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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



400 volunteers plant 2,700 native tree seedlings at La Mesa Watershed

July 6, 2022 4 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) led around 400 volunteers from various government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) in the simultaneous tree-planting activity at the La Mesa Watershed Reservation (LMWR) in Quezon City in celebration of the Philippine Arbor Day last Saturday, June 25.

In their official news release on Wednesday, July 6, DENR-NCR Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan said the annual event serves as a platform for “professionals from different sectors of society to meet and work closely together on environment-oriented undertakings.”

The activity highlighted the importance of partnership and volunteerism among career professionals in the national government agencies, including those in NGOs and the private sector, in implementing Proclamation No. 643 signed in 2004, which institutionalized the observance of Philippine Arbor Day every June 25.

Proclamation No. 643 also underscored the need to declare one day each year for the conduct of tree planting activities to promote a healthier ecosystem for people. This year, about 2,700 native tree seedlings were planted in three sites within the La Mesa Watershed.

Volunteers who took part in the event were from the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP), Society of Filipino Foresters Incorporated (SFFI), and the DENR-Association of Career Executives (DENR-ACE).

Of the 2,700 tree seedlings, 1,700 tree seedlings were planted by volunteers from the PNP-Quezon City Police District and the Philippine Air Force; 650 seedlings by DENR-ACE and DENR workers from the Central and NCR offices; 250 seedlings by PRC-SFFI; and 100 seedlings by BSP.

The seedlings included Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Molave (*Vitex parviflora*), Bignay-kalabaw (*Antidesma ciliatum* C.Presl), and Malakalumpit (*Terminalia calamansanai*).



DENR-NCR Forester Roel V. Galibu said the annual tree planting activity and those done by other volunteers throughout the planting season in the past years have contributed to the watershed's improving forest cover, which now stands at 1,400 hectares.

Galibu, who has been overseeing the DENR's re-greening initiatives in LMWR since 2015, said there are still 600 hectares of open areas that need to be planted with trees. The DENR-NCR and its partner organizations have already reforested about 500 hectares.

LMWR has a total area of 2,659 hectares, 75 percent or 2,000 hectares of which cover its watershed area, while the remaining 25 percent or 659 hectares cover the basin area.

Former DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada lauded the initiatives of DENR-ACE, saying its efforts bolstered the DENR's thrust to usher in a pervasive culture among career executives in the entire bureaucracy that embraces and advances the principles of sustainability in performing their duties.

DENR-ACE is composed of officials and employees who are Career Executive Service Officers and Eligibles.

"The support the DENR enjoys from DENR-ACE and those of other participating professional organizations in the service is an indispensable force in steering careerism in the public sector to take a steady course towards a more environment-oriented direction," Fragada said.

"DENR-ACE has also contributed to the DENR's strong partnership with other national government organizations," he said, citing the issuance of PRC Resolution No. 1251, Series of 2020, as a powerful manifestation of the partnership.

The PRC resolution declares every 25th of June as PRC Nationwide Tree Planting Day and makes it a part of the PRC Week Celebration.

The resolution provides that each professional who actively took part in the event will be given three-unit points as stated in Republic Act No. 10912, otherwise known as the "Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Act of 2016," an act which requires CPD as the requirement for the renewal of Professional Identification Card of all registered and licensed professionals under the regulation of the PRC. (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2022/07/06/400-volunteers-plant-2700-native-tree-seedlings-at-la-mesa-watershed/?fbclid=IwAR0j9plpO_SNgo7iAHyn0zM8TTZvgvnQNMokgQJkvGlfGQ15Px-bl5j6S7E



Manual Guidebook for Marawi City Engineered Sanitary Landfill

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs and head of the DENR Sub-Committee on Task Force Bangon Marawi Atty. Michelle Angelica Go and Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Western Mindanao Arleigh Adorable (3rd and 2nd from left, respectively) turn over the Operations, Maintenance, and Management Manual Guidebook for the Engineered Sanitary Landfill Facility (Category-IV) located between Brgy. Malimono, Marawi City and Brgy. Kasanayan, Municipality of Kapai in the province of Lanao del Sur. The Manual Guidebook will help the local government of [Marawi](#) in operating the sanitary landfill to ensure the proper disposal of solid wastes and to serve the residents in the area. Also in the photo are (left to right): [DENR](#) Region 10 Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Engr. Felix S. Mirasol, Jr., Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra, and Lanao del Sur Provincial Governor Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr.



DENR partners with South Korea, Germany to boost PH marine litter management, peatland protection

Published on: July 06, 2022

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has signed partnerships with the Republic of Korea and Germany to pursue development projects on marine litter management and peatlands conservation, respectively.

The Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay (EMLM) Project and the Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat) Project were formally launched on June 22, following the presentation of EMLM's pre-signed Record of Discussions (ROD) and Grant Agreement (GA) for ESBenePeat.

"Please be assured that the DENR will value and remain committed to the agreement that it has earlier entered into with your respective organizations during my incumbency," former DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said.

"These joint initiatives will certainly help in the attainment of our country's goals and international commitment on climate change," he added.

The ROD and the GA serve as the legal implementation instrument of EMLM and ESBenePEat, respectively.

The Republic of Korea will be providing a US\$7.7-million grant for the implementation of marine litter management within the Manila Bay area.

It will be implemented by the DENR and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard.

KOICA Assistant Country Director CHOI Misun said that the EMLM "marks the start of the Korean and Philippine governments' partnership in the prevention, reduction and management of marine litter," citing international studies that the Philippines accounts for about 800,000 metric tons of plastic marine pollution annually.

She said that the project will help prevent plastic waste from coastal areas near Manila Bay from escaping into the ocean.



EMLM is a multi-year assistance to be implemented until 2025 to establish a marine litter monitoring system and strengthen the government's capacity to address marine litter management, augmented with the construction of a US\$5.7-million marine clean up vessel to be sourced from the grant.

The event also green-lighted the ESBenePeat's implementation with a €713,537.23-grant from the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany through the German International Agency for Cooperation (GIZ).

ESBenePeat, which will be piloted in the 5,487-hectare Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest (CPSF) in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in the province of Agusan del Sur and Sab-a Basin in the province of Leyte, seeks to mitigate greenhouse gas emission by reforestation, re-wetting, and rehabilitating degraded areas; and identifying and enhancing biodiversity-friendly livelihood practices for the communities, while ensuring protection of peatlands within the two areas.

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Y. Bernardino explained that the country's peatlands, estimated to cover some 20,000 hectares, are "remarkably higher carbon sequestration potential than any other studied forest types in the country" as carbon sinks "when left undisturbed."

She pointed out that CPSF alone stores about 22.9 million tons of carbon.

"However, the Philippine peatlands are among the least known and understood ecosystems found in the country," Bernardino lamented.

Also marking the event was a partnership launch between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the "Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines" which is now on its first year of implementation until 2027.

The project covers the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor in Region 4B and the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor in Regions 11 and 13, with a total area of 2.3 million hectares.

The DENR-DA partnership is in line with the project's aim to solve the increased degradation of habitats from deforestation, conversion to agriculture and expanding infrastructure development, pollution, invasive alien species, and climate change in the two areas.

The project, with a financial grant of US\$12.2-million from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeks to enhance local biodiversity-friendly livelihoods and make the impact of the project be felt by communities and resource managers living within and around the biodiversity corridors.

This will be implemented through an integrated and comprehensive planning framework designed to mainstream land and natural resources management and biodiversity conservation objectives in the two key biodiversity corridors. (DENR)



'10M Trees by 2023,' pinagtibay ng DENR-NCR

Published on: July 06, 2022

By Alice Sicat



Mga kuha mula sa DENR

LUNGSOD QUEZON (PIA) -- Muling pinagtibay ni Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Regional Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanan ang suporta ng DENR-National Capital Region sa taunang Million Trees Challenge ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at ng Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI).

Ginawa ni Dir. Caanan ang anunsyo sa isang seremonya na pinamagatang "Million Trees Pledge 2023: The Road to 10 Million Trees by 2030" na ginanap nitong Miyerkules, 29 Hunyo 2022, sa Million Trees Nursery and Eco-Learning Center na matatagpuan sa La Mesa Watershed Reservation area, Barangay Lagro sa Lungsod Quezon.

Sa isang talumpati na ginawa sa ngalan ni DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada, sinabi ni Caanan na ang DENR, sa pamamagitan ng mga tanggapan nito sa National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon (Region 3), at CALABARZON (Region 4A) ay patuloy na aalalay sa reforestation activities sa Angat, Ipo, at La Mesa watershed upang matiyak ang suplay ng maiinom na tubig sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lalawigan.

"Let it be said on record that DENR National Capital Region will continue providing planting materials to the MWSS, assist in the assessment and validation of planting areas, and other support activities to ensure the survival of the planted trees. (Patuloy pa rin ang DENR National Capital Region sa pagbibigay ng mga planting materials sa MWSS, tutulong sa pag-aases at pag vavalidate ng mga planting areas, at pag-alalay sa iba pang mga aktibidad upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga nakatanim na puno)," Caanan said.



Mula nang magsimula ang Million Tree Challenge noong 2017, may kabuuang 5.2 milyong puno na ang naitanim sa ilalim ng programa.

Para sa taong ito, 26 na bago at kasalukuyang mga ka-partners ang nangako ng 1,710,000 puno na itatanim sa loob ng Angat-Ipo-La Mesa watershed area at sa ilang bahagi ng Cavite.

Ayon kay Caancan, napakahalaga na ang mga katuwang ng programa ay hindi nililimitahan ang kanilang sarili sa pagtanim nang pansarili lang kundi pinapalawig ang kanilang tulong sa pag-aalaga ng mga nakatanim nang mga puno.

“It is not enough that we plant trees. We need also ensure that the trees we’ve planted grow strong and healthy so that it is not only us and the present generation that gets to benefit from restored watersheds but the coming generation as well. (Hindi sapat na magtanim tayo ng mga puno. Kailangan din nating tiyakin na ang mga puno na ating itinanim ay lalago at malusog upang hindi lamang tayo at ang kasalukuyang henerasyon ang makikinabang sa mga naibalik na watershed kundi pati na rin ang darating na henerasyon),” dagdag niya.

Ang isang malusog na watershed, ayon sa mga pag-aaral, ay nagpapababa ng pinsala sa pagbaha at pagguho, pinapabuti ang tirahan ng mga hayop sa kagubatan, nagbibigay ng karagdagang mga pagkakataon sa paglilibang, sinasala ang mga elementong nagpapadumi sa kapaligaran (pollutant), nangunguha at nag-iimbak ng mga greenhouse gas, pinapalamig ang temperatura, at tinitiyak ang suplay ng tubig, at iba pa. **(DENR-NCR/PIA-NCR)**



SM Cares, DENR-NCR celebrate World Oceans Day

July 6, 2022



In the special plastic waste collection program, participants get a free seedling from the Community PanTREE. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN observance of World Oceans Day, SM Cares held a special version of its Plastic Waste Collection Program in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) to underscore the importance of adopting sustainable habits such as reducing plastic consumption and planting trees.

It was conducted simultaneously in the following SM malls: Megamall, Mall of Asia, North EDSA, Fairview, Southmall, East Ortigas, Marikina and Marilao. The activity supported DENR-NCR's Community PanTREE, a program that was launched in 2021 with the aim of providing free fruit-bearing seedlings to encourage urban and backyard gardening.

Participants, who brought at least 1 kilogram of plastic waste each, got a free seedling from the Community PanTREE. More than 700 kilograms of plastic was collected through the activity and has distributed 700 pieces of seedlings across the eight collection venues.

"The goal of this activity is to help divert plastic waste from ending up in landfills and bodies of water while also giving the participants the opportunity to grow their own trees," said Liza Silerio, director of SM Cares' Program on Environment.

SM's Plastic Waste Collection Program has gathered over 16,000 kilograms of plastic for reprocessing since it began in 2021. Currently available in 12 SM malls, it has been just one of SM Cares' numerous sustainability projects. The pioneering Trash to Cash recycling market and the E-Waste Collection Program continued to round up the initiatives on solid waste management. There were other notable projects, including the annual Green Film Festival, which continued to promote environmental awareness.



DENR anticipates Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve recognition

July 6, 2022



The wetlands ecosystem also serves as a staging, roosting and foraging ground for various waterbirds. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE Sibugay Coastal Wetlands (SCW) will be renamed Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve (SWNR) as the Philippines anticipates its inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance when contracting parties meet in Gland, Switzerland in December this year.

Georgina Fernandez, Conservation and Development chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Zamboanga Sibugay, says the Ramsar Site designation will open opportunities for international cooperation on research.

It will help raise funding for conservation and protection of the site.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Edgardo Montojo says it is important to advocate for the wise use the wetlands' resources in order that it will be enjoyed by future generations. Here, the Ramsar list will play a unique role.

DENR-Region 9 is preparing the documents for the inclusion of the SWNR into the list. These will be submitted to the Biodiversity Management Bureau, the designated Ramsar National Administrative Authority for endorsement to the Office of the DENR secretary, who will then endorse it to the Ramsar authorities.

The effort toward the declaration of SWNR as a Ramsar site is part of conserving its rich biodiversity and the cultural heritage of Subanens and other ethnic tribes in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Its designation also supports the country's commitment to the Ramsar Convention as well as to the Convention on Biodiversity and Convention on Migratory Species, says Michael dela Cruz, Penro Sibugay Technical Services chief.

The listing will protect the rich biodiversity of SWNR, which is home to 68 waterbird species.



No other planet for mankind but Earth, says DENR 10

Published on: July 06, 2022

By Jasper Marie Rucat

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY (PIA) – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) region 10 official cited there is no other planet for humankind to thrive if Earth is destroyed.

Atty Ban Mikhael Pacuribot, chief, legal division, Office of the Regional Executive Director, DENR 10 shared in Talakayan sa PIA, media forum in celebration of Environment Month that this year's theme, "Aksyon sa Natatanging Mundo" is a general concept but has a deep meaning.

"Giabot na sa 25% per year ang gakaguba nato nga natural resources, again dili na tinuyo, we acknowledge there is a need for human development for progress pero ato sad i-acknowledge nga kana nga progress ang nahimong collateral damage is ang environment," he said.

(Every year, 25% of natural resources are destroyed, again it is not intentional, we acknowledge there is a need for human development for progress but we have to acknowledge that this kind of progress has made the environment as collateral damage)

The planet's devastation is no longer effects of natural calamities but of human activities. Meanwhile, the challenge of the government now, he shared is "how to sustain development without totally destroying the only environment we have."

Engr. Dovee Cherry Geollegue, chief Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division, Environmental and Management Bureau (EMB) shared they are in charge of the regulation of firms and industries.

"Pollution is already here and our task is how to manage it," she said.

The EMB is in close coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) especially because the country's environmental laws on air, water, and solid waste are all in collaboration with the LGUs. Meanwhile they are partnering with firms to have a program on social development, corporate social responsibility that are attuned to the protection of the environment.

Lined up activities for this month include nationwide simultaneous tree growing. In Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City close to 400 individuals participated and about 4,000 seedlings were planted. The department will have another tree growing on June 25.

Atty Pacuribot explained that the DENR's mandate is to protect the environment, but this Environment Month, they would like to involve the general public in various activities such as tree growing among others. (JMOR/PIA10)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) region 10 shares a lineup of activities for National Environment Month in June during Talakayan sa PIA, media forum at SM City Cagayan de Oro. (Jan Albert Araña/PIA10)



Biggest trees in Cordillera region found through search contest

Published July 6, 2022, 9:50 AM

by [Comanda Rizaldy C.](#)

BAGUIO CITY – Thanks to a contest dubbed ‘Search for the Biggest Trees’ launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera, the biggest trees in the region have been found.

The measurement was based on diameter at breast height (DBH) which is the standard for measuring trees.

Based on the entries, the biggest of the coniferous species was a Benguet pine tree found at Gueday, Cayapas, Baculongan Norte, Buguias, Benguet.

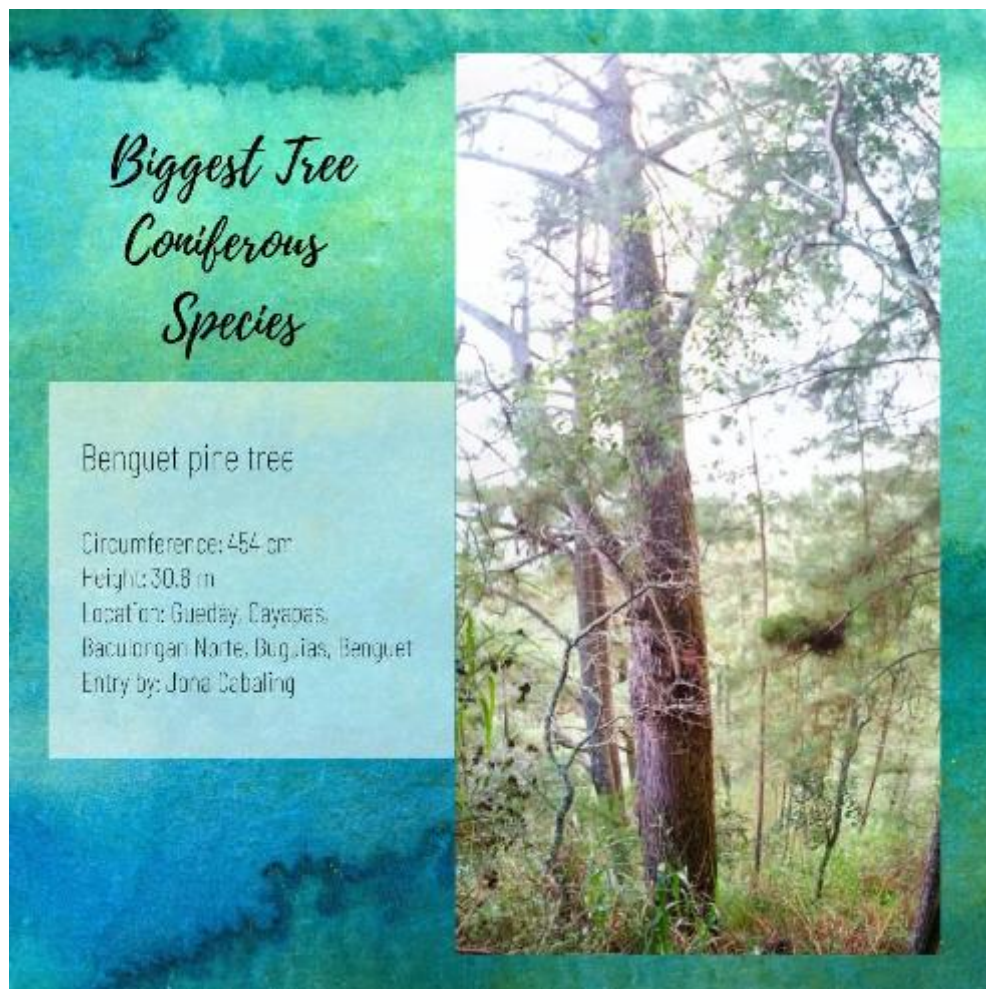


Photo via Zaldy Comanda

It has a circumference of 454 centimeters and a height of 30.8 meters. The entry was submitted by a certain Jona Cabaling.

The second biggest is also a Benguet pine tree located at Mt. Mapao, Agawa, Besao, Mt. Province.

The tree has a circumference of 437 cm and a height of 15.24 m.

The third biggest is another Benguet pine tree found at Moling, Cayapas, Baculongan Sur, also in Buguias, Benguet.

Of the broadleaved species entries, the biggest Dao tree was found at Mt. Sedir, Nagaparan Danglas, Abra. It has a circumference of 2,000 cms and a height of 35 meters.

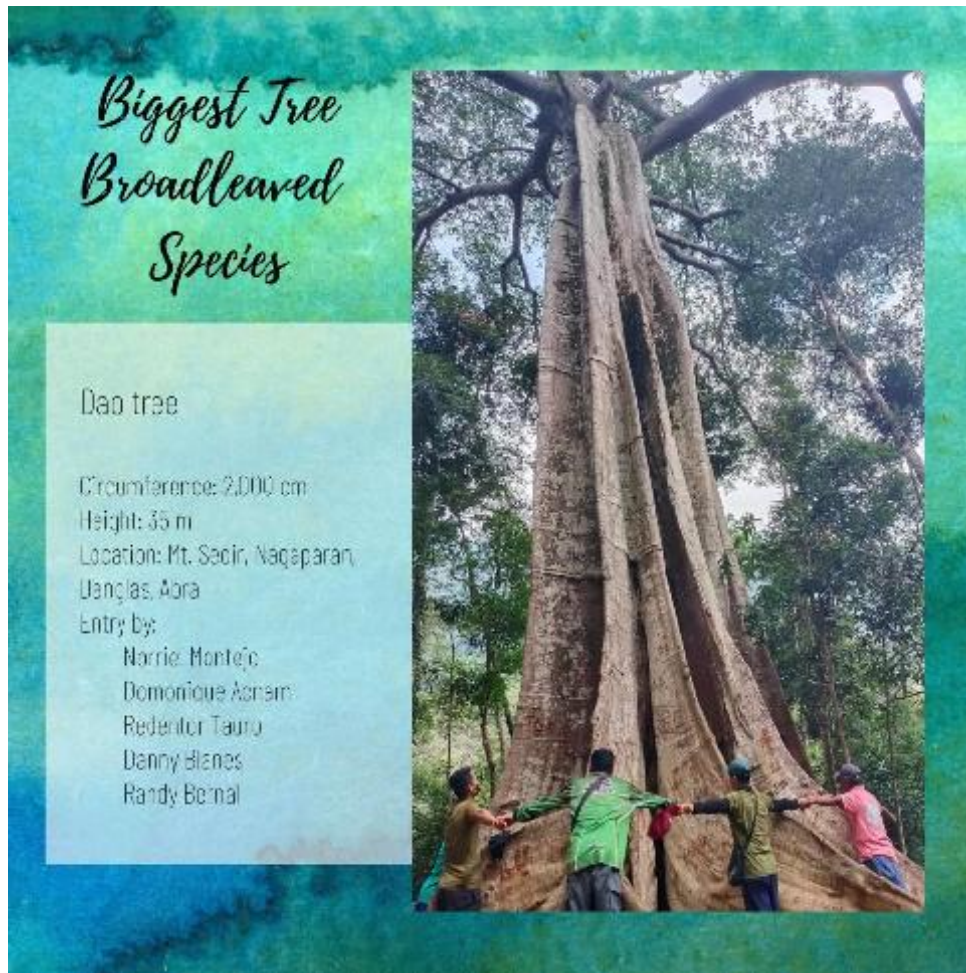


Photo via Zaldy Comanda

The entry was submitted by Norriel Montejo, Dominique Acnam, Redentor Tauro, Danny Blanes, and Randy Bernal.

On the second place is a Dao tree with a circumference of 1,400 cm and a height of 30 m; while the third place is a Pasakla tree with a circumference of 1,400 and a height of 27 meters.

Cabaling and Montejo received P25,000 each for their winning entries.



Government to ramp up mining sector's development

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star July 7, 2022 | 12:00am



Department of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno answered the questions from the media during a press briefing in Malacañang on Wednesday (July 6, 2022).

KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration is moving to ramp up the mining industry as part of plans to grow the economy amid the pandemic.

In a television interview yesterday, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the economic team has already presented the medium-term fiscal framework to President Marcos during their first Cabinet meeting.

And for targets to succeed under the two-part framework, Diokno said that all sectors would have to perform well, including the controversial mining industry.

“Another major industry, mining, which was not present before, will be also accelerated,” Diokno said.

“Mining was not there before when its contribution to the economy was practically nil because there was a real emphasis on environmental concerns,” he said.

Mining has been contributing less than one percent to gross domestic product (GDP), as the Duterte administration has been generally cold to the sector.

It was only toward the end of 2021 when Duterte gave a much-needed boost in revenue generation for the industry with the lifting of a four-year old ban on open pit mining.

The lifting of the ban on open pit mining for copper, gold, silver and complex ores in the country was considered as among the most awaited moves of the mining sector.

“Toward the end of the administration, former president Rodrigo Duterte decided to open up mining and I think mining is a growth sector because as you know, because of the crisis, the price of metals has gone up significantly,” Diokno said.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, for its part, welcomed Diokno’s latest push for the industry.

“It has always been our strong belief that responsible minerals development, when allowed to flourish, could substantially contribute to economic recovery,” COMP chairman Michael Toledo said.



“This is particularly in terms of increasing government revenue, job generation, and poverty alleviation that are most needed in this time of pandemic and beyond,” he said.

Apart from mining, Diokno said agriculture and tourism would also be given attention in this administration.

The agriculture sector has been a laggard in terms of contribution to economic development given natural calamities, diseases and meager annual budget.

The tourism sector, on the other hand, has been severely hit by the pandemic due to restricted mobility and unstable reopening of business establishments in the past two years.

The sector’s contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) barely improved to 5.2 percent in 2021 from 5.1 percent during the height of the pandemic in 2020.



Two parks in ASEAN receive prestigious marine biodiversity award

Published on: July 06, 2022

By ACB

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna -- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) congratulates the recipients of the Blue Park Award by Marine Conservation Institute at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Two marine parks from the ASEAN— the Apo Reef Natural Park and Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area (Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat), received the platinum and gold-level awards, respectively, at the global gathering for oceans.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim congratulated the parks for meeting the highest science-based standards for marine conservation. “We commend the Apo Reef Natural Park and the Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area for their designation as thriving emblems of the ASEAN region’s spectacular marine biodiversity,” Lim said in a statement.

The expanse of reefs and waters in both these areas are interconnected by the changes of the tides and flows of currents, guiding highways for many migratory species such as whales and whalesharks and pathways of the shared stocks like the small pelagics like sardines and round scads.

The Apo Reef Natural Park consists of several islands located 33 kilometres off the coast of Occidental Mindoro province in the Philippines. The biggest island in the park, Apo Reef, is the second largest contiguous coral reef in the world, containing high coral diversity and providing habitat to around 500 types of marine species, including shoals of fishes like jacks and trevallies. Shark varieties—reef, white tip, black tip, hammerhead and grey, are also known to be abundant in its waters.



The Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area in West Papua, Indonesia is among the richest coral reefs on the planet.
Photo by I Made Adi Dharmawan/Wikimedia Commons



“This Blue Park Award is a testament to more than two decades of hard work of different sectors for the conservation and protection of Apo Reef Natural Park,” said Philippine Ambassador to Portugal Celia Anna M. Feria in a statement delivered during the awarding ceremony where she was joined by Apo Reef Natural Park Superintendent Krystal Villanada.

Meanwhile, Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area in West Papua, Indonesia is known to be one of the richest coral reefs on the planet, encompassing more than 40,000 square kilometres of seas and about 1,500 islands. The area is a primary source of nutrients for a diversity of life forms, being a ‘gateway’ between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. In recent studies, Raja Ampat has been confirmed to be a key sanctuary for species like manta rays (*Mobula alfredi*).

Syafri, S.Pi, Head of the Raja Ampat Marine Protected Area Management Authority shares their pride in being part of the global network, adding that in Raja Ampat, they “want to continue to strengthen management to promote ocean health and ensure food and natural resource sustainability for our children and generations to come.”

“The conferment of these marine protected areas is an inspiring proof of the vital importance of these precious habitats to the region. It is only fitting that the favour is returned with concrete and concerted actions among countries and partners to ensure a bluer future not just for oceans, but for us all,” Lim said.

While only nine ASEAN Member States have coastal areas, all 10 have vital river systems and waterways that drain into the sea with around 650 million people dependent on healthy coastal and marine ecosystems for food, livelihood, and culture. However, despite this commonality, these ecosystems continue to face challenges and threats.

Lim added that the common contexts of challenges in conservation and the shared responsibility of ensuring sustainability propel regional platforms such as the ACB. The rest of the ASEAN can learn from the experience of the awardees, and the ACB stands ready to upscale these learnings across the region.

The Blue Park Award recognises outstanding efforts in marine biodiversity conservation. Since its launch in 2017, the annual award has been given by the Marine Conservation Institute, an international council of marine conservation experts, to recognise governments, civil society organisations, protected areas, and local communities for their efforts in effectively protecting marine ecosystems now and for the future.

The 2022 awardees, Apo Reef Natural Park and the Raja Ampat Islands Marine Conservation Area, together with Old Providence McBean Lagoon National in Colombia, join a growing network of 24 recognised waters in 20 countries. (ACB)



Masbate's Tugbo Natural Biotic Area, home to wild birds, now a protected area

Philstar.com July 6, 2022 | 4:48pm



This July 2013 photo shows the Tugbo Forest Watershed as seen from Masbate City.
City of Masbate Facebook page

MANILA, Philippines — The Tugbo Natural Biotic Area (TNBA) in the Masbate province is now a protected area, according to Republic Act 11806 which lapsed into law early last month.

A protected area holds physical and biological significance, and is protected by the government against destructive human exploitation. According to the explanatory note of the Senate version of the bill for the protected area, the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve is the primary water source for Masbate and for the town of Mobo.

It is also home to several species of wild birds, including the Philippine Hawk Owl, Philippine Bulbul, White-browed Shama, Blue headed fantail, White-vented Whistler and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who filed the measure in Senate in 2020, said Wednesday that [it was passed into law](#) on June 2. It was only on June 28, however, when it was uploaded on The Official Gazette, the official government journal.

"In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the City of Masbate and the Municipality of Mobo, in the Province of Masbate is hereby declared a protected area with the category of natural biotic area," the RA 11806 read.

"As such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and rehabilitation of the area," it added.

With the law in place, TNBA will be managed within the National Integrated Protected Area System and must be allocated with funds consistent with its protection, according to Villar who served as the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Climate Change in the 18th Congress.

Villar and Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (Masbate, 2nd district) authored and pushed for declaration of the TNBA as a protected area.



TNBA's inclusion in the list brings up the number of legislated protected areas in the country to 113, the senator said.

Under the law, areas surrounding the TNBA may be considered as buffer zones by the government in a bid to give an extra layer of protection.

The RA lapsed into law after former President Rodrigo Duterte did not affix his signature on it.

In a statement on Wednesday, Villar pointed out that there are still several sites across the country which have yet to be given a protective status.

The country is home to two-thirds of world's animal and plant species, according to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Philippines is known as a [biodiversity hotspot](#) or an area with large numbers of endemic species which are threatened by the loss of habitats and other man-made activities.

As of 2019, [almost 100 species of animals and plants](#) were included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, considered as the world's most comprehensive database on the global extinction risk status of organisms. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



PAGRO, 58 IB turnover seedlings to Balingasag IP community

Published on: July 06, 2022

By Vincent Philip Bautista

CLAVERIA, Misamis Oriental (PIA) – The Provincial Agriculture Office of Misamis Oriental (PAGRO-MisOr), together with the 58th Infantry “Dimalulupig” Battalion (58IB), turned over seedlings to PAMALIHI CADT, at Sitio Eva, Brgy Samay, Balingasag, on May 26 and 27.

The turnover of 100 fruit-bearing tree seedlings was spearheaded by Julie Fe Buzarang of PAGRO-MisOr which was then transported to the IP Garden of Pamalihi Cadt as part of the province’s goal of supporting hinterland communities towards their agricultural inputs while respecting ancestral domain rights.

The day after the turnover, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Regional Training Center (RTC)-Tagoloan together with the IP members who have undergone Produce Organic Concoction Livelihood training, went to the IP garden and planted the assorted seedlings and applied their training inputs.

Pamalihi Cadt leader Datu Cesar G Asapon expressed his gratitude towards the government’s support in his community and vowed that the seedlings will be taken care of so the future generations of their community can benefit from its produce. (VPSB/PIA-Misamis Oriental)



Greening Goals. 100 fruit-bearing tree seedlings were turned over to the Pamalihi Cadt IP community as part of the province’s goal of supporting hinterland communities towards their agricultural inputs while respecting ancestral domain rights., May 26. (58IB)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/06/pagro-58-ib-turnover-seedlings-to-balingasag-ip-community>



IRR on ‘No to Single-Use Plastics’ ordinance waiting for approval



Image from Pixabay

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

July 06, 2022

THE ‘No to Single-Use Plastics’ Ordinance may be widely implemented soon after approval of the final implementing rules and regulations (IRR), according to the Davao City Environment Office (Cenro) on Monday, June 4.

Engr. Lakandiwag Orcullo, Acting Division Head of the Environmental Waste Management Division of Cenro, told SunStar Davao in an interview that the IRR of the ordinance has already been submitted to the Office of the City Legal Officer around two to three weeks ago for review.

Orcullo said he expects the City Legal Office will be done reviewing the IRR in around a month, after which, it will be submitted to the office of Mayor Sebastian Z. Duterte.

"Once nagawas na to siya sa City Legal, humana sa ilaha, then pirmahan ni mayor, ma-implement na siya (Once it will be released by the City Legal when they are done reviewing, the mayor will sign it for approval then it will be implemented)," he said in an interview.

Ordinance No. 0500-21 or the No to Single-Use Plastics was approved in 2021 by former mayor and Vice President Sara Duterte. It states that establishments need to apply and pay a fee of P10,000 annually for a Special Permit to legally sell, distribute, and use single-use plastics.

"Ang city mayor ang mag-issue sa Special Permit, nakabutang didto na ang Business Bureau ang mag issue sa Special Permit on behalf ni mayor (The city mayor will issue the Special Permit, and it will be done by the Business Bureau on behalf of the city mayor)," Orcullo said.

Thirteen identified single-use plastic items are covered by the ordinance, including plastic cups, sachets, plates, utensils, straws, "clamshell" food containers, coffee stirrers, and all non-microwavable plastics, along with plastic materials such as gloves, balloons, and balloon sticks. **ICM**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934061/davao/local-news/irr-on-no-to-single-use-plastics-ordinance-waiting-for-approval>



DavNor PSWDO's cash-for-work program to focus on environment



Photo from One DavNor Network

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA
July 06, 2022

THE Risk Resiliency Program of the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office (PSWDO) for 2022 in Davao del Norte will focus on environmental and climate change mitigation activities.

During a radio interview on July 5, 2022, DavNor PSWDO representatives said the Risk Resiliency Program for this year will implement a Cash for Work on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Program.

PSWDO said they have partnered with different government agencies on environmental protection, such as the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) and Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO), thus the focus on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

Another basis is because of the presence of a major river basin in Davao del Norte, particularly the Libuganon River.

A total of 12,660 identified individuals will benefit from the short-term, 10-day employment program. Their job will be focused on environmental protection work such as tree planting, mangrove planting, and rehabilitation of mangrove sites.

“Naa pud ta mga repair sa atong (We also have repair and maintenance of our) community infrastructure, sama anang mga (including) canal declogging, canal desilting or culvert clearing, road clearing, road patching. Naa pud ta (We also have) food security intervention, dira masulod ang atong mga (focusing on) communal or backyard gardening,” Emma Manoay, Social Welfare Officer II, said.

Meanwhile, Honey Nacion, Social Welfare Officer II, said the program has a total budget allocation of P50,133,600 wherein the beneficiaries will receive a payment of P3,960 for the duration of their work. The amount is based on the previous minimum wage of P396 per day.

Nacion said the Cash-for-Work program was implemented in two batches for this year wherein 4,737 beneficiaries received a payout in May and 5,813 on July 1. Currently, there are more than 2,000 beneficiaries are still waiting for the schedule of their payout. **ICM**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934059/davao/local-news/davnor-pswdos-cash-for-work-program-to-focus-on-environment>



Food recycling

July 6, 2022 | 5:53 pm

Static

By Marvin Tort



WIKIPEDIA

People are now struggling with higher prices for fuel and food. Couple this with long-term issues in agriculture, which ultimately impact food supply. Even food imports have been disrupted, by rising transportation costs as well as the trouble in Ukraine — a major exporter of wheat and other food products. And, instead of saving resources, many people still end up wasting food.

The challenge for the present Congress, which opens on July 25, is to succeed where previous congresses failed in legislating the mandatory reduction of food waste. It is bad enough that food has become significantly more expensive nowadays. With the poverty and hunger around us, for either consumers or producers to end up wasting food is simply a crime against humanity.

In 2016, Senate Bill No. 357 was filed to help address food waste by proposing that food establishments be required to donate excess food to charities and food banks. A similar bill, House Bill No. 8873, provided for the creation and regulation of food banks that are to receive edible surplus food donated to charity. Both bills died of hunger — for attention.

Later on, House Bill No. 3370 or the Food Waste Reduction Act was filed to make mandatory the donation of edible food surplus for charitable purposes, and facilitate the creation of food banks. A similar bill was proposed as Senate Bill No. 1242 or the Zero Food Waste Act. Several other related bills have been filed at one time or the other. All died of hunger — for attention — as well.

These bills' elements were all the same. Essentially, food manufacturers, food establishments, supermarkets with at least 500 meters of selling space, and culinary schools with at least 50 students must set aside edible food surplus, first for health inspection, and then donation to food banks. The food would be checked by health inspectors before being turned over to accredited food banks serving the poor. Food banks would then distribute the food to recipients to be identified by local and national government agencies.

The concept is simple enough. In fact, it works in other countries. But, for some reason, locally, it doesn't seem to get the attention it deserves. A "surplus" in waste is possible, with supply of recycled food in banks exceeding demand for them. Then, the issue of recycling is simply moved down in the timeline. But such is unlikely in a poor country where millions go hungry.



As early as 2016, France became the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from wasting food. A French law prohibited groceries from throwing away food that were nearing their best-before dates. Such food must instead be donated to charities and food banks, where it could be used to produce meals for the poor.

Supermarkets that violated the ban could be fined, and their owners or corporate officers jailed. Supermarkets with a footprint of at least 400 square meters were made to sign donation contracts with charities, or face a penalty. Food industries were also encouraged to give excess products directly to food banks from factories.

And then there was a “food waste” supermarket that opened in the United Kingdom also in 2016 that began working with other supermarkets to put such food to good use. “The Real Junk Food Project” opened its first warehouse in Leeds to serve as a “food waste supermarket” where the poor could take food which would otherwise have been thrown away.

But the food is not free. People were expected to pay what they could afford, or donate their time in volunteering for the project instead; food past expiration date would be rechecked if they were still fit for human consumption; and goods would also get sent to partner cafes and restaurants, which would prepare them and sell the cooked meals also to those in need.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), in 2019, the world was wasting more than 1.3 billion tons of food each year. It also noted that cutting food waste by up to 20 million tons as one of 12 measures that could help transform global food systems by 2030. It also cited South Korea, which now recycles 95% of its food waste, from just 2% some years back.

In a report by senior writer Douglas Bloom, WEF noted that South Korea took “radical action to ensure that the mountain of wasted food is recycled.” For one, it banned the dumping of food in landfills. Then, food waste recycling was made compulsory by encouraging home composting. Food waste must also be placed in special biodegradable bags that cost \$6 (P300) a month.

The South Korean government also approved the use of recycled food waste as fertilizer and animal feed. And in Seoul, WEF noted “6,000 automated bins equipped with scales and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) weigh food waste as it is deposited and charge residents using an ID card. The pay-as-you-recycle machines have reduced food waste in the city by 47,000 tons in six years.”

“Residents are urged to reduce the weight of the waste they deposit by removing moisture first. Not only does this cut the charges they pay — food waste is around 80% moisture — but it also saved the city \$8.4 million in collection charges over the same period,” the WEF report said. “Waste collected using the biodegradable bag scheme is squeezed at the processing plant to remove moisture, which is used to create biogas and bio-oil. Dry waste is turned into fertilizer that is, in turn, helping to drive the country’s burgeoning urban farm movement.”

Ultimately, however, the matter of food recycling boils down to people’s eating habits. How people buy, cook, service, and apportion food makes a big difference in the volume of food waste eventually produced, and how much waste must be recycled. The argument against recycling is its moral hazard as it can encourage inefficient production and consumption. Efficient production and consumption produce little to no waste, and mitigates the need for recycling.

The Philippines, however, seems content with its “pagpag,” where scavengers go through garbage bins and “recycle” edible food waste by cleaning, re-cooking, and repacking them, and then selling them in poor communities. But there are more decent, humane, and hygienic ways of doing practically the same thing. It is just a wonder why in the last six years, and through two



Congresses and two administrations, the Philippines has not managed to pass a law on food waste reduction. This is a major challenge for the present administration to consider.

Marvin Tort is a former managing editor of BusinessWorld, and a former chairman of the Philippine Press Council

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UNDP, DILG reinforce LOCAL, community-level disaster, climate resilience

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JULY 6, 2022

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) marked an important milestone in their partnership with an initiative to strengthen the disaster and climate resilience of targeted local governments in the next six years.

Former DILG chief Eduardo Año and UNDP-Philippines Officer-in-Charge Edwine Carrié signed in June a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change (SHIELD) Programme, which is designed to accelerate resilience-building efforts at the local level by tying up with multiple stakeholders to unlock financing and implement risk-informed, inclusive resilience actions.

The program is being implemented in partnership with DILG, UNDP-Philippines and partners composed of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, National Resilience Council, Philippine Business for Social Progress, and UN-Habitat.

Through SHIELD, the Australian government has invested AUS\$18 million to support its Philippine counterpart in building institutional and community resilience to natural hazards and climate change. It enables local governments to pursue and invest in resilient development.

Lauding the initiative, Año noted: "There are [local government units having] difficulties in accessing funds due to program viability and project-management readiness. SHIELD seeks to address these by providing other disaster-financing options for our LGUs, enabling them to implement more risk-informed measures."

As lead government partner, DILG will provide oversight and strategic direction to facilitate achievement of SHIELD's outcomes.

The initiative will also work with Philippine scientific agencies to produce tailored and accessible information to aid disaster-risk reduction (DRR) and resilience-building.

While the country has made significant progress in DRR and climate action, more work remains to strengthen resilience. The cost of disasters to the country is significantly high, with LGUs and communities bearing the brunt.

"SHIELD recognizes the vital role of local governments not just in responding to [emergencies], but also in driving transformative resilience actions that would ultimately benefit the communities," said Carrié during the MOU signing. "[The program] aims to strengthen capacities at the LGU and community-level, as they are usually the first responders in times of crises."

Located along the typhoon belt, the Philippines experiences an average of 20 typhoons yearly. Last December Typhoon Odette (international name Rai) struck the country, made nine landfalls in seven provinces, and affected more than 8 million Filipinos. According to national records, the agriculture sector incurred damages worth almost P16 billion, while those to infrastructure topped P17 billion.

The six-year program will be implemented in 11 of the country's most vulnerable provinces to help them counter disaster and climate-change impacts. Among target provinces are Albay, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cagayan, Cebu, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Quezon. It will also cover Metro Manila, given its vulnerability to earthquakes and its economic significance, along with the Bangsamoro Region,



with the increasing disaster and climate vulnerability of conflict-affected areas.

Apart from DILG, the Office of Civil Defense and the Department of Science and Technology will also be jointly leading SHIELD components. The Ministry of the Interior and Local Government of the Bangsamoro will be the region's lead focal.

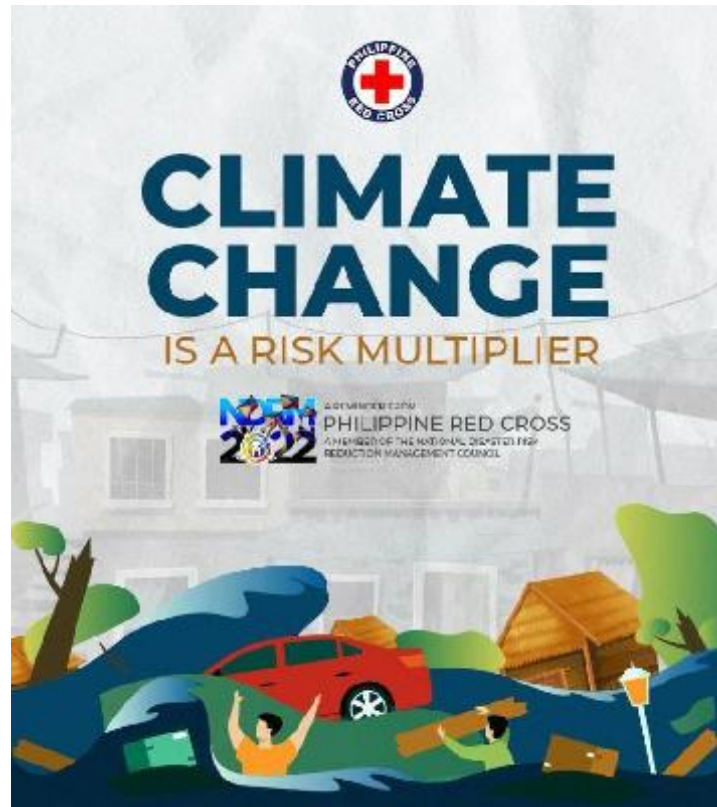


PH Red Cross observes National Disaster Resilience Month; prepares disaster management assets

Published July 6, 2022, 8:03 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) joins the observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) this July with the theme “Sambayanang Pilipino, Nagkakaisa tungo sa Katatagan at Maunlad na Kinabukasan.”



(PHILIPPINE RED CROSS)

“Hinihikayat ko ang ating mga kababayan na laging maging handa sa panahon ng kalamidad (I am encouraging my countrymen to be always prepared in times of calamities),” PRC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard Gordon said in a statement released by PRC on Wednesday, July 6.

The Executive Order no. 29, s. 2017 designated July of each year as the NDRM throughout the country.

The PRC also expressed full support for the government in its initiative and actions on building resilience covering the four thematic areas of disasters: disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, disaster response, and disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

In line with that, PRC has prepared its assets to promptly deliver services in case of urgent rescue and relief operations amid disasters.

The humanitarian organization’s 35 Food trucks, 178 Ambulance units, 40 Rescue boats, 15 Fire trucks, 28 Water tankers, five Six-by-six and Rescue trucks, eight Payloaders and Humvees, four Fire tanker trucks, two Amphibians, and Military jeeps are on stand-by.

Also, PRC’s 17 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene hubs equipped with 30 water treatment units, trained volunteers and staff, and hygiene promotion materials are ready to be deployed at any time.



“Bukod sa ating modernong operasyon, nariyan ang ating mga volunteers na handang magmalasakit sa kapwa ano mang oras (Aside from our modern operations, the volunteers are always here to help everyone at any given time),” Gordon added.

To know more about the activities of the PRC for the NDRM 2022, you may email the PRC Disaster Management Services at dms1@redcross.org.ph. **(Luisa Cabato)**



ADB says green recovery critical for Philippines amid climate challenges

July 6, 2022 | 8:13 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said the Philippines must ensure that its recovery is sufficiently green in light of the challenges posed by climate change and declining biodiversity.

The ADB, in a statement, noted that the Philippines is considered one of the top five countries most impacted by climate change, making the sustainability of its post-pandemic recovery measures crucial.

Specifically, the ADB cited issues with Philippine reefs, heavy reliance on marine ecosystems, and the large populations of smallholder fishermen depending on these resources for livelihood and sustenance.

The ADB took note of action taken by the Philippines to address such concerns, including a 2020 moratorium on the development of new coal-fired power plants, and a plan to incentivize private sector investment in renewables such as large-scale geothermal projects.

The ADB also noted the Philippines' work with the bank on a catalytic financing mechanism under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to facilitate recovery from the pandemic.

The government's commitment to fast-tracking its transition to renewable energy from coal is reflected in its target to increase renewables' share of the energy mix to at least 30% by 2030, the ADB said.

And while some Philippine industries like food processing and construction have specific initiatives, the country still does not have an integrated circular economy plan governing the re-use of minerals, fossil fuels, metals, and biomass.

"While several countries in the region have begun to support a green recovery, more needs to be done. We must encourage additional green stimulus, design carbon pricing schemes, reduce dependence on fossil-fuel intensive power, and attract private sector investors to large-scale renewable energy, sustainable transport, and clean urban projects," ADB Director General for Southeast Asia Ramesh Subramaniam said in a webinar.



The ADB supports a green-recovery approach for Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines.

It estimates that if climate change issues are not addressed, it could cost ASEAN economies an estimated 11% of their combined GDP by 2100.

The ADB identified five focus areas with potential for effecting a green recovery: productive and regenerative agriculture, healthy and productive oceans, sustainable urban development and transport, circular economy models, and renewable and efficient energy.

The ADB said that “if leveraged fully, the five green growth opportunities would require approximately \$172 billion in capital investment and can create 30 million jobs in Southeast Asia by 2030.” — **Justine Irish D. Table**



Climate change vulnerability

July 6, 2022 5 min read



THOUGHTS
Armenio Manuel

How often indeed have weather experts say that the Philippines is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and extreme rainfall.

This is due to its high exposure to natural hazards (cyclones, landslides, floods, droughts), dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, and vast coastlines where all of its major cities and the majority of the population reside.

A rich yet increasingly depleted natural and marine resources base supports livelihoods through fisheries, agriculture, forestry, energy, mining, and tourism and provides critical ecosystem services such as shoreline protection, flood control, soil stability, and habitats for biodiversity.

In the Philippines more than half of greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector, followed by agriculture, industrial processes, waste, land-use change, and forestry.

There is a report titled Getting a Grip on Climate Change in the Philippines that looks at the innovations as well as gaps in policy and financing of climate change programs since the country adopted the Climate Change Act four years ago.

The report – done at the request of, and in close collaboration with the Climate Change Commission and the Department of Budget and Management – provides detailed analysis and recommendations on how the country could accelerate reforms for managing the growing climate change impacts and increasing greenhouse gas emissions while contributing to poverty reduction.

The report provides recommendations along three themes:

- Strengthening the planning, execution, and financing framework for climate change;
- Enhancing leadership and accountability through monitoring, evaluation, and review of climate change policies and activities; and



- Building the country's capacity and managing change

The report also underscores that while the government builds resilience to climate change impacts, it should also ensure that the country's emissions of greenhouse gases (e.g. methane and carbon dioxide) remain in check.

Though a minor contributor to climate change globally, the Philippines' greenhouse gas emissions rank in the top 25 percent among low- and middle-income countries, with significant increases projected in the coming decades. Emissions from the energy sector are projected to quadruple by 2030, with the transport sector expected to double its emissions.

A CCC official has said "Policymakers have put in place comprehensive sets of policies, programs, and institutions for dealing with climate change. This important report helps put greater focus into our work as we try to make our communities safer from and the people less vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme weather events like strong typhoons, floods and storm surges, among other impacts." Thirteen years back, or in 2009, Congress passed the Climate Change Act creating the CCC to develop policies and coordinate government programs on climate change. Officials at the time said appropriations for climate change programs had been increasing at an average of 26 percent yearly since 2009, outpacing the growth of the national budget which was growing at around 6 percent. "Climate change has a direct and immediate impact on development.

As it stood, the Philippines was already in the path of major weather disturbances that damage property and critical infrastructure.

More urgent however is the fact that these weather patterns frequently jeopardize the welfare of communities in high-risk areas.

In the past, the World Bank launched a global report titled Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts and the Case for Resilience.

The study says that climate change-related impacts were projected to increase in the coming decades, threatening in particular:

- Coastal populations: Climate change is expected to lead to more intense typhoons, higher sea levels, and storm surges.

Storm surges are projected to affect about 14 percent of the total population and 42 percent of coastal populations. Informal settlements, which account for 45 percent of the Philippines' urban population, are particularly vulnerable to floods due to less secure infrastructure, reduced access to clean water, and lack of health insurance.

- Farming and fishing: Climate-related impacts are expected to reduce agricultural productivity in the Philippines. Also, warming oceans and ocean acidification affect coral reefs which serve as feeding and spawning grounds for many fish species that support the livelihoods of fisher folks.

Also at that time, World Bank officials said implementing the country's climate change programs with increased financing, improved design, and greater focus and coordination contributes significantly to the country's development goals.

They said promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, for instance, boosts energy security and can lower energy costs, thus improving the country's competitiveness. In agriculture, adaptation activities like conserving water and improving water quality will enhance food security.



“Labor-intensive activities like developing climate-resilient farming and retrofitting infrastructure for flood control will build resilience while increasing job opportunities, especially for the poor. Climate change adaptation is very important in achieving inclusive growth,” one said. (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharika.tv/2022/07/06/climate-change-vulnerability/?fbclid=IwAR1RrMJUeolFY_mGwImgkHC5vdIIw6K4mTTjSNMLx7O7c6YEtgTpE9PV5iA



Magsasakang Reporter, nanawagan ng ‘Green Revolution’

Pilipino Star Ngayon July 7, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nanawagan sa publiko ang Magsasakang Reporter na si Mer Layson na magsagawa ng “Green Revolution” o magtanim ang bawat isa ng sariling pagkain na isa sa mga proyekto noon ni dating First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Sa ginaganap na Bagong Balita Media Forum sa Quezon City kahapon, isa sa mga guest at resource speaker si Layson kasama sina Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan at BFAR Director Eduardo Gongona. Ang batikang TV at Radio personality na si Gani Oro ang moderator at host ng Forum na ginanap sa Max’s Restaurant sa Quezon Avenue, QC.

Dito ay ibinahagi ni Layson ang kanyang kaalaman at adbokasiya tungkol sa pagtanim ng iba’t-ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan. Ayon kay Layson, ang pagkakaroon ng seguridad sa pagkain, dapat magsimula sa ating mga tahanan, “food security starts at home”.

Matagal ng isinusulong at adbokasiya ni Layson ang Urban Gardening na kahit sa mga bote ng softdrinks at mineral water ay maaaring magtanim ng sariling pagkain.

Ani Layson, dapat din buhayin ng kasalukuyang administration ang programang “Masagana 99” ng dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Sr.



PCG, US partner vs threats to maritime safety, security within Caraga

By [Franco Jose C. Baroña](#) July 6, 2022

THE Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has partnered with the United States Marines to identify vulnerable coastal areas and assess threats for maritime safety, marine environmental protection and maritime security within the Caraga region.

The head of of Coast Guard District North Eastern Mindanao (CGDNEM), Commodore Eduardo de Luna Jr., joined United States Marines Commander Ryan Paulson in conducting an aerial survey on the coastal waters of Caraga onboard US Aircraft Erickson Bell Helicopter on Tuesday, the PCG has reported

The activity was part of the maritime domain awareness (MDA) in connection with the ongoing workshop being carried out by the CGDNEM for the creation/drafting of its Maritime Security Development Plan for the Caraga-Region 13. This is also designed to give Philippine authorities the capacity and the capability "to spend more time beyond their littorals".

Maritime domain awareness also involves increasing the capacity to identify activities going on in a particular area with the idea that one would be able to respond to any threats.

The PCG had established a center for recruitment in Butuan City to significantly help in boosting the Coast Guard's presence and delivery of public service in the region.

This is expected to serve as the center for Coast Guard recruitment in the Caraga region as it is strategically located in the Capital City of Region 13. The PCG said the regional office in the area will also intensify the mobilization of its assets, specifically in responding to maritime incidents and natural calamities.

In addition it will also help improve Coast Guard monitoring of seagoing vessels to uphold maritime security and maritime safety as the center is located near major seaports, such as the Masao International Port, the Nasipit Port, and the Butuan Port.

The Caraga region is composed of five provinces: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur.



Dingdong Dantes says you have to choose to take care of the environment every day

By NIKA ROQUE GMA News

Published July 6, 2022 6:30pm



Dingdong Dantes remains passionate about environmental protection, given that both his showbiz projects and personal advocacies through the years have always concerned nature and [the fight against climate change](#).

As the host of the infotainment series “Amazing Earth,” Dingdong believes taking care of planet Earth not just involves lawmakers and policy makers, but also everyday folk like us. In fact, he says it has to start with us.

“Tayo naman talaga ang mga tagapangalaga ng itong magagandang bagay na binigay sa ‘tin ng Panginoon. I think everyone has their own role in taking care of all these God-given gifts.”

“Mapa hayop man yan, mapa kalikasan man yan, kahit ano man, pati itong tinatamasan nating kalayaan diba, kailangan pangalagaan natin. Everyone should play a significant part by being responsible citizens,” he said during the “Amazing Earth” media conference.

Dingdong added that helping the environment and communities should not be a one-time thing. He believes that it must be a way of life.



“Kung ang commitment mo ay pangalagaan ito, you have to choose it every day at hindi lang because of convenience.”

“Amazing Earth” will be presenting episodes for their fourth anniversary starting on July 10, Sunday at 5:20 p.m. on GMA. Special guests for the anniversary episodes include Glaiza De Castro, Max Collins, Ruru Madrid, the Bataan Ecowarriors, and more.

— LA, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/837265/dingdong-dantes-says-you-have-to-choose-to-take-care-of-the-environment-everyday/story/?fbclid=IwAR2MfVBfPj8-S4k3kSya5p4kgHZf9sZrFMucz_emUki-w0C4TU6ffIK2wvY/



After 40 years of extinction, rhinos return to Mozambique

By Sisipho Skweyiya via Reuters - July 6, 2022 - 6:54 PM



Kester Vickery, co-founder of Conservation Solutions, attends to a tranquillised rhino during the relocation of the first 19 white rhinos from South Africa to Zinave National Park in Mozambique, in Lephalale in the Limpopo province, South Africa, May 30, 2022. (Reuters/Siphiwe Sibeko)

JOHANNESBURG — Over four decades after they became extinct locally, rhinos are roaming again the wilds of Mozambique, which is bringing the endangered species from South Africa in efforts to breathe new life into its parks and boost local tourism.

A group of rangers captured, sedated and moved black and white rhinos over 1,000 miles (1,610 km) to Mozambique's Zinave National Park, which has over 400,000 hectares and more than 2,300 other reintroduced animals.

"Rhinos are important to the ecosystem, which is one of the reasons why we're moving them all this distance and doing all this effort to get them there," Kester Vickery, a conservationist who is supervising the rhino translocation told Reuters.

The Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) conservation group, which is conducting the operation, aims to relocate over 40 rhinos in the next two years to Mozambique.

Its project manager, Anthony Alexander, said that the group has already brought in certain predators and many elephants to the park and that it was now rhinos' turn.

"It's very exciting now to complete the presence of historical species in the park," Alexander said.

This initiative is a part of a campaign to save the endangered species by relocating them to safe havens where they have a chance to increase their population.

"We are effectively spreading our eggs and putting them in different baskets," Vickery said, adding that he hoped to see a thriving population of white rhinos in Zinave in 10 years.

Mozambican Environment Minister Ivete Maibaze said in a statement that this historic translocation will also be beneficial for the country's emerging eco-tourism industry.

Mozambique's wildlife numbers were badly hit by a 15-year civil war that ended in 1992, and by poaching.

—Reporting Sisipho Skweyiya; Writing by Anait Miridzhanian; Editing by Sandra Maler

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/world/2022/07/06/221321/after-40-years-of-extinction-rhinos-return-to-mozambique/>

07 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



400 volunteers from gov't agencies, NGOs lead tree-planting

AROUND 400 volunteers from different government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) took part in the simultaneous planting of 2,700 native tree seedlings at the La Mesa Watershed Reservation (LMWR) in Quezon City.

According to Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan, of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), the tree-planting activity was part of the Philippine Arbor Day celebrated every June 25.

Caancan said the annual event serves as a platform for professionals from different sectors of society to meet and work closely together on environment-oriented undertakings.

Among those who participated in tree-planting were volunteers from the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Boy Scouts of the Philip-

pines (BSP), Society of Filipino Foresters Incorporated (SFFI), and the DENR-Association of Career Executives (DENR-ACE).

Caancan said the activity highlighted the importance of partnership and volunteerism among career professionals in the national government agencies, including those in NGOs and the private sector, in implementing Proclamation No. 643 signed in 2004, which institutionalized the observance of Philippine Arbor Day every June 25.

The proclamation also underscored the need to declare one day each year for the conduct of tree planting activities to promote a healthier ecosystem for people.

Of the 2,700 tree seedlings, 1,700 tree seedlings were planted by volunteers from the PNP-Quezon City Police District and the Philippine Air Force; 650 seedlings by DENR-ACE and DENR workers from the Central and NCR offices; 250 seedlings by PRC-SFFI; and 100 seedlings by BSP.

Joel dela Torre



Villar, French Ambassador celebrate 75th relations at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park

Senator Cynthia Villar and French Ambassador to the Philippines Michèle Boccoz together with French Senator Samsinthe Cazabonne of the Parliament of France celebrate the 75th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

The officials led the unveiling of a sculpture named "Intertwined" to symbolize the inauguration of the Philippines-France Friendship Day.

Villar stressed she is happy that the events were held at LPPWP which was declared as "Ramsar Wetland of International Importance." It is also a wetland protected area under the 2018 E-NIPAS Law.

"It gives me an opportunity to once again thank the French community here in the Philippines, particularly the 'Together Ensemble Foundation' which partnered with us since last year to further maintain and preserve this wetland, which as most of you know is listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance," said Villar.

"This is a joyous day. The relations between France and the Philippines has always been strong. I believe, the French 'joie de vivre (enjoyment of life) and the Filipinos' hospitable nature have a lot to do with our flourishing relations over the centuries."

-Sen Cynthia Villar

As to her part, Ambassador Boccoz said, "This is all the most valid as France and Philippines share this importance they attach to protect the environment and biodiversity."

The diplomatic ties between the Philippines and France were established on June 26, 1947, after the signing of a Treaty of Amity in Paris by then Philippine Vice President Elpidio Quirino, who was also foreign affairs secretary and then French foreign minister Georges Bidault.

"France remains one of our country's largest trading partners and investors from the European Union (EU) with most of the investments going into private services, electricity, gas, water and manufacturing industries," Villar added.

"It is truly an honor for me to be posted in the Philippines to witness this new chapter in our countries' shared history. Although we find ourselves on different sides of the globe, we are united by common values that form the foundation of the Franco-Philippine partnership. This day is therefore an occasion to reflect on the past, present and future of our friendship."

-Ambassador Michèle Boccoz



Unveiling of the "Intertwined" a statue created by Filipino artist Raphael Daniel David that depicts the intertwining of the Gallo-Romanic and the Philippine Eagle, illustrating the bond shared by the French and Filipino people in photos are (from left) Together-Ensemble (TE) vice president commissioner Ramon Morano Jr., TE founder and President Hubert d'Abouville, France Senator Samsinthe Cazabonne, France representative for ASEAN economic relations Fernand Dorbin, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz, TE Board member Neric Acosta, Senator Cynthia Villar, Sculptor Raphael Daniel David, DENR Asst. Gilbert D. Gonzalez, DENR-NCR regional director Jacqueline Csanacan, Asst. Hero Masuda, assistant director Jun Alvarez, BMB director Natividad Bernardino, and (seated) director Khalif Bayam.

As she braces for stronger ties between the two countries, Villar emphasized that the relations between our two countries and our people cover such a diverse scope, and the mutual interest and benefits of our people remain at the heart of it all.

We also have our mutual concern regarding overseas Filipino in France, particularly our OFWs, who are part of my main advocacies too," related Villar.

The event was organized by Together-Ensemble Foundation Inc. in partnership with the DENR-NCR, Las Piñas - LPPWP and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).

It was also attended by OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Gilbert Gonzalez who represented DENR-OIC Mr. Joselin Marcus Fragada Jr. and DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Ms. Jacqueline A. Csanacan, among others.





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MAYNILAD OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES NEW WATER: West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. recently launched its New Water project, which involves the recycling of used water for potable application. Maynilad officials led by president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez and chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado (4th and 2nd from left, respectively) spearheaded the event, which was highlighted by the drinking of New Water to affirm its potability. With them were Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System chief regulator Patrick Lester Ty (3rd from left), Parañaque Mayor Eric Olivares, City Environment and Natural Resources Office head Bernardo Amurao, Department of Health–Environmental and Occupational Health Center head Dr. Wency Bias; Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna; and MWSS administrator Engr. Leonor Cleofas (5th to 9th from left, respectively).



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US TRAINS FILIPINOS IN UNDERWATER CSI, LAW ENFORCEMENT

TWENTY-SEVEN representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training for coral reef crime scene investigation (CSI) and law enforcement, according to the United States Embassy in the Philippines.

The embassy said the training focused on environmental law enforcement issues, including coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution. The training was provided for by the US Agency for International Development (USAid).

Under USAid's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (Sibol) project, the participants attended lectures by international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime scenarios. The scenarios included the destruction of coral reefs due to vessel grounding, blast fishing and poaching.

The USAid said the training supports the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats.

USAid Acting Environment Office Director Dr. John Piggot said the rich natural resources of the Philippines comes with a

responsibility to conserve these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative.

"We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations," Piggot said.

A joint report published last year by the USAid and BFAR revealed that illegal fishing comprised 27 to 40 percent of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019. This amounts to roughly P62 billion (\$1.3 billion) annually.

Officially launched in 2020, Sibol aims to work with the Philippine government to achieve its goals of improving natural resource governance, stimulating public and private sector investments, and reducing environmental crime, leading to greater ecosystem stability and inclusive green growth.

It has set up four sites in the following key protected areas in the Philippines: Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape; Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve; Mantalingahan Protected Landscape; and Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



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UNDERWATER INVESTIGATORS Training participants simulate underwater crime scene investigation by locating, identifying, documenting and collecting pieces of evidence. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



25-hectare forest park seen to rise within upper Marikina river basin

A 25-HECTARE forest park will soon rise within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) to boost efforts to protect and conserve this environmentally critical area.

The Regional Development Council (RDC) Forest Park Project was launched on June 25, 2022, at Sitio San Ysro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City, Rizal, as part of the celebration of the 159th Year of Philippine Forestry Service and Arbor Day.

During the event, 110 individuals from various government agencies and private sector representatives planted a total of 1,500 seedlings of Bam, Narra, Malaikmo, Lanete, Bitao, and Batino.

"We hope that our Forest Park will be replicated in other areas, inside and outside Calabarzon, so we can contribute to the rehabilitation and conservation of our environ-

ment. We have to collectively help shift the intrusive mindset of the people from the destructive attitude towards our forest to rehabilitation and conservation, as well as encourage low-impact ecotourism, community-based non-timber enterprises, new research, and new and innovative forest products value-adding and facilitating market linkages, so our people will protect our forest rather than destroy it," Engr. Ladislao Andal, co-chairperson of the RDC 4-A said.

The RDC Forest Park will be divided into 24 parcels to be adopted by member agencies of the RDC IV-A for its sustainable management in the next 5 to 10 years.

As per approved UMRBPL Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) Resolution No. 2 series of 2021, the forest park shall be established within the Multiple Use Zone

of the Protected Area and necessary coordination with the stakeholders must be conducted while following the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (e-NIPAS) Act conditions.

The upland portion of the Forest Park will be planted with indigenous forest species while *Dipterocarpaceae* species will be planted in the lowland areas. Other parcels of the Park will be planted with fruit trees such as Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Calamansi (*Citrofortunella microcarpa*), Luikban (*Citrus maxima*), Lipote (*Syzygium polycephaloides*), and Kasoy (*Anacardium occidentale*).

DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director, Nilo B. Tamoria highlighted the contribution of the RDC's project for the environment and the critical role of UMRBPL as the water source of the neighboring region. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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DENR UNION'S REQUEST TO PBBM

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Employees Union voiced their request to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. to appoint a DENR Secretary from the ranks. The union maintains that a secretary with a proven and established good relationship with employees is of foremost importance that would ensure full cooperation and inspire the willingness of employees to work hard for the administration. The union also reiterated the significance of continuity of implementation of good programs. COURTESY PHOTO



Barangay leaders of Guiuan asks questions to Cagdianao and Hinatuan

BARANCAY captains and councilors from the 30 coastal *barangay* (villages) of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, including Manicani, personally directed their questions about responsible mining to the experts at Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC) and Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), subsidiaries of Nickel Asia Corp.

A 33-strong delegation traveled all the way from Eastern Samar to the Province of Dinagat Islands, where CMC has its operations, and to Surigao del Norte, where HMC operates, for back-to-back comprehensive mine tours.

The mine tour is part of the requirements of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in preparation for the resumption of the mining



Barangay captains and councilors of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, direct their questions about mining to experts at the mine sites. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

operations of HMC's Manicani Nickel Project (MNP), which is part of the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Guiuan.

HMC-MNP was recently granted permission by the DENR to resume its mining operations in Manicani.

Being members of PAMB, the barangay captains and councilors

of the coastal villages expressed particular interest in the details of the environment protection and enhancement programs of the two mining companies.

One particular feature of the mines that impressed them was the technology of the series of water chambers that starts in "canal curtains" surrounding

the open mine that wind up in wide settling ponds, plus the silt booms at the exact discharge point before the runoffs enter the body of water surrounding the island. Both CMC and HMC proudly have this system in place, meticulously designed to ensure the protection of marine life and water resources around the mine sites.



DOF wants mining revival hastened

By CHINO S. LEYCO

The Department of Finance (DOF) said on Wednesday, July 6, that the government wants to accelerate the revival of the local mining industry to support the country's economic recovery.

After the industry was sidelined in the past couple years due to environmental concerns, Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said mining will be now among the major growth sectors of the economy under President Marcos' term.

"Another major industry, mining—which was not present before—will be also accelerated. I think mining is a growth sector because as you know, because of the crisis, the price of metals has gone up significantly," Diokno said in a televised interview with ANC.

Other industries that Diokno wants to focus on are agriculture and tourism.

He acknowledged that mining's contribution to the country's economy, or gross domestic product (GDP), was practically kneeled these past few years because of emphasis on environmental concerns.

Currently, the share of the mining output to GDP was a mere 0.06 percent.

Mining used to be a huge contributor to the economy, particularly in the 1980s when the industry accounted for 21 percent of the country's export earnings and over two percent of GDP.

Before President Duterte's

term ended, his economic managers made a final push for the revival of the mining industry to generate more jobs and develop rural areas hosting mines.

In a joint report, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Finance and the Development Academy of the Philippines said mining and quarrying "contributed significantly to the regional GDP in regions where there are mining operations."

Last June 20, the Philippines also withdrawn from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) due to "questionable metrics and procedures" for assessing the compliance of implementing countries with the international organization's transparency requirements.

Former Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III called EITI's Validation—a quality assurance assessment process—"subjective, biased and unfair."

"We find that the manner by which the EITI Board undertakes its Validation is unduly subjective, biased and unfair. The Philippines has no confidence in the ability of the EITI to undertake an impartial, transparent, and evidence-based Validation process," he said.

The DOF chairs the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI), a multi-stakeholder body that governs the implementation of the EITI in the Philippines.



Philippines working with Italy on minerals needed by EV industry

THE PHILIPPINES is exploring collaboration with Italy in strategic minerals required by the electric vehicle industry, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual said in a speech delivered at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Italy economic dialogue on Wednesday that the Philippines can be Italy's source of "green" metals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper.

"Our country can be Italy's strategic partner in supplying critical minerals needed for Italian electric vehicles (EVs) and battery production," Mr. Pascual said.

"We have nickel, cobalt, and copper in abundance. The Philippines is also a dominant supplier of nickel ore, not only in Asia but in the world. It accounts for 31% of global exports. But, of course, we now want to have greater value addition locally for our mineral resources," he added.

Mr. Pascual said Italian EV manufacturers can take advantage of the zero tariffs on imported EVs in the Philippines. The Tariff Commission recommended zero tariffs to encourage greater take up of EVs.

He added that the Philippines is opening up its EV market to develop an ecosystem that can support local production.

"Our Tariff Commission has recommended eliminating tariffs on EVs. Approval of this recommendation will put Italian EV makers on a level playing field alongside our free trade agreement partners," Mr. Pascual said.

Mr. Pascual also said that the Philippines can collaborate with Italy on energy technology, specifically "digitally supported grids for dealing with intermittent power. We need such solutions for our

small island grids, our off-grid communities, and our priorities on a national scale."

"In the case of the Philippines, we are on the verge of massive adoption of renewables for energy security. But renewable energy is characterized by an intermittent power supply. Thus, our legacy baseload grid needs to adapt to more intermittent power sources," he added.

Mr. Pascual said that Italy and ASEAN can collaborate on manufacturing, and also encourage smart farming and agricultural technology to boost food security. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



ECB test of bank climate risk deals softer blow than feared

BY NICHOLAS COMFORT & STEVEN ARONS
Bloomberg Opinion

EUROPE'S landmark test of banks' resilience to global warming was far softer than many lenders had expected, according to people familiar with the matter.

Even the toughest hypothetical scenarios in the European Central Bank's climate stress test didn't result in losses that would make a meaningful dent in capital buffers, said officials at six big euro-area banks that took part. The ECB is due to publish aggregate results of the test on July 8.

Banks participating in the exercise had to estimate how events such as floods would impact mortgage values, or how big a hit they faced if corporate clients defaulted after a spike in carbon prices. The test has been presented as a learning exercise for banks and regulators alike. But the industry is already using the results to lobby against efforts by some ECB officials keen for lenders to set aside more money to cover climate risks.

Bloomberg spoke to banks from four countries who said they would remain above their minimum regulatory capital levels in the various scenarios in the ECB test. That includes the so-called hot-house world, in which political leaders fail to act and global warming reaches around 3 degrees Celsius.

The hypothetical results come as a relief to bankers used to stress tests that factor in economic shocks to assess their financial strength, with

outcomes usually feeding through to capital requirements. Executives at the banks said they benefited from mitigating factors in the scenarios, the spread-out nature of losses and the ability to adjust their balance sheets over the coming decades.

The ECB has said it won't breakout figures for individual banks when it publishes the results at the end of the week. An ECB spokesman declined to comment.

The ECB has publicly faulted banks for not having enough data or adequate models for calculating the risk they face from climate change. The scope of the test is also limited to a portion of banks' balance sheets, meaning it doesn't give a complete picture of the risks they face.

"I'm not sure we have a concept of accuracy as yet on this topic," said Fernando de la Mora, a managing director at Alvarez & Marsal who is advising banks on the test. "There's a wide array of outcomes at the banks for individual clients they share, major data gaps and the models are untested or developed just for this exercise."

Top ECB officials had previously said that the test would only have an indirect effect on bank capital requirements this year, but that they

The ECB has publicly faulted banks for not having enough data or adequate models for calculating the risk they face from climate change. The scope of the test is also limited to a portion of banks' balance sheets, meaning it doesn't give a complete picture of the risks they face.

plan to eventually treat global warming as they would any other risk.

The bankers Bloomberg spoke to said they don't expect the test to have any impact on their individual capital requirements this year. And while they argued that the results aren't sufficient to justify a new capital framework, some of the executives expect the ECB to continue work in that direction.

In the hot-house scenario, lower energy prices helped offset severe hits to the economy, one banker said. Slower loan growth over the period also meant banks had less to lose, said another.

"I don't think banks take account of all the second-order impacts, with what happens to the business models of their clients, if we go into that hot house scenario," said de la Mora. "Banks don't have a good understanding of the location of the assets of their corporate clients unless it's part of their collateral."

The disorderly transition scenarios, in which governments are forced to ratchet up carbon prices after failing to take action sooner, result in a

comparatively higher share of bad loans, said the people.

The banks said the earnings they expect to generate over the horizon of the exam's various scenarios would be sufficient to mop up losses.

Softer scenarios

A KEY factor in the long-term scenarios was that banks were able to assume they would reduce loans to riskier clients like steel-makers or firms engaged in intensive agriculture, said the people.

Several banks said they were disappointed by the level of interaction with the ECB on the assumptions related to how their balance sheets will evolve. That's likely to be an area the ECB follows up on with the banks, given a planned legal requirement for lenders to develop so-called transition plans.

Banks are braced for the possibility that the next climate stress test they face—potentially next year by the European Banking Authority—will use tougher parameters, the people said. One expressed surprise the exam didn't take a harsher view of transition risk and the impact of extreme weather in the hot-house scenario.

Banks initially pushed back against the ECB's plans for the climate test, citing the lack of available data. Yet several of the firms Bloomberg spoke to said the exam has helped them improve their ability to plan the evolution of their balance sheets and manage risks, notably from the risk of disruption to Europe's energy supply.



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UNDP, DILG REINFORCE LOCAL, COMMUNITY-LEVEL DISASTER, CLIMATE RESILIENCE

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) marked an important milestone in their partnership with an initiative to strengthen the disaster and climate resilience of targeted local governments in the next six years.

Former DILG chief Eduardo Año and UNDP-Philippines Officer-in-Charge Edwina Carrié signed in June a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change (SHIELD) Programme, which is designed to accelerate resilience-building efforts at the local level by tying up with multiple stakeholders to unlock financing and implement risk-informed, inclusive resilience actions.

The program is being implemented in partnership with DILG, UNDP-Philippines and partners composed of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, National Resilience Council, Philippine Business for Social Progress, and UN-Habitat.

Through SHIELD, the Australian government has invested AUS\$18 million to support its Philippine counterpart in building institutional and community resilience to natural hazards and climate change. It

enables local governments to pursue and invest in resilient development.

Lauding the initiative, Año noted: "There are [local government units having] difficulties in accessing funds due to program viability and project-management readiness. SHIELD seeks to address these by providing other disaster financing options for our LGUs, enabling them to implement more risk-informed measures."

As lead government partner, DILG will provide oversight and strategic direction to facilitate achievement of SHIELD's outcomes.

The initiative will also work with Philippine scientific agencies to produce tailored and accessible information to aid disaster-risk reduction (DRR) and resilience-building.

While the country has made significant progress in DRR and climate action, more work remains to strengthen resilience. The cost of disasters to the country is significantly high, with LGUs and communities bearing the brunt.

"SHIELD recognizes the vital role of local governments not just in responding to [emergencies], but also in driving transformative resilience actions that would ultimately benefit the communities," said Carrié during the MOU signing. "[The program] aims to strengthen capacities at the

LGU and community-level, as they are usually the first responders in times of crises."

Located along the typhoon belt, the Philippines experiences an average of 20 typhoons yearly. Last December Typhoon Odette (international name Rai) struck the country, made nine landfalls in seven provinces, and affected more than 8 million Filipinos. According to national records, the agriculture sector incurred damages worth almost P16 billion, while those to infrastructure topped P17 billion.

The six-year program will be implemented in 11 of the country's most vulnerable provinces to help them counter disaster and climate-change impacts. Among target provinces are Albay, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Cagayan, Cebu, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Quezon. It will also cover Metro Manila, given its vulnerability to earthquakes and its economic significance, along with the Bangsamoro Region, with the increasing disaster and climate vulnerability of conflict-affected areas.

Apart from DILG, the Office of Civil Defense and the Department of Science and Technology will also be jointly leading SHIELD components. The Ministry of the Interior and Local Government of the Bangsamoro will be the region's lead focal



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Mercury-laced products still being sold online despite DOH-FDA ban

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jlmayuga

THE group BANToxics on Wednesday warned consumers against mercury-laced products that are still being sold online despite the push for a worldwide ban in using the hazardous toxic heavy metal.

A member of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Philippines recently deposited the instrument of ratification of the Minamata Convention, the first really binding treaty to phase out mercury. In doing so, the Philippines became the 123rd country to join the treaty, which is designed to protect human health and the environment against mercury and mercury compounds.

In a news release, BANToxics said one of its BT Patrollers, Mary Kate San Juan recently conducted another online monitoring for the upcoming 7.7 Mega Sale of online shopping platforms and discovered the violation.

Discovered during the online survey were 26 product listing of mercury-containing sphygmomanometers, six mercury thermometers, and 16 mercury dental amalgam from the online platform Shopee. Meanwhile, the online platform Lazada had 21 product listing of mercury-containing

sphygmomanometers, 50 mercury thermometers, and 18 of mercury dental amalgam.

Another revelation is the continued sale of banned mercury-laden skin lightening creams in both online shopping sites despite public health advisories issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), says BANToxics.

The group cited a World Health Organization Fact Sheet on Mercury and Health, which stated that mercury is considered as one of the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern. Exposure to mercury, even in small amounts, may cause serious health problems.

"The chemical also poses a threat to the development of the child in utero and early stages in life. Mercury may also have toxic effects to the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin, and eyes," BANToxics warned.

On June 10, 2022, the Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) issued FDA Circular No. 2022-003 which bans all mercury-added thermometers, sphygmomanometers, dental amalgam capsules, and liquid mercury for use in dental restorative purposes.

The circular totally prohibits the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, sale,

offer for sale, donation, transfer, and where applicable, the use, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of mercury-added thermometers, sphygmomanometers, dental amalgam capsules, and liquid mercury for use in dental restorative purposes to protect human health from adverse effects of the chemical.

Any establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this issuance shall be subjected to sanctions and penalties as prescribed under Republic Act 9711, otherwise known as the Food FDA Act of 2009, and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the circular stated.

"We are dismayed by the proliferation of illegal mercury-added products being offered for sale in both Shopee and Lazada shopping sites. It's about time for these e-commerce sites to comply with the prohibition and regulation issued by the Food and Drug Administration," Thony Dixon, Toxics Campaigner at BANToxics said.

The group further urged the DOH-FDA to conduct post-marketing surveillance for the two biggest online shopping platforms in the country and immediately call their attention to remove all mercury-added products that are prohibited and restricted.



SAMAR ISLAND GUSTONG MAPASAMA SA WORLD HERITAGE LIST NG UNESCO

NAKAPLANO na ang iba't ibang aktibidades at programa kaugnay sa kampanya ng Samar Island Natural Park na mapabilang sa prestihiyosong listahan ng "World Heritage Sites" ng UNESCO o ng United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Ayon sa Samar Provincial Environment and Natural Resources, taong 2021 pa nagsimula ang paghahanda para mapasama sa listahan ang Samar Island.

Kabilang sa ginagawang proyekto ay ang paglalagay ng concrete monuments sa

tatlong daang sulok ng island para magsilbing landmark ng protektadong lugar.

Naglagay rin ng "buffer zones" ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources para sa biodiversity conservation.

Taong 2018 ng ipanukala ni Samar governor Sharee Ann Tan na i-nomina ang Samar Island sa UNESCO list. Sinupodahan ito ng mga gobernador ng Eastern Samar at Northern Samar.

Ang Samar Island ay na-deklarang protected area



REMATE OPINION

ANGINYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

alinsunod sa Presidential Proclamation No. 442 ni dating Pangulo at ngayon ay Pampanga representative Glorita Macapagal Arroyo. Taglay nito ang makapal pang old-growth forest sa bansa at siyang "largest terrestrial protected area" sa sukat na 333,300 hectares na saklaw ang tatlong lalawigan ng Samar, Eastern Samar at Northern Samar.

Makikita sa loob ng Samar Island ang kilalang Sohoton Cave and Natural Bridge national park, ang Calbiga Cave na siyang pinakamalaking kuweba sa bansa at pangalawa sa buong Asian continent at ang Ulot river na may habang 100 kilometers.

Sentro din ito ng plant and animal diversity and endemism. Mayroon ditong 33 species of mammals, 215 species of birds kabilang ang Philippine Eagle, 51 species of reptiles, 26 species of amphibians, at higit 1,000 species of plants.

Bahagi rin ng insyetybo ang pagkuha sa University of Santo Tomas Graduate School - Center for Conservation of Cultural Property

and Environment in the Tropics para magsagawa ng capacity-building at seminar-workshop para sa technical working groups na binuo ng bawat lalawigan na naayon sa modules on outstanding universal value; authenticity and integrity; at protection and management.

Sa kasalukuyan, may siyam na deklaradong World Heritage Sites sa bansa kabilang ang -

- Four Baroque Churches na matalaguan sa Intramuros, Manila; Miagao sa Iloilo; Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur; at Papay, Ilocos Norte;

- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park na nasa Sulu sea, Palawan;

- Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera na matalaguan sa Batad, Bangaan, Mayoyao, Hungduan, at Nagacadan sa lalawigan ng Ifugao;

- Historic City of Vigan sa Ilocos Sur;

- Pueno Princessa Subterranean River sa Palawan; at ang

- Mount Hemigulan Range Wildlife Sanctuary



Clean power urgently needed

GLOBAL energy think tank Ember said faster growth in clean electricity is urgently needed in Asean to keep up with increasing demand and to prevent power sector carbon emissions from rising further.

A study made by the group noted the need for Asean members including the Philippines to ramp up solar and wind projects to achieve global 2030 emission targets.

Ember's report showed that among 10 Asean member states, five countries (Asean 5) – Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – make up 89 percent of the region's total electricity generation, making their contribution crucial to achieving clean energy transition in the region.

Based on Asean 5's 2030 energy plans, solar and wind projects would rise to 11 percent of the region's total electricity supply, with the Philippines expecting to generate 16.5 percent from these sources for the period which is still not aligned with the global net-zero goal.

Ember said recent trends also show that if clean energy cannot keep up with the rising demand, fossil fuels will again take over.

The group added that power from renewable energy (RE) only met 39 percent of electricity demand rise in the Asean 5 from 2015 to 2021 and 48 percent was met with fossil fuels.

"Governments should unleash the power of solar and wind, as is happening already in China, India, and across much of the world. As fossil fuel prices soar through the roof, solar and wind prices remain low, providing affordable, homegrown energy," Achmed Edianto, Ember electricity analyst for Asia, said in a statement.

As of end-2021, the country's total installed on-grid capacity of RE from hydro, geothermal, solar, biomass and wind sources was at 7,913 megawatts (MW) equivalent to 29.5 percent of the energy mix.

Its total installed RE off-grid capacity for the same period was at 51.89 MW equivalent to 8.2 percent of the mix. *Jed Macapagal*



President Marcos and his Cabinet: An awkward first meeting

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dency of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. slowed down to a walk during the first meeting of his Cabinet.

On the fifth day following his inauguration, the President convened his Cabinet to discuss the immediate and long-term concerns of his administration.

He wanted to get things rolling with a briefing by his economic team (the secretaries of finance, economic planning, trade and industry, transportation and communications, and agriculture) on the general economic situation.

> MakabentaA5

But when he summoned forth the economic briefing, there was no team member on hand to give the briefing.

The President had to change tack, so he called instead for the opening prayer to be led by Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte-Carpio.

Streamline bureaucracy

The President wound up delivering a rundown on the economy during a briefing with the Malacañang press corps on what transpired at his first Cabinet meeting.

He announced the instructions he gave to the Cabinet to streamline the bureaucracy and work on transitional matters as soon as they can so they can fully focus on more pressing matters.

He announced major initiatives, such a plan under VP Sara to fully normalize face-to-face classes by November, and a plan to continue the policy of fuel subsidies to public transport and of the Librang Sakay program for commuters.

The President told members of his Cabinet to understand what they are doing and "how it all fits together."

If he had to single out one order he gave during the meeting, he said it was to "get our bureaucracy streamlined."

"I said I give you relatively [a] free hand in deciding who you want to hire and how you

want to change the structure of your department if indeed that's what you want to do, but do it soon because we have work to do and we have to get to work immediately," he said.

"It's important to me that the entire Cabinet understands what it is we are trying to do, how we are going to do it, what the timetable is, and how it all fits together. And that's what we made a good start on today," Marcos said.

Why was the economic team caught unprepared in the very first Cabinet meeting of the new administration? What happened to their vaunted credentials?

Ironically, President Marcos has been widely commended on his choice of people to head the key economic departments of the government? Even opposition critics were moved to praise him for the broadly based economic team.

In highlighting the economy as the central concern of the administration, Mr. Marcos did not measure the relative importance or primacy of the different departments and portfolios in the President's Cabinet. Each is important in its own right.

It would be laughable for any Cabinet member to claim more importance than his peers. In the ranking of Cabinet members, the secretary of foreign affairs has traditionally enjoyed top billing. The secretary of finance comes second only.

At this point there are still no appointed secretaries for the Health, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology and Human Settlements and Urban Development departments.

In a press briefing on Monday, press secretary Trixie Cruz-Angles said the President is now in the "final evaluation stage" of completing his Cabinet.

No constitutional mandate or legal standing

Lest some Cabinet members and the public misunderstand the facts of life in government, it is important to restate some truths about the cabinet in a presidential system. It should not be confused with the cabinet in a parliamentary system.

The parliamentary system establishes cabinet government or collective leadership as the rule. All cabinet members, including the prime minister, are also members of parliament; together they constitute the executive power of the government, subject only to parliamentary votes of "no confidence."

In the presidential system, the president's cabinet has no formal authority or constitutional mandate. The notion of collective leadership is incompatible with constitutional reality in a presidential system.

The president's cabinet in our constitutional system should not be likened to a board of di-

rectors in a private corporation.

The president of our republic is not a first among equals in the cabinet; rather he is the person in charge or chief executive. Cabinet members are presidential appointees serving at the president's pleasure.

Cabinet's political significance

While the literature underscores the fact that the cabinet has no constitutional authority or legal standing, the cabinet has enormous political significance.

In every administration, cabinet members are the principal spokespersons for administration policy. They are also the top political executives expected to provide direction to the work of the different departments of the executive branch. Management tasks of cabinet members have grown as government has grown bigger and expanded its public services.

Finally, cabinet composition has great symbolic value as a means for representing major social, economic and political constituencies in the administration's highest councils.

Newly elected presidents try to select cabinet members whose presence will unify those constituencies behind the new administration.

yenobserver@gmail.com



Insulate gov't from syndicates

Newly-appointed Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla made a damning admission on his first day in office. He publicly confessed that three of the agencies under his department are infested with corrupt syndicates. He identified them as the Land Registration Authority (LRA), Bureau of Immigration, and Bureau of Corrections. With his revelation, Remulla has presented the yardstick by which his success or failure will be measured. Will the syndicates survive, thrive, wither, or hibernate under his reign?

The scourge of syndicates has always been present in every government department in every administration. They're like barnacles attached to government agencies, and they certainly need to be denounced and threatened with gongs and cymbals just like what Remulla did.

But there's an even bigger plague in public agencies that brings suffering to all people who transact with the government. This is the affliction of inefficiency and lack of empathy in the way public officials render service to the people. In my 32 years of private law practice, I've heard a plethora of anguished experiences shared by clients, but limited space allows me to cite only a few examples.

I've had a Singaporean client who was aghast to learn that selling and transferring title to a real property—which can be completed in one day in her country—can take several months to finish in our country. She was also appalled to learn that transferring the properties of a deceased parent to his/her children, in out-of-court proceedings, can take a year or more to implement.

To be fair, there have been advances in



FLEA MARKET OF IDEAS

JOEL RUIZ BUTUYAN

government efficiency over the years. The passage of the upgraded Anti-Red Tape Authority Act (Arta, Republic Act No. 11032) has brought improvements. The Arta has provided measuring sticks by which to judge whether a public office is to be commended or condemned.

The ease by which we can now apply online for birth and death certificates from the Philippine Statistics Authority, corporate documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission, clearance from the Philippine National Police, and licenses from the Intellectual Property Office, have been giant leaps that should be followed by other public agencies. The Business One-Stop Shop, Citizen's Charter, and zero-contact policy, implemented by some cities and municipalities are praiseworthy.

But the government is a miserable failure in cases where a taxpayer needs a government service that requires multiple approvals from various agencies. It's when public service stretches one's time, resources, and patience to the extremes. For example, a sale of land needs



Sakura tree matatagpuan din sa Pilipinas

KILALA ang Japan sa kanilang naggagandahang sakura tree na dinarayo ng mga turista, maging mga Pinoy ay gusto itong masilayan. Talagang kasama sa bucket list na makita ang iconic na punong ito pero alam ninyo ba na meron na nito sa Pilipinas?

Hindi na kailangan pang lumayo at mag-book ng flight dahil ang mga sakura tree ay maaari nang makita dito sa ating bansa. Noong 2016 nang bahaginan ng Kochi Prefecture at Japanese Embassy ng mga binhi ng punong ito ang lalawigan ng Benguet bilang parte ng selebrasyon ng Ika-40 taong pagkakaalyansa sa nasabing probinsya.

Noong Nobyembre 2015 pa may mayroon nang mga binhi sinubukang itanim ngunit ilan lamang ang nabuhay dahil dry season noong panahong iyon. Itinanim naman ng panahon ng tag-ulan ang bagong set ng mga sakura tree mula 2016, ayon



sa Japanese botanist na si Kiyuharu Yamamoto.

Ang Haight's Place sa Atok Benguet ang napiling lugar upang itanim ang mga nasabing puno. 2018 pa lamang ay nagsimula nang lumaki at mamukadkad ang mga itinanim na mga sakura

tree.

Ayon kay Edward Haight, caretaker ng nasabing parke, na hindi madali ang magpatubo ng mga sakura tree at talagang sa lugar na may malamig na klima lamang ito nabubuhay. Gayunman, tagumpay nga ito sa pagpaparaho ng pamosong puno.

Tuwing Marso hanggang Abril lamang kung mamulaklak ang mga sakura tree. Inaabot lamang ito halos ng dalawang linggo.

Gayumpaman, may mga grupo ng environmental researcher at eksperto sa biodiversity ang nagsasabing hindi maganda sa endemic wildlife ang pagkakaroon sa bansa ng malakihang bilang ng sakura tree.

Tinutulan ng Interface Development Interventions (IDIS), ang plano noong pagitanim ng sakura tree sa Mintal, Davao City. Anila, magiging pahirapan ito at magiging magastos. Kung mahit na bilang lamang umano ng punong ito ang itatanim ay maliit lamang ang maaari nitong masamang maidulot sa biodiversity.

Maaaring hindi ito makahikayat ng mga local at endemic na mga ibon, insekto at iba pang wildlife. Maaari ring pagmulan umano ang peste ang malakihang bilang ng mga nakaranim na exotic na puno, na maaaring magdulot ng pagkasira ng biodiversity, at nutrient imbalances sa mga pananim.

(Chris Jovillanos De Luna)



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'Plant, Plant, Plant' 2

Gov't commits stable food supply amid rising prices

BY RAADBE SAUSA

Amid the global energy crisis, the government has committed to ensuring a stable food supply and mitigating the impact of rising commodity prices, a Cabinet official said. To this end, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the government must immediately

The 'Plant, Plant, Plant' Program was first launched in 2020 to address the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic to the local food systems

address logistical constraints to complement the government's 'Plant, Plant, Plant' 2 Program.

"As the country's inflation rate continues to increase, we must continue fast-tracking our policies to make sure that Filipinos can still travel to

work and bring sufficient and healthy food to their tables," he explained.

The previous administration, through the Department of Agriculture, launched the 'Plant, Plant, Plant' Program Part 2 last March as part of the

proactive measures to mitigate and cushion the effects of the global economic challenges. It was meant to boost local food production reeling from the effects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The 'Plant, Plant, Plant' Program was first launched in 2020 to address the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic to the local food systems.

The strengthened 'Plant, Plant, Plant' Program Part 2, on the other hand, will help address present-day challenges that include the disruption of the global supply chain, high logistics costs, high fuel prices, climate change impacts, presence of transboundary diseases, and affected Philippine exports to Russia with the net result of increased

Turn to page A2

To this end, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the government must immediately address logistical constraints to complement the government's 'Plant, Plant, Plant' 2 Program

From page 1

food prices driving high food inflation.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has reported that the country's headline inflation rate accelerated to 6.1 percent in June 2022 from 5.4 percent in the previous month. This is within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' forecast range of 5.7 to 6.5 percent for the month of June this year.

Balisacan said that because of faster inflation in meat, fish, vegetables and rice, food inflation remained as the main driver of the increase as it further climbed to 6.4 percent from 6.2 percent in May 2022.

Grabbing the bull by horn
President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr.' early in his term, has

decided to grab the bull by the horn by taking the agriculture portfolio to head off the looming food crisis.

Emphasizing that the country's problems in agriculture were 'severe enough', Marcos wants all hands-on deck to ensure the country's food supply for the rest of the year, especially for rice, corn and even pork and chicken meat.

The Livestock Development and Competitiveness (LDC) Bill has been proposed to modernize the livestock, poultry and corn sectors in the country.

Among the major provisions of the LDC Bill is the updating of the corn industry roadmap, along with the establishment of "competitiveness enhancement funds" for the livestock value chain.

Meanwhile, non-food inflation was

recorded higher at 6.0 percent in June from 5.9 percent in the previous month. This was primarily driven by transport inflation's increase to 17.1 percent from 14.8 percent in May, led by volatile international crude oil prices, Balisacan added.

To mitigate the impact of higher fuel prices among low-income households, the Department of Social Welfare and Development started the distribution of the first tranche of the Targeted Cash Transfer program on 4 July, he said.

"To help alleviate the burden of high oil prices on qualified tricycle drivers, the Department of the Interior and Local Government announced that over 600,000 qualified tricycle drivers are set to receive fuel cash subsidies under the Pantawid Pasada Program for Tricycle Drivers," Balisacan said.

Moreover, the Libreng Sakay Program for all the passengers of the EDSA Bus Carousel has been extended until December 2022. The Department of Transportation will also implement Libreng Sakay for Students Program LRT-2 and the PNR in the first quarter of the school year 2022-2023 or from 23 August 2022 to 4 November 2022 considering the resumption of face-to-face classes.

"To further conserve energy and ensure everyone's safety amidst the rising number of Covid-19 cases, we must also consider the need to promote alternative work arrangements where these have been proven effective and productivity-enhancing, as well as to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation," Balisacan said.

"In the long term, alternative modes of transportation may alleviate transport fare pressures and reduce the reliance on global fuel. It will also promote greener and more sustainable transportation moving forward," he added.



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

SOLINEA CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3045

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Solinea Condominium, Barangay Hipodromo, Cebu City, province of Cebu, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (min)	6-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
½"	₱216.00	53.90	64.70	75.50	86.30	129.50

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **26 July 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidences.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 7th day of June 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

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

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Cebu City, Cebu

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Hipodromo
Cebu City, Cebu

The Homeowners Assn. President
Solinea Condominium
Hipodromo, Cebu City, Cebu

The General Manager
Metro Cebu Water District
Magallanes - Lapu-Lapu Sts.
Cebu City 6000, Cebu

(PDI - July 7, 2022)



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

SEDONA PARC CONDOMINIUM
CORPORATION,

Applicant,

Case No. 22-3346

-----x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Sedona Parc Condominium, Hipodromo, Cebu City, Cebu, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱239.00	59.70	71.70	83.60	95.50	143.30

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **25 July 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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

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

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

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

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 6th day of June 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

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

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sanguniang Panlungsod
Cebu City, Cebu

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Hipodromo
Cebu City, Cebu

The Homeowners Assn. President
Sedona Parc Condominium
Hipodromo, Cebu City, Cebu

The General Manager
Metro Cebu Water District
Magallanes - Lapu-Lapu Sts.
Cebu City 6000

(PDI - July 7, 2022)

07 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



More cases of Omicron subvariant detected

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) - The Philippine Star July 7, 2022 | 12:00am



Tourists and residents of Baguio City are seen walking along Session Road while wearing their face masks, although others improperly do so, on July 4, 2022.

Andy Zapata

MANILA, Philippines — Cases of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariants in the country continue to increase, based on the latest genome sequencing reported by the Department of Health (DOH).

The DOH reported yesterday that out of the samples processed from June 29 to July 4, 190 cases of the Omicron variant of concern and all of its sublineages were detected.

The total number of confirmed Omicron cases nationwide is now 7,919, with 185 of the latest 190 reported cases being local patients and five being returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs). No deaths were recorded among the latest cases.

In the same genome sequencing run, there were 43 BA.5 cases, 20 BA.2.12.1 cases and seven BA.4 cases. Twenty-one confirmed COVID-19 cases had no lineage assigned.

“Forty-two of the 43 BA.5 cases, 16 of the 20 BA.2.12.1 cases, and all seven BA.4 cases are local, while the remaining four BA.2.12.1 and one BA.5 case are ROFs,” the DOH said.

At present, the hospital bed utilization rate nationwide remains at low risk despite the detection of more cases of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant.

“Nevertheless, maintaining minimum public health standards and being up-to-date on vaccination should still be practiced by every Filipino to reduce transmission,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

‘Not as virulent’

Though highly transmissible, the Omicron variants are not as virulent compared to other variants of COVID-19, the DOH said.

It said existing data support the recent statement of President Marcos that Omicron subvariants do not result in more severe and critical cases.

Data showed that severe and critical cases account only for 3.09 percent of the total COVID-19 cases recorded from December 2021 to February 2022.

The figure, DOH said, is less than half of the critical and severe cases recorded during the peak of the surges due to the Delta and Alpha variants.



It also noted that only 1.8 percent of Omicron cases succumbed to the infection, as compared to 5.55 percent of Alpha cases and 4.9 percent of Delta cases.

High vaccination rate and compliance with health protocols also help maintain low COVID-19 infections in the country.

07 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



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NEWS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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