barangay Santiago  
General Trias, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Bellavista Subdivision  
Barangay Santiago  
General Trias, Cavite

MT - Aug. 20, 2022