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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Apo reef park bags global award



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

July 9, 2022

OCCIDENTAL [Mindoro's Apo Reef Natural Park](#) (ARNP) recently bagged the prestigious [Blue Park Award](#) for exceptional marine wildlife conservation at the [United Nations Ocean Conference](#) in Lisbon, [Portugal](#).

The ARNP, along with Indonesia's Raja Ampat Islands [Marine Conservation Area](#) and [Colombia's Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Park](#), was selected by an international council of marine conservation experts, who were assembled by the United States-based nongovernment organization [Marine Conservation Institute](#).

[Theresa Mundita Lim](#), executive director of [Asean Center](#) for Biodiversity, 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. Asean is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The expanse of reefs and waters in both areas are interconnected by the changes of the tides and flows of currents, guiding highways for many migratory species, such as whales and whale sharks, 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 kilometers off the coast of Occidental Mindoro. 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.

"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 Feria](#) in a statement delivered during the awarding ceremony, where she was joined by Apo Reef Natural Park superintendent [Krystal Villanada](#).

The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) hailed Apo Reef Natural Park for bagging the prestigious international conservation award.

"We are very happy for this recognition bestowed on the Apo Reef Natural Park, which is a testament of the hard work of our people at the [Protected Area Management Office](#) and all the stakeholders who have been with us in protecting and conserving this marine protected area," Environment Officer in Charge Secretary [Ernesto Adobo Jr.](#) said.

He pointed out that the award will serve as an inspiration for the national government to strengthen its initiatives to conserve and protect marine protected areas in the country.



Apo reef park bags global award

"This award is an impetus not only for our hardworking men and women in the field but also to the national government to boost the conservation efforts in our marine protected areas through our policies, programs and collaboration with various stakeholders," Adobo said.

The Blue Park Award recognizes 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 recognize governments, civil society organizations, 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 recognized water bodies in 20 countries.



MGB, mining stakeholders tackle policy updates

Published on: July 08, 2022

By Paul Jaysent Fos



MGB Mimaropa Regional Director Glenn Marcelo C. Noble, Mine Management Division Chief Engr. Ellengrace R. Galiste, and Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division Chief Engr. Alvin S. Requimin join the resource persons and participants for the seminar on TSHES policy updates. (MGB Photo)

MANILA, Philippines (MGB Mimaropa) -- The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Mimaropa Region gathered mining stakeholders and partner government agencies in the region to tackle



MGB, mining stakeholders tackle policy updates

policy updates on Tenement, Safety and Health, and Social Development (TSHES) in a hybrid seminar held at The Heritage Hotel Manila and via Zoom, June 27.

This is part of the MGB Mimaropa Region's activities in celebration of the 35th Founding Anniversary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the 2022 Philippine Environment Month.

In his message, MGB Mimaropa Regional Director Glenn Marcelo C. Noble emphasized the importance of this activity which serves as a venue to clarify issues on TSHES and other mining-related concerns.

RD Noble also cited the standardization of the monitoring system of mining permits/contracts which started in 2018 to determine the level of compliance of the contractors/permittees/permit holders with all the mandatory compliances, reportorial requirements, and fiscal obligations, among others.

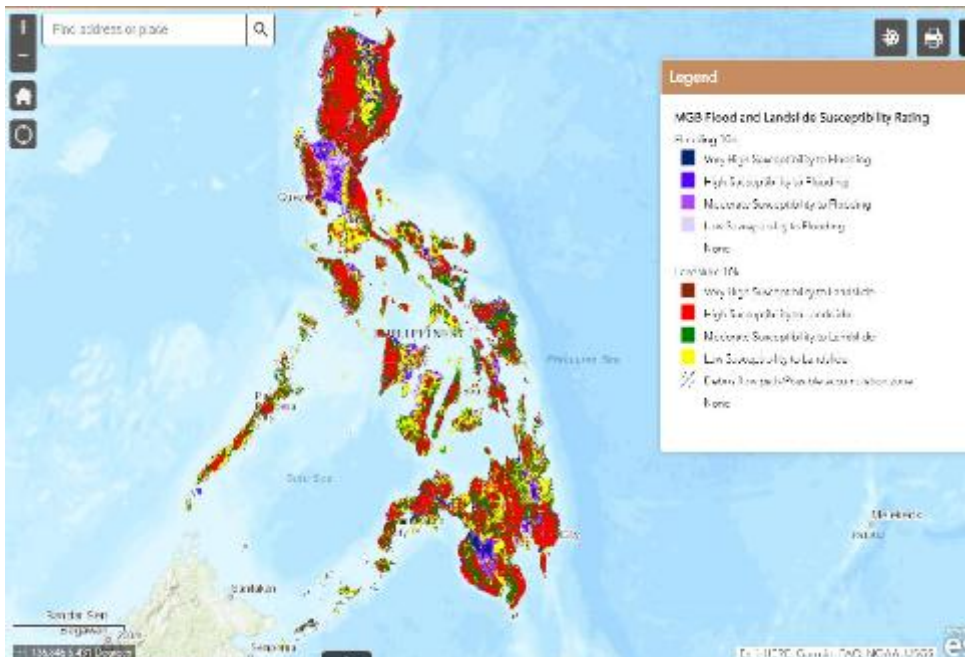
For the Tenements component, the participants were oriented about the status of mining tenements in the MIMAROPA Region; and the new policies relating to mining contracts such as the DENR Department Administrative Order Nos. 2021-12 (Guidelines for the Automatic Renewal of the Exploration Period and the Timely Filing of the Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility under the Exploration Permit, Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement and Similar Mining Tenements) and 2021-37 (Harmonizing the Mining Operations of an Operator under a Mining Tenement).

Resource persons from the MGB Central Office also tackled the mining permits involving government projects, and the policies in the processing of mining applications.

Meanwhile, the afternoon session focused on the formulation and implementation of the contractor/permittee/permit holder's Safety and Health Program, Environmental Work Program, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program, Final Mine Rehabilitation and/or Decommissioning Plan, and Social Development and Management Program. (PR)

MGB reiterates importance of geohazard maps in disaster preparedness

Published on: July 08, 2022
By Oliver Ross Rivera



KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato (PIA) -- The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) here continues to remind local government units to utilize geohazard maps and vulnerability risk assessment maps to increase their competence on managing hazards, in line with the observance of National Disaster Resilience Month this July.



MGB reiterates importance of geohazard maps in disaster preparedness

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, MGB XII regional director Engr. Efrén Carido reiterated the importance of these specialized maps to boost disaster preparedness measures.

“Geohazard maps and vulnerability risk assessment maps are given to local government units for them to prepare, develop and organize their Disaster Risk Reduction Management plan,” Engr. Carido said.

Engr. Carido underscored that “geohazards do not have to become a disaster if people are informed and prepared.”

Experts from MGB regularly monitor areas which are naturally prone and susceptible to landslide and flooding.

“Pag bigay natin, hindi lang basta bigay lang. Meron talagang IEC para maintindihan nila paano mag interpret ng mapa,” he added.

The official revealed they already completed the geohazard mapping of all cities and municipalities in the region. (PIA XII)



MGB opens nominations for 2022 PMIEA, Best Mining Forest Contest, Safest Mines Awards

Published on: July 07, 2022
By Paul Jaysent Fos



MANILA -- The nomination process is now open for the 2022 Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Awards (PMIEA), Safest Mines and Mines Best Personalities Awards, and Best Mining Forest Contest.

This is pursuant to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Memorandum dated June 14, 2022 calling for nominees for these awards in recognition of the private sector's initiatives and exemplary achievements in the protection of the environment and ecology, and contribution to the growth of the economy and improvement in the quality of life of Filipinos.

The subject awards will be given to qualified mining contractors, permittees, and permit holders involved in active exploration, surface or underground mining operation, quarry operation, and/or mineral processing who have demonstrated "excellent records" based on the evaluation of their safety and health, environmental management, social/community development and management, and reforestation performance and accomplishments for the period of July 2021 to June 2022.

The MGB Regional Offices (ROs) will conduct preliminary evaluation or verification of the above-mentioned aspects through onsite validation or virtual meetings with the contractors/permit holders/permittees within their respective jurisdiction.

All pertinent documents and endorsements from respective ROs shall be submitted to the MGB Central Office (c/o Mine Safety, Environment, and Social Development Division) at minesafety@mgb.gov.ph on or before August 19, 2022. (PR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/07/07/mgb-opens-nominations-for-2022-pmiea-best-mining-forest-contest-safest-mines-awards>

CagVal SK prexies vow support to DENR's advocacy programs

Published on: July 08, 2022

By Benjamin Moses Ebreo



BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya (PIA) - - Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) municipal leaders in the region have signified their support to the various advocacy programs, projects and activities of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Cagayan Valley.

This was shown during the recent conduct of Environmental Education dubbed "Sangguniang Kabataan para sa Kalikasan" by the agency.

Gwendolyn Bambalan, DENR regional executive director said the environmental education aimed at training the SK participants with environmental laws and protection programs and highlighted their important sectoral role in intensifying proper solid waste management, and nursery establishment in the barangay level.

"The participants formulated a doable community-based action plan from July to December, this year to be implemented in their respective areas," she said.

Bambalan said the DENR has committed to technical assistance to the local government through the SK to strengthen and sustain the implemented environmental activities in their communities.

She said the environmental education was facilitated by the Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group, in collaboration with the DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

The event was also attended by the office' on-the-job trainees from Cagayan State University, University of St. Louis- Tuguegarao, and University of La Salette-Santiago.

CagVal SK prexies vow support to DENR's advocacy programs

Regional focal person for Ecological Solid Waste Management Eliza Macarubbo of the Environmental Management Bureau and Development Management Officer Jennifer Arugay of DENR acted as resource speakers in the activity. (MDCT/BME/PIA Nueva Vizcaya)



The Sangguniang Kabataan leaders in Cagayan Valley recently vowed their support to the advocacy programs of the DENR. This will be implemented through the technical assistance of the agency. (DENR CagVal Photo)



Stakeholders pledge 1.7 M trees for Annual Million Trees Challenge

Published on: July 08, 2022

By Alaine Allanigue



QUEZON CITY, (PIA) -- Growing 10 million trees by 2030 to protect and nurture the seven watersheds that supply potable water to Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan and Rizal is achievable.

This was the message of Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI) Chairman Emeritus Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco (Ret.) during the pledging session attended by stakeholders and partners of the Annual Million Tree Challenge (AMTC) recently.

Velasco, the former Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator and Chair based his statement on the successful AMTC project launched in 2017 during his stint with the water agency.

After five years, AMTC recorded over 5.2 million trees or at least a million trees annually planted in critical watersheds vital to potable water supply in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan.

Held at the Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MFTI) Nursery and Eco learning Center at the La Mesa Watershed last June 29, partners and stakeholders of the Annual Million Trees Challenge committed to plant a total of 1,710,005 trees that will reforest a total of 3,278 hectares of land in different watersheds.

Angat watershed will be planted with 494,005 new trees that will reforest 671 hectares; Upper Marikina with 432,000 saplings that will benefit 691 hectares; and Ipo with 264,000 that will involve 660 hectares.



Stakeholders pledge 1.7 M trees for Annual Million Trees Challenge

The watersheds of La Mesa and Umiray will be the recipients of 220,000 and 25,000 saplings, and that will reforest 550 and 63 hectares, respectively.

The remaining pledged saplings will be planted at the watershed of Kaliwa, in Manila Bay and other parts of the country.

The pledging session was organized by MWSS Administrator Leonor "Bobby" Cleofas and Million Trees Foundation Inc. President and Executive Director Melandrew T. Velasco who were joined by top officials of government and private entities involved in the noble project which is on now its sixth year.

MTFI President Mel Velasco presented an overview of MTFI's "The Road to 10 Million Trees by 2030" covering watersheds of concern and the watershed restoration roadmap that was produced during the Strategic Planning Workshop for the Development of Watershed Restoration Roadmap last February 23, 2022.

The roadmap identifies the restoration gaps and challenges, goals and strategies in watershed restoration, among others. He also announced the strategic partnership with Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) that has a vast network of professional organizations all over the Philippines, the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. with 14,000 members and the Climate Change Commission for carbon credit.

DENR National Capital Region Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan, CESO III representing DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus E. Fragada emphasized that protecting the environment requires a balancing act.

"We no longer live in an era where strict protection of the environment should be the topmost priority. Our prevailing paradigm is sustainable development where the three pillars, consisting of economy, environment, and society, must reconcile," she said. (DENR/PIA-NCR)



DENR-NCR nanguna sa pagtatanim ng 2,700 puno sa La Mesa Watershed



July 7, 2022 @ 8:34 AM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines – Pinanganuhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) ang 400 volunteers mula sa iba't-ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno at non-government organizations (NGOs) sa sabay-sabay na tree-planting activity sa La Mesa Watershed Reservation (LMWR) sa Quezon City bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Philippine Arbor Day noong Hunyo 25.

Ayon kay DENR-NCR Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, ang taunang kaganapang ito ay nagsisilbing plataporma para sa “professionals from different sectors of society to meet and work closely together on environment-oriented undertakings.”

Sa press release sinabi ni Caancan binigyang halaga ng aktibidad ang kahalagahan ng “partnership” at “volunteerism” sa mga career professionals mula sa national government agencies kabilang na dito ang NGOs at private sectors sa pagpapatupad ng Proclamation No. 643 na nilagdaan noong 2004 na nagtatagda sa pag-oobserba sa Philippine Arbor Day tuwing Hunyo 25.



DENR-NCR nanguna sa pagtatanim ng 2,700 puno sa La Mesa Watershed

Ang proklamasyon na ito ay nagbibigay-diin sa pangangailangan na magdeklara ng isang araw kada taon para sa pagsasagawa ng tree planting activities upang isulong ang malusog na ecosystem para sa mga tao.

Sinabi ng DENR na ngayong taon, umabot sa 2,700 native tree seedlings ang naitanim sa tatlong lugar sa paligid ng La Mesa Watershed.

Ang mga volunteers na nakibahagi sa kaganapan ay mula sa Professional Regulation 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) at DENR-Association of Career Executives (DENR-ACE).

Sa 2,700 tree seedlings, 1,700 tree seedlings ang itinanim ng mga nag-boluntaryo mula sa PNP-Quezon City Police District at Philippine Air Force, 650 seedlings mula sa DENR-ACE at DENR workers mula sa Central Office at NCR office, 250 seedlings mula sa PRC-SFFI at 100 seedlings naman sa BSP.

Kabilang sa mga seedlings ay ang Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Molave (*Vitex parviflora*), Bignay-kalabaw (*Antidesma ciliatum* C.Presl) at Malakalumpit (*Terminalia calamansanai*).

Samantala ayon naman kay DENR-NCR Forester Roel V. Galibu, ang taunang tree planting activity na ginawa ng ibang volunteers sa panahon ng planting season sa mga mga nakalipas na taon ay malaki ang naitulong sa pagsasaayos ng forest cover ng watershed na ngayon ay umabot na sa 1,400 ektarya. *Santi Celario*



Ayta community mount photo exhibit



PHOTO EXHIBIT. DENR Central Luzon Assistant Regional Director Laudemir Salac leads the ribbon cutting of the photo exhibit hosted by the agency with the Ayta community in Barangay Camias, Porac town. (Contributed Photo)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

July 08, 2022

AYTA community leaders are currently hosting a photo exhibit on the area of the Ayta Indigenous People which is being developed into an eco-tourism destination.

The photo exhibit which opened on July 4 Hacienda Gracia Resort and Hotel in features the Keluad, a river, and a lake with crystal clear waters in the upland barangay of Kamias in Porac town. The event is in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The event was graced by DENR Central Luzon Assistant Regional Director Laudemir Salac, Ayta Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) Edwin Abuque, and Indigenous Peoples Political Council Leader Benny Capuno graced.

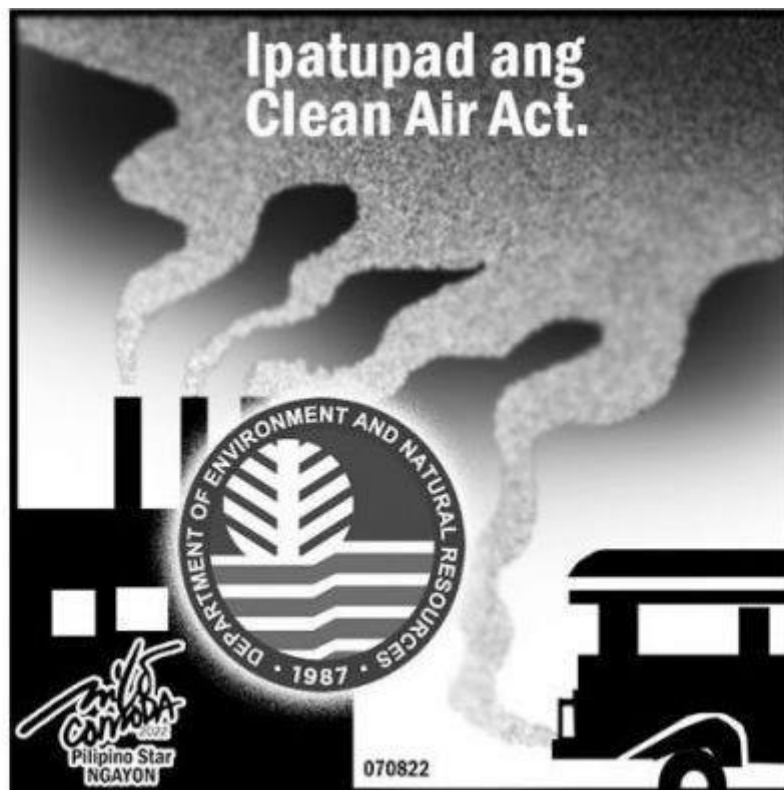
Also present were Ayta Youth leader Bim Iana Capuno, DENR National Youth Development Officer Louise Gonzales, DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service – Stakeholders Management and Conflict Resolution Division chief Julie Ibulan and DENR Climate Change Services DMO Imelda Matubis.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934219/pampanga/local-news/porac-ayta-community-mount-photo-exhibit>



EDITORIAL - Problema sa air pollution

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- July 8, 2022 - 12:00am



Binanggit ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa kanyang talumpati noong inagurasyon ang problema sa plastic pollution kung saan ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa plastic polluter. Sabi niya, lilinisin ang mga kalat. Hindi raw ito babalewalain.

Dapat na pagtuunan din niya ang problema sa air pollution na muli na namang nagbabanta hindi lamang sa Metro Manila kundi sa mga kalapit na lungsod at bayan. Bahagyang bumaba ang lebel ng air pollution noong 2020 dahil napilay ang transportasyon sa pananalasa ng pandemya. Walang biyahe ang mga jeepney, bus at maski taxi na nagbubuga ng may lasong usok. Tigil din ang mga pabrika.

Subalit ngayon nagbalikan na sa kalye ang lahat ng sasakyan at balik operasyon ang mga pabrika, balik din ang air pollution. Araw-araw nang nakalalanghap ng may lasong usok ang milyong residente sa Metro Manila.

Sa pag-aaral ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang mga sasakyan ang numero unong nagdudulot ng air pollution sa Metro Manila. Umano'y 70-80 percent ng emissions ay galing sa mga tambutso ng sasakyan. Ang maruming usok na ito ang nalalanghap ng commuters.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang mga sakit na nakukuha dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lason ay allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Ayon sa report, 120,000 Pilipino bawat taon ang namamatay dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lason. Ayon pa sa report, pangtatlo ang



EDITORIAL - Problema sa air pollution

Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Asia na maraming namamatay sa air pollution. Nangunguna ang China sunod ang Mongolia.

Wala pang itinatalaga si Marcos na DENR secretary. Malaking hamon para sa bagong secretary ang problema sa air pollution na nakaligtaan ng nakaraang pamunuan.

Aming suhestiyon para masolusyunan ang air pollution, lahat nang mga luma at karag-karag na sasakyan ay ipagbawal na sa kalye. Ang mga lumang sasakyan ay malakas kumunsumo ng gasolina at nagpo-produce nang nakasusulasok na usok. Ipagpatuloy ang smoke belching campaign para masiguro na ang mga sasakyang yumayaot ay hindi nagbubuga ng may lasong usok. Ipatupad ang Clean Air Act of 1999.

Iligtas ang Metro Manila sa nakamamatay na air pollution. Kaawaan ang mga susunod pang henerasyon na umaasang may malalanghap pa silang sariwang hangin.



Cemex to co-process election materials



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

July 9, 2022



Photo shows part of the election-related waste materials collected by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority that will be used by Cemex Philippines in its co-processing system. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[CEMEX Philippines](#) is set to co-process election-related materials in its [Solid Cement Plant](#) in [Antipolo City](#) in support of the [Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's](#) (MMDA) [waste management](#) and disposal of election campaign materials.

The May 2022 elections in the Philippines left tons of election posters and banners across the country, which if left undisposed, may end up in waterways or fill more space in landfills.

In line with global Cemex's commitment to reduce carbon footprint every step of the way, Cemex Philippines will co-process these election-related materials. The MMDA will then consolidate these materials, such as tarpaulin, banners and posters, from all over the metropolis.

"Working with external partners further supports the pillars of Cemex's Future in Action agenda focused on developing lower-carbon products, solutions and processes, and becoming a net-zero CO₂ (carbon dioxide) company," said Cemex Philippines President [Luis Franco](#).

"Efforts such as this prevent wastes from ending in landfills and waterways, and by co-processing helps lessen dependence of fossil fuels through the use of alternative energy sources," he added.



Cemex to co-process election materials

Cemex said an initial 3,000 kilos of discarded election campaign materials were collected by Cemex's haulers from the MMDA site located in EDSA-Ortigas in [Quezon City](#). These materials go through a pretreatment process before going to the plant's co-processing facility.

Co-processing is a proven sustainable waste disposal solution recognized by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#). It involves the use of a cement kiln, a furnace continuously operating at extremely hot temperatures of around 1,500 degrees Celsius that guarantees the complete breakdown of waste and toxic substances, ensuring that no residual waste materials are created.

Such a method effectively reduces wastes being dumped on landfills and water bodies, which is in line with the company's commitment on sustainability and environmental management.



Peña: Who will be the next DENR Secretary?

[ROX PEÑA](#)

July 08, 2022

PRESIDENT Bongbong Marcos (PBBM) has been announcing members of his cabinet as they are appointed. I have been waiting for the next Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), but none has been chosen as of this writing. I asked some friends in the environment circle but they are clueless either.

So what challenges await the next DENR Secretary? Well, he or she will inherit unfinished, big-ticket and long term-projects like the Manila Bay clean-up and the National Greening Program (NGP). The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program started during the term of President GMA while the NGP commenced during the term of President Noynoy Aquino and was continued by President Duterte.

Then there's the lingering solid waste management problem. During the term of Pres. Duterte, a DENR Undersecretary was even appointed to focus on this environmental concern. More than twenty years after the passage of RA 9003 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, proper disposal of solid waste, especially plastic, is still a major concern among LGU's. PBBM in his inaugural speech made a commitment when he said "we are the third biggest plastics polluter in the world, but we won't shirk from that responsibility. We will clean up."

Mining is also a hot issue particularly on social acceptability. The government has lifted the ban on open pit mining in December last year. It will be recalled that former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez issued an administrative order in 2017 banning all prospective open-pit mines in the country.

Pollution is another major concern. "We have yet to see large scale practical solutions to pollution", said PBBM. Along this line, the new President mentioned the wind mills in Ilocos Norte which he said he built, probably referring to clean sources of energy as a way to address air pollution. No mention though on how to tackle water and land pollution.

Towards the end of his inaugural address, he talked about climate change. On how the Philippines, a small contributor to global warming, is one of those who will suffer the brunt of climate change and how rich countries are not doing enough to address this global issue. "The rich world talks a great deal but does a lot less about it than those with much less but who suffer more death and destruction from climate change and lack of adaptation", PBBM said.

The next DENR Secretary will oversee the country's compliance to our commitment to cut greenhouse gas emission in the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change of which the Philippines is a signatory.



Peña: Who will be the next DENR Secretary?

My choice for the next DENR Secretary is someone who has a heart for the environment and has the technical competence to do the job. My friend Ms. Bebet Gozun, fits this criteria. She is an environmentalist, a former DENR Secretary and former Presidential Assistant for Climate Change. She was recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme as the Champion of the Earth for Asia and the Pacific. She can go down to work immediately and needs no period of adjustment.



Higit 1,000 puno itinanim sa Cotabato

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- July 2, 2022 - 12:00am



Nagpartisipa sa aktibidad na tinawag na "Trees, Water, Life: Greening the Philippines the NIA Way" ang tropa ng 6ID, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) Alamada, NIA-Libungan Rover Irrigation System, NIA XII Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Philippine National Police at iba pang stakeholders.

STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Umabot sa mahigit 1,000 tree seedlings ang itinanim sa ginanap na tree planting activity na inorganisa ng National Irrigation Administration Region XII sa kolaborasyon ng 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division sa 6ID Kampilan Golf Course ng Camp Paulino Santos sa Brgy. Dado, Alamada, Cotabato noong Hunyo 29.

Nagpartisipa sa aktibidad na tinawag na "Trees, Water, Life: Greening the Philippines the NIA Way" ang tropa ng 6ID, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) Alamada, NIA-Libungan Rover Irrigation System, NIA XII Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Philippine National Police at iba pang stakeholders. Pinuri ni Major General Roberto Capulong, acting commander ng 6ID at JTF Central ang naturang aktibidad na nagsisimbolo aniya ng pagkakaisa sa layuning makamit ang "greener at sustainable community".

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2022/07/02/2192471/higit-1000-puno-itinanim-sa-cotabato/amp/>



Adbokasiya kontra climate change, disaster, pinalalakas sa Kidapawan City

Published on: July 08, 2022
By Shahana Joy Duerme



LUNGSOD NG KIDAPAWAN, Lalawigan ng Cotabato (PIA) -- Pinalalakas dito sa lungsod ang adbokasiya may kinalaman sa paglaban sa climate change at disaster upang ihanda ang mamamayan sa masamang epekto ng mga ito.

Isa sa mga hakbang ng pamahalaang panlungsod, lalo na ngayong Disaster Resilience Month, ay ang pagpapatupad ng mga aktibidad upang maisulong ang nabanggit na adbokasiya.

Kabilang sa mga aktibidad na ito ay ang inventory assessment ng Riparian Bamboo Growing Project, Orientation on Global Parametrics, Protection Issues Training Rollout, at Training of Trainers on Protection Issues with Oxfam.

Magkakaroon din ng memorandum of understanding signing katuwang ang Oxfam para sa pagtatatag ng Technical Working Group para sa Scaling Up Pre-emptive Action II projects.

Maliban sa mga ito, sinabi ni Psalmer Bernalte, city disaster risk reduction and management officer, na maglalagay din ng self-developed Early Warning System-Public Address System ang lokal na pamahalaan. Ito ay laan para sa mga naninirahan malapit sa ilog.

Samantala, binigyang-diin ni Bernalte ang kahalagahan ng pagpapalakas ng adbokasiya lalo na sa disaster risk prevention upang maiwasan ang pagkasira ng mga ari-arian o posibleng pagkalagas ng buhay sa panahon ng sakuna. (With reports from CIO-Kidapawan)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/08/adbokasiya-kontra-climate-change-disaster-pinalalakas-sa-kidapawan-city>



'Sooner than later': DOF eyes tax on single-use plastics, online purchases

NETFLIX AND OTHER STREAMING SERVICE SUBSCRIPTIONS MAY ALSO BE TAXED

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:53 PM July 08, 2022



Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno. INQUIRER PHOTO/JOAN BONDOC

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Finance (DOF) is mulling taxing single-use plastics and online purchases, including subscriptions to streaming apps like Netflix.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno on Friday said these are among the tax reforms being eyed by his office to generate more government income.

"In addition, we're also thinking of some possible tax on single-use plastics as this is part of our commitment to climate change," Diokno said in a press briefing.

"And of course, in response to recent developments, on the basis of fairness, we intend to tax online purchases because if you buy a product from a regular store, you pay tax. And I think you should also pay a tax if it's online," he added.

During the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte, there was a previous push to impose a P20 excise tax on single-use plastic, estimated to raise P1 billion per year.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) planned on developing a dedicated unit to [track digital sales transactions](#) and capture the correct taxes due from these goods and services.

Asked when the public can expect the tax on online purchases, Diokno said: "I think you need legislation for that, or maybe not, so you can expect it to be sooner than later."

"So you better take advantage of your (tax-free) Netflix subscription," he added.



'Sooner than later': DOF eyes tax on single-use plastics, online purchases

Tax reform packages

Aside from these, Diokno said he would pursue the remaining two packages of the Duterte administration's Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP).

"There are two remaining packages out of that tax reform program, and that's Package 3 and 4. We intend to pursue packages 3 and 4," Diokno said.

"They are supposed to be revenue-neutral but they will significantly improve our simplify the tax system, so we are pushing for those," he added.

According to Diokno, his office will "really focus on improving tax administration" so that the country can rely on a "much better tax system."

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1624494/sooner-than-later-dof-eyes-taxing-single-use-plastics-online-purchases#ixzz7YUBXUDcf>

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Largest parrot colony in the world lives in Patagonia's crumbling cliffs



By [Ashley Strickland](#), CNN

Updated 1650 GMT (0050 HKT) July 8, 2022

(CNN)At the northern tip of Patagonia's desert coast in Argentina, the skies above El Cóndor are filled with shifting clouds of chatty, colorful parrots.

The mountain's crumbling sandstone cliffs are home to the largest parrot colony in the world, containing 37,000 nests.

The burrowing parrots are so named because they tunnel into the sandy cliffsides to build their nests. These tunnels can be up to 9.8 feet (about 3 meters) deep.

With green feathers and white rings around their eyes, burrowing parrots stand out in this barren landscape overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. When the birds fly, bright blue and red feathers flash in the sky.

El Cóndor's cliffs serve as a nesting ground for a species that once appeared all over South America, but the burrowing parrot population is now declining.

The parrots' food source in the Argentine Monte is disappearing more quickly than the Amazon rainforest. This vulnerable region of desert grasslands and shrubs, which the parrots prefer, has suffered from deforestation.

The burrowing parrots have to fly three hours away from their nests just to find seeds and berries to bring back to their chicks within the cliff nests. Each year, the birds must travel farther to find something to eat, and it's estimated [the adults fly up to 164 miles \(264 kilometers\) per day](#), according to scientists at Justus Liebig University Giessen in Germany.

Moreover, threats from humans and growing tourism in the area are making life harder for the parrots.

A sky full of birds

Argentine director Kevin Zaouali, who made the first episode of the "[Patagonia: Life on the Edge of the World](#)" series that premieres Sunday on CNN, first saw the birds 10 years ago when he visited El Cóndor, entranced by "an entire sky covered by parrots." Returning to the beach, he and his team had to remain patient, "waiting to see what the animals wanted to offer us."



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The parrots have distinctive white rings around their eyes and olive green plumage, with splashes of color underneath.

The film crew spent 20 days with the parrots, wanting to find special moments, Zaouali said. The team listened to the constant chatter of the highly social birds and observed other nuances of their behavior as well. Burrowing parrots are monogamous and mate for life -- and they do everything together.

Zaouali said he was struck by "the way they look at each other and the way they touch each other. They're always giving kisses to each other."

Amid these glimpses of affection were moments fraught with tension.

Burrowing parrots are the prey of the peregrine falcon, the fastest bird on the planet. It can reach speeds of 240 miles per hour (386 kilometers per hour) when diving at its prey. At the site, the falcons moved so quickly that it was nearly impossible to capture their dives on camera.

Pumas are protected across Patagonia's national parks, such as Torres del Paine in Chile, but in the past, ranchers have hunted the animals to protect their sheep and cattle from predators.

The ice dragon is one of only a few creatures that can withstand living inside a glacier. Its blood contains a natural antifreeze. The insect eats tiny algae that live in the ice and even other ice dragons in hard times. Its habitat is melting away.

The huemul is an incredibly rare South Andean deer. An estimated fewer than 1,500 remain -- just 1% of their former population -- making them one of the rarest [mammals on the planet](#).



Largest parrot colony in the world lives in Patagonia's crumbling cliffs

Conservationists in Chile's Parque Nacional Patagonia follow their movements using radio-tracking collars.

Scientist Verena Häussermann has discovered cold-water corals living in a remote fjord in Chile's Corcovado Gulf. It's one of the only places on Earth where these corals can be found in shallow waters. Unlike tropical corals that need sunlight, these depend solely on plankton for survival. The conditions in these waters are naturally acidic and may help scientists figure out how to protect marine life in other parts of the rapidly changing world.

Two hooded grebes perform a mating dance in Bajo Caracoles, Argentina. The birds come to breed on lakes on a volcanic plateau 5,000 feet above sea level in the Andes. Found nowhere else on Earth, they're one of South America's rare species -- there's only [750 grebes left in the world](#).

Edelmiro Pellao harvests seeds from the top of an Araucaria, or a monkey puzzle tree, in Comunidad Mapuche Ruca Choroi in Argentina. The trees grow up to 160 feet (48.8 meters) high. Giant survivors from the Jurassic era more than 145 million years ago, they have outlasted the dinosaurs. Humans -- and parrots -- collect the plant's seeds.



Photos: Patagonia's most elusive animals

The Valdivian temperate rainforest in southern Chile is home to this peculiar predator: the kodkod. Now threatened with extinction, the wild cat is so elusive, some call it the ghost of the forest.

The monito del monte, seen here at Chile's Bosque San Martín Experimental Station, is a tiny marsupial, raising its young in pouches like koalas and kangaroos. It's the only creature in South



Largest parrot colony in the world lives in Patagonia's crumbling cliffs

America to hibernate, and when it enters this state, it breathes once every 3 minutes. Its amazing ability to survive the winter could help scientists better understand the metabolism of humans.

This pod of orcas off the coast of Estancia el Pedral in Argentina targets unsuspecting seals and sea lion pups. The orcas have developed a remarkable technique. They beach themselves, snap up their meal and then expertly maneuver back into the sea. They are one of only two orca families in the world to catch prey in this way.

In Patagonia, marine otters known as chungungo live along the rocky coastline. Until a few decades ago, the chungungo were seen as pests and almost hunted to extinction. Their fur was a valuable prize. However, their numbers are recovering as the local fishing community has a change of heart.

Found only along Chile's Corcovado Gulf, the Chilean dolphin is one of the smallest species in the world. Little is known about these dolphins, but their distinctive round fins and white bellies make them easy to recognize.

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Some fledgling chicks inside the nest grow curious as they wait for their parents to return from the feeding ground and fall to the bottom of the mountain if they lean out too far. Zaouali and his crew spent a day watching a chick painstakingly climb centimeter by centimeter back up to the nest after it fell out.

The sandstone cliffs pose other risks for the colony. The structures occasionally collapse, with massive blocks falling from the cliff face and killing the parrots dwelling inside. But the parrots return each year after spending winters in the north because they prefer the arid openness of the cliffs along the Atlantic coast.

Protecting parrots

The burrowing parrot is currently considered to be of "least concern," according to the [International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species](#), but the species has been recognized as one that's declining in population.

Due to their charm and color, burrowing parrots are exploited by the [wildlife trade](#). They have also been hunted as pests who feed on crops. And because burrowing parrots are so picky about where they nest, they are easily disturbed if humans encroach on their space.



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Burrowing parrots are incredibly loyal to one another and highly social.

Zaouali began filming and photographing animals 16 years ago, and he has already seen changes in the places he once visited as a child. He said he worries that "the land of adventure" could lose the largest parrot colony on Earth and other animals if protective measures aren't taken for the vulnerable species that call Patagonia home.

"Patagonia is a very special place but also very, very fragile," Zaouali said. "It's unique and very wild, and while it seems very distant and pristine, if we don't try to protect it, it will be like any other place full of pollution."



Green destinations

By [Chit U. Juan](#) (The Philippine Star)
- July 9, 2022 - 12:00am

As more and more people wish to go out into the countryside, we become mindful of cities and towns which can now become “green destinations,” whether certified by third parties or naturally-green and simply appealing to tourists. Studies show that tourists prefer eco-friendly spaces and lodging rather than the usual haunts.

Back in 2012 – yes, that was ten years ago – a dreamy group called SSTDI – Society for Sustainable Tourism and Development Inc. – invited yours truly to Coron, Palawan to be a speaker on Sustainable Living. I introduced eco-friendly products to use in everyday life and locavorism in planning menus of tourist destinations. Ten years later, we see results. We now have more organic vegetable farms in Coron as well as sustainable farm schools and training sites. It does take some time, but we hope it will now speed up to take only a few months if not a year to convert a traditional tourist place into a green model across the country.

Meanwhile, SSTDI carried on to be involved in a certification program called “Green Destinations” and “Good Travel” program. I finally got more involved as I was invited to be a board director of said NGO and we traveled to other places like Mati, Davao Oriental; Davao City and Coron, Palawan again to check on LGUs who wanted to become involved in “greening” their towns or cities.

It does take a village to convert a nameless destination into a magnet for responsible tourists or those who practice green initiatives without needing to be six-star or five-star by DOT standards. Even four- or three-star hotels can be green. But it takes political will to start such initiatives, whether at the LGU level or a private firm’s strategic plans. Going green is a management growth strategy that can be sustainable.

With regards my involvement with Slow Food International, we also have an initiative called Slow Travel. In this program, Slow Food assigns officials who can audit the ecosystem of a particular place (e.g. Negros Island) if it complies with the Slow Food principles of good, clean and fair food while appreciating food cultures and traditions that must be preserved before they disappear.

In Slow Travel, the town or city becomes a gastronomic destination for tourists while they appreciate the traditional ways of food preparation, with emphasis on saving heirloom varieties or species of flora and fauna. Dreamy? It is possible and has become a major initiative of Slow Food (www.slowfood.com). Yes, even travel can be slow and so rewarding if done in a sustainable fashion.

For the tourism industry to be sustainable and profitable as well, we need to be mindful of what the market wants – they want to be involved in maintaining sustainability of a place as a destination. We do not want another Boracay closure which displaced many businesses. I hope we take lessons from that and prevent such man-made disasters from happening in other tourist places. And all it takes is to align our business plans with programs that will ensure our sustainability as a tourist business. Whether it is through Slow Travel or Green Destinations, a checklist may help you preserve your investment as an enterprise and be a popular haunt that is an advocate of responsible tourism.



Green destinations

With our borders opening up despite COVID, tourism will become a necessary business to keep or sustain. But the management of such places must first be convinced not to cut corners but to plan for the future. Plan for the long haul, preserving your assets whilst becoming a DOT-compliant and eco-friendly establishment.

Our new leadership at the DOT may also be a good place to start. Their fresh eyes can start fine-tuning our standards to comply with global "green" standards and the UNSDGs. And Slow Food principles as well. I remember commenting on "rice choices" and a local DOT official replied: "Not everyone likes brown rice, so we serve white for the choice of the market." This mindset is the reason why we never change. Hey, we just wanted to suggest food choices! But if our minds are closed and all we want is to maintain status quo, then that is what we will be – status quo. No change, no improvement, no progress.

If we must differentiate our country as a tourist destination then we must do something different in the sustainability department. For all these businesses to remain profitable but green, our leadership can start with getting familiar with principles for Green Tourism, Gastronomy Tourism and the like. And as a country we can strategize to get back into the top spot as a destination of choice – all without harming the environment or being another Boracay disaster which led to business losses.

Something's got to change – new leadership, new rules and new mindsets are in order. And we hope that green, organic and sustainable can all be part of the new tourism agenda.

What is green anyway? It's making sure we do not harm the environment as we develop our tourist sites. It's ensuring there is correct waste disposal, proper use of sustainable water sources and use of renewable energy whenever and wherever we can. It's converting all low-tech appliances to inverter models, avoiding use of single-use plastic or disposable plastic water bottles, buying local ingredients as much as we can and even recycling water for other uses, for example.

Even DOT standards must be reviewed. For example, do you know that five-star hotels are required to have two bottles of water in every room? By replacing these disposable water bottles with glass bottles, how many plastic bottles will you stop using? Do the math. It's mind boggling how a simple act of replacing plastic bottles across thousands of hotel rooms will make a difference. That's just one tiny act with a lot of sustainable rewards.

I dream we become a green destination, sooner than later.



Boracay welcomes over 800K tourists in the first half of 2022

Published on: July 08, 2022

By Sheila Patoza



KALIBO, Aklan (PIA) – The Island of Boracay in Malay, Aklan received a total of 849,047 visitors from January to June this year, according to Malay Municipal Tourism Office.

Based on the data of the local tourism office of the total tourist arrivals, 817,215 were domestic tourists; while 18,845 were foreign tourists; and 12,987 were Overseas Filipino Workers /Overseas Filipinos.

The month of May 2022 posted the highest number of tourist arrivals amid the pandemic with 201,368, notably due to the celebration of long weekend holiday “LoveBoracay” formerly celebrated as LaBoracay in the famous Island.

It followed by the months of June of which the island was able to welcome 193,650 visitors; April with 186,751 and 150,597 in March.

With less than 100,000 tourist arrivals in Boracay were the months of February and January with 80,882 and 35,799 arrivals, respectively.

The local governments of Aklan and



Boracay welcomes over 800K tourists in the first half of 2022



Many business establishments in D'Mall Boracay Island reopen as tourist arrivals in the island are picking up. From January to June 2022, Boracay island welcomed 849,047 tourists. (SQP/PIA-Aklan)

Malay saw more tourists spend their vacations in the island with the resumption of international flights at the Kalibo International Airport and the easing of travel restrictions.

In June, Air Seoul and T'Way Air, have once again touched down at KIA for the first time in Aklan after more than two years the province closed its doors from neighboring countries due to pandemic.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) more direct international flights are expected to resume operations at KIA this July.

Meanwhile, the newly elected Aklan governor, Jose Enrique Miraflores is mulling for a simple and easy pre-entry requirements for Boracay Island, specifically the Quick Response (QR Code) system.

The governor said that streamlining of the QR code system is necessary also for easy checking and monitoring of the tourists going to Boracay; which are expected to increase in the coming months.

At present, QR code requirement for Aklanons and returning travellers have been lifted whose point of destination is Mainland Malay only in accordance with Executive Order 002, series of 2022, issued by Miraflores on July 1. (AAL/SQP/PIA-Aklan)



DBP approves funding for Dupinga Mini Hydro Project in Nueva Ecija

[Friday, July 8, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Dupinga River

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has approved P660-million in funding support for the development of the 4.6MW Dupinga Mini Hydropower project in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija in line with its thrust to support new and renewable energy sources, a top official said.

“The funding support for the Dupinga Project is yet another contribution by the DBP in helping achieve the government’s goal of 30% renewable energy share in the country’s total energy mix by 2030,” DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said.

The loan extended to Dupinga Mini Hydro Corporation (DMHC) is under DBP’s Financing Utilities for Sustainable Energy Development (FUSED), which aims to contribute to the [increased access to electricity services](#) through financing of utility-scale energy generation projects.

“The Dupinga Project is located within the ancestral domain of the Katutubong Dumagat of Central Luzon and the Sierra Madre mountain range. Ensuring the completion of this project through our funding support also assures that the welfare of our indigenous people and their community as well as the Sierra Madre are protected and remains sustainable,” Mr. Herbosa highlighted.

DBP is the sixth largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; the environment; and social services and community development.



DBP approves funding for Dupinga Mini Hydro Project in Nueva Ecija

[DBP](#) is expected to release to DMHC the first tranche from the approved loan within the first week of July 2022 to fully mobilize construction activities and target completion by early 2024. DMHC is a partnership between Alternergy Holdings Corporation, a pioneering renewable energy company led by former energy secretary Vicente S. Pérez Jr., and Markham Resources Corporation, an investment company led by Francisco Tiu Laurel of the Frabelle Group.

The Dupinga Project is a small-scale run-of-river hydropower project that will harness water from the Dupinga River system and convert it clean, renewable electricity supply to Nueva Ecija II – Area 2 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO 2- Area 2). It is expected to spur economic activities and improve the welfare of the community through additional income from royalties, taxes and government share for every kilowatt of generated output. The Dupinga Project's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program is focused on assisting the Katutubong Dumagats.



NDRRMC warns against floods, landslides triggered by continuous rains

Published on: July 08, 2022

By Alice Sicat



QUEZON CITY (PIA) -- The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) once again warns the public to be vigilant and remain prepared due to the increasing risk of flooding and landslides caused by continuous rains brought on by the monsoon rains or "Habagat" and other existing and weather system.

State weather bureau, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said habagat is currently bringing heavy rains to the western part of the country. They are also monitoring a Low-Pressure Area (LPA) within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) which was spotted 950 kilometers East of Davao at 3 p.m. There is a high chance that it will become a storm and be named "*Esther*".

The regions of MIMAROPA, Bicol, CALABARZON, Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela will experience light to moderate and sometimes heavy rains for 24 hours.

NDRRMC issued notices to its regional and local government partners on adequate preparations and actions such as conducting evacuation, prepositioning family food packs, sending notices to the affected area, and others.

The NDRRMC emphasized and reminded residents living in low-lying areas, riverside and mountains to be aware of the rising chance of flooding and landslides. As well as continuous coordination and compliance with the rules and authorities, and constant monitoring of weather notifications and reports.



NDRRMC warns against floods, landslides triggered by continuous rains

"Tag-ulan na muli. Gaya ng aming laging paalala sa lahat, laging maghanda sa mga bantang panganib gaya ng pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa. Nariyan ang posibleng pagtama ng mga malalakas na bagyo kaya't ibayong pag-iingat at pagsunod sa abiso ng awtoridad ang ating paalala at patuloy na panawagan sa ating mga kababayan. (It's raining again. As we always, we remind everyone to be prepared for threats such as floods and landslides. There is a possibility of strong storms so be extra careful and follow the notice of authority.)" NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad said. (PIA-NCR)



Bill establishing Department of Disaster Resilience refiled by Romualdez, Tingog solons

Published July 8, 2022, 2:57 PM

by [Seth Cabanban](#)

A House Bill (HB) seeking the establishment of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) has been filed by Leyte 1st district Rep. Martin Romualdez and Tingog Party-list Reps. Yedda Romualdez and Jude Acidre.

"It is high time that we create a truly empowered department that will focus on natural hazards and disasters, characterized by unity of command, a science and ICT-based [Information and Communication Technology] approach and the capacity to take charge of three key result areas: disaster risk reduction; preparedness and response; and recovery, rehabilitation and building forward better," the authors said in their explanatory note of HB 13.

The proposed Disaster Resilience Act, principally authored by [Speakership frontrunner](#) Romualdez, was filed on June 30.

Under the bills, a DDR will be established to improve the national government's capacity for disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and to reduce the vulnerabilities of sectors heavily-hit by natural disasters.

"The Department shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, organizing, and managing the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for and respond to disasters, recover and rehabilitate, and build forward better after the occurrence of disasters," read Article II, Section 4 of HB 13.

On top of typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic activity, and other usual forms of natural disasters, the authors also included via Article II, Section 4 "Biological and Related Hazards, 1) Epidemic/Pandemic – viral, bacterial, parasitic, fungal, prion infectious diseases 2) Insect Infestation – grasshoppers/locusts," under the mandate of the DDR.

The bill posits that nearly 74 percent of the population and 80 percent of the country's land area have been flagged as vulnerable to natural disasters, hence the need for comprehensive disaster-focused legislation.

Aside from departmental powers, the bill wants local government units (LGUs) to set aside at least five percent of their respective annual budgets to establish a local disaster resilience fund.

It also seeks to impose legal penalties on the withholding or disrupting the distribution of relief goods, and the selling or misuse of relief goods intended for victims of disasters.

Ealier, HB 5989, similarly attempting to establish a DDR, was filed in the 18th Congress and authored by Romualdez couple. However, while it was approved on third and final reading, it fell short of enactment after it failed to prosper in the Senate.

Meanwhile, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go filed a similar measure this 19th Congress last July 5.

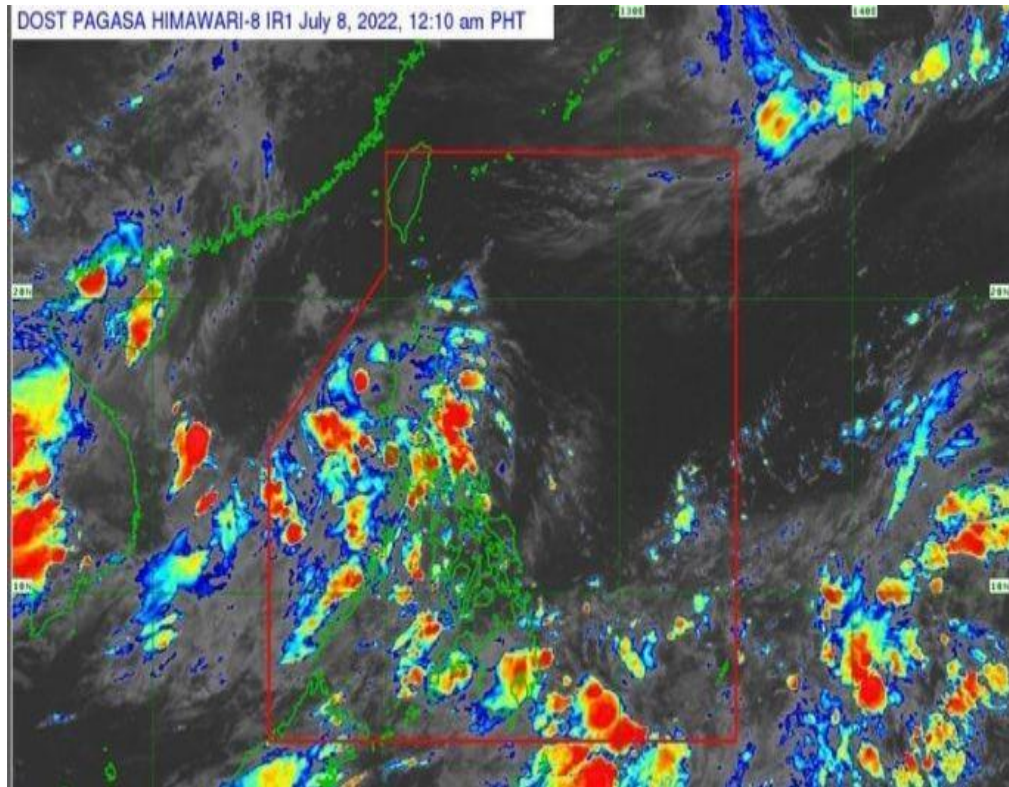
Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/08/bill-establishing-department-of-disaster-resilience-refiled-by-romualdez-tingog-solons/>



2 bagyo nagbabantang pumasok sa Pinas

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- July 8, 2022 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Pagasa Administrator Undersecretary Vicente Malano, inaasahang papasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility ang dalawang bagyo pagkatapos ng susunod na tatlong araw.

PAGASA

MANILA, Philippines — Dalawang bagyo ang inaasahang papasok sa bansa sa mga susunod na araw.

Ayon kay Pagasa Administrator Undersecretary Vicente Malano, inaasahang papasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility ang dalawang bagyo pagkatapos ng susunod na tatlong araw.

Ayon kay Malano, ang characteristics ng dalawang paparating na bagyo ay kamukha ng nakaraang dalawang bagyo na pumasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) na bagyong Caloy at Domeng.

Si Domeng ay papuntang Norte habang si Caloy ay nanggaling sa West Philippine Sea at pumunta ng China area.

Sa ngayon, sinabi ni Malano na ang Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) ang magdudulot ng masamang panahon sa Southern Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao.

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Diokno wants tax on single-use plastic

By CHINO S. LEYCO

The Department of Finance (DOF) would support the imposition of a tax on single-use plastic packaging to combat pollution.

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said that a single-use plastic packaging tax is "worth considering" by the Marcos administration to help address the challenges of the worsening climate crisis.

"I think, we on our part, on the tax side, I think we should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution, for example, as tax on single-use plastic," Diokno said in a recent interview with ANC.

Currently, the United Kingdom and Ireland impose levies on single-use plastic bags.

But despite the increasing public awareness of the issue of plastics pollution in the Philippines, there is no pending bill in Congress seeking to impose such

tax on single-use packaging. However, there was a proposed measure that sought the ban of single-use of plastics.

The Duterte administration had backed in Congress the passage of the bill banning single-use plastics as well as supported initiatives to replace it with new environment-friendly materials.

In addition, several local government units have also issued their own ordinances to ban or regulate plastics.

In a study by Ocean Conservancy in 2015, the Philippines produced 2.7 million metric tons of plastic wastes—more than half a million metric tons of which were leaked to the ocean.

The Waste Assessment Brand Audit 2019 report of the Global Alliance for Incinerators Alternatives (GATA) also showed that the country produced daily 164 million pieces of sachets, 48 million shopping bags, 45.2 million pieces of "labo" bags.



REPUBLIC Cement x ColPal sealed the renewal of its partnership against plastic waste through a ceremonial tree planting.

Partnership addresses plastic waste crisis

Republic Cement, a leading construction solutions provider in the Philippines, and Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, a personal health and hygiene products company, renewed their partnership that aims to alleviate the pervasive plastic waste problem in the country.

The Philippines is one of the biggest contributors of marine plastic pollution, generating a staggering 2.7 million tons of plastic waste each year. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines' partnership with Republic Cement is a step towards addressing the plastic waste crisis, that also aligns with Republic Cement's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Having worked together since signing the first Memorandum of Agreement in December 2020, both companies pledged to continue their partnership through ecoLoop at an event held at Republic Cement's Bulacan Plant. ecoLoop is Republic's resource recovery arm, which co-processes plastic waste and diverts it from landfills and waterways.

"Colgate-Palmolive Philippines is committed to contribute to the betterment of the environment," said Colgate-Palmolive Philippines president and general manager Arvind Sachdev.

"We are very proud to be part of this system and part of the solution and are happy to have

found such a strong partnership with Colgate-Palmolive Philippines," said

Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz. Republic Cement has been at the forefront of innovative waste management for nearly two decades.

Through ecoLoop, the recovery of thermal and mineral properties of qualified waste materials and the manufacture of cement are combined in a single operation. This involves using plastic waste as an alternative fuel, thereby also cutting down the reliance on fossil fuels like coal.

Moreover, the co-processing method completely breaks down the organic molecules in the waste materials, thus reducing carbon emissions. Any by-product, such as ash, is fully integrated into the production of clinker, which is a key ingredient of cement. Thus, co-processing completely closes the lifecycle loop of plastic waste, preventing them from being leaked back into the environment in any way, whether through land, water, or air.

With a license issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic Cement

is fully capable and authorized to use and dispose of qualified waste through the co-processing method. Republic Cement understands its environmental responsibility and is careful to operate in compliance with DENR standards.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF REPUBLIC CEMENT
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE Phil president and general manager Arvind Sachdev and Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz.



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07-09-22

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Holcim launches recycling catamaran boat

Equipped with built-in sensors and micro-plastic collectors, the boat will drive live data mapping along its journey to fuel the faculty's research programs.

BY RAFFY AYENG
[@tribunephil_raf](#)

Holcim Philippines and One Earth One Ocean Philippines (OEOOP) on Thursday launched a catamaran boat called the "Circular Explorer" in Manila to clean coastal areas in the Philippines.

The first-of-its-kind 100 percent solar-powered vessel is designed to recover up to four tons of plastic waste daily to preserve vital marine ecosystems sustainably.

According to OEOOP and Holcim, they have chosen Manila Bay to be the first body of water to be surveyed by Circular Explorer's prototype, as it is one of the most polluted bodies of water in the world.

They said plastic inputs into the ocean are very high in Manila Bay, and something needs to be done immediately to change the devastating situation on the ground.

In parallel, the Circular Explorer will drive an education program to empower students and local communities as changemakers to act for people and the planet.

And venturing into a science-driven approach for more impact, Holcim and OEOOP will partner with the University of the Philippines Marine Institute to advance ocean research.

Equipped with built-in sensors and micro-plastic collectors, the boat will drive live data mapping along its journey to fuel the faculty's research programs.

"With today's population and urbanization on the rise, Holcim is committed to improving living standards for all by building more with less. That's why we are driving circular construction as a global leader in material recycling to build a net-zero future that works for people and the planet. The Circular Explorer is a platform to empower communities to join us to shift gears toward circular living," said Magali Anderson, Holcim chief sustainability and innovation officer.

For his part, Dr. Deo Onda, Deputy Director for Research, University of Philippines Marine Science Institute, stated that "now more than ever, the country needs science to help us understand the environmental challenges we are facing and to guide us with equitable and sustainable solutions."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
OF UNDES/PALESTINA/12

How students can help save the ocean

We must
take action to
conserve our
oceans and
sustain this for
our generation
and the future
generations'
sake.

BY MIKARLA KRISTINA ACIDO-MUEGA
Contributor

The ocean is essential to the Earth. Covering a vast majority of the planet and being mostly unexplored, it is home to diverse ecosystems and brings us clean air, moderate temperatures, food, transportation and even jobs! Without our oceans, we would be unable to thrive, for its waters support sea and land life. But it seems we are slowly losing them.

Our oceans are getting polluted mainly because of human activity. Waste from land gets carried into the waters, damaging marine life and affecting the ecosystems. While this may seem like nothing to us, the damage we do to the oceans will still affect us because many of our needs come from them. In addition, as we pollute the oceans, we, in turn, dirty up the land. This should give us further reason to save our oceans.

The United Nations recognizes the importance of oceans and includes their conservation and sustainable use among its goals.

Saving our oceans should be among our sustainable development priorities, for many of our needs come from them and the ecosystems they house!

This calls for a change in mindset regarding using things in our daily lives.

What we can do

Generations of people have been polluting the oceans. As a new generation, we should be aware of this

and slowly repair and put an end to the damage that has been done.

Reduce plastic use

Plastic usage is almost everywhere. In water bottles, toys, furniture and other objects, we would most likely find plastics.

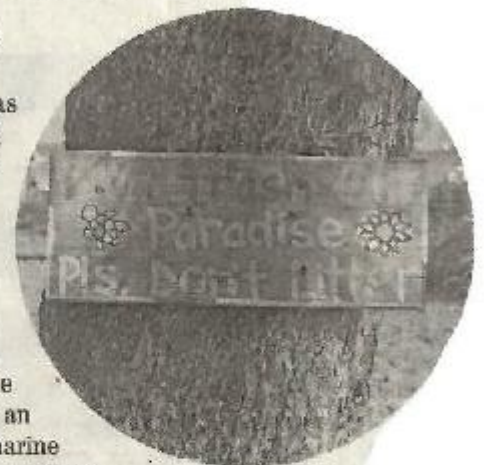
Plastics contain harmful substances such as bisphenol A, which can affect babies in the womb of a consumer; and lead, which can cause brain and kidney damage.

This is why we should recycle our plastics or find more ecologically-friendly alternatives such as cloth or wood. Otherwise, we can dispose of our plastics wisely by throwing them in the non-biodegradable trash can.

Do not exploit marine life

Fishes, such as clownfish being sold in the pet trade and bluefin tuna being overfished, are becoming endangered due to human interference. The loss of these species can cause an imbalance in the marine ecosystems if their numbers start plummeting.

Young people wanting a pet fish should be aware of the breed of fish they buy and research the history of such fish. Also, people eating fish should look at their food labels, such as the Marine Stewardship Council



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
OF PEXELS/GAGAN CAMBOW



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UNICEF

IT is stated in the 14th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations that the use of life below water must be conserved and sustained.

(MSC) logo, to ensure the fish is from a farm that promotes sustainable development and conservation of marine life.

Education, advocacy campaigns and responsible traveling

Traveling to the sea can greatly increase young people's knowledge of marine life, especially when enjoying it! When young people are more knowledgeable about our oceans and seas, they can be moved to engage in acts of conservation even more. When traveling, young people should

ensure that factors such as the company in charge should be supportive of environmental and ocean conservation programs. Also, being respectful to marine life such as nesting animals, and not buying products from endangered species by tortoiseshell eyeglass frames and jewelry made from corals are a must.

More importantly, as young people, we should also involve ourselves in education programs and projects that would allow us to research oceans and the environment.

Staying updated on our oceans and seas is essential and can make a significant change toward saving our environment. The oceans and seas are heavily polluted now, but by applying these small actions in our daily lives, we can still save our oceans and conserve an integral part of our Earth.



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Meralco seeks more eco-warriors

Meralco and Bayad, its payment services company, partnered with the Quezon City LGU for this program in December 2021.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) is seeking more individuals to join the Quezon City government's waste reduction program that allows the trading of recyclable materials in exchange for points that can be used to pay utility bills.

The Trash-to-Cashback Program is an initiative of the Quezon City local government unit (LGU) in partnership with bXTRA Philippines, Inc. and Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies, Inc.

Meralco and Bayad, its payment services company, partnered with the Quezon City LGU for this program in December 2021.

Meralco's Business Centers in Kamuning, Commonwealth, and

Novaliches serve as drop-off points for recyclable materials and have collected 2,015 kilograms of paper, plastic, and metal from December 2021 to June 2022.

The total waste collected was converted into 6,866 environmental points and was used by 59 eco-warriors to pay their utility bills in Bayad storefronts at Ever Gulesco Commonwealth, Barangays Gulel and Sanyo in Novaliches.

"Some eco-warriors not living in QC participated in the program and made use of our drop-off locations to avail of the environmental points conversion for their utility bills, particularly their Meralco bill," said Meralco Kamuning-Roosevelt Business Center Head Agnes Maob.

With the success of the initial run, the program was extended from March 2022 to December 2022. With this extension, Meralco seeks to encourage more eco-warriors to participate in the program.

"With the success of our partnership with the Quezon City LGU, we hope that other LGU will be inspired to adopt this program, realize its positive impact on the government's waste reduction efforts, and embed sustainability in the hearts and minds of their constituents. We wish to acknowledge our Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte for her unwavering support of this initiative and to encourage other companies to participate in this program,"

said Meralco first vice-president and chief commercial officer and head of customer retail services Ferdinand Galuz.

Meralco's participation in the Trash-to-Cashback Program supports and promotes the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production.



Bamboo queen shares her recipes for happiness

On five hectares of land in Antipolo, given by her mother, she established Carolina Bamboo Garden in 2000.

BY AYUNAN GUNTING

Entrepreneur, environmentalist and humanitarian Carolina "Kay" Gozon Jimenez is above all, a mother, wife and Bible adherent. Her qualities are celebrated in *Recipes for Life: Hearty Servings for Joyful Living*. The book is a compilation of anecdotes and tributes from family, friends and colleagues and her nuggets of wisdom. Each chapter highlights the family's favorite dishes.

Married to Menardo Jimenez Sr., one of the owners of GMA Network and sister of Felipe Gozon, the chairman and CEO, Kay is a quiet force in her own right. Her daughter Carmen Jimenez Ong, founder and CEO of Menarco Development Corporation, who spearheaded the book project, writes that the memoir shares her mother's recipes for joyful living. The main ingredient is complete faith in God.

When Kay was an economics student at the University of the Philippines, Jimenez, then an accountant, would drive 45 minutes daily to visit her house in Manila. While pursuing her master's degree in Applied Science, majoring in Economics at Montana State University, they continued their long-distance romance through sweet letters.

The couple married in 1962. "Asked how long we've been married, I always reply, 'Sixty heavenly years,'" she says.

Despite the contrasts in their personalities, the Jimenezes have maintained harmony by adjusting and accepting. "We are close-knit because we have God as Our Partner. We pray together. This makes it so easy in a relationship. Our goal is to have a happy Christian family and not to outdo each other."

Never having an idle moment, Kay had worked all her life. After a brief stint at Caltex Philippines, she worked as a technical assistant at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Department for Economic Research while parenting Menardo Jr., Joel and Laurie. Jimenez asked her to resign from CB so she could focus on the growing children and the baby, Carmen.

To keep busy, Kay, businesswoman Naty Imperial and American designer Eve Andrews formed Da Luz Enterprises, an export company specializing in fashionable bags using local materials. Their products were sold to Fendi, Bloomingdale's and Macy's until the economy of their market, the United States, took a nosedive in 1989. Kay says they maintained good relationships with

their buyers because they met their deliveries on time and met their clients' expectations. Her company allowed their suppliers and sub-contractors to finish the bags at their pace.

The Jimenezes have been imparting the value of enterprise and financial independence to their children and grandchildren.

Today, Kay has been pursuing another passion, bamboo cultivation. In her youth, her family would stop over in San Miguel,

As in a thoughtfully prepared meal, life is more than just a sum of its parts.

- Kay Gozon Jimenez



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Tarlac on the way to Baguio. They ate in a merienda place facing the bamboo grove. "I loved the way the bamboos cast shadows which looked like lace. I liked the whisper of the breeze on their leaves so I dreamed of having a bamboo garden," she recalls.

On five hectares of land in Antipolo, given by her mother, she established Carolina Bamboo Garden in 2000. The Ecosystems Research Development Bureau provided the seedlings and the training. The plantation, which has 45 unique species of bamboo, is located near a stream which waters the plants.

Carolina Bamboo Garden started out as a hobby and has since become a venue for workshops and a future learning center, set up by the Agricultural Training Institute. It has likewise been a supplier for entrepreneurs who manufacture engineered wood and architectural projects, a museum for bamboo artifacts and an advocacy that provides livelihood and protects the ecology.

Hitesh Mehta, international consultant for ecological planning, refers to her as the "Bamboo Queen." "Her drive to succeed is evident in her projects," he writes.

As a humanitarian, Kay was instrumental in forming a livelihood program, the Pig Dispersal Project wherein pastors of Conquest for Christ Foundation are given a pig instead of cash to breed. They earn

from the sales of the piglets.

Kay complements her insights on life with practical cooking tips. For instance, she adds more flavor and nutrition to the nilaga (beef stew with vegetables) with squash. As a starting cook, she learned her lesson in never taking shortcuts and buying the freshest innards for papaitan (beef bile, tripe and offal stew), cleaning them thoroughly to avoid the pungent smell.

On a photo with an aproned Kay holding a ladle and adding ingredients, she sums up the essence of her memoir, "As in a thoughtfully prepared meal, life is more than just a sum of its parts. Trusting that God has a reason for everything, a purpose for each step and a perfect master plan guarantees a life of joy in the Lord – no matter the circumstances."





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Stingless bee farm in Cavite is a 'museum' of
alternative beehives

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Stingless bee farm in Cavite is a 'museum' of alternative beehives

By JEROME SAGCAL

A visit to Los Pepes Farm, a stingless bee farm in Indang, Cavite, is akin to a museum visit. Exhibited in this farm are several forms of beehives — some are commonplace, others are rooted in traditional practices, while a few are just wildly interesting.

Los Pepes Farm is no agricultural museum though, it's not even an agripark. It's just a small lot owned by Mac Bergonio who did not seem to find his beehives that special until other people pointed it out to him.

Mac was a former seaman who got into stingless beekeeping due to the influence of his father-in-law. He always wanted to be a seaman and had even hoped to become a captain. His overseas journey started after graduating BS Marine Transportation in 2005 but this part of his life had to meet an unfortunate end in 2014. He lost hearing in one of his ears which meant he failed the medical examination to continue working. This was when his father-in-law introduced him to stingless beekeeping.

Mac would eventually grow to become passionate about beekeeping. "Nagustuhan ko yung pag-aalaga. Naging passion ko rin ang beekeeping (I started liking beekeeping and became passionate with it)," Mac said to Manila Bulletin, recalling his early years in beekeeping.

His father-in-law taught Mac how to care for bees and all the necessary skills involved in the craft, such as how to harvest feral bee colonies and how to construct beehives. With eight years of experience, Mac is now a person who other aspiring beekeepers could learn from. With his innovative beehive designs, one could discover a thing or two about the potential of beehives as a form of art.

In his farm is a beehive shaped

like a ship, which Mac had made to remember his past as a seaman. His nine years working in the sea easily manifests in his farm. He even wears his old uniform as a protective suit.

Mac also has a beehive resembling a minibus. A carpenter made the beehive using wood scraps back then when Mac's house was

ter that was no longer being used because it had a hole. He stuffed a small feral colony inside the bucket and has since grown.

There is also a chair that he transformed into a beehive. The stool, which was originally owned by Mac's father-in-law, also served as a coin box. The stool was given to Mac's child who later outgrew the chair. Instead of just throwing away the old stool, Mac decided to make a beehive out of it.

Another remarkable beehive on the farm is an old electric post. Meralco chopped off this pole because it had become too dilapidated. Mac's friend observed that bees had colonized the insides of the post so he extracted the pole and gave it to Mac.

There is also this child's trolley bag which had turned into a beehive. Mac had another friend whose kaong palm tree (Arenga pinnata) had fallen. When the tree fell, so did a feral bee colony that nested in it. It became a nuisance for Mac's friend as the

bees were becoming aggressive so he called Mac to remove the colony. Mac did not bring any box or sack to bring home the colony that day, but his friend did have an old trolley bag. He stuffed the colony inside the bag and returned to the farm where the school-bag-turned-bee-hive has been displayed ever since.

Asked how he came up with this unusual collection of beehives, Mac said "Naisip [ko] lang. Kasi kung iisipin mo, kahit saan naman talaga pwede. Wala naman silang pipiliin



MAC BERGONIO, owner of Los Pepes Farm, holds a log hive.



A MINI BUS-shaped beehive.

being built.

But Mac talks about these unusual beehives with nonchalance. He does not take them too seriously and actually constructs unusual beehives out of necessity.

"Pag nauubusan ako ng box, titignan ko anong mga basura dyan pwede ko paglagyan (When I run out of boxes to use for beehives, I look for trash to use)," Mac said.

Most of Mac's beehives are made from upcycled material. An example is an old bucket of wa-



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na bahay. (If you think about it, bees can live anywhere. They aren't too selective with their beehives)."

Mac also uses beehives from traditional beekeeping practices like coconut husks and bamboo logs. Constructing beehives through old material and natural casings allows Mac to care for more bees. He said he has around 400 colonies of two stingless bee species, *Tetragonula* *biroi* and *Tetragonula sapien*. He harvests them for honey and pollen, as well as propolis which he processes into lip balm, throat spray, massage oil, and ointment.

The market has become more competitive ever since they started in 2014, but Mac continues to care for his bees while providing them with unusual but creatively constructed beehives.



Solons file new disaster dept. bill

By Maricel V. Cruz

THREE congressmen, among them Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez, have filed a bill seeking the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) to better manage the country's disaster risk reduction and response efforts.

"It is high time that we create a truly empowered department that will focus on natural hazards and disasters, characterized by unity of command, a science and ICT-based approach and the capacity to take charge of three key result areas: disaster risk reduction; preparedness and response; and recovery, rehabilitation and building forward bet-

ter," House Bill No. 13 stated.

The measure said the Philippines is currently the world's second nation most vulnerable to climate change and disasters, with up to 19 tropical storms entering its area of responsibility, of which six to nine make landfall.

It noted that typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda, the world's strongest ty-

phoon ever recorded, struck the country in November 2013, with Eastern Visayas suffering the most damage and loss of life.

The bill also said 74 percent of Filipinos and 80 percent of the country's land area are exposed to the risk of natural calamities.

"This 'new normal' requires a more focused and in-depth attention in the way we understand, prepare and respond to natural disasters," the explanatory note stressed.

Romualdez's co-authors of HB 13 are Tingog party-list Representatives Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Jude Acidre.

As proposed, the DDR would be the primary disaster management agency of the government.

"It shall integrate and define what needs to be done, where it needs to be done, based on what standards, how it should be done, and how well it should be done," the bill said.

The bill defines the powers, functions and organization of the projected new department, which will be headed by a secretary, assisted by four undersecretaries - one for disaster preparedness and response, another for disaster risk reduction, a third for recovery and building forward better, and a fourth for support to operations.



DISASTER DEP'T CREATION PUSHED

**By Jester
Manalastas**

A MEASURE that seeks the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) to better manage the country's disaster risk reduction and response efforts was filed in the House of Representatives.

Incoming Speaker Martin Romualdez filed House Bill 13, the same measure that failed to be enacted in the 18th Congress.

Romualdez's co-authors of HB 13 are Tingog Party-list Representatives Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Jude Acidre. According to Romualdez, it is about time to create a truly empowered department that will focus on natural hazards and disasters, characterized by unity of command, a science and ICT-based approach and the capacity to take charge of three key result areas: disaster risk reduction; preparedness and response; and recovery,

rehabilitation and building forward better.

The Philippines is now the second nation in the world most vulnerable to climate change and disasters, with up to 19 tropical storms entering its area of responsibility, of which six to nine make landfall.

Romualdez underscored the need to have a separate agency to manage the disaster operations especially that the country is often visited by typhoon like the typhoon Haiyan or

Yolanda, the world's strongest typhoon ever recorded, in in November 2013, Eastern Visayas suffering the most damage and loss of life.

It said 74 percent of Filipinos and 80 percent of the country's land area are exposed to the risk of natural calamities.

"This 'new normal' requires a more focused and in-depth attention in the way we understand, prepare and respond to natural disasters," the explanatory note stressed.

As envisioned, the proposed DDR shall be the primary disaster management agency.

The bill defines and powers, functions and organization of the planned new department, which will be headed by a secretary, assisted by four undersecretaries - one for disaster preparedness and response, another for disaster risk reduction, a third for recovery and building forward better, and a fourth for support

to operations.

Among the department's powers is to draw up and implement an integrated and a comprehensive disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response management program.

In implementing such a program, the DDR may undertake emergency measures, including preemptive or forced evacuation, imposition of curfew and rationing of basic goods.

The bill also outlines

coordination among the DDR, other concerned government agencies and local government units (LGUs), whose relevant units shall be renamed local disaster resilience offices.

The department shall inherit the funds and personnel of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and related agencies. The bill requires LGUs to set aside at least five percent of the annual budget as a local disaster resilience fund.



500 families displaced by flooding in Ifugao

BY FRANCIS EARL CUETO

THE National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Friday said that around 500 families were displaced by landslides and flash floods caused by a downpour in Banaue, Ifugao.

According to the latest situation report, the NDRRMC said this is equivalent to around 1,500 persons residing in six villages in the town of Banaue.

The NDRRMC also said that an evacuation center is currently being used by 13 families.

Vice Mayor Donald Mongolnon said three individuals were reported injured after they were flushed away by the rampaging waters from the mountain.

"They were given the appropriate medical treatment in the town's health facility and are now recuperating," the vice mayor added.

Mongolnon said the volume of water dumped by the two-hour downpour was more than expected.

He also said that the local government is open to whatever assistance that may be extended by kind-hearted individuals or groups who want to help.

Mongolnon said the affected villages are Amganad, Bocos, Tam-an, Poblacion, Gohang and Viewpoint.

Meanwhile, at least three roads have been declared as not passable due to flooding.

Among those roads include the Banaue-Mayoyao Alfonso Lista Isabela Boundary Road (Boundary Poitan, Banaue, Ifugao), Banaue-Hungduan Benguet Boundary Road (Barangay Poblacion and Gohang, Banaue), and Nueva Vizcaya Ifugao Mountain Province Boundary Road (Barangay Amganad, Tam-an, Poblacion and

Viewpoint, Banaue).

Mongolnon said assessment is still being undertaken by concerned authorities to identify the extent of the damage inflicted by the landslides and flash floods.

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided 500 family food packs worth P339,375 to affected residents.

**WITH REPORTS FROM
DEXTER SEE**

CLEARING OPERATION

Police personnel dispatched by the Police Regional Office in the Cordillera Administrative Region help in a road clearing operation in Banaue, Ifugao, on Friday, July 8, 2022, in the aftermath of Thursday night's downpour that caused landslides and flash floods in the area.

PRO-COR PIO PHOTO





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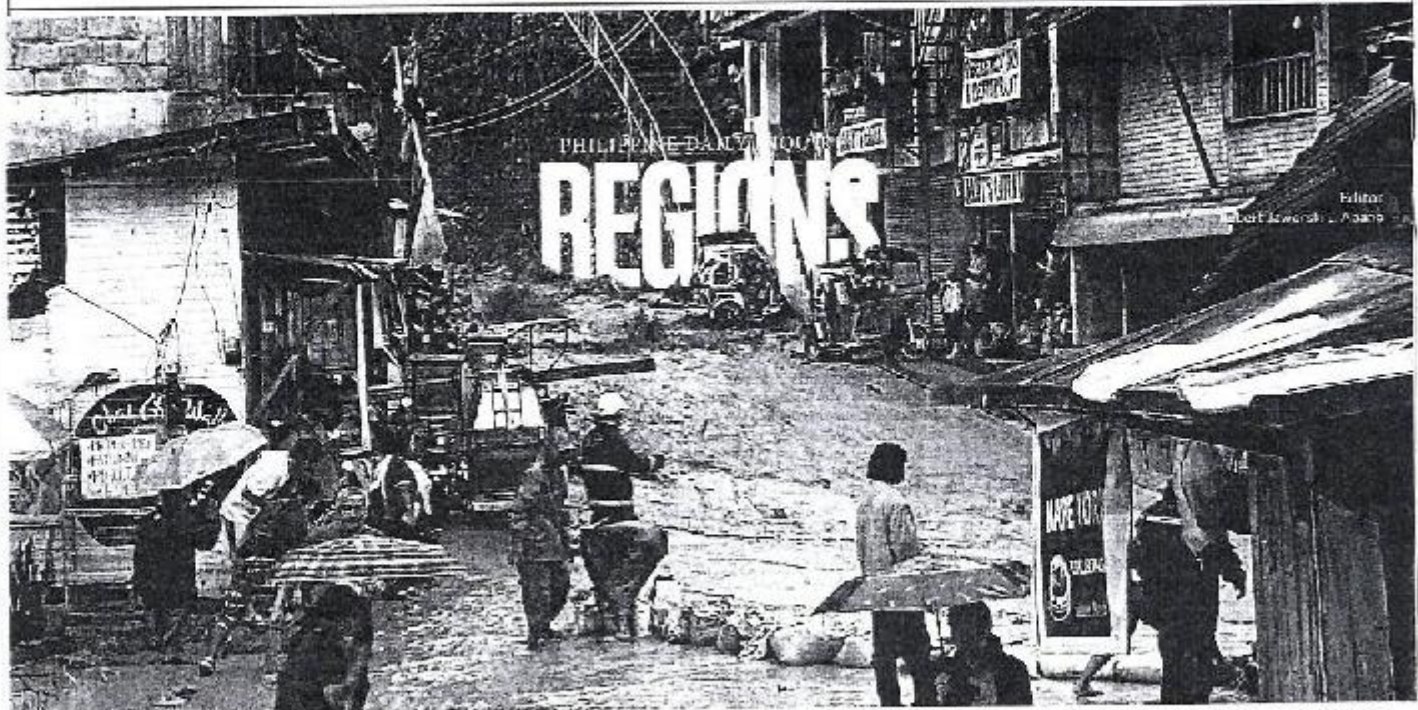
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TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION: Rocks and mud cover a portion of a washed-out road at Barangay Tam-an in Banaue, Ifugao, following Thursday's flash flood spawned by heavy downpour due to the southwest monsoon. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANAUE MUNICIPAL POLICE

Flash floods, mudslides sweep through Ifugao town

The torrent of water that 'no one saw coming' displaced 500 families in Banaue, a tourist spot

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
and Kimberlie Quitasol
@InqNational

At least 500 families (around 1,500 individuals) were evacuated to safety after heavy rains triggered flash floods and mudslides in Banaue town, Ifugao province on Thursday, authorities said.

In a report on Friday, the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Cordillera, said the displaced residents were from the villages of Poblacion, Tam-an, Bocos, Poitan, Amganaad and Viewpoint.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), three people sustained minor injuries due to raging floodwaters.

Based on NDRRMC's initial assessment, one house was destroyed when it was struck by the flash floods, but residents in Tam-an said several more houses were lost to the raging water in hillside areas.

At the height of the flash floods that hit Banaue, home to the rice terraces, residents appealed for help as the torrent of muddy water rushed down slope.

In an interview, Tam-an villager Nona Nia Nicampo said she saw how several parked vehicles were swept away in the flash floods on Thursday evening.

"Let us pray for Banaue. We hope that people here are all safe despite the damage that we have suffered," she said.

Caught by surprise

Authorities have yet to estimate the cost of the damage caused by the flash floods and mudslides.

But there were no reports of damaged sections of the rice terraces, which Banaue is fa-



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mous for.

Analiza Guya, another Tama-an resident, said it was their first time experiencing a violent flash flood and that "no one saw it coming."

"We were caught by surprise. Almost all barangays of Banaue were affected by flash floods and mudslides," she said.

According to the DSWD, it initially distributed P339,375 worth of assistance, including food packs, to the affected residents. Most of the evacuees were temporarily staying at the Banaue municipal gymnasium.

The agency had also coordinated

with the local social welfare office of the town in assessing the other needs of the displaced villagers, including medicine and hygiene kits.

Closed roads

Several roads were temporarily closed to give way to clearing operations while a large part of Banaue experienced power interruptions when strong winds toppled electric lines, the NDRRMC said.

In another report, the Banaue municipal disaster risk reduction and management office (MDRRMO) said the road connecting Banaue and the cap-

ital town of Lagawe remained closed due to several incidents of landslides in the area.

The MDRRMO said three separate roads connecting Banaue to the towns of Bontoc in Mountain Province and Hungduan and Mayoyao in Ifugao were already reopened to accommodate light vehicles on Friday.

In an advisory on Friday, Jovita Ganongan, director of the Department of Tourism in Cordillera, suspended all tourism-related activities and travels to Banaue while clearing and cleaning operations were underway. INQ



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCE BUREAU
Cordillera Administrative Region
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Tel. No. 8374 442 636; Fax No. 8374 304 2898; Website: www.denr.gov.ph
E-mail: caraga@denr.gov.ph; caraga@denr.gov.ph; caraga@denr.gov.ph



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF
BENGUET CORPORATION
FOR
EXPLORATION PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, Series of 2010, the Consolidated Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995", BENGUET CORPORATION filed an application/proposal for Exploration Permit for the exploration of gold, copper and other related minerals particularly described as follows:

- A) Tenement No. : Exploration Permit Application (EXPA) No. 122
B) Name of Applicant : BENGUET CORPORATION
C) Contact Person and Address : LINA G. FERNANDEZ
President
106 Universal Re Building
Paseo De Roxas, Makati
ENGR. VALERIANO B. BONGALOS, JR.
Vice President/Resident Manager
Benguet District Operation
Balatoc, Virac, Ilogon, Benguet
D) Date Applied : November 12, 2021
E) Area Coverage : 292.3528 HECTARES
F) Location : Barangays UCAB, VIRAC AND AMPUGAO
all in the Municipality of Ilogon
Province of BENGUET

G) Technical Description of the Unpublished Area

For details, kindly refer to the attached Technical Description and Location Map

H) Term of the Permit if approved:

Two years, renewable for like periods but not exceed a total of eight years

I) Exploration Activities:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 |
| a) Research Work | a) Tunneling |
| b) Regional Geological Survey Studies | b) Drilling |
| c) Tunneling | |

J) The applied area covers 2,285,042 hectares. About 292,3528 hectares was not published, hence, this publication, Section 21, Publication/Posting/Radio Announcement of an Exploration Permit; Application of DAO 2010-21 provides that previously published valid and existing mining claims are exempted from publication/posting/radio announcement.

K) EXPA No. 122 is formerly an application for Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (APSA) No. 008 that was denied by the Office of the MGB Regional and Central Offices, however, reinstated by the DENR Secretary on October 5, 2021. The conversion from APSA No. 008 to EXPA No. 122 is in accordance with the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2021-25, Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 139 entitled: Amending Section 4 of Executive Order No. 78, Series of 2012.

L) Area Clearance for APSA No. 008, now EXPA No. 122 was granted by the Undersecretary for Mining and Legal Affairs on 15 February 2005 in consonance with DENR Memorandum Order (DMO) 95-03, as amended by OMC No. 2005-05 re: Mandating the Office of the Undersecretary for Mining and Legal Affairs to Rule on Appeal covering Denial of Area Clearance for Mining Applications.

M) APSA No. 008 now EXPA No. 122 was endorsed to NCP-CAR in 2003 for the required Certification Pre-condition.

This "Notice of Application" shall be:

- Published one in two (2) newspapers: one of general circulation published in Metro Manila and another published in Baguio City or Benguet Province where the proposed permit area is located.
- Posted on the Bulletin Board of the MDG-CAR, Provincial Capitol of Benguet, Municipality of Ilogon copy furnished the concerned Barangays of Ilogon, Benguet where the proposed permit area is located for a minimum period of one week copy furnished the MGB Central Office.
- Radio broadcasted daily for one (1) week in a local radio program and shall consist of the name and complete address of the applicant, area location, duration of the permit applied for and instructions that information regarding such application may be obtained at the Regional Office(s) concerned.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above-mentioned application are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of publication/posting directly with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office CAR or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or concerned appellate bodies pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7942 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protests or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 205 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Series of 2010 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, file or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR-CAR, Baguio City.

Issued on _____, 2022

PAY V. APIL
Regional Director
ALFREDO S. CORDERO
Chief, Mine Management Division

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF Unpublished Area of an Application for DENR/REGISTRATION Permit Application No. 122 of BENGUET CORPORATION

PARCEL 1		Area in Hectares	
Order	Lottery	Order	Lottery
1	10000000	1	10000000
2	10000000	2	10000000
3	10000000	3	10000000
4	10000000	4	10000000
5	10000000	5	10000000
6	10000000	6	10000000
7	10000000	7	10000000
8	10000000	8	10000000
9	10000000	9	10000000
10	10000000	10	10000000
11	10000000	11	10000000
12	10000000	12	10000000
13	10000000	13	10000000
14	10000000	14	10000000
15	10000000	15	10000000
16	10000000	16	10000000
17	10000000	17	10000000
18	10000000	18	10000000
19	10000000	19	10000000
20	10000000	20	10000000

PARCEL 2		Area in Hectares	
Order	Lottery	Order	Lottery
1	10000000	1	10000000
2	10000000	2	10000000
3	10000000	3	10000000
4	10000000	4	10000000
5	10000000	5	10000000

PARCEL 3		Area in Hectares	
Order	Lottery	Order	Lottery
1	10000000	1	10000000
2	10000000	2	10000000
3	10000000	3	10000000
4	10000000	4	10000000
5	10000000	5	10000000


PARCEL 4		Area in Hectares	
Order	Lottery	Order	Lottery
1	10000000	1	10000000
2	10000000	2	10000000
3	10000000	3	10000000
4	10000000	4	10000000
5	10000000	5	10000000

PARCEL 5		Area in Hectares	
Order	Lottery	Order	Lottery
1	10000000	1	10000000
2	10000000	2	10000000
3	10000000	3	10000000
4	10000000	4	10000000
5	10000000	5	10000000



MS-2022-09-22-001




Department of Environment and Natural Resources
REGION IV - CALABARZON
 Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office - Cavite


NOTICE OF LEASE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Trece Martines City will accept oral bids for lease of public lands for a term of 25 years, commencing on 10/01/2022, for the lease of Industrial-Commercial purposes of the tract of public lands whose land terms, terms, details are:

Location	Tasungay Caltagna, Talasa, Cavite
Description	Municipal land covered by approved plan MCS-041 26-09-0
Total Area	50,000 square meters
Approved Value Of the Fair-value land	Php 1,750.00 per square meter or Php 1,225,000.00 for the whole tract
Value of Filing Requirements	Php 1,204,500.00
Annual Rental	Php 17,500.00 (3% value of the land & 1% of improvement)
Applied By	F & F DE CASTRO CORPORATION RERBY MR. FREDERICK A. DE CASTRO MCC-04126-09-0; NLC-04130-09-0

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed improvements. In order that a person may be qualified to participate in the bidding, he must be qualified public land applicant and must submit the requirements of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury check, certified check, cashier's check, or banker's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit, even if a bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental, whether a bid is raised shall and be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Trece Martines City, June 1, 2022


JANIBEL REYES
 CRC-IV-ENR (Chief)

09 JULY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Marcos wants further study of COVID-19 alert level scheme — DOH

(Philstar.com)

- July 8, 2022 - 3:58pm



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. answers questions from the media at a press briefing at Heroes Hall in Malacañang, Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the Department of Health to further study the COVID-19 alert level scheme being implemented by the government, the agency said Friday.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the alert level system was discussed during the department's meeting with Marcos.

"He had some form of guidance for us. Mayroon siyang komento, in-analyze niya kung ano 'yung mga metrics natin ngayon at binigyan niya kami ng instruction to further study this alert level para maging mas appropriate in our situation," Vergeire told state broadcaster People's Television.

(He had some form of guidance for us. He had comments and analyzed our current metrics. He also gave us an instruction to further study this alert level [system] for it to be more appropriate in our situation.)

In September 2021, the alert level system, which has five tiers, replaced the quarantine classification comprised of enhanced community quarantine, modified ECQ, general community quarantine, and modified GCQ.



Marcos wants further study of COVID-19 alert level scheme — DOH

The alert level of an area is based on the average daily attack rate and the healthcare utilization rate.

Metro Manila is under the most lenient Alert Level 1 until July 15. Under Alert Level 1, all establishments or activities are allowed to operate or be undertaken at full onsite or venue capacity.

Scale up booster uptake

Marcos has also instructed the DOH to ramp up the COVID-19 booster uptake as infections continue to rise, Vergeire said.

According to the health official, around 40 million eligible Filipinos have yet to receive their first COVID-19 boosters. Latest data showed that only 15.17 million have gotten booster shots.

Vergeire, who also serves as the interim chairperson of the National Vaccination Operations Center, said the government will bring the vaccines closer to people.

“Gagawa tayo ng mga pagsusuyod ng mga lugar na malalayo, lugar kung saan ang ating mga kababayan ay hindi talaga maka-access ng vaccination sites. We will go house-to-house for our senior citizens,” she said, adding the agency will seek the assistance of the education, labor, and interior departments.

(We will go to far-flung areas, in places where our countrymen have no access to vaccination sites. We will go house-to-house for our senior citizens.) — Gaea Katreena Cabico

09 JULY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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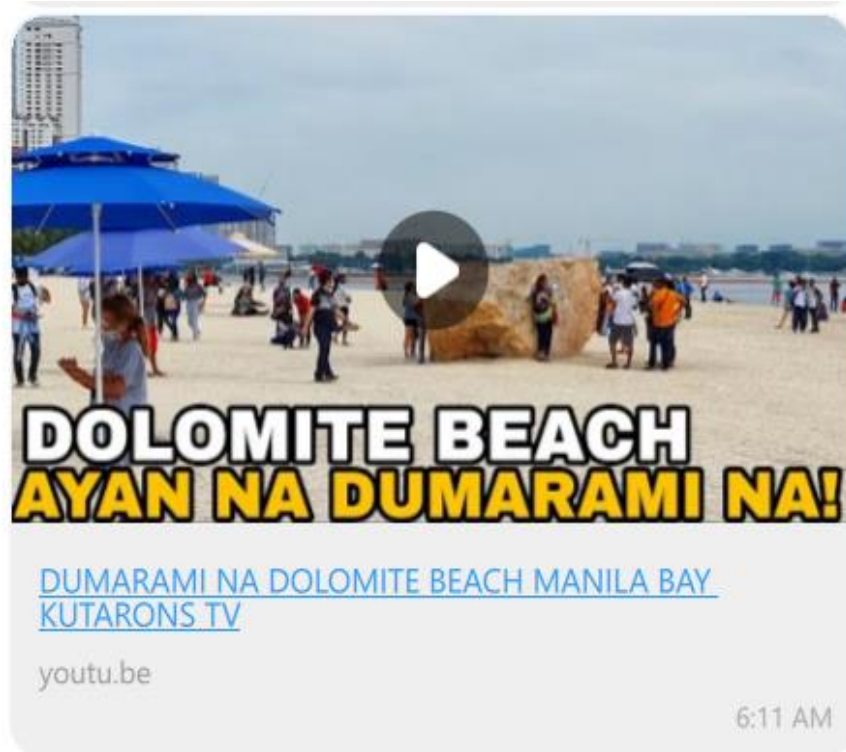
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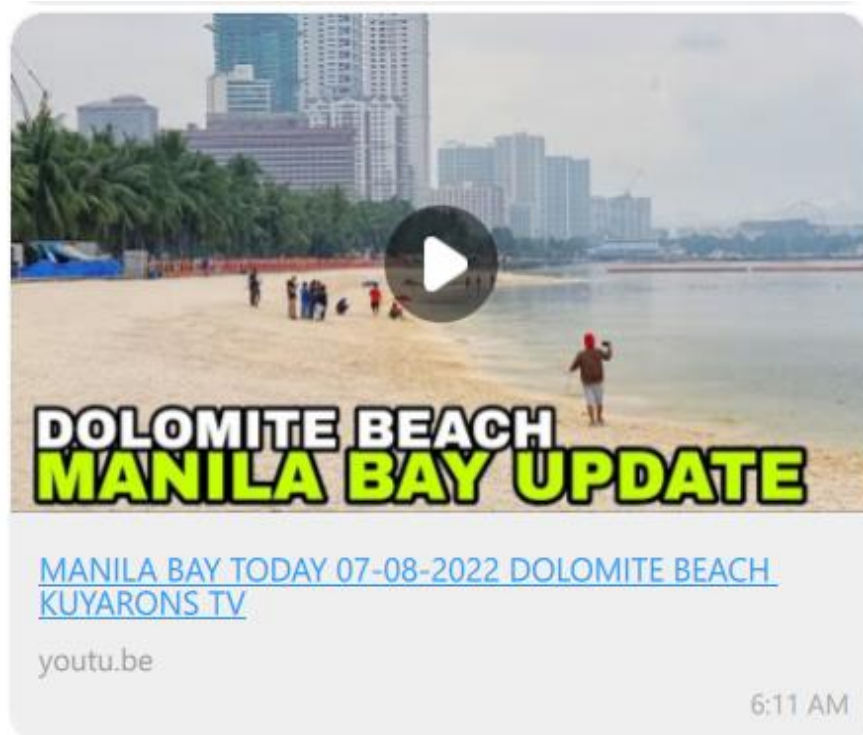
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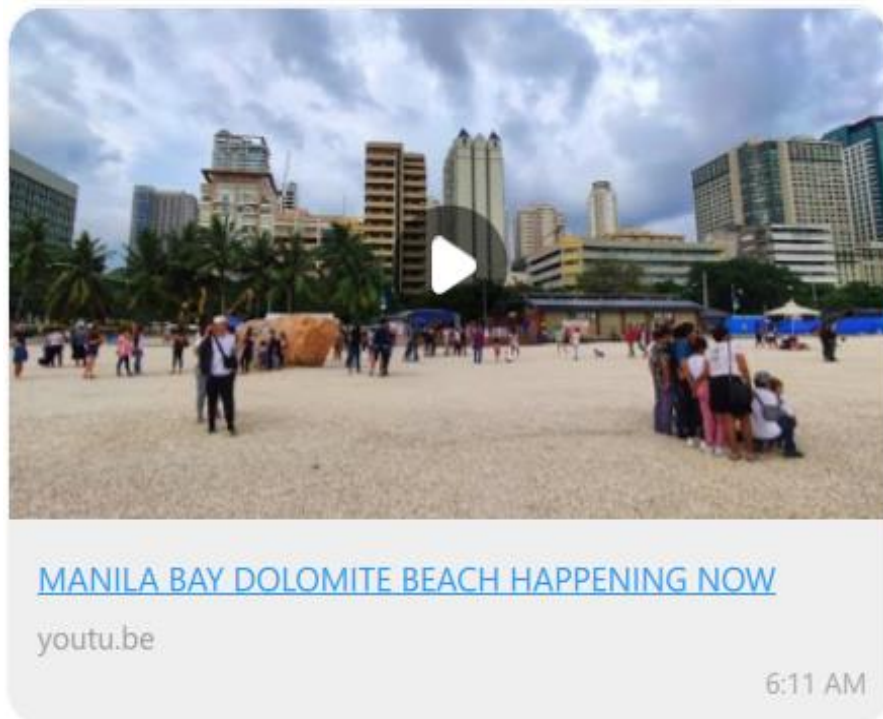
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