

22 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to create bamboo forest in Marikina Watershed

[Rhodina Villanueva](#), [Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with non-government organizations to transform 20 hectares of the Marikina Watershed into a bamboo forest.

In a memorandum of agreement signed last week, the DENR Calabarzon office, Rotary International District 3830, Samahang Kawayan ng Karugo Agri Farmers Association and Philippine Bamboo Foundation Inc. committed to implement a program, which aims to rehabilitate the Marikina Watershed through the use of bamboo planting materials.

“Bamboo is not just an alternative to construction materials but it also helps in mitigating climate change. This is why I am pushing for the creation of mini bamboo forests in the country, which will also spur a vibrant bamboo lumber industry,” former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu said during the program launching on Feb. 16.

Cimatu has resigned as environment secretary due to health reasons.

Under the agreement, the initial phase of the program involves the establishment of a nursery where the bamboo planting materials will be nurtured over six to eight months.

The second phase will be the transplanting of the grown bamboo plants within the 20 hectares of the Marikina Watershed.

DENR Calabarzon executive director Nilo Tamera said the planting of bamboo would be “instrumental in achieving the total rehabilitation of the Marikina Watershed.”

The DENR and the Rotary International District 3830 turned over checks amounting to P1 million to Samahang Kawayan ng Karugo Agri Farmers Association to fund the Marikina Watershed rehabilitation project.

Rotary International District 3780 provided checks for P500,000 to fund the creation of a 10-hectare bamboo nursery site in Barangay Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal.



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Group: DENR-Davao has yet to order suspension on cutting of century-old trees

RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao Region has not yet issued a formal suspension order on the cutting of century-old trees in Mounts Makabol-Alikoson Conservation Area (MMACA) in Barangay Salaysay, Marilog District despite its earlier promises, an environmental group said.

In a letter submitted to recently-resigned DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, the Sustainable Davao Movement (SDM) appealed to the department to declare forest conservation, particularly those in the MMACA.

SDM is composed of various groups, namely the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis), Ecoteneo, volunteers groups from Makabol, and support members of the Davao Association of Catholic Schools (Dacs).

This is in relation to the DENR-Davao response to the letter of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, who supported the cancellation of the timber cutting permit released to landowner Ling Ling Wu Lee covering the cutting down of 121 old-growth forest trees in the Makabol-Alikoson water.

The group said this is notwithstanding the "voluntary cessation" of cutting by the landowner, as per DENR-Davao letter or the expiry of the permit in January 2022.

In the letter of the DENR-Davao, the group said "the office appears to justify" its action, stating that they are not aware that the area is included in the Watershed Code of Davao, and that they are not aware of data pertaining to the nesting trees, as shared by PEF, and they are also not privy to the metes and bounds of the declared conservation areas, as per the Watershed Management Code.

The group said the implementing rules and regulations of the Watershed Code had been released as early as January 7, 2009, where the MMACA was delineated and included.

SDM also said the community is aware of the nesting trees, which are a hundred meters proximate to the trees to be cut because they have been guarding or monitoring the Philippine Eagle for decades.



The Watershed Management Council issued a resolution on January 28, 2021, denying the permit application because the cutting down of trees for a planned banana plantation is not consistent with a watershed reserve area. This resolution was received and acknowledged by DENR last March 5, 2021.

"Information was available and accessible, with minimum due diligence. With maximum participation and consultation, the permitting process could have been consistent with the mandate of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," the group said.

During local community consultations that followed the request for cancellation, the community expressed its concern about the situation.

"They had known only of the project when activities were underway and the trees were already being prepared for cutting (marking, hacking with bolo). It appears that a genuine consultation with the local community was amiss," the group said.

The landowner's legal representative, during the consultation, said the trees were old and ripe for cutting and the cutting will be replaced anyway by the planting of seeds.

In a letter from DENR-Davao, Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco informed the City Government that the owner will be required to pay P160,255 for forest charges for every cubic meter of timber harvested.

The flooding incident in October 2021, according to SDM, cost the city P3.435 million.

"We are painfully aware that the overflowing of rivers and creeks can be attributed not only to quarrying but land misuse/mismanagement in the uplands and the decimation of our remaining forest cover," SDM said.

The group appealed that the area should be permanently excluded from timber cutting, agricultural use and any form of development that is inconsistent with its classification as an Environmentally Critical Area and Conservation Zone under the city's Watershed Code.

It also appealed that a dialogue should be opened and continued with private landowners, local and national government on critical areas such as the MMACA to come up with joint management plans/actions that will be beneficial for the public.

"We hope that the plan to increase forest cover includes a plan not to decrease forest cover further," SDM said.

Idis Executive Director Mark Peñalver said during an online forum that they are hoping that no more tree-cutting permits will be issued in the protected areas.

DENR-Davao has yet to issue a statement on the matter.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1921560/davao/local-news/group-denr-davao-has-yet-to-order-suspension-on-cutting-of-century-old-trees>



PH urged to take a strong stand vs plastic pollution in UN assembly in Kenya

Published February 21, 2022, 7:03 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

At least three environmental groups are urging the Philippine government to negotiate for a strong treaty that will address worldwide plastic pollution in the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) in Kenya.

In a joint statement, the EcoWaste Coalition (EWC), the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), and the Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) have expressed their support for a robust negotiation during the assembly that will be attended by 190 countries.

“All eyes will be on UNEA-5.2 to see how governments, including our own, will come to an agreement on a robust negotiation mandate that will speed up not decelerate the required global action to stem the tide of toxic plastic pollution,” EWC National Coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

She said that an ideal treaty should focus on the entire plastic lifecycle, not limited to marine litter, banning toxic chemical additives in plastic, and prohibiting polluting waste treatment or disposal methods.

Meanwhile, MEF Chairman Sonia Mendoza said that “a strong treaty should cut down on plastic manufacturing since its unrestrained production translates to the use of fossil fuels and toxic chemical additives.”

Aside from pushing for a strong treaty, the groups also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to carry out policies and regulations that will reduce plastic pollution at the source. They also highlighted the need for Congress to pass legislation banning single-use plastics and impose Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

In line with the Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, they also reminded the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to issue its list of non-environment friendly products for prohibition and phase-out.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/21/ph-urged-to-take-a-strong-stand-vs-plastic-pollution-in-un-assembly-in-kenya/>



Former Hermosa landfill operator faces raps

HERMOSA, Bataan – The Regional Trial Court Branch 96 of Dinalupihan has ordered the arrest of Atty. Beulah Coeli Fiel, president of the Econest Waste Management Corp., for storing toxic and hazardous materials at the Hermosa Sanitary Landfill.

Presiding Judge Hon. Amelita Cruz Corpuz issued the warrant of arrest on 14 February against the former operator of the Hermosa Sanitary Landfill.

To recall, the local government of Hermosa charged Fiel for violating Section 13 of Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

The case stemmed from the toxic and hazardous materials that the Econest Waste Management Corp. received when the company was still operating the landfill.

Numerous inspections were conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR, ordering the Econest Waste Management Corp. to rehabilitate the said landfill, return the area back to its original state and pay the administrative penalty of P150,000.

JONAS REYES



Philippine Eagle rescued

The eagle underwent an immediate surgical operation on its injured right wing since the bacterial infection was already spreading beyond its injured body parts

BY NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A wounded female Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga Jefferyi*) needing immediate surgery was rescued by a resident of Marogong in Lanao del Sur and was turned over to proper authorities.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) environment officer Benjamin Alangca said that the resident – identified as Hadji Solaiman Olama – found the injured eagle in the forested areas of Marogong on 9 February.

Olama immediately informed the office of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources about his discovery for the protection and safety of the eagle.

After the turnover, the eagle underwent an immediate surgical operation on its injured right wing since the bacterial infection was already spreading beyond its injured body parts.

Dr. Anita Chua, a veterinarian specialist of the

Regional Wildlife Rescue Center of Zamboanga del Sur Province, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office conservation and development section and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-9 technical personnel, treated the wound.

Chua said the Philippine Eagle has a wingspan of 51 centimeters and a weight of 5 kilograms.

After administering medical aid, the eagle was immediately turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Davao City to perform additional medical procedures.

“It was the first time that we found and rescued an injured Philippine Eagle and it signifies that the BARMM have a vast environment and natural resources,” Alangca said.

Meantime, Ecosystems, Research and Development Services Director of Biodiversity Mohamad Ali Dimaren said that the incident proves that there is the presence of the Philippine Eagle in the Bangsamoro region.



Opinyon Laguna
20h · 4d

Dalewaarestado sa iligal na pamumulot ng puno sa Dag

Dalewanglalaking sangkot umano sa iligal na pamumulot ng punongkahoy ang hinuli ng mga otoridad sa Barangay Tinaca, Bay, Laguna kasakalan.

Ang mga suspek ay kinilalang sina Pablo Lasic, 61 anyos, at Brick Morales, 27 anyos, kapwa mga residente ng Barangay Puybuy, Bay, Laguna.

Sa ulat na binumit ni Bay Municipal Police Station chief P/Lt Joseph Natividad, nakatukha umiwas ng mga operaliba ng Dag MPS ang mga suspek na naramumulot ng punongkahoy sa Sitio Talao, Barangay Tinaca noong nakaraang Sabado (February 19).

Dukod sa kabiguan ng mga suspek na magpalata ng kaakulang permit para putulin ang mga naturang mga puno, napag-alaman na hindi din nakarehistro ang ginamit na chainsaw ng mga suspek.

Kinumpirko at dinilo ng awtoridad ang mga nakitir na puno at gamit na chainsaw gayundin ang mga natuhang suspek sa hiniripang Puybuy ng Bay.

Nakalathap ang dalawa sa kasong paglabag sa Presidential Decree No. 705 (Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines) at Republic Act No. 9175 (Chainsaw Act of 2007).

(Ulat mula sa Laguna Provincial Police Office)

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Liberal mining policies to lure foreign investors back to PHL-COMP

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA



WITH the recent policy moves by the Duterte administration, the mining industry's big players said the Philippines is back on the radar of foreign mining investors.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines chairman Michael T. Toledo said for one, Australian investors welcomed the recent decisions of the Philippine government to ease mining policies, raising the possibility of a renewed influx of foreign capital in the sector.

"Recent policy moves by the Philippine government are expected to boost investor confidence in its mining sector while unlocking the country's vast mineral resources responsibly and equitably," Toledo said.

Toledo is currently the chief operating officer of Silangan Mindanao Mining Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philex Mining Corp.

Mining is a pillar of Australia's economy, Toledo noted, and industry there is showing signs of potential boom, with investments surging and metal prices still soaring.

In separate statements, The Philippines-Australia Business Council (PABC) and Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC) said recently that the consecutive decisions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the 4-year-old ban on open pit mining for the extraction of copper, gold, silver, and complex ores, and the removal of the moratorium on new mineral agreements between the government and private contractors, are clear signals that the Philippine mining sector is again open for business for local and foreign direct investment.

"This is good news for the mining sector which hasn't seen any major investments since 2016 due to tighter government regulation. Renewed investor interest in mining could lead to fresh capital inflows that could unleash the industry's huge potential," Toledo said.

Since the government tightened mining rules, only Philex has decided to go ahead with its investment plan to develop, beginning this year, a starter mine that would cost \$224 million. The Silangan copper-gold prospect in Surigao del Norte is expected to produce gold and copper in early 2025.

5th-most mineralized

The Philippines is the fifth-most mineralized country in the world, with the third-largest deposits of gold, fourth for copper, and fifth for nickel. Around one-third of the country's land area has mineral potential but only one-tenth of that is covered by mining tenements.

Estimated to be worth around \$1 trillion in value, these resources remain underground.

"Mining is one industry that truly highlights the complementarity between Australia and the Philippines," said APBC President Rene Cabrera in a statement.



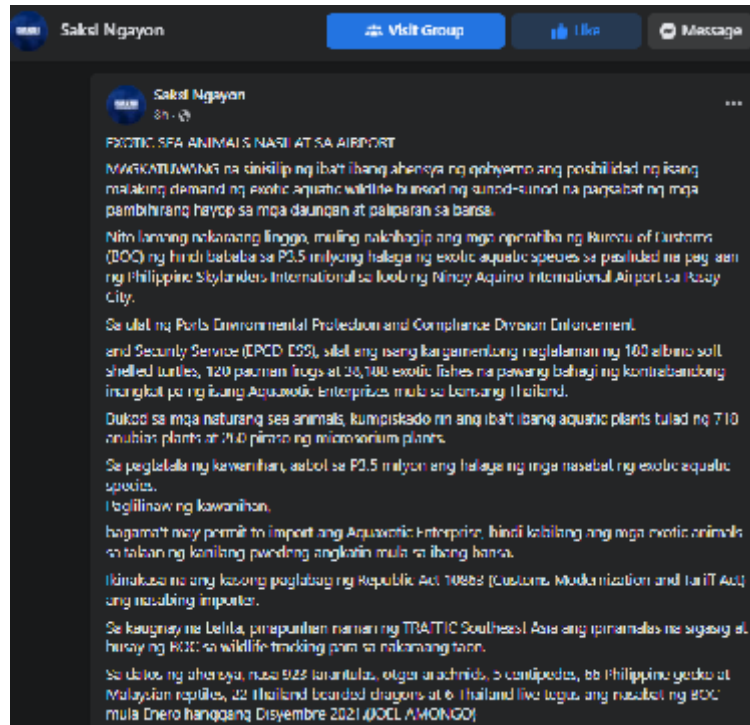
“The Philippines has vast untapped natural resources; Australia is a global expert in minerals development and production underpinned by responsible mining practices sought by the Philippine government and community. The potential for rewarding opportunities has always been there,” he added.

Philex had initially sought foreign investors to fund a grander development of Silangan, but failed to find one largely because of uncertainty in government policy. Philex will issue stock rights, use reserve funds and borrow from banks to fund the Silangan project.

Toledo said, however, that Philex isn’t closing its doors to investors, both local and foreign, who may want to infuse fresh for the development of the Silangan project. “It now depends on valuation and commercial terms, compliance with government regulations, and the strategic value that the potential investors will bring into the success of Silangan.” he said.



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Source:

<https://web.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/499930581703952/?app=fbl& rdc=1& rdr>



Subsidies are slowly killing biodiversity

A RECENT study by a group of subsidies experts reinforces concerns that financing projects that are meant to sustain biodiversity are doing more harm than good.

According to the study, at least \$1.8 trillion is spent every year on subsidies that subvert their intended goals. Tax breaks for beef production in the Amazon and financial aid for unproductive irrigation in the Middle East are among the most glaring examples the study cited.

A United Nations report last year also found that almost 90 percent of subsidies to farmers every year damage people's health, fuel climate crisis, destroy nature and drive inequality by excluding small farmers.

The fossil fuel industry, however, is the biggest culprit with counterproductive subsidies totaling \$620 billion. The agricultural sector is not too far behind with \$520 billion, with water accounting for \$320 billion and forestry, \$155 billion.

The report did not include mining, long considered to be a major contributor to ecosystem destruction.

Governments that parcel out subsidies without proper screening and follow-up strategy share the blame, the study noted.

The businesses that benefit from subsidies are guilty as well. In an online article in The Guardian, Eva Zabey, executive director of Business for Nature, lamented that many businesses "are benefiting from these environmentally harmful subsidies."

"Typically, the subsidies were established with good intentions in mind. We need to level the playing field because right now, some are benefiting from a head start when it should be the other way round. It's a wicked problem," Zabey added.

The fossil fuel industry immediately springs to mind whenever we dissect the problem of harmful subsidies. Many governments are generous in subsidizing the sector through tax breaks and production credits. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that subsidies in the fossil fuel sector rose by 30 percent in 2019. That's not an encouraging outlook, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Subsidies may protect consumers by keeping prices low, "but they also come at a high cost," the IMF warned. "Subsidies are expensive for governments — and therefore, taxpayers — to finance and can hinder governments' efforts to reduce budget deficits. They also compete with other priority public spending on roads, schools and healthcare."

The environmental cost is equally worrisome. Despite the financial boost, the industry has failed dismally to reduce carbon emissions. The report's authors are calling on governments to agree to stop all harmful subsidies by the end of the decade. There is a chance to make that push during the biodiversity summit in China later this year, where companies will be asked to reveal the subsidies they receive as part of environmental disclosure reporting.

Christiana Figueres, who headed the UN climate convention in 2016 that produced the Paris Agreement on capping temperature rise, agreed it's time for drastic measures.

"Harmful subsidies must be redirected towards protecting the climate and nature, rather than financing our own extinction," Figueres said.

Subsidies have to be redirected, repurposed or done away with to free up more funds to prevent further biodiversity loss.

The IMF said the fiscal, environmental and welfare gains from removing harmful subsidies are substantial. But it also acknowledges that getting rid of the subsidies will be a herculean effort.



As early as 2009, the Group of 20 sounded the call to phase out ineffective fossil fuel subsidies. The response was lukewarm, and the IMF explained why: "When reforms are made, prices increase, and this has often led to widespread public protests."

It added: "The absence of public support for subsidy reform is in part due to a lack of confidence in the ability of governments to shift the resulting budgetary savings to programs that would compensate the poor and middle class for the higher energy prices they face."

The IMF has offered a plan for subsidy reform that includes a comprehensive energy sector scheme, transparent and extensive communication and consultation with stakeholders, and more efficient state-owned enterprises to reduce producer subsidies.

All these initiatives will not prosper without political commitment and strong cooperation, both of which need to be nurtured vigorously.

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vibrant bamboo lumber industry,” former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu said during the program launching on Feb. 16.

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checks amounting to P1 million to Samahang Kawayan ng Karugo Agri Farmers Association to fund the Marikina Watershed rehabilitation project.

Rotary International District 3780 provided checks for P500,000 to fund the creation of a 10-hectare bamboo nursery site in Barangay Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal. **Elizabeth Marcelo, Rhodina Villanueva**

PH, UK agree on work plan on climate, environment

THE Philippines and the United Kingdom (UK) have agreed on a joint work plan that will guide them in identifying the collaboration areas that they should prioritize after the conclusion of the two governments' Climate Change and Environment Dialogue on February 10, said the joint news statement furnished by the British Embassy Manila.

The Philippines was represented in the dialogue by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), while UK was represented by the British Embassy Manila.

Environment Secretary Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, also the chairman of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction, said that the joint work plan will "guide the priority areas of engagement, including regional facilities and programs announced at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021."

"This dialogue marks another milestone event highlighting the partnership of the Philippines with the government of [UK]," Cimatu said.

He added that it shall also build on the earlier priorities on climate change and the environment, identified by both parties during the first Climate Change and Environment Dialogue held in November 2020 as "part of the key pillars of the UK-Philippines enhanced partnership which focused on energy transition and nature-based solutions and adaptation."

For his part, British Ambassador Laure Beaufils underscored the significance of the dialogue as it seeks to address the defining challenges of the current time, which are climate change and environmental degradation.

"The UK and the Philippines have just launched a new Financed Partnership in November 2021. Climate change and environmental issues constitute a key pillar of this," Beaufils said.



THE Philippines and UK governments have agreed on a joint work plan on climate change and environment degradation. In the photo, showing the signed joint work plan that they adopted, are (from top left, clockwise) DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebutela-Teh; British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufils (back) with the embassy's Political Counsellor Rebecca Shah; Ken O'Flaherty, UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia; and DENR Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro Jr. BRITISH EMBASSY MANILA PHOTO

He pointed out: "I'm proud of what the UK and the Philippines have already achieved together on climate-related issues and we committed to building on this success today and in the year to come."

According to Beaufils, the dialogue helped both governments agree on "joint actions to build resilience, tackle global emissions, and halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity."

Taking stock of the progress achieved during the first dialogue in November 2020, the Second Climate Change and Environment Dialogue highlighted the key elements of the ongoing cooperation, such as formulation of the long-term strategy, provision of analytical tools to revisit the Nationally Determined Contribution and develop the National Adaptation Plan, and conservation of critical species and ecosystems across the Philippines.

It also focused on four strategic objectives for 2022.

This includes building the resilience of the economy, ecosystems and communities in the context of climate change; establishing a development pathway toward long-term climate-responsive strategies; mobilizing sustainable finance and greening the financial sector; and strengthening collaboration and increase awareness of institutions and communities in tackling climate change.

The UK agreed to provide a combination of programs, technical assistance, including practical research studies, policy support and market development mechanisms, technology partnerships, and sharing best practices to deliver on these objectives, the joint news statement said.



EcoWaste backs DENR's call on proper PCB disposal

By CORY MARTINEZ

THE environment-advocate group, EcoWaste Coalition urged the public to support the effort of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to get rid of a highly toxic class of obsolete industrial chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) used in old electric transformers and capacitors.

The group through its chemical safety campaigner, Thony Dixon made an appeal coinciding with the 18th year of the promulgation of the Chemical Control Order (CCO) for PCBs on Feb. 16, 2004.

Dixon stressed that all stakeholders must rally behind the DENR to achieve the country's "PCB-free" target by 2025.

"The said CCO is the principal regulatory enforcement

framework to comply with the country's obligations on PCBs under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to which the Philippines is a party. This major multilateral chemical treaty has set a 2025 target to phase out the use of PCBs in equipment, and a 2028 target to eliminate PCBs.

The DENR had earlier banned the importation of PCB or PCB-containing equipment since March 19, 2004, pursuant to the CCO.

"With 2025 not too far away, we urge all concerned sectors, especially electric utilities and cooperatives, and other PCB owners, to remain on track and complete the phase-out of PCB use in equipment and to ensure the non-incineration destruction of our country's PCB stockpiles. Let us rally behind the government's action to make PCB pollution history," Dixon said.

"At the last Conference of Parties (COP9) held in 2019,

a report on the global progress in eliminating PCBs emphasized the need for parties to ramp up efforts to eradicate PCB use and ensure the environmentally sound management of PCB wastes.

A supplemental Memorandum Circular issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on Jan. 30, 2015 states that "no additional PCB-equipment, PCB-contaminated equipment, non-PCB equipment shall be used."

The said circular further stated that the "remaining PCB equipment, PCB-contaminated equipment, non-PCB equipment and PCB wastes that were not disposed of after March 19, 2014 shall be subject to phase-out and environmentally sound treatment and disposal at the earliest time possible."

PCBs remain intact for long periods of time, travel long distances, accumulate in fatty tissue of humans and wildlife and bio-concentrate in the

food chain.

PCBs can enter the body by eating or drinking contaminated food and water, inhalation, or by skin contact. PCBs can interfere with hormones and their actions in the body, suppress the immune system, cause reproductive failure, and increase the risk of cancer.

As mentioned in the country's National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention, "the most vulnerable sector exposed to the hazards of PCBs are those working in electric utilities with transformers filled or contaminated with PCB oil," noting that everyone, including wildlife, can be exposed to PCBs.

The updated inventory of the country's stockpile of PCBs and their environmentally sound treatment and disposal remains a top priority for the government as the 2025 target for a "PCB-free" Philippines approaches.



WITH 'AMBISYON 2030,' FMCGS MAKE POSITIVE, GREEN IMPACT /B2-3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ZERO WASTE TO NATURE



FMCGs, gov't, private sector partner to implement zero waste to nature road map for 2030

In recent years, the world woke up to the alarming reality that the earth is ailing, and that this problem has been brought about by our own hands. Unsustainable practices, including the mismanagement of plastic waste, has led to a global and local challenge for everyone.

The Philippines alone generates 2.7 million tons of plastic waste, 20 percent of which end up in the ocean, according to a 2021 World Bank study. Many attribute this to the country's "tingi-tingi" or "sachet economy," along with poor implementation of green legislation and insufficient compliance with local solid waste management systems. Environmental groups have also pointed out the role large corporations play in contributing to the waste problem.

The good news is that the private sector has stepped up their efforts to address the global plastic problem. While corporations have already developed and implemented corporate sustainable strategies for years, they are now expanding efforts with stakeholders for a more holistic approach.

In January 2020, the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS) worked together with members of the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector to craft a strategy geared toward managing plastic and packaging waste, with the ultimate goal of reducing the country's waste footprint by 2030. The strategy, called the Zero Waste to Nature, Ambisyon 2030 (ZWTN 2030), is a commitment by PARMs member companies to "demonstrate that none of the industrial and post-consumer packaging wastes generated from its operations, sale of products, and usage of products end up in nature by 2030."

Project Rebound: Zero waste to nature
To spread this message and strategy further, PARMs partnered with Inquirer's Project Rebound webinar series last Jan. 26. The webinar featured the insights and plans from relevant industry representatives such as Secretary Ramon Lopez of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Deputy Speaker Rep. Camille Villar of the House of Representatives and PARMs founding president Crispian Lao.

For Lopez, DTI's key role and strategy is to help promote and incentivize green industries. Giving fiscal incentives to these industries and prioritizing those whose work or programs involve sustainability will positively affect and address the entire supply chain, he said. "Down the road, what we want is a sustainable supply chain that will make use of green energy, green systems," Lopez said, noting that they are also seeing a demand in the

ZERO WASTE TO NATURE
MANAGING WASTE, PRESERVING NATURE AND PAVING THE WAY TO A SAFE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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The webinar hosted by Inquirer's Project Rebound was held last Jan. 26, with Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, House Deputy Speaker Rep. Camille Villar and PARMs president Crispian Lao as panelists.

BENEFIT TO PEOPLE, PLANET & PROFIT

An estimated **P15.1 BILLION** infrastructure investment for new recycling and waste diversion facilities.

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EPR fees to support waste recovery will generate approximately

P5.2 BILLION OF ANNUAL ADDITIONAL INCOME for the informal waste sector and Barangay Material Recovery Facilities

SOURCE: PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE FOR RECYCLING AND MATERIALS SUSTAINABILITY

The brand owners are competitors among themselves. But then here, we have a platform where we can share information. We try to translate global initiatives into local action and we want also to keep the economy within the Philippines. We don't want to push for sustainable packaging but [end up] importing everything and forget about the local industry ... With the commitment of the [big] business owners who will lead and hand-hold the SMEs, I'm sure we will be able to find solutions

Crispian Lao
PARMS founding president

marker for suppliers that apply green technology, hence the importance of green financing support.

Expanding on the issue of FMCGs at one point being one of the causes of the plastic production problem and now working to be part of the solution, Lao noted that many companies have already been implementing programs and developing systems to address the plastic waste problem. PARMs' role, he said, was to

provide the platform so that all stakeholders can share information with each other.

"The brand owners are competitors among themselves. But then here, we have a platform where we can share information," Lao said. "We try to translate global initiatives into local action and we want also to keep the economy within the Philippines. We don't want to push for sustainable packaging but [end up] importing everything and forget about the local industry

... With the commitment of the [big] business owners who will lead and hand-hold the SMEs, I'm sure we will be able to find solutions." Micro, small and medium enterprises make up around 99 percent of business enterprises in the country.

From a legislative standpoint, Villar noted that policies and programs have already been put in place for FMCGs and large enterprises. But to get small and micro enterprises (SMEs) as well as consumers involved in the large-scale plan to reduce plastic use and waste first starts with awareness. By making them aware of the programs and sharing available green technologies with them, especially through local government units (LGUs) and communities, SMEs can take part in the program.

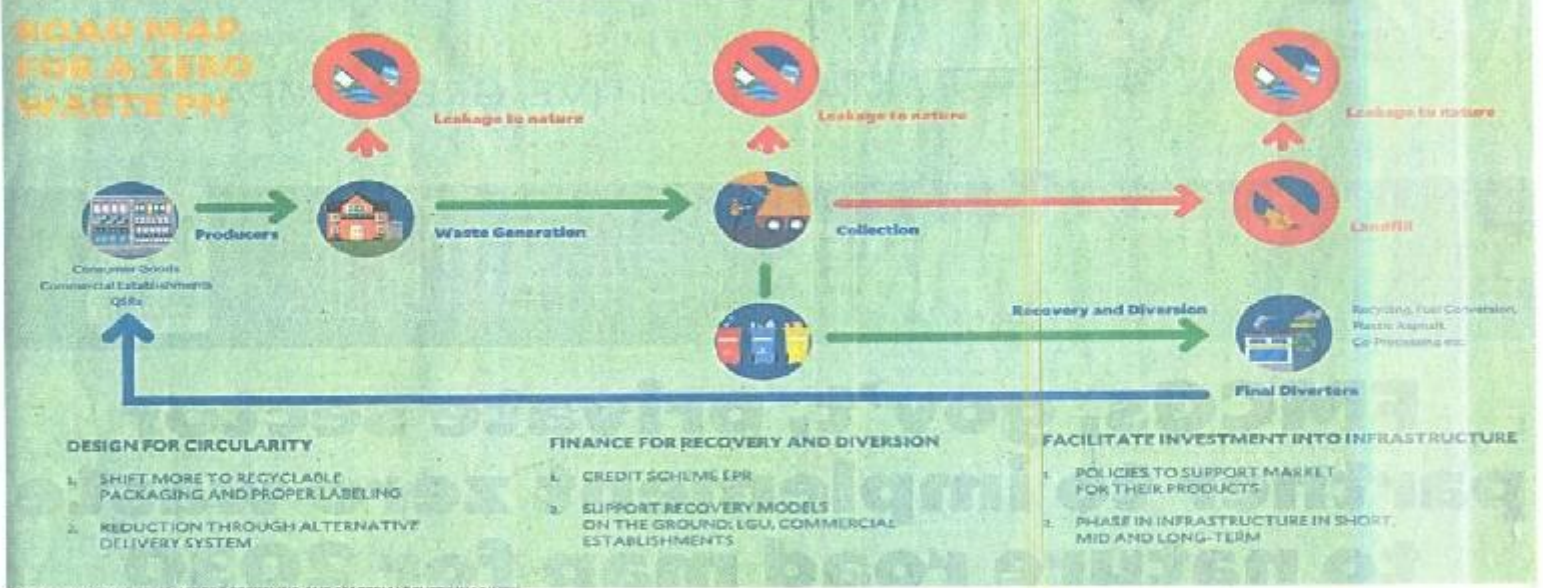
Villar also highlighted four key strategies to get more people involved: (1) educate on the situation, program and solution; (2) teach the technology; (3) provide incentives; and (4) encourage creativity (e.g. upcycling).

Understanding that some may feel intimidated by the idea of sustainability, believing it is a costly undertaking, Villar emphasized the need for a more wide-scale awareness. "Zero waste is not necessarily a huge and expensive endeavor. We just have to consider concerns of all parties and come up with solutions that can be implemented. Sometimes when we have policies, while they're comprehensive and good, we have to keep in mind what is doable for the majority," she said.

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ZERO WASTE TO NATURE

FRIDAY / FEBRUARY 18, 2022
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FMCGS, GOV'T, PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER TO IMPLEMENT ZERO WASTE TO NATURE ROAD MAP FOR 2030

FROM B2-1

Lopez emphasized the importance of incentives. It is important, he noted, to make reducing plastic waste "economically rewarding for all participants in the value chain." With the recently concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), it was also seen that there is growth in terms of clean financing, in which financial institutions are backing global net-zero targets.

Lao added that it is important for all stakeholders to also be careful about how we transition away from plastic. While the goal of the ZWTN 2030 commitment is to reduce plastic waste, it must not come at the cost of creating problems with other materials or alternatives. Working locally with circular models are also key to achieving this, he said.

Developing holistic, comprehensive programs toward zero waste

PARMS was incorporated in 2019, and involves various partners from multiple sectors and industries, including FMCGs, technology, academe and civil society.

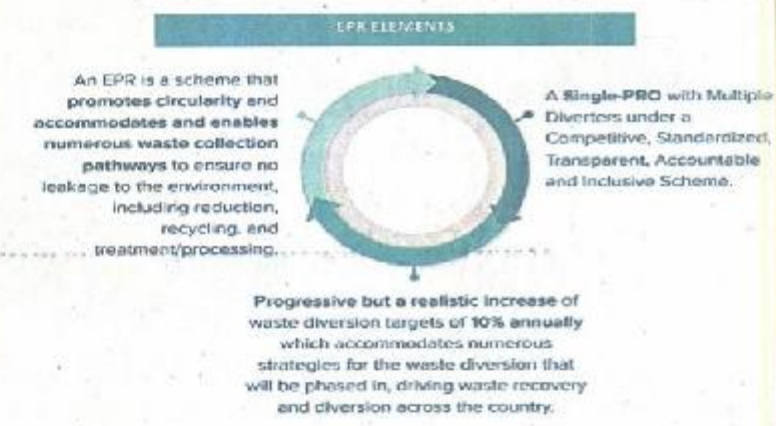
In January 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, PARMS brought industry stakeholders together to declare their united commitment toward creating a zero waste road map. The road map, now known as ZWTN Ambisyon 2030, was completed and launched this 2022.

The first phase involves designing for circularity, in which the priority is for producers to shift to more recyclable and properly labeled packaging, and for alternative delivery systems to be developed in which waste can be reduced.

The second phase focuses on financing recovery and diversion. This phase focuses on creating a credit scheme EPR or extended producer responsibility—that is, a policy approach where producers are given responsibility for treatment and disposal of their post-consumer plastic packaging waste. The aim of having an EPR is to encourage better product design that benefits the environment, and at the same time, provide support for on-ground recovery models, public recycling, and materials management. This also involves LGUs and commercial establishments.

The last phase of the 2030 road map is to facilitate these investments into recycling and waste processing infrastructure through policies that promote a market-based, inclusive and competitive landscape across players in the waste sector.

DESIGNING AN EPR SYSTEM FOR THE PHILIPPINES



SOURCE: PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE FOR RECYCLING AND MATERIALS SUSTAINABILITY



Representatives from PARMS, partner FMCG companies and government agencies finalized the Zero Waste to Nature Ambisyon 2030 road map on Jan. 26 and 31, 2020, at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park.

To come up with its zero waste road map and strategy, PARMS examined the current landscape. They looked at and categorized the diverse packaging materials currently in use. The categories were made based on the recycling and waste technologies that can be used to absorb the waste. PARMS defined a total of nine categories—six of which were considered flexible packaging while three were defined as rigid packaging.

Another important element considered was the quantity being produced for each packaging category, along with how much end-of-life waste is generated. PARMS' analysis showed that 60,000 metric tons of plastic packaging waste was generated in 2019. Around half of which (52 percent) were recyclable rigid plastic, while 28 percent were high diversion value flexible plastic, and 20 percent low diversion value flexible plastic.

The final consideration was the baseline recovery and diversion rates of each plastic category.

The proposed ZWTN road map also sees benefits not just to nature, but to people and industry as well. According to PARMS, this program will create 4,000 new green jobs. An estimated P15.1-billion infrastructure investment in new recycling and waste diversion facilities is also expected, while EPR fees to support waste recovery are seen to generate around P5.2 billion additional

| KEY EMPLOYERS | |
|------------------------------|---|
| The PRO or scheme owner | Produce and audit procedures + Monitor compliance. NOT engaged in actual recovery and diversion on the ground. |
| Individual obliged companies | Mandatory to demonstrate recovery of their post-consumer waste with a probability above the target. |
| The Waste Diverters | Entity responsible for recovery and diversion of wastes on the ground. |
| Certification body | Will assure that obliged companies declare the right waste, in the right quantity and in the right location that they divert on the ground. |
| Accreditation body | Assess the qualifications of certification bodies. Accreditation of certification bodies. |

income annually for the informal waste sector.

How we can all participate

The Project Rebound panelists all emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to solving the country's plastic waste problem. From big corporations leading the charge and smaller enterprises following by example and adopting new technology, to legislation laying down policy groundwork and incentivizing recycling and packaging innovations to enter the country, to execution from the national down to local and community levels, each sector can be seen to have a stake in the road to zero.

For Lopez, the best way to motivate more consumers and businesses to participate in road to zero initiatives is to make it economically rewarding for all participants across the value chain.

Lao, meanwhile, stressed that this is not just the effort of the corporations or policymakers, nor the public alone. "Individually, we might not be able to afford it, but collectively we can find the resources to pull it through," he said.

"The opportunity is there for inclusive growth among all sectors... it's not as simple as it looks, but it is doable. With the commitment of the industries, we believe we would be able to come up with a solution. But key is consumer discipline and participation and collaboration of all stakeholders across the

value chain... to achieve our goal of zero waste to nature," Lao said.

Villar, meanwhile, stressed the role of awareness as a first step to getting more people involved, invested and receptive to sustainability and zero waste efforts.

"First and foremost there is a need for awareness. Not all solutions are expensive. There are ways to do it that are not expensive, but we need to start the awareness early. I believe that we need to reach people about sustainability and the positive effects of zero waste programs not just when they're doing business, but even when they're young. We need to teach these kinds of practices or institutionalize them within our curriculum, or within our communities so that kids at a young age will become aware, and as they grow up it will become part of their lifestyle," Villar said.

Programs by the LGUs, she added, will further encourage the practice. LGUs can provide facilities and programs through which consumers and smaller enterprises can re-produce or recycle their products. In Las Piñas City of which Villar is the district representative, for example, plastics collected through their material management facilities are turned into school chairs.

"It really requires creativity on the part of everyone to create sustainable producers and to take part in sustainable programs," Villar said. —ewr



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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ZERO WASTE TO NATURE

B2-3

With 'Ambisyon 2030,' FMCGs make positive, green impact

By Vaughn Avlar

In January 2020, companies affiliated with the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS) joined the "Zero Waste to Nature: Ambisyon 2030" (ZWTN 2030). In doing so, they pledged to observe more sustainable ways so that, at the turn of the decade, they can truly achieve the vision of a zero waste Philippines. Ambisyon 2030 urges institutions to strengthen existing initiatives and churn out innovative ones, leading the Philippines to a future where circularity and sustainability are the norm.



100% RECYCLABLE
PACKAGING BY 2025

GOING GREEN FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET, MONDE NISSIN CHAMPIONS FOOD SECURITY

If you have an enduring love for snacks like Monde Special Mamon, Breadstix and Eggnog, you may have noticed the recent changes to their packaging when you went out to buy fresh stocks. Those revamps represent far more than a branding revolution and, in fact, reflect Monde Nissin's passionate commitment to its sustainability goals.

Acknowledging the growing awareness of environmental degradation and continuously working sustainable Nissin signed the Ambisyon 2030 agreement. With that, it signified its tireless commitment to contribute solutions to the widespread waste management problem in the nation, all in the name of the well-being of both people and the planet.

Those packaging adjustments on iconic products like Monde Special Mamon, Breadstix and Eggnog did not change a thing about their cherished flavors but reduced unnecessary plastic trays and optimized the size and thickness of the plastic used.

That accomplishment is only one of many that the company fulfilled in a past year that it described as "a very remarkable year for making eco-efficiency possible."

Besides immense savings in plastic, Monde Nissin also got (1) up to 94-percent recyclable packaging material volume across majority of its portfolio, (2) a 20-percent reduction in waste disposed in landfills compared to the previous year, and (3) made strides to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and transition to a low-carbon value chain.

Its Quora product line also contributed to attain sustainability goals. As a meat alternative, it works into a sustainable nutrition framework and,

on a larger scale, contributes to lower carbon and GHG emissions. In 2019, Quora obtained a Carbon Trust accreditation and is now the first global meat alternatives company to meet the carbon footprint of products accredited by a third party.

As Monde Nissin partakes in ZWTN 2030, consumers and observers can be sure that goals in sustainability will not be unique to 2021 and will in fact endure. The company is gearing for a shift to 100-percent 50-percent reduction in GHG intensity of manufacturing operations by 2025 as it opts for renewable energy sources, reduces the use of palm oil and achieves a ZWTN scenario in its plants by 2030.

Monde Nissin's sustainability strategies and targets also go beyond waste management and reduced emissions. For instance, Quora is just one of many products marking the company's pivot to a healthier and better portfolio by 2030. Within the same timeline, it also hopes to empower small-scale distribution partners with livelihood opportunities and financial credit, employ a diverse workforce enjoying full and fair conditions, and ensure that sustainability is part of corporate life and culture.

The company wants to participate in the advocacy for food security, working toward better food accessibility, inclusivity and collective action along with eco-efficiency. It continuously enhances its products, educates consumers, and partners with other stakeholders intending to address both food security and malnutrition.

Monde Nissin is building a future of food with planet, health and taste uncompromised using the same innovation and passion that has driven the company for decades.

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE'S ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND PARTNERSHIPS SYMBOLIZE PASSION FOR A FUTURE TO SMILE ABOUT

You must already be familiar with the Colgate Bamboo Toothbrush, the first eco-friendly toothbrush by Colgate made with biodegradable and compostable handles, and packed using recyclable cardboard. This really stands out on the grocery store racks because of its unique make.

That is just one of many examples proving that Colgate-Palmolive Philippines (CPPI) is not new—and is requisite—in reimagining its products for a more sustainable, more responsible future. Aside from the toothbrush, CPPI also boasts of sachets of Palmolive Shampoo and Palmolive Soap, which have now transitioned to recycle-ready monomaterials.

For the Palmolive Soap that comes in a box, meanwhile, the packaging is made up of 90-percent recycled paper, nonlaminated so that the material could more conveniently be reprocessed later. Let us not forget, CPPI revealed in early 2021 the first-ever recyclable tube in its portfolio with the launch of Colgate Naturalis Toothpaste. The featured packaging material resulted

from five years of research.

This string of remarkable innovations is grounded in Colgate-Palmolive's sustainability and social impact mission, a commitment to use 100-percent recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging across all the company's product categories by 2025, among other goals. Globally, working with this ideal in mind, Colgate-Palmolive now has 28 true zero-waste-certified facilities in 16 countries.

The sustainability and social impact mission emanates from Colgate-Palmolive's core belief that everyone deserves a future to smile about—a future in which the brand uses its being "in more homes than any other" for positive impact like improving people's well-being, helping millions of homes with more sustainable products and healthier habits, and preserving the environment with climate action and decreased environmental footprint.

The innovations of CPPI show how the company's local presence shares in the global agenda, and how it is grounded in the realities of a country facing the negative impacts of



OUR FIRST EVER

RECYCLABLE TUBE

the climate crisis and a huge waste problem. Nothing drives that point home more than CPPI's decision to participate in Ambisyon 2030.

Beyond investing in product development, CPPI also implements programs focused on partnerships with other stakeholders and the empowerment of communities. For example, it launched its Plastic Waste Collection program, with a vision of recovering plastic waste equivalent to the amount it puts into the market. CPPI even established in five SM Malls drop-off points where people could leave their plastic waste with an assurance that these would be disposed in environmentally sound ways.

In 2021, the company collaborated with Green Antz to turn tons of plastic waste into eco-bricks that would later build 20 waste-and-brush stations in schools and municipalities all over Bulacan. With Plastic Credit Exchange, CPPI has supported the Aling Tiniera program, a waste-to-cash collection scheme that engages and empowers sari-sari store owners through incentivization. CPPI is open to partnerships in and outside Metro Manila to further a noble cause and inspire new sustainable behavior.

The company has clarified commitments to find alternative, circular solutions to achieve a future where the ideals of ZWTN 2030 are a reality.

CAPITAL'S 'SARI-SARI' STORE OWNERS, CYCLISTS WIN BIG WITH PT MAYORA'S SUSTAINABLE POLICIES

Collaboration works wonders. That is what the PT Mayora Ibadah Group (Mayora Group) has proven in partnering with some waste management companies to bolster the country's efforts in managing its plastic waste and delivering impactful solutions to society.

Centered on proper plastic waste collection, processing and recycling, the Mayora Group entered joint endeavors with Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX) and Green Antz that introduced to Metro Manila interactive avenues improving garbage collection systems and plastic recycling projects. Now, the projects are benefiting sari-sari store owners and commuters in the capital.

The Mayora Group partnered with Green Antz, a leading green technology company, to shred plastic waste and upcycle them into bollards that could help manage the flow of pedestrians in Pasay City.

The partnership produced 800 laminated bollards from shredded plastic. These were later donated to the City of Pasay through the management



of the Light Rail Transit, Line 1. Once-discarded materials are now fixtures that guide commuters and bicycle riders as they traverse roads surrounding the improved train stations, protecting them from potentially life-threatening hazards.

With its other partner, PCX, the Mayora Group supported the Aling Tiniera program. In this partnership, the two

enlisted the help of women sari-sari store owners in the collection of trash from their localities. The retrieved waste would then be placed in refurbished container vans, which act as hubs and storage units. For their work, the participants were compensated with cash.

The initiative gave residents of Brgy. 054, District 5, Part Area, in the City of Manila, access to an income-generating waste management system. This also empowered local sari-sari store owners economically, and built a strong network of sustainability-focused women entrepreneurs and community leaders.

Since its establishment in 2019, PCX has diverted about 20 million kilograms of plastic waste from the oceans through extensive partnerships with institutions in the private and public sectors. With Aling Tiniera, the Mayora Group and PCX provided profound growth to the beneficiaries, their families and their communities.

Green Antz is no newbie in the business of sustainability, too. With over 30 Eco Hubs for plastic recycling across

the country, Green Antz provides innovative solutions to transform plastic waste into eco-friendly building materials that meet the sustainability demands of the market, industry and communities in the country. It has been involved in joint undertakings with corporate powerhouses like Ayala Land, Ayala Malls and Shell Foundation to upcycle plastic waste and contribute to eco-friendly and socially beneficial interventions—such as housing solutions—in various places.

Both projects were ingeniously designed to address the waste problem and improve society in various ways. With the help of PCX and Green Antz, the Mayora Group equipped communities with the right resources not only to promote sustainability, but also to create livelihood opportunities and upgrade local road safety protocols.

At the end of the day, the Mayora Group, through its collaborative efforts toward sustainability, facilitated the economic recovery of Filipinos from the pandemic and, in the long term, empowered citizens to aspire for a higher quality of life.

URC GENERATES POWER FROM SOLAR ENERGY IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY EFFORTS

As the company marches into the future with greater concern for sustainability, Universal Robina Corp. (URC) has begun to adopt greener technologies. Foremost among its initiatives is the introduction of solar panels across its industrial localities here and abroad.

A proud exemplar of URC's energetic push is its Thailand subsidiary, a recipient of 3Rs, 2Rs and Zero Waste Achievement Awards recognizing its efficient waste management

systems. If you head over to the company's compound in Samut Sakhon province, southwest of Bangkok, you will find the roofs of the six factories and four warehouses covered with solar panels.

That hardware harnessing energy from the sun can generate approximately 6 megawatts of clean power, decreasing the amount URC Thailand needs to source from the local power grid. It also ensures that the company lessens its dependence on fossil fuels.

URC Thailand general manager Tanent Suwanraks noted that URC Thailand has lined up more projects dovetailed with the company's goal to help mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. "We will not stop with the solar panels. We believe that the main core for businesses to carry on is to be responsible to the people, community, society, environment and our planet."

URC Thailand began putting solar panels on its facilities in September 2016 under

its "URGreen with Thailand's Solar Panel Rooftop" project. This switch to more eco-friendly options is happening all over the Southeast Asian region for URC.

In the Philippines, the company has partnered with cement plants in efforts to convert waste into refuse-derived fuel. URC has also been installing solar panels at its manufacturing facilities. It can harness up to 1 MW at its plant in Canlubang, Laguna, and some 21 kilowatts



B2-4



ZERO WASTE TO NATURE

WITH UPCYCLED OUTDOOR FURNITURE, MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL SHOWS VALUE OF RECYCLING PLASTIC

If you happen to visit Parañaque City, be on the lookout for plastic picnic benches, bike racks, waste cubes and dining sets on some of their community spaces. Those were once plastic waste, which could have ended up in landfills and waterways. Thanks to snacks company Mondelez International, they serve better purposes.

"We recognize the responsibility that each one of us has in ensuring plastic waste does not end up in nature," said Atty. Joseph Fabal, corporate and government affairs country manager for Mondelez International in the Philippines. "For consumers, it could be buying in bulk rather than in small pieces if they can afford it, and making sure to dispose of their waste properly. For companies like ours, it means being mindful of our packaging use and supporting the collection of what we put out in the market."

Taking this role seriously, Mondelez International worked with The Plastic Planing, a social enterprise that collects and transforms plastic waste into construction materials like eco-lumber, thus also

providing livelihood to collectors and processors.

"In 2019, we started our journey [of learning how we can support waste collection, launching a project to collect just 1,000 kilos of plastic waste [together] with the Plastic Planing the following year. By 2021, we have expanded this to 42,000 kilos...," Fabal recalled. Opening the project to like-minded organizations last year, Mondelez International ended up collecting and diverting plastic waste weighing 77,486 kilograms, as heavy as 86 automobiles. Part of that load went to The Plastic Planing, which turned them into outdoor furniture.

The finished products were donated to the government of Parañaque. Mondelez International's home city, last Nov. 23. The project was funded by the company's global Sustainable Futures platform, which incubates, finances and builds initiatives creating a positive impact on people and the planet. Such a campaign is sure to exist for more years—and perhaps with a scaled-up version—thanks to Mondelez International's commitment to



Ambisyon 2030.

Demonstrating the company's persistence, it plans to surpass its 2021 yield this year. The furniture now enjoyed by Parañaque residents should be considered an indication that possibilities abound for recycled plastic. The Plastic Planing's model highlights how plastic can be reused and re-purposed.

Mondelez International is also expressing its participation in ZWTN 2030 in several other ways. By 2030, the company plans to collect and divert plastic waste equal to the amount it uses in its packaging. It is also working to meet global goals, such as reducing the amount of packaging used; making 100 percent of its

packaging recycle-ready and labeled with recycling information; and decreasing by 25 percent its use of virgin plastic in rigid packaging, or getting a 5-percent reduction in virgin plastic in its overall packaging.

Mondelez International is a company long dedicated to sustainability. The Philippine office is one with its parent company in ensuring net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the entire value chain by 2050.

The company most recently pledged support for the Circular Capital Ocean Fund as a limited partner. The fund supports scalable business solutions, thereby helping develop infrastructure to sustainably manage plastic waste in India and Southeast Asia.

UNILEVER TO DELIVER PACKAGING COMMITMENTS, COLLECTION TARGETS BY 2025 THRU GLOBAL STRATEGIES, HOMEGROWN SOLUTIONS

Plastic is a valuable material. It is crucial for the safe and efficient distribution of products, and it has a lower carbon footprint than many alternatives. The problem is, far too much of it ends up in the environment. In fact, it's predicted that the plastic pollution crisis will surge between now and 2040 with twice as much virgin plastic created and four times more ending up in the ocean. We cannot let that happen.

But banning plastic altogether isn't the answer. The solution lies in reducing the use of virgin plastic (or making as little as possible in the first place) while keeping all plastic produced in a circular economy (treating it as a resource rather than waste).

Unilever Philippines has been working to reduce plastic pollution through global goals launched in 2017 and 2021 focused on reducing virgin plastic and replacing this with recycled material, adopting recyclable, reusable and repairable packaging; and collecting more plastic than they sell. These goals should have already been



achieved by 2025.

Predating all these commitments is the company's long-standing Misla Walastik plastic collection program, which began in 2012 and is still going strong amid challenges from the pandemic.

The Misla Walastik program runs on a "Kolek, Kilo, Kita" framework. Here, participating households collect plastic waste like pouches, bags, wraps and sachets then aggregate them, ready for pickup by roving eco-teams, colloquially known as the magkokoriton. Plastic waste is matched with cash incentives by the kilogram. The waste is then sold to junkshops.

While the program had to take a pause in the early lockdown, Unilever swiftly came

up with a solution by tapping small neighborhood waste banks and collectors and creating pop-up junkshops in different areas within the community. This strategy lessened the risk of COVID-19 transmission and made the program more accessible to households while enhancing the livelihood of those in the waste collection business.

Misla Walastik has now engaged over 400 barangays, 200,000 households and countless individuals relying on the informal waste sector. Unilever has so far collected over 4,600 metric tons of flexible plastic waste that are mechanically recycled or coprocessed.

The program's emphasis on proper incentivization for waste

collection is complemented by consistent community education support, empowering communities and local governments, awagap, junkshop recyclers and community leaders with knowledge and skills for greener attitudes and behaviors.

Aside from the plastic recovery program, Unilever also increased its use of recycled plastic. In the Philippines, products like Dove, Breeze, Domex, Comfort, Sunlight, Love Beauty and Planet, and Surf now use 100-percent recycled bottles. Under the Selecta brand, the flexible packaging is already 100-percent recycle-ready. Work is underway for other brands.

Unilever's journey toward sustainable packaging is guided by its "Less-Better-No Plastic" approach. "Less plastic" means cutting back on plastic used. "Better plastic" is about making products recyclable and eliminating problematic materials. Finally, "no plastic" entails looking for alternative materials such as aluminum, glass, paper and board, and removing plastic where it is unnecessary.

With 'Ambisyon 2030,' FMCGs make positive, green impact

URC GENERATES POWER FROM SOLAR ENERGY IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY EFFORTS

FROM B2-3

at its Viteasoy facility in San Fernando, Pampanga. As one of the largest food and beverage manufacturing companies in the Philippines, its sustainability commitments—including its signing of the ZWTN 2030—can impact various industries.

The company's Vietnam subsidiary has an ongoing installation of a 3-MW solar rooftop system in its coffee plant located in Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park in Binh Duong province. The solar panels will cover 14,500 square meters of roof area, which can potentially supply 21 percent of the actual consumption of the plant while providing thermal insulation that could reduce temperatures by around 4 to 5 degrees Celsius.

The Binh Duong project is just one of URC Vietnam's

sustainability initiatives encompassing greater consumption of renewable energy, reduction of water and energy usage, and recycling activities, among others. Plans for other factories in Vietnam are in the works.

URC chief sustainability officer David Lim said that the projects across the region, where the company's presence has been increasing, are anchored in one of URC's core strategies: building a people- and planet-friendly culture.

"We aim for a low-carbon economy by optimizing the use of the renewable energy," he said. "URC is gearing toward net zero by 2050."

URC takes a more holistic view of its sustainability roadmap. Aside from the efficient use of resources and investment in renewable energy, the company is also addressing its packaging footprint through using and developing recycle-ready materials.

P&G BUILDS ON STRONG TRACK RECORD, INTEGRATES SUSTAINABILITY IN ALL OF ITS OPERATIONS

Procter & Gamble (P&G) is focused on integrating sustainability measures across its operations as it embarks on Ambition 2030, building on an already strong track record in green innovations.

As the company champions responsible consumption, it plans to craft sustainable and meaningful interventions in four specific areas of operations: (1) brand innovations, (2) supply chain operations, (3) societal partnerships and (4) employee empowerment.

Consumers may already have encountered some of P&G's innovations while shopping for groceries and other essentials. It eliminated virgin plastic overwrap on Safeguard multipacks, thus avoiding 8,500 kilometers of potential single-use plastic waste yearly (the length transacts to walking along the Boracay shoreline 1,000 times). For the Herbal Essences biorenew collection, the bottles now use postconsumer resin or recycled plastic material, further reducing use of virgin plastic.

A partnership making waves among communities is P&G and World Vision's "Pag-Asa sa Basura." The initiative recovered 3.1 million pieces of plastic sachets and hundreds of thousands of plastic bottles. These were upcycled into over 3,000 public school chairs, complete with safety dividers, which were then donated to various partner schools.

P&G also empowered its 2,000-plus employees to become advocates of sustainability in the workplace. The company has consistently promoted a culture of sustainability in everyday business by ensuring that sustainable innovations come first, backed by strong leadership and tone from the top.



All these steps build on P&G's earlier achievements in the elimination of waste. The company ensures that sustainability is hardwired into its business strategy and not seen as separate work.

The company currently purchases 100-percent renewable electricity, enabling it to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent. Worldwide, 200 percent of its plants are certified "Zero Manufacturing Waste to Landfill," including the P&G Cabuyao manufacturing plant in Laguna. This stamp means that a plant recovers, reuses and recycles wastewater and solid waste generated from operations. Furthermore, all the plastic waste undergoes extraction for recycling while biodegradable wastes are composted and used as fertilizers.

By 2030, P&G's global operations aim to make 100 percent of packaging recyclable or reusable and to cut the use of virgin plastic in its packaging by 50 percent.

NESTLE PHILIPPINES LEADS WITH GROUNDBREAKING INITIATIVES TO TACKLE PLASTIC WASTE

As the world's largest food and beverage company, Nestlé is committed to taking a leadership role in tackling the complex and urgent problem of plastic waste.

Globally, the company aims to make its packaging, including plastics, 100-percent recyclable or reusable by 2025. Nestlé is taking a holistic approach to address plastic waste, accelerating its initiatives across three focus areas: (1) developing the packaging for the future, through packaging and delivery innovation and plastic reduction; (2) helping to shape a waste free future through increased collection and recycling; and (3) driving new behaviors and understanding through solid waste management education.

Nestlé Philippines, as one of the country's top fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) corporations, has introduced groundbreaking initiatives to address plastic waste. In its most significant environmental milestone to date, the company has already achieved plastic neutrality as of August 2020,

making it the country's first and only multinational FMCG to do so.

This means that the company is recovering the equivalent amount of plastic packaging that it puts out in the market. With support from its partners, it was able to collect over 38 million kilos of plastic waste from August 2020 to December 2021.

Saluting the firm, Commissioner Crispian Lao of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and founding president of FARMS said, "Nestlé has always been at the forefront of corporate stewardship and exemplifies what a responsible brand needs to be. It is always a pleasure and an honor to be part of your journey as your private sector representative to the NSWMC and with your support as part of the inception team that led to the formation of, and with your continuing active participation, FARMS' Zero Waste to Nature: Ambisyon 2030' goals. In 2017, along with our partners, we discussed the concept of plastics neutrality. And now



you have achieved this, well ahead of your global and local commitments."

Other accomplishments of Nestlé Philippines under the three focus areas include:

- The country's first food and beverage company to shift to paper straws. Nestlé Philippines is constantly searching for alternative materials to make its packaging more sustainable. An equally important milestone is its fall transition to using paper straws in its locally manufactured ready-to-drink products.
- The country's first citywide soft plastic waste collection project. In June 2021, Nestlé Philippines piloted May Baka Sa Plastik, which recovered

postconsumer sachets, used beverage cartons and other soft plastics, in partnership with Valenzuela City. The project successfully put a tangible value to soft plastic waste, which previously had no worth.

- The country's first solid waste management education modules rolled out in over 30,000 public schools nationwide. Information, education and communication are important in achieving the goal of a waste-free future. Nestlé Philippines developed these modules for its Nestlé Wellness Campus program. The modules are used by some 12 million Grades 1 to 6 students.



San Pablo City has become one of San Pablo City, Laguna's staples for kids who are enjoying the view of Sampaloc Lake.

Philippine Eagle rescued

The eagle underwent an immediate surgical operation on its injured right wing since the bacterial infection was already spreading beyond its injured body parts

BY NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A wounded female Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) needing immediate surgery was rescued by a resident of Marogong in Lanao del Sur and was turned over to proper authorities.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) environment officer Benjamin Alangca said that the resident – identified as Hadji Solaiman Olama – found the injured eagle in the forested areas of Marogong on 9 February.

Olama immediately informed the office of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources about his discovery for the protection and safety of the eagle.

After the turnover, the eagle underwent an immediate surgical operation on its injured right wing since the bacterial infection was already spreading beyond its injured body parts.

Dr. Anita Chua, a veterinarian specialist of the

Regional Wildlife Rescue Center of Zamboanga del Sur Province, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office conservation and development section and Department of Environment and Natural Resources-9 technical personnel, treated the wound.

Chua said the Philippine Eagle has a wingspan of 51 centimeters and a weight of 5 kilograms.

After administering medical aid, the eagle was immediately turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Davao City to perform additional medical procedures.

"It was the first time that we found and rescued an injured Philippine Eagle and it signifies that the BARMM have a vast environment and natural resources," Alangca said.

Meantime, Ecosystems, Research and Development Services Director of Biodiversity Mohamad Ali Dimaren said that the incident proves that there is the presence of the Philippine Eagle in the Bangsamoro region.



Editorial

Subsidies are slowly killing biodiversity

A RECENT study by a group of subsidies experts reinforces concerns that financing projects that are meant to sustain biodiversity are doing more harm than good.

According to the study, at least \$1.8 trillion is spent every year on subsidies that subvert their intended goals. Tax breaks for beef production in the Amazon and financial aid for unproductive irrigation in the Middle East are among the most glaring examples the study cited.

A United Nations report last year also found that almost 90 percent of subsidies to farmers every year damage people's health, fuel climate crisis, destroy nature and drive inequality by excluding small farmers.

The fossil fuel industry, however, is the biggest culprit with counterproductive subsidies totaling \$620 billion. The agricultural sector is not too far behind with \$520 billion, with water accounting for \$320 billion and forestry, \$155 billion.

The report did not include mining, long considered to be a major contributor to ecosystem destruction.

Governments that parcel out subsidies without proper screening and follow-up strategy share the blame, the study noted.

The businesses that benefit from subsidies are guilty as well. In an online article in *The Guardian*, Eva Zabey, executive director of Business for Nature, lamented that many businesses "are benefiting from these environmentally harmful subsidies."

"Typically, the subsidies were established with good intentions in mind. We need to level the playing field because right now, some are benefiting from a head start when it should be the other way round. It's a wicked problem," Zabey added.

The fossil fuel industry immediately springs to mind whenever we dissect the problem of harmful subsidies. Many governments are generous in subsidizing the sector through tax breaks and production credits. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that subsidies in the fossil fuel sector rose by 30 percent in 2019. That's not an encouraging outlook, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Subsidies may protect consumers by keeping prices low, "but they also come at a high cost," the IMF warned. "Subsidies are expensive for governments — and therefore, taxpayers — to finance and can hinder governments' efforts to reduce budget deficits. They also compete with other priority public spending on roads, schools and healthcare."

The environmental cost is equally worrisome. Despite the financial boost, the industry has failed dismally to reduce carbon emissions. The report's authors are calling on governments to agree to stop all harmful subsidies by the end of the decade. There is a chance to make that push during the biodiversity summit in China later this year, where companies will be asked to reveal the subsidies they receive as part of environmental disclosure reporting.

Christiana Figueres, who headed the UN climate convention in 2016 that produced the Paris Agreement on capping temperature rise, agreed it's time for drastic measures.

"Harmful subsidies must be redirected towards protecting the climate and nature, rather than financing our own extinction," Figueres said.

Subsidies have to be redirected, repurposed or done away with to free up more funds to prevent further biodiversity loss.

The IMF said the fiscal, environmental and welfare gains from removing harmful subsidies are substantial. But it also acknowledges that getting rid of the subsidies will be a herculean effort.

As early as 2009, the Group of 20 sounded the call to phase out ineffective fossil fuel subsidies. The response was lukewarm, and the IMF explained why: "When reforms are made, prices increase, and this has often led to widespread public protests."

It added: "The absence of public support for subsidy reform is in part due to a lack of confidence in the ability of governments to shift the resulting budgetary savings to programs that would compensate the poor and middle class for the higher energy prices they face."

The IMF has offered a plan for subsidy reform that includes a comprehensive energy sector scheme, transparent and extensive communication and consultation with stakeholders, and more efficient state-owned enterprises to reduce producer subsidies.

All these initiatives will not prosper without political commitment and strong cooperation, both of which need to be nurtured vigorously.



Liberal mining policies to lure foreign investors back to PHL-COMP

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jnlmayuga

WITH the recent policy moves by the Duterte administration, the mining industry's big players said the Philippines is back on the radar of foreign mining investors.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines chairman Michael T. Toledo said for one, Australian investors welcomed the recent decisions of the Philippine government to ease mining policies, raising the possibility of a renewed influx of foreign capital in the sector.

"Recent policy moves by the Philippine government are expected to boost investor confidence in its mining sector while unlocking the country's vast mineral resources responsibly and equitably," Toledo said.

Toledo is currently the chief operating officer of Silangan Mindanao Mining Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philex Mining Corp.

Mining is a pillar of Australia's economy, Toledo noted, and industry there is showing signs of potential boom, with investments surging and metal prices still soaring.

In separate statements, The Philippines-Australia Business Council (PABC) and Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC) said recently that the consecutive decisions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the 4-year-old ban on open pit mining for the extraction of copper, gold, silver, and complex ores, and the removal of the moratorium on new mineral agreements between the government and private contractors, are clear signals that the Philippine mining sector is again open for business for local and foreign direct investment.

"This is good news for the mining sector which hasn't seen any major investments since 2016 due to tighter government regulation. Renewed investor interest in mining could lead to fresh capital inflows that could unleash the industry's

huge potential," Toledo said.

Since the government tightened mining rules, only Philex has decided to go ahead with its investment plan to develop, beginning this year, a starter mine that would cost \$224 million. The Silangan copper-gold prospect in Surigao del Norte is expected to produce gold and copper in early 2025.

5th-most mineralized

THE Philippines is the fifth-most mineralized country in the world, with the third-largest deposits of gold, fourth for copper, and fifth for nickel. Around one-third of the country's land area has mineral potential but only one-tenth of that is covered by mining tenements.

Estimated to be worth around \$1 trillion in value, these resources remain underground.

"Mining is one industry that truly highlights the complementarity between Australia and the Philippines," said APBC President Rene Cabrera in a statement.

"The Philippines has vast untapped natural resources; Australia is a global expert in minerals development and production underpinned by responsible mining practices sought by the Philippine government and community. The potential for rewarding opportunities has always been there," he added.

Philex had initially sought foreign investors to fund a grander development of Silangan, but failed to find one largely because of uncertainty in government policy. Philex will issue stock rights, use reserve funds and borrow from banks to fund the Silangan project.

Toledo said, however, that Philex isn't closing its doors to investors, both local and foreign, who may want to infuse fresh for the development of the Silangan project. "It now depends on valuation and commercial terms, compliance with government regulations, and the strategic value that the potential investors will bring into the success of Silangan," he said.



Philex remains open to investors for its Silangan project

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

Philex Mining Corp. is not closing its doors to foreign and local investors for its Silangan Copper-Gold project in Surigao del Norte, an official said.

In a statement yesterday, Silangan chief operating officer Michael Toledo said they remain open to investors who may want to infuse fresh funds for the development of the Silangan project.

"It now depends on valuation and commercial terms, compliance to government regulations, and the strategic value that the potential investors will bring into the success of Silangan," he said.

Philex earlier sought \$750 million to start the development of the Silangan project, however it failed to find one largely because of uncertainty in government policy.

This led the company to pursue an in-phase development plan for the Silangan project, where the company would spend an initial \$224 million for the development of a starter mine.

The \$224 million funding will be financed by a combination of capital infusion from Philex, equity via stock rights offer (SRO), and debt.

Meanwhile, with the recent moves of the Philippine government to ease mining policies, such as the lifting of the ban on open pit mining, Toledo said this raises the possibility of a renewed influx of foreign capital in the sector.

"Recent policy moves by the Philippine government are expected to boost investor confidence in its mining sector while unlocking the country's vast mineral resources responsibly and equitably," said To-

ledo, who is also the chairman of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP).

"This is good news for the mining sector, which hasn't seen any major investments since 2016 due to tighter government regulation. Renewed investor interest in mining could lead to fresh capital inflows that could unleash the industry's huge potential," Toledo said.

In separate statements, The Philippines Australia Business Council (PABC) and Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC) said the consecutive decisions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to lift the four-year-old ban on open pit mining for the extraction of copper, gold, silver, and complex ores, and the removal of the moratorium on new mineral agreements between the government and private contractors were clear signals that the Philippine mining sector is once again open for business for local and foreign direct investment.

The Philippines is the fifth most mineralized country in the world, with the third largest deposits of gold, fourth for copper, and fifth for nickel. Around one-third of the country's land area has mineral potential, but only one-tenth of that is covered by mining tenements.

"Mining is one industry that truly highlights the complementarity between Australia and the Philippines," APBC president Rene Cabrera said in an earlier statement.

COMP said the lifting of the ban on open pit mining would allow the industry to contribute more to the country's economic recovery.



Dredge Laguna de Bay for potable water use

Recently, the words "water crisis" in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces have resurfaced, as they did in April-June 2019.

See for instance these recent reports in *BusinessWorld*:

- "Indigenous peoples seek to overturn Kaliwa Dam deal" (Feb. 3).
- "Metro Manila water shortage projected for April or May" (Feb. 8).
- "Local governments urged to step up in averting water crisis" (Feb. 9).
- "Manila Water, MWSS delay start of new concession deal to March 18" (Feb. 17).
- "MWSS, NIA preparing mitigation programs for potential water shortage" (Feb. 18).

SOLUTIONS TO A 'WATER CRISIS'

There are short- and medium-term solutions to expand potable water supply as the population in the metropolis expands.

One is the development of dams in the Sierra Madre mountains and diverting some of the water that freely drains into the Pacific Ocean, to Metro Manila and surrounding areas. The Kaliwa Dam is meant for this purpose. But instead of doing the usual Public Private Partnership (PPP), the Duterte administration decided to go back to old-style taxpayers-funded projects via foreign loans, in this case a China loan

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with China construction companies. See this column's previous piece, <https://www.bworldonline.com/integrated-ppp-vs-hybrid-ppp-the-case-of-kaliwa-dam/> (Nov. 7, 2018).

The second is to respect the water concession agreements and urge the two concessionaires — Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) and Manila Water Co., Inc. (MWCII) — to develop other water sources. But President Duterte attacked the two companies and forced a revised concession agreement (RCA) on them.

Third is to further develop Laguna Lake, or Laguna de Bay, as a potable water source. There are other sources but Laguna Lake is the biggest as it is the natural drain of 100 rivers and creeks and 21 major tributaries.

PROBLEMS IN TAPPING POTABLE WATER FROM LAGUNA LAKE

Among the challenges of tapping the lake are: One, the water is murky, heavily silted, and in certain areas is of bad quality — with high levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), dissolved

TABLE 2

Water use efficiency in the Philippines, in P/cu.m. except multiple

| Year | Agriculture | Industry | Services | Ind./Agri. |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 2010 | 12.16 | 395.37 | 917.58 | 32.5x |
| 2011 | 12.63 | 370.93 | 953.20 | 29.4x |
| 2012 | 13.00 | 396.07 | 1008.37 | 30.5x |
| 2013 | 13.60 | 422.43 | 1058.53 | 31.1x |
| 2014 | 13.85 | 452.52 | 1115.45 | 32.7x |
| 2015 | 14.19 | 441.54 | 1184.46 | 31.1x |
| 2016 | 14.28 | 449.32 | 1264.40 | 31.5x |
| 2017 | 14.94 | 321.40 | 1303.69 | 21.5x |
| 2018 | 15.30 | 339.16 | 1376.38 | 22.2x |
| 2019 | 15.78 | 585.11 | 1447.83 | 37.2x |
| 2020 | 15.61 | 471.33 | 1213.48 | 30.2x |

oxygen, and fecal coliform. So, the cost of treatment goes up, which means water prices can go up.

Two is entry of salt water during the dry months when the lake water level is lower than sea level due to evaporation, and dirty water from Manila Bay enters into the lake during high tide. This raises the salinity level and, again, results in a higher cost of treatment.

Three is the huge number of fish pens and fish cages — covering tens

of thousands of hectares — which trap some solid waste from flowing out and contribute to siltation and a shallower lake.

DREDGING THE LAKE

One important solution to these three problems is large-scale dredging of the lake. Make it deeper, from the current 2.5 meters average depth to three meters or so, to allow the lake to hold a bigger volume of fresh water. But this will require the demolition of many fish pens and those pens are owned by individuals and businesses with wide political connections.

I want to quantify the potential benefits to households and businesses when there is a big volume of new water supply from the lake.

In a paper "How Much Water Do Households Require?" (by Inocencio, Padilla, and Javier, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, October 1999), they computed that the average requirement in Metro Manila and Pangasinan in 1998 was 54 liters per capita per day (l/c/d) — 23 for bathing, handwashing, teeth brushing; 20 for house cleaning,

TABLE 1

Potential additional potable water from Laguna lake

| Indicators | Unit | Current | Dredged1 | Dredged2 |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Surface area | Square km. | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| Average depth | Meters | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| Deepest pt. (Diablo Pass) | Meters | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Average volume | Cubic meters | 2,250,000 | 2,340,000 | 2,430,000 |
| Equiv. no. of household (HH) water supplied | Million, at 273 l/h/d | 8.241 | 8.571 | 8.901 |
| Additional new HHs served | Thousands, at 273 l/h/d | — | 330 | 660 |
| Additional HHs with uninterrupted water | Thousands, from 136 to 273 l/h/d | — | 660 | 1,320 |

SOURCES: CURRENT FROM LLDA; DREDGED SCENARIOS ARE AUTHOR COMPUTATIONS.



TITLE: Dredge Laguna de Bay for Potable PAGE 1/2
Water use

toilet flushing; five for laundry; four for cooking and dishwashing; and two for drinking.

Today, more households have vehicles that need cleaning too, plus pets, and many residential condos and subdivision clubhouses have swimming pools. It is safe to assume a 20% increase in water demand compared to 1998 or 24 years ago, so the new demand would be 65 l/c/d.

The average household size was five persons per household in 2000, 4.6 in 2010, 4.4 in 2015, and 4.2 in 2020. So $(65 \text{ l/c/d}) \times (4.2 \text{ capita/household})$ is 273 liters/household/day (l/h/d), or 0.273 cubic meters/household/day.

From this average daily water need of one household, I computed that if the lake's average depth of 2.5 meters is made deeper by 100 centimeters or 0.1 meter, there will be 333,000 additional families that can be served with 273 liters/day. If the lake is made even deeper by 0.2 meters, 666,000 additional families will be served.

Another way of looking at this is that many households cut their

demand by half due to limited hours of water supply per day — they consume only 136 l/h/d. The new supply from the lake will enable them to reach the 273 l/h/d. Then dredging the lake to make it deeper by 0.1 meter will benefit 660,000 households; make it deeper by 0.2 meter will benefit 1.32 million households (Table 2).

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT, FISHERY OR POTABLE WATER?

This seems to be a no-brainer question because potable water is life. But individual and corporate fishermen in Laguna Lake will insist on the importance of fishing to people's lives and livelihood.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has "Water Accounts of the Philippines" data and among the key concepts is water use efficiency (WUE) computed as gross value added (GVA, in P Billion) over water use (in billion cubic meters). Agriculture includes fishery, Industry includes water, electricity, manufacturing. The WUE of industry including water is 30x that of WUE of agriculture and fishery (Table 2).

TABLE 2

Gross Revenue (GR) and Net Income (NI) of Maynilad and Manila Water in P Million, and rank in Top 1,000

| Year | Maynilad Water | | Manila Water | |
|-----------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | GR | NI | GR | NI |
| 2014 | 22,461 | 8,273 | 17,985 | 5,238 |
| 2015 | 27,169 | 9,519 | 19,640 | 5,333 |
| 2016 | 29,573 | 6,776 | 21,311 | 5,383 |
| 2017 | 32,646 | 6,832 | 25,434 | 5,730 |
| 2018 | 34,551 | 7,431 | 26,746 | 6,333 |
| 2019 | 37,487 | 7,663 | 27,463 | 5,022 |
| 2020 | 30,889 | 6,429 | 27,272 | 4,666 |
| 2014 rank | 74 | 28 | 105 | 56 |
| 2020 rank | 70 | 45 | 80 | 61 |

SOURCE: BUSINESSWORLD TOP 1000 CORPORATIONS, VARIOUS YEARS



CURRENT POTABLE WATER FROM LAGUNA LAKE

Currently, MWSI (Maynilad) has two operating water treatment plants in Muntinlupa and harvests 300 million liters per day (mlpd) from the lake, serving around 1.2 million customers in the southern part of its concession area. In 2021 it started the construction of another treatment plant, designed to produce 150 mlpd of potable water to serve more customers in Cavite.

MWC started tapping water from the lake in 2019 from its Cardona Water Treatment Plant in Rizal, harvesting 100 mlpd.

Potable piped water is very important yet it is very cheap. One cubic meter (cu.m.) is 1,000 liters. One drum of water is 208 liters, so one cu.m. is nearly five drums. At the time when the President was lambasting the two water concessionaires, the water rate was only P6.13/cu.m. and P9.63/cu.m. basic charges per month in Manila Water and Maynilad areas respectively. For consumption of 11 to 20 cu.m. per month, customers pay only P11.13/cu.m. and P16.42/cu.m. for Manila and Maynilad areas, respectively. See this column's piece at <https://www.bworldonline.com/thank-you-maynilad-manila-water/> (Dec. 23, 2019).

The two firms have become so efficient in delivering water that despite the low rates charged for household consumers, they were still able to generate huge revenues and net income, reinvested to further improve water delivery efficiency (Table 3).

There, the potential benefits of dredging the lake — which will require demolition of many fish pens and fish cages — have been quantified. The higher efficiency of potable water use than fishery use has been established.

Dredging the lake to increase its fresh water holding capacity, and removing structures that trap solid waste from flowing out, are necessary so that we avoid the seemingly annual threat of a "water crisis."

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Green groups bat for 'strong' treaty against plastic pollution

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

As governments from over 190 countries meet next week to tackle plastic pollution and other ecological-related problems, environmental groups advocating for a zero waste and toxics-free society on Monday pitched the call for a "strong" treaty that will address what it describes as a "planetary plastic pollution crisis."

The EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), and Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) expressed high expectations for a strong plastics treaty when governments meet online and in Nairobi, Kenya for the resumption of session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2).

The meeting will decide whether countries should start negotiating for a global agreement on plastic pollution and the mandate of the international negotiating committee (INC) to be established, if ever, for this purpose.

"All eyes will be on UNEA 5.2 to see how governments, including our own, will come to an agreement on a robust negotiation mandate that will speed up not decelerate the required global action to stem the tide of toxic plastic pollution," Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition said in a statement.

Lucero insisted that a strong treaty should focus on the full plastic life cycle and not be restricted to plastic waste or marine litter, ban toxic chemical additives in plastic and end the recycling of such hazardous substances in plastic, prohibit polluting waste treatment or disposal methods, including waste-to-energy incineration, promote compulsory not voluntary or corporate-led interventions, hold plastic manufacturers and chemical producers financially responsible, and provide financial resources for implementation and monitoring.

As proposed in the draft resolution submitted by the governments of Peru and Rwanda and co-sponsored by several member-states, including the Philippines, the

mandate of "the INC is to develop an international legally binding agreement based on a comprehensive approach to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the environment, including microplastics, by promoting a circular economy and addressing the full lifecycle of plastics from production, consumption, and design to waste prevention, management, and treatment."

"We appreciate the co-sponsorship by the Philippine government of the Peru-Rwanda draft resolution, and we expect our country's active participation in the deliberations," Atty. Mark Peñalver, Executive Director, IDIS, said.

"A strong treaty will help in curbing the toxic threats in each stage of the plastic lifecycle to public health and the environment, including biodiversity and the climate," he added.

For her part, Sonia Mendoza, chairman of MEF said the strong treaty should also aim to cut down on plastic manufacturing, "knowing that the unrestrained growth in plastic production translates to an upsurge in the use of fossil fuels and toxic chemical additives."

"A globally agreed reduction target on plastic production is also essential in promoting eco-friendly alternative delivery models such as reuse and refill systems, biodegradable packaging, etc. toward a truly circular and Zero Waste society," Mendoza added.

Meanwhile, the groups urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national government agencies, and local government units (LGUs) to carry out policies and regulations that will prevent and reduce plastic pollution at the source.

Specifically, the group highlighted the need for Congress to pass comprehensive legislation banning single-use plastics and imposing Extended Producer Responsibility, and for the National Solid Waste Management Commission to issue the long-overdue list of non-environmentally acceptable product and packaging materials for prohibition and phase-out in line with Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.



'Klimatotohanan' asks: 'Can art help save the planet?'

Circles

IT NISAY



BMI

THE fortnightly webcast series of non-profit organization The Climate Reality Project Philippines, titled *Klimatotohanan*, joins the celebration of National Arts Month this February by centering its most recent episode on one question: "Can art help save the planet from the prevailing climate emergency?"

The episode, titled "Can Art Help Save the Planet? Pinoy Artists Stepping Up the Fight Against Climate Change," gathered Filipino artists to talk about their experiences from dedicating their works to raising awareness and forwarding the discourse about the climate crisis.

For multi-awarded muralist and activist AG Saño, art indeed has the capacity to spark action that could change the course of history. "Art has changed the world," he said, "There are a lot of freedoms we enjoy now, not just as Filipinos, but as human beings because of art."

Saño's oeuvre includes more than 900 murals worldwide that depict peace and nature. He is also deeply involved in art movements that utilize art for the benefit of the environment, including "Dolphins Love Freedom" and "Climate Pilgrimage." The latter is dedicated to walking thousands of kilometers across Asia-Pacific and Europe to connect with communities to create dialogues and grassroots actions.

"The best result after a decade of doing this are that I would find out that some of the young people I painted with pursued marine biology, fine arts, etc.,"

Saño said. "They were able to translate that spark or inspiration into really concrete things that they could use as fuel for this fight."

Part of the discussion as well was digital artist and educator Erick Martillo Dumas. He considers the arts as the easiest way to make people understand what's happening in the environment and the world.

Dumas talked about his winning entry in the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference art competition "Digital Art 4 Climate," titled *Nexus*. The piece features a bright red background and a hand holding a cigarette between its fingers, while clutching on its palm a plastic bag with a straw. On the end of the plastic, however, is a blue tail of a fish.

"This is to emphasize plastic pollution in our ocean waters," he said.

Meanwhile, OPM legend Noel Cabangon talked about the ability of music to promote awareness on key societal issues such as human rights and the environment. His hit song "Kaulungan," for example, poignantly narrates the decline of the environment through the years.

"Music is not just for entertainment," Cabangon said. "It's a tool to bring forward our causes. Every generation should be able to produce artists that will continue this [climate] advocacy."

Contemporary and experimental filmmaker and visual artist Martha Atienza believes Filipino artists have a lot to uncover, should they choose to talk about local environmental issues. She cited herself as an example, having witnessed coastal areas change and coastlines disappear.

Atienza has done several projects that focus on environmental issues. *Glabang ang Abang Pasad sa Dagat* is a film that follows the lives of local sea farmers to initiate dialogue on environmental and socio-economic realities in their communities. Another is *Our Islands at 15° 58.4' N 125° 45' 02.0" E*, which pushes the audience to confront climate change as seen in the seabed of dead corals.

Creating these films inspired Atienza to launch the *Grow! and Association*, an initiative that aims

to provide more sustainable battery solutions to compressor divers, and to set up a Bantayan Protected Area that will also generate alternative livelihood opportunities.

Lastly, the webinar featured multi-awarded theatre director Dr. Dennis Gupa, who emphasized the need to cultivate a discourse on human and non-human relationships, where humans are not located at the apex of power.

"We have inherited so much from this capitalist society, neoliberal society in which we position human-centric idea of materiality and money. But we don't question where things are created from," he said. "Art can deconstruct that idea of possession by generating new questions so that we can elevate our consciousness into something more critical."

The last portion of the episode asked the speakers about the best ways to engage fellow artists, especially the younger ones, in climate action.

"We should start with ourselves," said Dumas. "If there's time, go out and see the problems we face."

For Saño, it's by creating opportunities, especially for younger artists who feel they are not empowered to make initiatives.

"We could also give them the projected truths that scientists say we should expect in the near future, *dahil ala baharap sa mga ginawa ng mga nanang hecrasyon, mga korapsyon*," he said. "There's not enough time and choice but to step up. It sounds unfair but it's the reality and we have to step up to the plate and take charge."

Klimatotohanan's celebration of National Arts Month continues tomorrow in an episode, titled "Never Too Young to Lead: Emerging Pinoy Artists Reimagining Climate Action". It will feature youth Filipino activists who are "using visual artworks, literary pieces, performances, and other forms of creative work to communicate the climate crisis and mobilize solutions within their networks."

The episode will air tomorrow, February 25, at 5pm, on Facebook Live via www.facebook.com/climaterealityphilippines/ ■

PHOTO: AG SAÑO



Global study reveals extent of pharma pollution in world's rivers

A NEW study looking at the presence of pharmaceuticals in the world's rivers found concentrations at potentially toxic levels in more than a quarter of the locations studied.

The new study looked at 258 rivers across the globe, including the Thames in London and the Amazon in Brazil, to measure the presence of 61 pharmaceuticals, such as carbamazepine, metformin and caffeine.

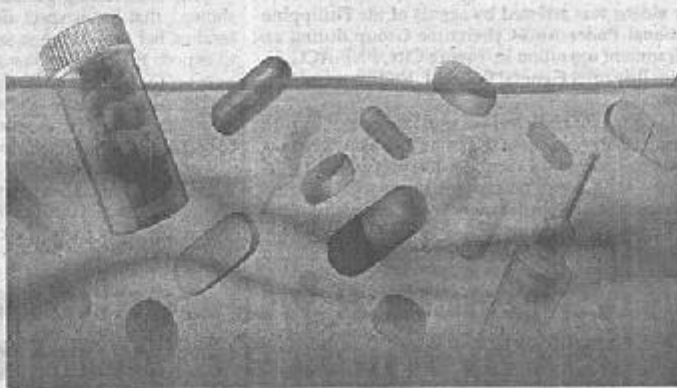
The researchers studied rivers in over half of the world's countries -- with rivers in 36 of these countries having never previously been monitored for pharmaceuticals.

The study forms part of the University of York-led Global Monitoring of Pharmaceuticals Project, which has expanded significantly over the last two years, with the new study becoming the first truly global-scale investigation of medicinal contamination in the environment.

With their latest study, the researchers found that:

- * pharmaceutical pollution is contaminating water on every continent;

- * strong correlations between the socioeconomic status of a country and higher pollution



of pharmaceuticals in its rivers (with lower-middle income nations the most polluted);

- * high levels of pharmaceutical pollution was most positively associated with regions of high median age as well as high local unemployment and poverty rates;

- * the most polluted countries and regions of the world are the ones that have been researched the least (namely sub-saharan Africa, South America and parts of southern Asia);

- * the activities most associated with the highest levels of pharmaceutical pollution included rubbish dumping along river banks, inadequate wastewater infrastructure and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the dumping of the contents of residual septic tanks into rivers.

The study revealed that a quarter of the sites contained contaminants (such as sulfamethoxazole, propranolol, ciprofloxacin and loratadine) at potentially harmful concentrations.

The researchers hope that by increasing the monitoring of pharmaceuticals in the environment, they can develop strategies to limit the ef-

fects potentially caused by the presence of pollutants.

The study included noteworthy rivers such as the Amazon, Mississippi, Thames and the Mekong. Water samples were obtained from sites spanning from a Yanomami Village in Venezuela, where modern medicines are not used, to some of the most populated cities on the plan-

et, such as Delhi, London, New York, Lagos, Las Vegas, and Guangzhou.

While previous studies have monitored active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in rivers, these have ignored many of the countries of the world, have typically measured only a select few contaminants, and employed different analytical methods. Cumulatively, this has made it difficult to quantify the scale of the problem from a global perspective.

The study used "predicted no adverse effect concentrations (PNECs)" to determine where there may be risk for adverse effects (such as toxicity).

If the team measured a concentration in the environment above the PNEC, then there was

potential for organisms living there to be adversely affected by the pharmaceutical. This can manifest in many ways largely dependent on what the pharmaceutical is, what organism is being exposed and at what concentration. Examples can include disrupted reproductive capabilities, altered behavior or physiology and even changes in heart rate.

The contaminants found at potentially harmful concentrations include:

- * propranolol, a beta-blocker for heart problems such as high blood pressure;

- * sulfamethoxazole, an antibiotic for bacterial infection;

- * ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic for bacterial infection;

- * loratadine, an antihistamine for allergies. (ScienceDaily/University of York)



One last, weird tourism idea from ex-environment chief



ROUGH TRADE

BEN KRITZ

Japanese American War, and now, the modern Battle for Manila Bay."

Oh, for God's sake. What kind of non sequitur nonsense is that?

Fort Drum was built over a five-year period from 1909 to 1914 by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and was named for a former US Adjutant General who had served in the Mexican War and Civil War, and died just as construction was getting under way. The idea for the fort came from the brief and ineffective use of El Fraile Island as a gun platform by Spanish forces on the night of April 30, 1898, when US Commodore George Dewey's naval squadron sailed into Manila Bay.

Already outdated by the time it was built, Fort Drum nevertheless saw significant action in the last stages of the Japanese campaign to capture Manila, firing on Corregidor and Japanese transports in the bay. It was surrendered to the Japanese, who manned it with a small garrison and a few guns (the big turreted batteries had been wrecked by the Americans before

they gave up), but played no role in any other fighting in the war until April 13, 1945. A detachment of US Marines was able to land on the fort, and rather than fight their way inside, decided on the gruesome expedient of dumping several hundred gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline down the air shafts and setting it alight, incinerating the 68 Japanese soldiers inside. Except for the Coast Guard installing an automated navigation light on the fort's top about 20 years ago and occasional visits from scavengers, the landmark — which is technically a war grave that should be left alone — has been abandoned since its last action 77 years ago.

What any of that has to do with the effort to clean up Manila Bay is a mystery to anyone who isn't Roy Cimatu. The history of the fortification is unique and worth preserving, but its utility as a symbol of success is rather dubious. As El Fraile Island, the scratch Spanish fortification of three small-caliber cannons attracted the US squadron's for all of about 20 minutes before being simply ignored. During the "Japanese-American" War (I would think the Chinese, Indians, Burmese, Malaysians, Indonesians, Vietnamese, Dutch, Australians and British would all like a word with you about calling it that, Mr. Cimatu), as Fort Drum,

it was first bravely surrendered by the Americans, and then as whatever the Japanese called it, turned into a crematorium.

Given that the news about yet another large, unnecessary, and out-of-scope cosmetic expenditure by the DENR reached the public on the very same day as a statement by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd that "the country may need to raise taxes to cover Covid-19 loans," the idea met with much less enthusiasm than Cimatu likely anticipated.

One of the frustrating things about the Philippine government is that it is an all-too-common practice for agencies at various levels to put a great deal of effort and resources into marketing the fact that they are doing the job they should be minimally expected to do. The complex project to clean up Manila Bay, which is spearheaded by the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, with the participation of a dozen or so other agencies, is progressing very well, as a matter of fact, and it should be. That is precisely the sort of work that DENR exists to do in the first place.

But rather than let the results speak for themselves, and let the improvement in everyday quality

► KritzA5

■ KRITZ FROM A4

One last

of life convince the people that their expectations for "functioning, effective government" are indeed being satisfactorily met, the DENR under Cimatu — perhaps driven by a diffidence borne of his holding for four-and-a-half years a job for which he has no real professional qualifications — has felt compelled to make a show of it. Which, as we have seen, apparently involves the DENR moonlighting as the Department of Tourism.

Aesthetic improvements are not automatically bad. There is nothing wrong with the DENR's other cosmetic idea, the "dolomite beach," except its timing; it is a large, noncritical expenditure that should not have come

ahead of the completion of the bay rehabilitation project that it does not substantially contribute to in any way, and especially not during a period when any government expenditure must be carefully rationalized against other, obviously more vital priorities. The same is true of the proposed "Fort Drum monument." It's an interesting and different idea, and would be pleasing if it was added at the appropriate time. Adding it at the wrong time, however, as an attempt to demonstrate to the people that the DENR is doing its job, simply backfires and instead, gives the impression that it is not.

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22 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH's daily new Covid-19 cases drop to just 1,427

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [February 21, 2022, 5:07 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Health on Monday logged 1,427 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the nation's overall tally of confirmed infections to 3,653,526.

This is so far the lowest number of daily infections recorded in the country this year and the third straight day where fresh infections are below 2,000.

The latest Covid-19 bulletin indicated 58,657 active cases while total recoveries rose to 3,539,106 after 3,269 new recovered cases were recorded.

Out of the active cases, 53,326 are mild, 2,845 are moderate, 760 are asymptomatic, 1,422 are severe, and 304 are critical.

“Of the 1,427 reported cases today, 1,389 (97 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days -- Feb. 8 to 21, 2022,” the DOH reported.

The regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region (NCR) with 318 or 23 percent, Calabarzon with 168 or 12 percent, and Western Visayas with 159 or 11 percent of the new infections.

The death toll has reached 55,763 with 79 new deaths, representing 1.53 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 79 deaths, 66 occurred in February 2022 (84 percent), eight in January 2022 (10 percent), four in October 2021 (5 percent), and one in September 2021 (1 percent) due to the late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

COVIDKaya is a digital application used by healthcare workers to collect and share data about Covid-19 cases.

According to the February 19 data, about 7.5 percent of 25,000 who were tested turned out positive for coronavirus.

“Some 104 duplicates were removed from the total case count as 98 of these are recoveries,” the DOH said.

Meanwhile, 52 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after



All laboratories were operational on February 19 but five were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the three laboratories contributed, on average, 0.1 percent of samples tested, and 0.3 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.

To date, 30 percent of 3,800 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 24 percent of 20,700 isolation beds, 20 percent of 14,500 ward beds, and 16 percent of 2,100 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

In the NCR, 28 percent of 1,200 ICU beds, 22 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 26 percent of 4,100 ward beds, and 19 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use. **(PNA)**



NCR mayors set to tackle possible shift to Alert Level 1

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz February 21, 2022, 6:02 pm



(PNA photo by Joey Razon)

MANILA – The Metro Manila Council (MMC) is set to discuss the possibility of shifting to the most relaxed Alert Level 1 in the region, an official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Monday.

During a Laging Handa briefing, MMDA officer-in-charge General Manager Romando Artes said the MMC -- composed of the 17 mayors in NCR -- are scheduled to discuss the topic on Tuesday night based on the region's current coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) risk classification, health care utilization rate, and continued decline in cases.

"Iyan po ay ibabase ng mga Mayor sa datos po na araw-araw naman po nari-receive namin from DOH (Department of Health), IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases), NTF (National Task Force Against Covid-19) at ganundin po iyong kanilang experience sa ground (The mayors will decide based on data that we receive every day from the DOH, the IATF, NTF, and also from their experience on the ground)," Artes said.

To date, he said their target number of vaccinated individuals before considering a shift to Alert Level 1 has already been reached, with mostly the pediatric population, those with comorbidities, and the elderly that are still being vaccinated.

"Sinisimot na lang po natin dito sa NCR iyong mga may comorbidities at iyong mga ilan pa pong mga senior citizens na dapat pa pong mabakunahan at gayundin po pinapalawig pa rin po natin iyong booster shot na medyo iyon po ang medyo below target po tayo (We are still looking for the rest of those with comorbidities and senior citizens that need to be vaccinated and we are still rolling out our booster shots as we're slightly below target)," Artes said.

To avoid a possible increase in vehicular traffic once the NCR shifts to Alert Level 1, he said the MMDA is working to clear 'Mabuhay Lanes' or alternative lanes in NCR and is studying the possibility of expanding the current Unified Vehicular Reduction Program (UVVRP) or number coding scheme beyond the current schedule.

"Sa ngayon po kasi, it's only Monday hanggang Friday, between 5 to 8 p.m. lamang po. So, aaralin po natin kung kailan talaga (Right now it's only Monday to Friday, between 5 to 8 p.m. So, we're looking into whether it's really necessary)," Artes said.



To date, the NCR and most of the country are under Alert Level 2 with the number of daily Covid-19 cases showing a sustained decline.

Earlier, DOH Undersecretary and treatment czar Leopoldo Vega said the IATF would consider a shift to Alert Level 1 by the end of February, noting that while the current metrics are good and Alert Level 1 will return “almost everything” to normal, Covid-19 and its virus are seen to remain. **(PNA)**



Pinas kinilala ang vax certificate ng 8 pang bansa

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pang-masa February 22, 2022 | 12:00am



Image from the website of the city government of Davao.

MANILA, Philippines — Nadagdag sa listahan ng Pilipinas ang pagkilala sa vaccination certificates ng walong bansa laban sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Cabinet Secretary at acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles na ina-prubahan ng Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases ang pagtanggap sa vaccination certificates ng mga biyaherong manggagaling sa Egypt, Maldives, Palau, Albania, Estonia, Greece, Malta at Uruguay.

Muling inatasan ng IATF ang Bureau of Quarantine, Department of Transportation One Stop Shop at Bureau of Immigration na kilalanin ang mga katibayan ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ng mga nabanggit na bansa.

Una nang kinilala kamakailan ang vax certificates ng mga bansa tulad ng Argentina, Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Azerbaijan, Macau Special Administrative Region at Syria.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/02/22/2162466/pinas-kinilala-ang-vax-certificate-ng-8-pang-bansa>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 709

PEBRERO 21, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
58,657

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.9%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,539,106

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.53%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
55,763

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,427**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **3,269**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **79**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,653,526**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 19

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 21
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 19

7.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

25,000

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
92.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
30% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.5K TOTAL BEDS)
20% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
16% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.1K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
19% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

760 Asymptomatic

53,326 Mild

2,845 Moderate

1,422 Severe

304 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
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CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
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MedCheck
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
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HealthNow
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Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

doh.gov.ph

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

22 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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maraming salamal po, keep safe everyone
#SaveManilaBay


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