

11 JULY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR official bats for more mineral processing plants

July 10, 2022, 2:19 pm



MANILA – Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna pushed for the establishment of more mineral processing plants and utilization of rare earth deposits to help increase the country’s mineral production and revenue generation.

“Mineral processing plants make the mined mineral ready to use for application. For example, limestone, if processed, will become cement, which is ready to use for construction,” Sampulna cited in a statement on Sunday.

“If we have more of these plants and more minerals will be processed in the country, then its value will increase even more than 100 percent, and lesser raw materials will be shipped out to other countries, like Japan or China,” he added.

The DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau has so far issued 108 mineral processing permits, most of which are for construction materials.

Likewise, Sampulna proposed the identification of rare earth elements (REEs), such as scandium and yttrium, in operating mines.

Sampulna, who was the former DENR undersecretary for mining, said that these metals are essential parts of many high-technology devices.

“The Philippines is conducive to these minerals. It could contribute to the national government through the identification and utilization of these commodities. To date, there are only a few operating mines which have identified REEs,” he said.

Sampulna cited that a proposed iron mineral processing plant in Zamboanga had its groundbreaking ceremony on June 18, to support the DENR’s initiatives toward self-utilization of mineral commodities in the country.

“We hope that investors will push for the opening of more processing plants in the Philippines,” he said.

He also assured Filipinos that the DENR will continue to strengthen its regulation and monitoring of mining operations to ensure sustainable and responsible mineral production in the country. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178614>

Cordova mayor inks EO prohibiting floating, fixed cottages in town's coastal areas

By: Futch Anthony Inso - Multimedia Correspondent - CDN Digital|July 08,2022 - 08:19 PM



Cordova Mayor Cesar “Didoy” Suan has issued an EO prohibiting the construction of illegal structures like floating cottages or cottages in the legal easement or within coastal areas of the town. | Futch Anthony Inso

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines — The operation of floating and fixed cottages in non-build zones along the coastal areas of the municipality of Cordova will no longer be allowed.

This developed after Cordova Mayor Cesar “Didoy” Suan issued Executive Order (E.O.) No. 1 which prohibits the operation or construction of these illegal structures along legal easements or within the coastal areas of the town.

EO No. 1 specifically is an order prohibiting the construction of all illegal structures such as floating and fixed cottages along the legal easements and/or within the coastal areas of the Municipality of Cordova.

“WHEREAS, it is observed that structures including floating and fixed cottages are constructed and operating indiscriminately in some areas of Cordova without any permits or clearances from the Municipality of Cordova to do so. The same is detrimental to the environment and a blatant disregard of the rules on the legal easement and other government laws for that matter,” Suan’s EO stated.

Suan issued the EO after the Sangguniang Bayan passed a resolution regarding the matter.

Councilor Lemuel Pogoy, chairman of the Committee on Environment, told CDN Digital that in January this year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had already sent a letter to the town regarding the operation of these cottages.

Pogoy said that the DENR reminded them that the floating and fixed cottages in Barangays Poblacion and Catarman were built in a non-build zone.

“Because it violated the 3-meter easement zone and the 20-meter easement zone adopted for urban and rural areas,” Pogoy said.

Aside from this, Pogoy said that the area where the cottages were built, which was in the famous “Bora-bora”, was a navigational route for pumpboats and passenger vessels and these would pose to danger to cottages customers.



Pogoy said that the EO would stop any ongoing construction of new structures/cottages in the areas.

“Atoa sad meetingon kanang mga nag-operate ron diha kay eventually, wagtangon gyud na sila kay no-build zone mana nga area,” he added.

(We have to meet with those operating (floating, fixed cottages) there because eventually, they would be cleared there because that area is a no-build zone.)

Pogoy also observed that floating/fixed cottages in the areas had no proper comfort rooms and that human waste would be flushed directly to sea waters.

The town is concerned also with the cleanliness of its seawater and the regional health unit is set to conduct an inspection and water testing.

“Nindot paminawon pero huot na kaayo. Naay daghan nag-construct unya mangrove area baya na diha,” he said.

(It is nice to hear but the area has become congested. There are many structures being built and that is a mangrove area.)

Pogoy said that they would also be investigating reports against cottage operators pretending to be a resident of Cordova by using dummy persons or names.

Although Pogoy admitted that the tourism industry in the town might get affected by the new policy, he believed that they could still attract tourists in other ways while preserving the environment.

“Dili ta gusto nga mapareha ta niadto sa Boracay nga daghang illegal structure nga gipang-guba kay hugaw na kaayo ang ilang dagat,” he said.

(We don't want to expereince what Boracay went through where several illegal structures were destroyed because these had affected the cleanliness of the sea.)



Diokno wants LGUs to participate in Marcos admin's program vs climate change

July 10, 2022 2 min read

The recent flash floods in Banawe town in Ifugao province have been entirely blamed on climate change. (Photo: Guru Press Cordillera)

By Tracy Cabrera

MANILA — Expressing support for the regulation or taxing of the consumption of single-use plastics as among the country's contributions to the global movement to reduce pollution and adopt more sustainable practices, newly designated Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno is urging local government units (LGUs) to participate in helping the new Marcos administration to reduce the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

In a statement, the former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor before his appointment as finance chief said that LGUS could play a broader role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by teaming up with the national government in implementing 'green' programs, such as reforestation and the rehabilitation and development of mangroves as well as transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources, to name a few.

"At the same time, LGUs should scale up efforts in adaptation, in light of the increasing vulnerability of coastal communities to extreme weather events. Another key factor is mobilizing climate finance through the 'Green Force' or the Inter-Agency Task Force for Sustainable Finance that was formed during the Duterte administration," Diokno opined.

The Green Force is co-chaired by the secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF) and the governor of the BSP and is tasked to implement the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap (PSFR) with the goal of bridging policy and regulatory gaps in promoting sustainable investments.

"I go along with the commitments of the previous government. But I think, to be more specific, as you know, the Philippines is probably one of the most vulnerable with respect to climate change and so it's in our own interest that the movement towards climate change should be supported. We should think of some measures that we can do to reduce pollution," the finance chief enthused.



He added in conclusion that the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill, which will mandate large companies to adopt and implement policies for the proper management of plastic packaging wastes, has been transmitted to the Office of the President and is awaiting Presidential approval.

(ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/07/10/diokno-wants-1gus-to-participate-in-marcos-admins-program-vs-climate-change/?fbclid=IwAR0sM6QNDwnEZsjLtpvXQKqD7nq10vj9iOEFYI4n14eAUDdQcjlw4eUR8Gww>



Environmental advocate kay Marcos: Kontrobersyal na infra projects busisiin



July 10, 2022 @ 1:30 PM 18 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Hinikayat ng isang environmental advocate nitong Sabado si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na mag-isyu ng moratorium sa ilang kontrobersyal na infrastructure projects na umano'y makaaapekto sa kapaligiran at mga lokal na residente.

Sinabi ni Leon Dulce, national coordinator ng Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, na dapat busisiin ang mga kontrata at kasunduan upang maprotektahan ang mga Pilipino.

“Ang panawagan namin ay kailangan magkaroon ng omnibus na moratorium sa mga identified talaga na proyektong mapanira at madaya. Magkaroon ng moratorium until such time mareview ang contracts, agreements,” ani Dulce.

“Hangga't hindi magawang ang tama ang independent review talagang malulugi lang tayo if mag-proceed ang mga proyektong ito,” patuloy niya.

Kabilang sa mga proyektong nabanggit ni Dulce ang Kaliwa Dam Project sa Quezon province, San Miguel Aerocity sa Bulacan, Pasig River Expressway Project, at Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Matatandaang pinuna ng community at environmental groups ang mga proyektong ito dahil sa umano'y negatibong epekto nito sa biodiversity at kabuhayan ng mga katutubo.

Gayundin, hindi sang-ayon ang Kalikasan sa plano ni Marcos na rehabilitasyon ng Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Ayon kay Dulce, ito ay “image building” lamang dahil ang planta ay itinayo ng kanyang ama.

Nanawagan din ang grupo kay Marcos na ipatigil ang maintenance ng kontrobersyal na Manila Bay Dolomite Beach. **RNT/SA**



EDITORIAL - First water, then fire

The Freeman July 10, 2022 | 12:00am



In some ways this can be considered a continuation of the editorial the other day about our flooding problem and the drive to make Cebu City advanced, like Singapore.

It is pretty much obvious we have a perennial problem with one element, water, what with the constant floods we have especially during the rainy season. However, we may also have another problem involving another element; fire.

Just after the massive floods last Wednesday, fires hit different parts of the city last Thursday; the first was in Barangay Quiot early in the day while the second was in Barangay Lahug later on that night.

There was another fire that day, but this one happened in Barangay San Roque, Talisay City, so it doesn't count because it is outside the city.

Then just yesterday another fire hit the Department of Labor and Employment building in Barangay Kamputhaw in Cebu City.

Fires are now becoming more common outside of March, which is usually designated as fire prevention month. We really don't know if these frequent fires are a result of the world getting hotter because of global warming, or if more and more people are just losing common sense when it comes to fire safety, or for other reasons.

Needless to say, if Cebu City wants to be like Singapore it should also be ready for fires to break out at any time.

Prevention is always better than cure, and this applies to fires as well. However, there is just no teaching some people about fire safety. Despite being advised otherwise, many of us choose to build our homes --even entire communities-- so close together. Many of us obstruct passageways with parked vehicles, businesses, and even entire buildings. As for electrical misuse? Never mind.

We Filipinos just don't have fire safety in our DNA.

Given this, the best way for us to fight fires is to always have a firefighting force that has all it needs and when it needs it. One that doesn't have to buy, beg, borrow, or steal for what it needs.



As the temperature soars, so will the risk of even more fires. And while the worst of floods may be seasonal, a fire can strike anytime. It's only a matter of time before the next one.

Angeles City turns plastics into brick pavers



CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB

July 10, 2022

THE city government here has turned plastic waste into brick pavers.

The recycled brick pavers are made from plastics collected through the city's "Walang Plastikan: Plastik Palit Bigas" project, using the city's shredding machine.

The project, which was launched by Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr., on January 2022, has already collected 720,003 kilos of plastic to date. This is also equivalent to the kilos of rice already exchanged by Angeleño households.

City Engineer Donato Dizon has shared the sample of finished recycled brick pavers via the City Information Office official Facebook page.

According to Dizon, only trained employees from the City Engineer's Office and the Environmental Management System are assigned to make the brick pavers.

Dizon said the bricks will be used in local infrastructure projects, particularly on the sidewalks.

The "Walang Plastikan: Plastik Palit Bigas" project, which is being overseen by Chief Adviser IC Calaguas, is ongoing via schedule.

There are redemption trucks plying throughout the 33 barangays, and a redemption booth was also established last June at the city hall.

During the initial implementation of the project, rice cookers were donated by Engr. Dizon, Calaguas and Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel to encourage more Angeleños to participate in the project.

Upon sharing photos of the bricks, positive feedback were received from the residents of Angeles City, citing waste segregation, reduction in the use of plastic, and the continuous assistance to put food on their tables.

At the time of this writing, the Facebook post has 2,600 reactions, 241 shares, and 114 comments

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934422/pampanga/local-news/angeles-city-turns-plastics-into-brick-pavers>



What is this crater-like formation that was spotted in Davao City?

Published July 10, 2022 10:22pm

A crater-like formation in Davao City has become a curiosity online after airplane passenger took a photo of it midflight.

According to an episode of “Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho,” the photo was taken by Frank Yves Pacatang, who frequently flies between Cebu and Davao.

The image shows what seems to be a crater covered with trees and plants. Pacatang learned from a commenter that its location is in Barangay Bato in Toril, Davao City.

The KMJS team visited the area and was greeted by a cliff. A restaurant overlooking the landscape sits on the edge of it [cliff]. According to Eduardo Comido, a resident of the area, people live on the ridge and basin of the crater.

Water is abundant, so residents plant rice, vegetables, and fruits for their livelihood. Comido’s family, meanwhile, owns a swimming pool that they rent out to holidaymakers.

“Ang tubig sa pool namin ay nagmula sa paligid lang. Merong bumubulwak na tubig diyan, kahit saan,” he said.

(“The water in our pool just comes from around here. Water just sprouts anywhere.”)

When heavy rain falls, the water level gets very high and sometimes landslides occur. Huge noises also echo in the area.

What could the “crater” be?

“You can have ‘yung mga sinkhole pero ‘yun kasi, mostly mga carbonate rocks. Pwede rin ‘yung mga impact craters,” said Jyreen Penaloga from Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

“Pero so far, wala naman silang nakitang mga old parts ng meteorites. So the only possible is isa siyang very, very old volcanic feature,” she said.

(“It’s possible that it’s a sinkhole but mostly it’s just carbonated rocks. It can also be an impact crater. But so far, they have not found old parts of meteorites. So the only possibility is it’s a very, very old volcanic feature.”)

Penaloga said the area is not listed under active volcanoes or potentially active volcanoes.

Valerie Shayne Ofindo, a research specialist at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the landscape is a low-relief volcanic crater or Maar. It is a low volcano that is formed due to phreatomagmatic eruption.

“Yung Banud crater po ay hindi kagaya ng Pinatubo at Taal na merong continuous na supply ng magma sa ilalim. Usually crater lake ‘yung nafo-form,” she said.

“Hindi po dapat mabahala ang mga residente na malapit sa Banud crater dahil napakababa po ng posibilidad na pumutok.”

(“The Banud crater is not like Pinatubo and Taal which have a continuous supply of magma underneath. Usually what is formed is a crater lake. The residents don’t have to worry because there is a very very low chance of eruption.”)



Residents in the area, however, are thankful to be aware of the possible dangers, however small.

Barangay captain Alfredo Cabreros said they will be ready to evacuate the residents in case an emergency situation arises.

“Siguro kapag mapatunayan, susunod kami sa utos ng gobyerno na lilikas kami. Pero kasi wala itong mga sulfuric element na makikita since bata pa ako,” Comidoy said.

(“If it’s proven [to be a danger], we will follow the government’s order to evacuate. But there has not been a sulfuric element found here since I was a child.”)

—MGP, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/837617/what-is-this-crater-like-formation-that-was-spotted-in-davao-city/story/?fbclid=IwAR0F8LhEt0oRXdCKsIWcUdb6xVPcUt-7s3PmuI9xcRmnMp72DMU2GB3zYb4>



Insurance summit on climate change

INSURANCE INSIGHTS

By [Herminia Jacinto](#) July 11, 2022

THE Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific and Insurance Philippines held their 2nd Virtual Summit on June 22 and 23, 2022 with the theme "Climate Change — The Role of the Insurance Industry and the Public Sector." Climate change may seem to be a jaded topic in various forums, especially those conducted by the insurance industry. On the contrary, the topic is always relevant as it affects our daily existence. Typhoons, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are events that happen or may happen whether we like it or not.

Invited to this summit were speakers representing global organizations and projects like the World Bank, the Earth Security Group and Project Oasis. Updates on local initiatives, both the public and private sector, were presented by speakers from the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Energy and Arise Philippines.

I would have wanted to share with the readers some of the interesting and informative papers presented but since we have limited space, I will just highlight some of the valuable takeaways from their papers.

Almost all speakers talked about the research and data analytics of the various events or disasters that were caused by climate change. Very useful information that will help people, governments and the private enterprises cope with these disasters, and look for the necessary protective mechanisms for themselves affected to recover from their losses. These organizations offer their assistance in research, loss analysis and estimation, development of insurance products and risk financing.

An interesting topic to me (a longtime insurance person) was the topic "Insurance Underwriting with Nature" presented by Mr. Alejandro Litovsky, the founder and CEO of Earth Security. Their studies show that there are local protective measures that can be done to provide protection for disasters like typhoons and floods. That in the Philippines, mangroves are 50 times more cost-effective than building a concrete sea wall over a 15-year investment! The Philippines has many strategic places with mangroves and coral reefs that can prevent or reduce flooding. The experts advise that there should be programs that will protect and strengthen the ecological systems of the country. It may be worthwhile for all the insurance underwriters to visit the website of Earth Security and read their paper on Underwriting with Nature. Our Climate Change Commission should include these in their key projects and flagship actions which are food security, water security, and ecological and environmental stability.

One speaker mentioned that disasters threaten public finance and power, and the way to go for some countries like the Philippines is through risk financing. There should be enough data to support the funding requirement and how the funds will be distributed if the assistance is given. They want to make sure the funds reach the intended beneficiaries. The LGUs (local government units), down to the barangay (village) level, can be the designated distribution system since they know the immediate requirements of their units better. The municipal and city governments should consider climate change as one of their regular functions and not rely solely on the provincial and national governments to take care of climate change-related issues and problems of their localities.

Statistics all over the world show that there is a big gap between actual losses from catastrophes and insured losses. Initiatives by insurers and reinsurers include research and development of risk models and solutions. The Philippine National Reinsurance Corp. is now in collaboration with Project Oasis which intends to provide solutions and products to lessen



the impact of climate change in the country through the use of risk assessment models and software.

There is an abundance of solutions provided by experts in climate change globally. The challenge is how the Philippines can use these models that can be used to build its own infrastructure in risk protection. Climate change and its impact on the country's resources should be a priority item in the plans and programs of the new administration. Budget should be provided for an organized system of disseminating information to the local governments and make these accessible to every Filipino.

Ted Torres, a veteran journalist, now semiretired but devoting more time to several advocacies, was at the summit and his reaction to the papers was: "We should declare a climate emergency to give it the attention it needs!"

Under attack, Masungi rangers live to fight another day for the forests

JUL 10, 2022 10:00 AM PHT

[IYA GOZUM](#)



Conservation advocacy has become a matter of life and death – both for the workers and for the country's natural resources

RIZAL, Philippines – One Saturday afternoon, Kuhkan Maas was preparing to rest after a rainy day's work when he and his partner, Melvin Akmad, heard a rock hit the wall of the ranger station inside the Masungi Geopark in Baras, Rizal.

Maas asked Akmad to turn off the lights. They were afraid another rock would be thrown inside through the jalousie windows.

Then there were gunshots. Akmad was hit on the head and there was blood on Maas' neck, spreading fast on the back of his shirt. He felt dizzy. They called the other forest rangers near the area, and in half an hour or so, help finally came.

When the other rangers arrived at the scene, they found Akmad and Maas outside the station, with Maas kneeling beside a mango tree.

This incident happened on July 24, 2021, and news about it broke as soon as the next morning. To this day, however, the culprit has yet to be identified.

A ranger's work

A month after the incident, Maas went back to work. A typical day for him as a ranger inside the Masungi Geopark includes patrolling the forest grounds, planting native seedlings, and looking after them day and night.

Inside the geopark, located a few kilometers down the more famous georeserve, rangers like Maas are the ones who plant native trees like bignay and banaba. The geopark is the newest project of Masungi, where restoration efforts are ongoing. This is where visitors hike the Legacy Trail and plant seedlings.

He has been doing this work for the past decade, yet in all his years as an environmental defender, he had never encountered such violence until the incident that one afternoon in July.

During his interview with Rappler, Maas wore a printed headgear around his neck, hiding the scar where the bullet was surgically removed. From afar, the scar looked like a birthmark.

Despite the attack, Maas said he did not see himself leaving his job anytime soon. Hailing from Cotabato City, the young Maas was invited by his cousin to transfer near Manila and get a job as a forest ranger.



INSIDE MASUNGI GEOPARK. Kuhkan Maas shares his experiences as a forest ranger during an interview with Rappler in December 2021.

Now he has a family in Baras. Even after the shooting, his wife did not dissuade him from continuing this line of work. She could only ask him one question: “Hindi ka ba natatakot (Aren’t you scared)?”

“*Kaya ko pa naman* (I can still do this),” Maas answered.

“Masaya po ako sa trabaho ko po na mangangalaga ng kalikasan. Kahit nakakatakot, ipagpapatuloy ko pa rin po,” Maas told Rappler. (I am happy with my work protecting the environment. I’ll continue doing this even if it’s scary.)

He said he looked forward to the day his toddler grows up and sees all the trees he planted in Masungi.

But the future in this line of work is often uncertain. Maas and Akmad’s incident is not an isolated case: Since 2013, the Philippines has consistently topped the list of the [most dangerous countries](#) in Asia for land defenders. The country’s environmental defenders, scientists, and forest rangers are at risk whenever they’re out in the field, especially those working in areas where illegal [logging](#) is rampant.

A solitary journey

In its 20-year conservation history, Masungi has had to deal with countless threats.

Ben Dumaliang, the founder of Masungi Georeserve, is no stranger to the menaces of the job. At 67, Dumaliang has dedicated a third of his life to Masungi.

When Rappler first saw him during a visit in December 2021, he was weeding out stray plants near Silungan, the waiting area near the trailhead of Discovery Trail. On his other hand was a copy of the plan for the Masungi Geopark Project site, which they submitted to the late former environment secretary Gina Lopez after her visit in 2017.

“It is a solitary journey,” Dumaliang admitted when asked about the hazards of the job. “Especially because we are the only party that is hindering vested interests.”

What protects them now, at least, is the attention they’ve been getting from around the world, said Dumaliang. The georeserve won the [2018 Pathfinder Award Special Commendation](#) and was recognized by monthly magazine Vanity Fair.

Masaya po ako sa trabaho ko po na mangangalaga ng kalikasan. Kahit nakakatakot, ipagpapatuloy ko pa rin po.”

KUHKAN MAAS, MASUNGI FOREST RANGER



While acclaim does not protect rangers from gunshots, the exposure has helped them spread the word about their advocacy and gain supporters.

Despite the hazards of the job, forest rangers remain committed to their tasks, partly because for them, protecting the environment also means serving the public.

As it is located in the [Upper Marikina Watershed](#), Masungi's reforestation helps drain water when typhoons hit. Because of recovered forests, communities are spared from floods and landslides.

Aside from protecting communities, Masungi is now a sound habitat for endemic species such as the colasisi (Philippine hanging parrot) and the greater musky fruit bat. In 2020, a team of researchers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños discovered in the area a rare [microsnail subspecies](#) (*Hypselostoma latispira masungiensis*), now known as the Masungi microsnail. In their paper, the researchers linked the discovery to the importance of conserving karst landscapes in the Philippines.

Despite evidence that the forests carry scientific and cultural significance, human activities continue to harm them. To this day, the site faces threats from professional squatters, [illegal loggers](#), and quarry firms.

Dumaliang said given the circumstances, the prudent move would be to leave the place.

"We're tempted to abandon it. But each time I look at the birds that have come back and the trees that will be left behind, I thought —" he said, his voice trailing off.

In an almost exasperated tone, he continued: "We gave them a little hope. And we will abandon them?"

A culture of violence

What happened to Masungi's forest rangers "is a reality faced by environmental defenders on a daily basis," Leon Dulce, the national coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, told Rappler. According to Dulce, the network has been monitoring the situation of environmental defenders in the country since 2012.

In the case of the Masungi rangers, violence comes from "the increasing pressure from competing land and resource uses in the protected area," Dulce said. Masungi [filed a complaint](#) against "illegal" resort owners after a separate attack last February 18, where three of its rangers sustained wounds in their faces and bodies, another three had minor bruises, and two rangers were hospitalized.

The Philippines remains the [deadliest country in Asia](#) for land defenders, according to a 2021 report by international nongovernmental organization Global Witness. In 2020, there were 29 documented killings of land defenders in the country.

For years, advocacy groups have been lobbying for the passage of an environmental defense bill, which in the past failed to get even a single committee hearing. This legislation aims to institutionalize a program that would provide legal aid for land defenders and funding to "enable the work of environmental defense."

In the 18th Congress, Senator Risa Hontiveros called for a [probe](#) into the attacks against Maas and Akmad in 2021. Progressive lawmakers in the House of Representatives filed a resolution on February 28, seeking an investigation into attacks against seven Masungi rangers.

But aside from these piecemeal efforts, there is still no visible progress on the issue of the safety of forest rangers.



It is a solitary journey, especially because we are the only party that is hindering vested interests.”

BEN DUMALIANG, MASUNGI GEORESERVE FOUNDER

Call of duty

Without the solid assurance of state intervention, Masungi’s forest rangers are left to fend for themselves, and for them, going back to work is still the best response to threats and danger. It is also the most pragmatic.

In this line of work, where progress is realized in small – almost invisible – increments of change, a long-term vision is required. A forest, after all, does not grow overnight. Regrowing the forest and making it a livable home for diverse flora and fauna have been Masungi’s utmost priority for the last two decades.

Even in a new era challenged by the COVID-19 situation, this continues to be Masungi’s mission.

With a new generation of young conservationists working with them, Dumaliang’s daughter Billie – who is also the managing trustee of Masungi – believes their mission to defend the land will stand the test of time.

Billie is only 28, her sister Ann 29, while some of the staff are in their mid-20s.

“Sabi ko nga sa kanila,” she gestured to the Masungi staff around her during an interview with Rappler, “Mananalò tayo (I always tell the staff: We will win).”

But the next decade is proving to be an uphill climb for conservationists inside and outside Masungi because of the worsening climate crisis situation.

They would also have to deal with companies with vested interests, while collaborating with local government units and the national government to keep forest rangers safe.

Still, the likes of Maas and Akmad will continue showing up – along with the young ones – because there are still weeds to uproot, seedlings to be watered, and forest grounds to be patrolled day in and day out. – Rappler.com

Source: <https://www.rappler.com/environment/under-attack-masungi-rangers-live-to-fight-another-day-for-forests/?fbclid=IwAR0F8LhEt0oRXdCKsIWcUdb6xVPcUt-7s3PmuI9xcRmnMp72DMU2GB3zYb4>



DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb

LIVE sa DZBB: Frankie Cortez, Chief, Operations Section, OCD-CAR



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DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb · 18h

Replying to @dzbb

Cortez kaugnay sa nangyaring flash flood sa Ifugao: May naitalang partially damaged at totally damaged houses sa ilang bahagi ng Ifugao... 1,044 ang partially damaged houses habang 4 ang totally damaged...



DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb · 18h

Replying to @dzbb

Cortez: Magaasagawa rin ng assessment ang DENR sa area of concern para malaman kung ano ang sanhi ng landslide at flash flood...



2



DZBB Super Radyo @dzbb · 18h

Replying to @dzbb

Cortez: So far, ang pinaka-naapektuhan ng heavy rains na dulot ng Habagat ay ang Banaue, Ifugao... Masyo pa naman ang food stocks at flow ng goods sa ibang probinsiya gaya sa Benguet...



Source:

<https://twitter.com/dzbb/status/1545973118107131907?s=20&t=nKiB3P4hMd5PDc6iofV37A>



'Unchecked exploitation of nature threatens billions'



SOUNDING THE ALARM This Sept. 14, 2020 file photo shows the United Nations headquarters in New York City. XINHUA PHOTO

PARIS: Rampant exploitation of nature is a threat to the well-being of billions of people across the world who rely on wild species for food, energy and income, biodiversity experts from the United Nations said on Friday.

From fishing and logging to the use of wild plants in medicines and perfumes, societies across the planet use species that have not been tamed or cultivated, with annual global legal and illegal trade in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

But as humans drive alarming biodiversity loss — and climate change threatens to accelerate the destruction — the UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Ipbes), called for "transformative changes" in our relationship with wild species.

Ipbes, which has warned that a million species are at risk of extinction, said halting overexploitation was "critical to reverse the global trend in biodiversity decline" and hailed the crucial role of indigenous communities in protecting nature.

Its report, written by dozens of experts and indigenous advisers and approved by 139 member states, comes as the UN steers an international process to protect nature from human destruction in the coming decades.

"The use of wild species is absolutely crucial for humanity and nature," the Ipbes report co-chairman, Jean-Marc Fromentin, told Agence France-Presse (AFP), adding it was a "key issue for food security."

UN experts estimate "about 40 percent of humanity" relies in some way on wild species, he said, adding: "It's much bigger than you think."

Overall, 50,000 species are used for food, energy, medicine, material and other purposes around the world, the report said, with more than 10,000 different types harvested for human consumption.

Wild plants, algae and fungi provide food and income for one in five people globally, while some 2.4 billion people rely on wood for cooking.

Ipbes estimated that 70 percent of the world's poor depend directly on wild species and businesses linked to them.



But they are not the only ones.

"City dwellers in rich countries might not notice it, but wild plants are used in medicines or cosmetics. You eat wild fish and there is a good chance that your furniture comes from wild trees," Fromentin said.

Even foraging remains an important activity for people in North America and Europe, with notably high rates in Eastern Europe, according to the report, which said there was a "growing demand for wild foods" for high-end restaurants.

The global market for these species is big business.

Wild trees account for two-thirds of global industrial roundwood, while trade in wild plants, algae and fungi is a billion-dollar industry.

But global trade can become disconnected from sustainable supply, with surging demand risking species and ecosystems, and the report said there was an "urgent" need for effective policies that adapt to local needs.

One major issue is the illicit trade in wild species, estimated to be worth between \$69 billion and \$199 billion a year, which Ipbes said was the third-largest illegal market after human trafficking and drugs.

While this largely targets trees and fish, the report said even smaller-scale trade in rare animals and plants, like orchids, can have devastating effects.

This trade "robs countries, indigenous people and local communities of access to their own resources and safe livelihoods," said Inger Andersen, head of the UN Environment Program.

Letting the natural world thrive is better business.

Tourism based on observing wild species was a key reason that protected areas globally received eight billion visitors and generated \$600 billion every year before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, fisheries that are well-managed often have an increasing abundance of fish.

Atlantic bluefin tuna, for example, was fished to the brink by an explosion of demand for the sashimi market in the 1980s.

Initially, "scientific advice carried little weight against fisheries lobbies and national interests," Ipbes said, but a new strategy launched in 2007 has managed to rebuild the population.

In general, overexploitation is the main threat to wild marine species, it said, as well as a key threat to land and freshwater ecosystems.



Southeast Asia's lofty gas plans pose threats to waters rich with marine life

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#), [Napat Wesshasartar](#), [Do Thuy Trang](#), [Hartatik](#) - Philstar.com

July 10, 2022 | 12:17pm



Local artisanal fishers Thailand's Chana district ride a boat amid a storm to conduct fishing activities. A portion of Chana is being developed as an energy industry complex and a deep-water seaport.

Napat Wesshasartar

MANILA, Philippines — For 57-year-old Tom Buitizon, the Verde Island Passage is the lifeblood of small fisherfolk like him and of millions living in southern Luzon.

The rich waters support their livelihoods and provide food for their families.

A fisherman for over 25 years, Buitizon experienced the joy of catching as many as 20 kilos of fish many years ago and the struggle of people living on VIP's shores who hardly find food there these days.

He said a lot has changed—for the worse—since Batangas City became the site of various industries, including fossil gas.

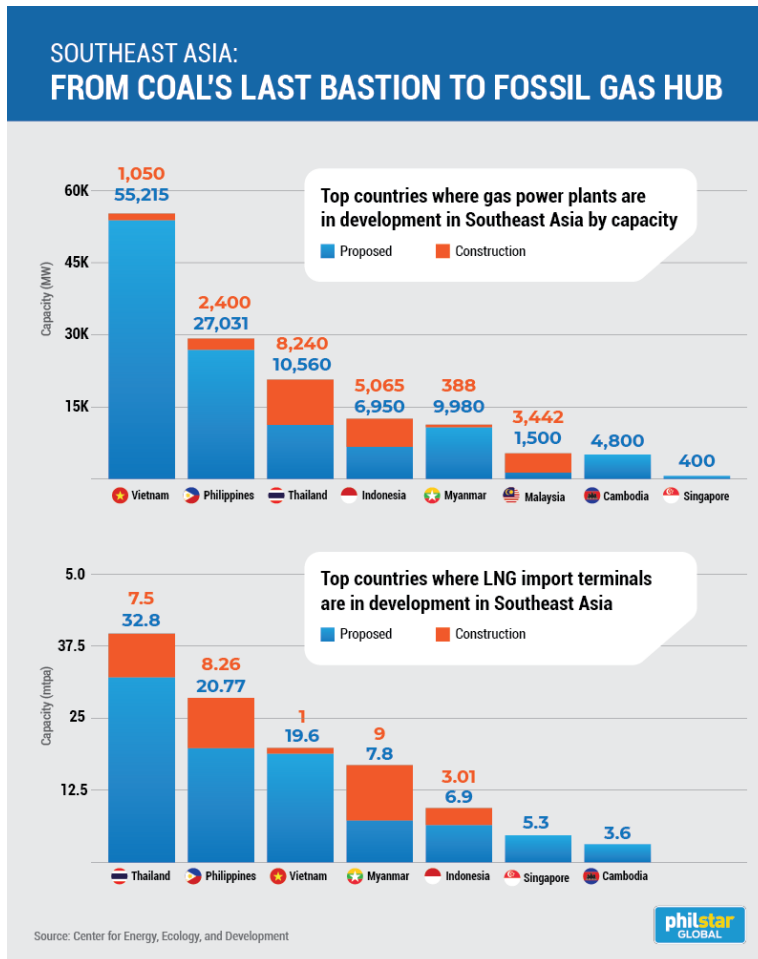
“At present, I can catch only two to three kilos. Sometimes, I'm not keen to venture out to fish because the exhaustion and high cost of gasoline are not worth it,” said Buitizon, who is from San Juan town. He engages in fishing to supplement his income as a local government employee.

Buitizon is worried that the rapid expansion of fossil gas will make pressures in the marine corridor—which is dubbed as the “Amazon of the Ocean”—worse.

Verde Island Passage is home to 60% of all known shore fish species in the world. It is also the site of eight planned gas power plants and seven LNG terminals.

VIP is only one of the marine frontiers in Southeast Asia threatened by gas plans in the region. According to Quezon City-based think tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), Southeast Asia is swiftly turning from coal's last bastion to Asia's fossil gas hub.

In a report released last month, CEED said a massive 138 GW of new gas-fired power plants and 118 liquefied natural gas terminals are being proposed or already being built in the region. Leading the gas expansion in Southeast Asia are Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam—countries that have vast renewable energy potential.



Rich marine biodiversity at risk



A researcher assesses coral reefs in the waters of Batangas City, Philippines. Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development

The Verde Island Passage lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a reef network that includes the waters of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and East Timor.

While the Coral Triangle occupies just 1.5% of the world’s total ocean area, it represents 30% of the coral reefs on the planet.

But years of industrial development caused serious damage to VIP’s marine ecology. Climate change, illegal fishing, and unsustainable tourism also pose threats to the marine corridor.

A water quality analysis conducted by CEED found “very high” concentrations of key pollutants and heavy metals such as phosphates, chromium, copper, and lead along the coasts of Barangays Ilijan and Dela Paz in Batangas City. A separate CEED study showed the coral cover along the reef fronting the heavily-industrialized areas in Ilijan and Dela Paz was “very low”.



It also found that while fish biodiversity and fish abundance were low in the waters next to the project sites compared to the rest of the Verde Island Passage, fish biomass remained high.

CEED pointed out that sea water intake and discharge from gas plants and terminals may affect water temperature, forcing fish to seek cooler water elsewhere. It added that the increase in shipping activities due to the transportation of LNG will lead to water pollution, sedimentation that can destroy coral reefs, and damage to smaller seacrafts.

If the Verde Island Passage is further damaged by the planned increase in LNG infrastructures, the effects of the destruction may be far-reaching.

“The concept is that biodiversity regions are interconnected with one another and all organisms in the other regions came from [the Verde Island Passage],” said Jayvee Saco, assistant professor from Batangas State University and head of the VIP Center for Oceanographic Research and Aquatic Life Sciences.

“So it could be an escalating effect” he warned, although acknowledging that a study to identify how the population in VIP is connected to population in other regions still needs to be done.

Buitizon, the fisherman, fears that the various kinds of fish in VIP will vanish if the massive development of fossil gas in the area pushes through, and that the next generation will only know about them through books.

“We are not fighting the government. We just want them to understand our concerns and study the effects of this LNG expansion because VIP is home to different kinds of marine species. If this is destroyed, not only the lives of Batangas residents will be miserable, but also those living in other provinces,” he said.

Last month, groups led by Bukluran ng Mangingisda ng Batangas urged the environment department to declare the waters of VIP surrounding the project sites of San Miguel Corp., Linseed-AF&P, and existing gas plants as “non-attainment areas” where no new sources of exceeded pollutants should be allowed to be established.

The Philippine energy department told Philstar.com that the issuance of environmental compliance certificate signifies that a project will not cause significant negative impact, and that it conducts inspections and investigations of proposed gas facilities.

Damage to mangroves in Island of God



President Joko Widodo visited Ngurah Rai Grand Forest Park in Bali in late 2021. This mangrove forest is the venue for the G20 Presidency and is designated as the location for the construction of a 3-hectare LNG Terminal in Sidakarya Village, Denpasar.



On the Indonesian island of Bali, local communities are also resisting the construction of a planned LNG terminal. The project, which will be built in a mangrove forest in Denpasar City, aims to help the government reach its target of accelerating the use of gas.

According to CEED, aggressive LNG terminal buildout can be observed in LNG exporting nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

Ida Bagus Setiawan, who heads the energy and mineral resources division of the Bali Province Manpower and Energy and Mineral Resources Office, said the LNG project will provide the top tourist destination with reliable electricity so it will no longer depend on energy sources outside the island.

But locals fear that the planned LNG terminal in Ngurah Rai Forest Park in Sidakarya Village will clear mangroves in the area. Ngurah Rai Forest Park is Bali's widest mangrove ecosystem that is close to the business and tourism areas.

The dredging of sand for the sea lane is also seen to damage mangroves and other coastal ecosystems. Mangroves provide a number of critical ecosystem services such as serving as a breeding ground for marine species, sequestering carbon dioxide, and reducing the risks of tsunamis.

A pipe for gas distribution will pass through the mangrove area, but the proponent, PT Dewata Energi Bersih, said it will not disturb the mangrove roots. Communities are also concerned that the proposed jetty port for LNG carriers will damage the coral reefs in the area. Bali is part of the Coral Triangle.

"[The LNG terminal] in Bali must be considered again whether there is the potential for major damage if it continues to be cultivated," said natural resources law observer Ahmad Redi.

IGW Samsi Gunarta, head of Bali Provincial Transportation Service, said dredging can only be carried out if there is a permit as well as a risk-based analysis process, which refers to the results of the environmental impact analysis.

"The permit will not be issued if the requirements in the environmental document cannot be confirmed, and the project can be terminated if this is not fulfilled," he said.

Lack of public hearing, study



Residents of Chana district collect clams for their subsistence.
Napat Wesshasartar

Chana, a coastal town in Songkhla province in southern Thailand, is known for its marine ecosystem, with a majority of its residents relying on fisheries as their main livelihood. A portion of Chana is being developed as an energy industry complex and a deep-water seaport.



At present, southern Thailand is the only region in the country, excluding the Bangkok Metropolitan area, where the demand for electricity surpasses production capacity. To power the gigantic industrial zone, the government is planning to build an energy hub. One of the main infrastructures there is the LNG power plant.

Locals and activists are protesting the project due to the lack of public hearing with residents whose lives and livelihoods will be affected by the industrial development. Constructing the LNG terminal will require the dredging of the seafloor to accommodate massive LNG carriers.

“It’s not about the energy; it’s about conducting a proper public hearing. They have never asked the local people at all, or if they did, they will find a way to obstruct them,” said Supat Hasiwannakit, a medical doctor and one of the activist leaders.

Protests in Chana and Bangkok have led to the arrests of some activists.

The environmental impact assessment conducted by the government showed scant details on how the project could affect Chana’s rich waters. Kua Rittibon, a lecturer with Prince Songkla University, who will conduct a “people’s version” of EIA, said that sediments excavated by dredging could be carried by the current and affect coral reefs.

In Vietnam, which leads the region’s planned gas expansion, there are also limited studies on the impacts of gas projects on marine biodiversity and coastal communities. Vietnam has 56.3 GW of fossil gas projects in pre-construction and construction stages.

The lack of understanding about the effects of energy projects could be attributed to the country’s focus on the conservation of ecosystems on land and on lack of public attention to studies about marine issues.

“There is limited research on gas power projects: how will the coastal area be affected, whether the gas power plant will increase the temperature in that area or not. If the temperature increases, how will aquatic species be affected, how does the system use cooling water to discharge waste, etc.,” said Nguyen Manh Ha, director of the Center for Nature Conservation and Development.

While companies in Vietnam have an obligation to disclose their environmental impact assessments, not all firms fully comply with this rule.

“At present, the environmental impact assessment and management of new electric energy projects in Vietnam are completely absent,” Nguyen said.

Fossil future?



Fishers and community groups hold a boat parade in protest of plans to expand the use of fossil gas and liquefied natural gas in Batangas province on April 22, 2022.

Philstar.com/Gaea Katreena Cabico

Many of the LNG projects in emerging Asia are “highly unrealistic” due to country-level and financial market constraints, said Sam Reynolds, energy finance analyst of US-based think tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.



“This is overpromising and under-delivering on a regional scale,” he said.

But as Southeast Asian countries scale up investment in fossil gas infrastructure, measures must be put in place to mitigate the impacts of the projects’ life cycle on the marine environment and the communities.

For Miguel Azcuna, a scientist studying the Verde Island Passage, recognition from international institutions such as the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) can help slow down the “very fast” industrial development in the area.

Increasing the number of marine protected areas in the marine life-rich body of water is also another strategy to mitigate the adverse impacts of industrialization, added Azcuna, an assistant professor from Batangas State University. VIP has 36 MPAs, 24 of which are in Batangas.

In 2017, the Verde Island Passage Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network was created. The five provinces that surround VIP—Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Romblon—and national government agencies signed an agreement to protect and conserve the marine corridor.

Present during the signing of the agreement was a representative from Lopez-led power firm First Gen Corp., which built four gas-fired power plants in the area and is currently constructing a floating LNG terminal there.

Muhammad Zainuri, a marine biology expert at Indonesia’s Diponegro University, suggested that companies invest in remediation systems to treat wastewater.

“We need the sea to stay blue, to produce oxygen. Waste is accumulative in nature, so it keeps increasing every year. If it’s not handled, it’s a problem,” he said.

Experts across the region also emphasized the need for proper assessment of the impacts of projects. Ngo Thi To Nhien, executive director of Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition, also said that in Vietnam’s cases, where the development of LNG is new, it is necessary that the country learns from the experience of developed nations.

She also stressed that regulations must be reviewed and synchronized to ensure the compliance with actual socio-environmental action plans.

“For project investors, regulations need to include adequate and timely preparation of social and environmental resources, time to implement impact mitigation measures and measures to prevent or respond to adverse events,” Ngo said.

“Government needs to specify inspection or monitoring regulations including a separate and specific report form for LNG to monitor or handle environmental and social issues on land and sea.”

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Napat Wesshasartar is a photo/video journalist, and writer based in Bangkok, Thailand. His work has been published in *National Geographic Thailand*, *BBC Thai News*, and other international media platforms.

Do Thuy Trang has been working as a reporter for *Vietnam Law Newspaper*, a press agency under the Ministry of Justice, since 2017.

Hartatik is a journalist working at *Suara Merdeka*, the largest newspaper in Central Java, based in Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia.

This collaborative reporting story was supported by Climate Tracker

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/07/10/2194419/southeast-asias-lofty-gas-plans-pose-threats-waters-rich-marine-life>

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NEWS ALERTS

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Law backs Masbate 'biotic' area

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Cynthia A. Villar said the Tugbo Natural Biotic Area (TNBA), found in the Municipality of Mobo, Masbate City, is now among the country's Protected Areas (PAs) under Republic Act (RA) 11806.

RA 11806 declares that the said protected area will be managed within the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and thus, should be allocated with funds consistent with its protection.

Villar, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Climate Change, along with Rep. Elisa "Olga" Kho (Masbate, 2nd District) in the Lower House, authored and pushed for the declaration of the 255-hectare TNBA as a PA.

Villar noted that it is a primary water source

and home to various endemic flora and fauna, including vulnerable wild bird species.

The law states that TBNA is acknowledged a protected area "in recognition of the richness of its biological resources, both flora, and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance."

For this reason, the law mandates the conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and effective administration of the TBNA, which could be made possible through cooperation among the national government, concerned local government units, non-government agencies, private entities and local communities. The law further read that "the enjoyment of the area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development".



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US trains PH partners in underwater law enforcement

THE United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAid), recently trained Philippine government partners in coral reef crime scene investigation and law enforcement.

Under USAid's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (Sibol) project, 27 representatives from agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) participated in the training that focused on environmental law enforcement issues like coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

Participants attended lectures with international experts and gained practical experience through diving sessions that simulated responses to environmental crime



■ Training participants simulate underwater crime scene investigation by locating, identifying, documenting, and collecting pieces of evidence.

scenarios, such as destruction of coral reefs due to vessel grounding, blast fishing, and poaching.

The training supports the Philippines' national action plan for addressing wildlife crimes and

its goals of strengthening law enforcement to conserve threatened species and reduce biodiversity threats. "The rich bounty that the Philippines is blessed with comes with a responsibility of conserving

these resources in a way that is sustainable and regenerative," said USAid Acting Environment Office Director Dr. John Piggot.

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

A joint report by USAid and BFAR published last year found that illegal fishing comprised 27 to 40 percent of fish caught in the Philippines in 2019, which amounts to roughly P62 billion annually.

Through its Sibol project, USAid works with government, private sector, and civil society partners to strengthen science-driven decision making, improve economic incentives for investments in the environment, and improve environmental law enforcement.



'Pinas pasok sa 40 most beautiful country



(Tourism Promotions Board/IG)

TINANGHAL ang Pilipinas na kabilang sa 40 most beautiful country sa buong mundo, mula sa listahang inilabas ng Conde Nast Traveler (CNTraveler).

"There are more than 7,000 islands in the Philippines, and they easily number among the most beautiful in the world," paglalarawan ng luxury and lifestyle travel magazine na CNTraveler sa Pilipinas.

Kasama sa mga dinarayong lugar sa Pilipinas na itinampok ng award-winning magazine ay ang Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park sa Palawan, na pinalilibutan ng mangrove forest at nagtataglay ng nakamamanghang cave system at underground river.

Maging ang Chocolate Hills sa Bohol at ang rice terraces sa

Banaue at Cordillera ay special mention din ng nasabing magazine.

"The Chocolate Hills of Bohol Island consist of an estimated 1,776 grass-covered domes that are mysteriously uniform in shape. The rice terraces of both Banaue and the Philippine Cordilleras provide panoramic views of every shade of green imaginable," anila.

Ang ilan pang bansa na kahanay ng Pilipinas sa 40 most beautiful country sa buong mundo ay ang Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Amerika, China, India, at Canada. Inilabas ang listahang ito nitong Hunyo at binase sa natural resources section ng World Economic Forum Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report at personal na pinili ng mga editor ng CNTraveler. (Angelique Fiedalan)



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MANILA BAY CLEANUP.

A worker from the Manila Department of Public Services removes pieces of trash and debris at the Manila Bay dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The controversial dolomite beach was officially reopened to the public following rehabilitation to improve the water quality in the area. (PNA photo by Rico H. Borja)



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BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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WHILE THINGS LAST People from all walks of life flock at the dolomite beach in Manila Bay last Sunday, July 10, 2022. The easing of mobility restrictions, however, has been seen as contributing to the spike in Covid-19 cases in the country. Health officials have said cases have breached 13,000 as the Department of Health reported 1,825 cases last Saturday, July 9, 2022. **NONIE REYES**



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WEEKDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION DROPS BY 7 TONS

PLASTIC TRASH-FOR-RICE PROGRAM FEEDS RESIDENTS, MAKES

BRICKS FOR ANGELES CITY

By **Tonette Orejas**
@ttorejasINQ

ANGELES CITY—The idea of exchanging a kilogram of plastic wastes for the same amount of rice has caught on among folks here, allowing the city government to hit two birds with one stone.

The program, originally an anti-hunger plan for the poor in this city, has gathered a whopping 720,003 kilograms of trash and fed most residents of all 33 villages on weekdays with rice rations since it was started in January this year.

The swap plan, dubbed "Walang Plastikan: Plastic Palit Bigas" was a brainchild of Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr.

According to Irish Calaguas, Lazatin's adviser, City Engineer Donato Dizon, his staff and environmental management system office gave the plastics new life by mixing these into concrete bricks.

All of the plastic materials—wrappers, bags, bottles, plates, forks and spoons, straws, monobloc chairs and tables, containers, among others—will be used to make bricks for the infrastructure projects of the city government, Calaguas said by phone on Saturday.

Incentives for villages

The bricks can be used as pavers on sidewalks or gardens, he added.

Dizon's team has made at



ECO-FRIENDLY MOVE The Angeles City government has recovered plastic waste by exchanging these with rice. The plastic materials are then crushed and used in making concrete bricks for sidewalks or gardens. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

least 120 bricks as of Saturday, Calaguas said.

Calaguas said Lazatin had ordered for the purchase of ma-

chines that could safely and efficiently recycle the plastic trash.

Before the program was started in January, the city col-

lect around 200 tons of garbage every weekday, Calaguas said, citing records from the city engineer's office. But with the project, garbage collection has dropped to around 193 tons.

Calaguas said the city gathered around 7 tons of plastics every weekday through the "redemption trucks" and a "redemption booth" at the City Hall. The city government collects trash only on weekdays.

To reach the households, two redemption trucks make the rounds of the city's 33 villages from Mondays through Fridays, according to the city engineer's executive assistant Reina Manuel. One truck carries a good variety of rice stock, while other tails from behind to collect the plastic

materials, Manuel said.

Lazatin also put up a redemption booth at the City Hall in June, which is open from Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Calaguas said, to further encourage participation, giveaways, like rice cookers, were awarded to villages with the highest collection rates.

Barangays Anunas, Malabanas, Pampang, Sta. Teresita and Cuayan have high collection rates in the pioneering plastic-to-rice exchange program.

But since June, Calaguas said the city government required villagers to show identification cards after nonresidents tried to avail of the swap plan. Junk shops were also discouraged from joining the program. INQ



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Go solar, not nuclear

Between the end of this year and Dec. 25, 2025, an additional 2,000 megawatts (MW) of clean or renewable energy (RE) will be added to the country's power mix. This will come from the successful auction conducted by the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) just before the change in government last month. The DOE offered 1,260 MW for solar, 380 MW for wind, 130 MW for hydro, and 230 MW for biomass.

The Energy Regulatory Commission earlier set the GEAP price ceilings for solar at P3.6779 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), wind at P6.0584, biomass at P5.0797, and run-of-river hydro at P5.4913. The interest is there among investors. The auction attracted 24 qualified bidders, eight each for solar and wind, seven for hydro, and one for biomass.

It is laudable that the government is finally focusing on solar, which has the cheapest price among the RE sources and provides a host of benefits to the country and its people. Since the passage of the Renewable Energy Act in 2008, there has been much hope for solar energy. In a DOE policy brief in 2012, it was argued that solar energy should become an important part of the energy mix for economic, energy, and environmental reasons. "Solar power creates an energy-secure Philippines as harnessing solar power is one way to decrease dependence on the increasing and volatile prices of fossil fuels. Solar energy already supplies significant power worldwide and solar technologies have been tried and tested around the world, with advancements bringing down the price globally," it said.

It added that solar energy makes sense for consumers, noting that it provides an immediate solution to the country's energy woes as it is the only cost-effective technology that can be installed and commissioned in as short as a few days to a few months. Falling costs also make solar popular with consumers. For the average household using 300 kWh a month, the price for getting clean energy is less than P1 a month, the policy brief noted. It went on to cite more benefits from harnessing the sun's energy. Solar creates jobs and allows greater access to energy as it can be deployed in rural areas, particularly in far-flung, off-grid barangays. New solar projects also mean fresh investments that will result in additional revenue for the government. Solar is not only a free energy resource, but it is also the most environment-friendly energy solution.

The outlook for solar is indeed shining brighter now for the country. Ports tycoon Enrique Razon Jr. last month disclosed plans to put up the world's biggest solar power facility in the Philippines with a capacity of 2,500 to 3,500 MW, along with a massive battery energy storage system. The project will be undertaken in partnership with Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings Inc. of businessman Leandro Leviste. About 600 MW will be available by 2026, and an additional 250 MW in 2027. According to their projection, the 850-MW supply can displace an annual consumption of around 1.4 million tons of coal or 930,000 liters of oil.

The government can also focus support on the creation of more agro solar farms to reduce dependence on fossil fuel-run power plants and at the same time help farmers, who are among the most neglected in society. The Arayat-Mexico solar power plant in Pampanga, a joint venture of Ayala's AC Energy and Citicore Power Inc., can serve as model as it has been empowering agricultural communities through agro solar farms. As Citicore Power Inc. president Oliver Tan said: "We have been finding ways to co-exist with the agricultural development of the barangays so we do not displace farmers. (Under the solar panels), we plant high value crops like turmeric and yellow ginger. We provide them with seeds, our farmers take care of the labor, then we bring their crops straight to the market to help them find buyers and sell crops at the right price. We do 50/50 profit sharing."

The Philippines has been way behind its commitments to global initiatives on reducing or avoiding gas emissions harmful to the environment. It is hoped that the Marcos Jr. administration will reverse this by naming soon an energy secretary who will push for more RE in the country's power mix. With current prices of imported petroleum products skyrocketing due to supply disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, this has even become more urgent. Extra and immediate efforts from both the government in terms of policy and the private sector as investors are needed to push the share of solar from a measly 3.9 percent of the country's power supply capacity. The private sector seems to be now doing its part by ramping up investments in new clean energy projects. However, the new administration needs to make a declaration that RE, particularly solar, will be its top priority moving forward. It also must address the challenge of how to bring down the price of solar-generated electricity to affordable levels to benefit a bigger part of the population. It should let nuclear take a back seat. Solar is ready right here, right now.



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OUTLIER Monde Nissin ends flat after Lucky Me! noodle brand recall

INVESTORS sold off Monde Nissin Corp. shares last week following the recall of some of its instant noodle product lines in some countries due to traces of antimicrobial pesticide ethylene oxide.

Data from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) showed a total of 59.06 million Monde Nissin shares worth P794.20 million were traded from July 4 to 8, making the stock 11th most actively traded in the local bourse last week.

Shares in the food manufacturer finished at P13.04 apiece on Friday, unchanged from their July 1 close. Monde Nissin has lost 16.9% since the P15.70 finish on the first trading day of the year.

Analysts pointed out that the ban of Lucky Me! products in some countries dragged the share price of Monde Nissin and could affect its financial performance.

"We expect that this news will negatively affect investors' sentiment toward the stock. First, the revenues from the countries imposing a ban will decline especially if they will not lift it soon. Second, since consumers were already aware of the situation, the demand for Lucky Me! noodles may drop as long as the ban remains," Philstocks Financial Research Associate Claire T. Alviar said in an e-mail.

"On the upside, the negative sentiment may somehow be tempered once the Philippine food regulators assured the public that it is still safe to consume the said products," she added.

"We think that this incident may cause anxiety among investors regarding the impact of this incident to the company's sales and brand reputation. Hence, the sell-off we have seen in the past couple of days," Philippine National Bank (PNB) Senior Equity Research Analyst Jonathan J. Latuja said in an e-mail.

The company made a statement after the Food Safety Authority of Ireland released last week a food alert regarding the recall of Lucky Me! Instant Pancit Canton Noodles Original Flavor with a best-before date of July 20 showing "unauthorized pesticide" ethylene oxide. — **L.O. Pilar**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link

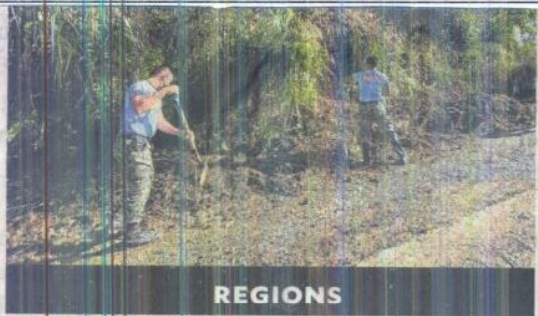
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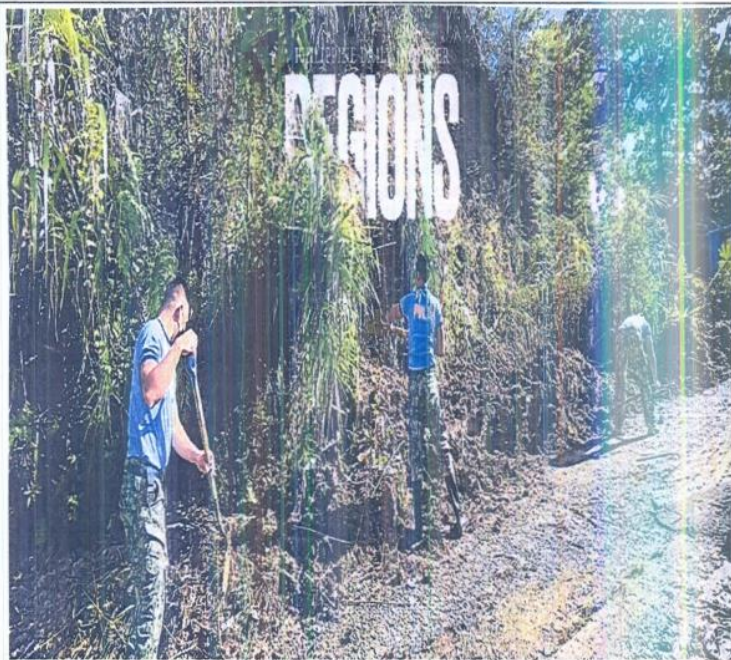


REGIONS

Banaue farmers reel from floods

BAGUIO CITY—Flood-hit Banaue in Ifugao province remains on red alert on Sunday as officials deal with the aftermath of massive flash floods and mudslides that hit the tourist town on July 7. At least 684 farmers in the upland town lost around P14.6 million in crops to the flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains. The figures were expected to rise as assessment of the damage comes in. —STORY

BY VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. AND KIMBERLIE QUITASOL **A8**



NO REST DAY Sunday is not a rest day for police officers, fire department personnel and Department of Public Works and Highways workers in Ifugao province as road clearing and mud flushing operations continue in Banaue on the fourth day since the tourist town was hit by flash floods and mudslides. —PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND IFUGAO PROVINCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Banaue farmers lose P14.6M to floods; officials brace for more rains

As damage assessment and clearing operations continue, the tourist town remains closed to leisure travelers

By Villamor Visaya Jr. and Kimberlie Quitasol @Team_Inquirer

BAGUIO CITY—Flood-hit Banaue in Ifugao province remains on red alert on Sunday amid a looming weather disturbance, as officials deal with the aftermath of the massive flash floods and mudslides that hit the tourist town on July 7.

Authorities reported that at least 684 farmers in the upland town lost around P14.6 million in crops to the flash floods triggered by heavy rains induced by the southwest monsoon.

The Banaue municipal agriculture office reported on Sunday that the damage included 728 metric tons of a variety of agricultural produce planted in 198 hectares of farms.

Hard hit were some 120

ha of rice farms, which lost around 239 MT of palay valued at P4.543 million. Around 489 MT of high-value crops, mostly assorted vegetables planted in 79-ha farms, were also destroyed, with losses placed at P10.11 million, the report added.

The figure was expected to rise, as agriculture technicians were still assessing the damage in the agri-fishery sector while other villages have yet to submit their damage reports, it said.

Agriculture intervention and assistance to affected farmers and fishers included giving of rice, corn and assorted vegetable seeds; drugs for livestock and poultry; credit facility under the Survival and Recovery program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council; available funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. to indemnify af-

ected farmers; and the release of quick-release funds for the rehabilitation of affected areas.

Low pressure area

On Sunday, some areas in Banaue remained littered with debris, even as personnel from the local police, fire department and the Department of Public Works and Highways continued with clearing operations in the affected areas.

Road clearing continued in the villages of Bissang, Tam-an and Poblacion while mud clearing and flushing were ongoing in affected residences and village halls in the town.

The Banaue municipal government has kept its emergency operation center open since the onslaught of the floods to respond to the needs of the affected residents and to prepare for

any adverse effects that the new weather disturbance might bring.

As of 3 p.m. on Sunday, the low pressure area was estimated based on all available data at 405 kilometers east of Infanta, Quezon, and would bring rain showers and thunderstorms in Eastern Visayas, Surigao provinces, and the Bicol provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Pagasa said the southwest monsoon would continue to affect many areas in the country, including the Cordillera.

The Cordillera may experience "cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms" due to the southwest monsoon. The same Pagasa advisory added there could be "pos-

sible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms."

Assistance

The July 7 flash floods and mudslides displaced some 500 families (around 1,500 individuals), damaged houses, blocked major roads and caused power outages in Banaue. Electricity was restored in the town at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

As of July 9, the Banaue municipal disaster risk reduction and management office (MDRRMO) said the evacuees who stayed at the town's gymnasium had returned home. Two families remained at the evacuation center in Barangay Poblacion.

The MDRRMO said the floods destroyed three houses and damaged some 813 others in eight affected villages. The numbers could increase as the office was still as-

sessing the damage in 10 more barangays, the MDRRMO said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development said it had initially distributed P39,375 worth of assistance, including food packs, to the affected residents. The agency also allotted P5 million as aid for those whose houses were damaged.

Leisure travel to the town remained suspended while clearing and cleaning operations were underway.

Banaue is home to two of the five Unesco-inscribed rice terraces in Ifugao—the Bangaan rice terraces and the Batad clusters, a popular tourist destination.

The municipal agriculture office said it was still assessing the extent of damages to the rice terraces, including those that are not included in the Unesco inscription. **no**



07-11-22

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Regional Updates

Access to Banaue road sections still limited after mudslide

SEVERAL sections of roads to and from Banaue that were cut off by last week's flash flood and mudslide have been partially reopened, according to the regional office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The DPWH-Cordillera Administrative Region office said as of Saturday, total clearing operations are still ongoing while "punch thru" openings have been made at the following affected road segments: Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet, Banaue-Mayoyao-Isabela, and Nueva Vizcaya-Ifugao-Mt. Province boundary road.

However, the Poblacion part of the Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet highway that was closed on June 27 due to a road slip remains inaccessible.

Banaue, home of what forms part of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras recognized as a UNESCO Heritage Site, was struck by a rampaging flash flood on July 7 that swept away vehicles and damaged structures in the town.

"We will look into the cause of the floods to prevent a repeat any time this rainy season," Mayor Joel B. Bungallon said in a statement on Friday. He has since declared a state of calamity in the municipality.

Among the affected structures are the state-owned Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia C. Frasco, in a statement at the weekend, said the 81-room facility is temporarily closed until the damage has been fully assessed and fixed.

The Department of Tourism's Cordillera regional office said 55 domestic tourists who were in town during the disaster and staying in nine accommodation establishments were unharmed. They are being given assistance until they can leave.

"Communication remains a challenge since electricity has not yet been restored in the affected areas," the department said on Saturday as it appealed to tourists to suspend travel plans while clearing operations are ongoing. — MSJ



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NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP PHL, US reaffirm commitment to strengthen supply chains, climate crisis response

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to jointly reinforce supply chains and address the climate crisis, according to their foreign affairs leaders.

"Secretary Blinken and I agreed to continue working together on building resilient supply chains, addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy," Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique A. Manalo said in a tweet on Sunday after speaking with US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken at the weekend.

"Appreciate US commitment to alliance and to PH as equal and sovereign partner in promoting peace, prosperity & international law-based order in the region," he said.

State Department spokesperson Ned Price in a statement on Saturday also said the conversation highlighted "the increasing significance of the US-Philippine bilateral alliance to security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world."

US President Joseph R. Biden earlier said he looked forward to working with Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to continue strengthening the US-Philippine bilateral relations.

Mr. Biden said he wants to expand cooperation on such issues as the fight against the coronavirus, climate crisis response, promoting broad-based economic growth, and respect for human rights.

Mr. Marcos has assured the US leader that the Philippines "has always held the United States in high regard as a friend, an ally, and a partner." — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



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Mt. Bulusan patuloy na nagbubuga ng sulfur dioxide emission

HALOS doble na ang ibinugang sulfur dioxide ng bulkan Bulusan sa Sorsogon sa nakalipas na 24 hours kumpara sa nakaraang naiulat, ayon sa datos mula sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Sa kabuuan ay pumalo sa 1,155 tonnes ng sulfur dioxide ang ibinuga ng bulkan nitong Biyernes, ayon sa Phivolcs nitong Sabado.

Ang naitala namang sulfur dioxide flux ay nasa 632 tonnes



noong Hulyo 6, batay sa ahensya nitong Biyernes.

Nakapagtala naman ng limang pagyanig mula alas-5 ng madaling araw nitong Biyernes hang-

gang alas-5 ng madaling araw nitong Sabado, batay sa PHIVOLCS.

Nananatili pa rin sa Alert Level 1 (low-level unrest) ang bulkan.

11 JULY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Active COVID-19 cases in PH breach 13,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 10, 2022 1:53:38 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 10) — The number of active COVID-19 cases in the country surpassed 13,000 after the Department of Health logged 1,825 new infections on Saturday.

The recent data in the [DOH's COVID-19 Tracker](#) showed that the number of currently ill patients nationwide climbed to 13,021.

Metro Manila recorded the most number of additional cases at 835. Cavite came next with 135 new cases followed by Iloilo and Rizal both tallying 104 fresh infections on July 9, according to OCTA Research fellow Guido David.

Dr. Guido David
@iamguidodavid · Follow

Provinces with the most new cases on 7.9.22. Data was extracted from [DOH.gov](#). Any errors in data should be addressed to DOH. @dzbb @allangatus @News5PH @dzhnews @DZAR1026 @NewsRmn @dwiz882 @ali_sotto @PhilstarNews @manilabulletin @MlaStandard @ManilaTimesNEWS

July 9, 2022. Provinces/Regions with Most New Covid Cases		
1	NCR	NCR 835
2	CAVITE	Region IV-A: CALABARZON 135
3	ILOILO	Region VI: Western Visayas 104
3	RIZAL	Region IV-A: CALABARZON 104
5	LAGUNA	Region IV-A: CALABARZON 85
6	BATANGAS	Region IV-A: CALABARZON 62
7	CEBU	Region VII: Central Visayas 60
8	BULACAN	Region III: Central Luzon 55
9	PAMPANGA	Region III: Central Luzon 38
10	DAVAO DEL SUR	Region XI: Davao Region 28
11	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	Region VI: Western Visayas 20
12	BENGUET	CAR 19
13	AKLAN	Region VI: Western Visayas 18
13	BATAAN	Region III: Central Luzon 18
15	PANGASINAN	Region I: Ilocos Region 15
15	TARLAC	Region III: Central Luzon 15
17	MISAMIS ORIENTAL	Region X: Northern Mindanao 14
17	PALAWAN	Region IV-B: MIMAROPA 14
19	CAPIZ	Region VI: Western Visayas 11

6:54 PM · Jul 9, 2022

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Meanwhile, Quezon City logged the highest daily rise in cases in the National Capital Region with 162 new infections.

The last time the nation's active case count reached 13,000 was on April 23, based on David's [Twitter update](#).

David earlier reported that [the COVID-19 positivity rate in NCR has increased to above 10%](#), which means one in 10 people tested for the virus turned out infected.

The independent COVID-19 watchdog also projected on July 4 that [the rise in COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila may reach its peak by the second or third week of July](#).

More than 3.7 million COVID-19 infections have been confirmed in the country since the pandemic began. Over 3.6 million people recovered while at least 60,000 died.

11 JULY 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

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#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

MGA FILIPINO STREET FOODS BIDA SA LANAS NG DOLOMITE BEACH!

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Sana talagang mabantayan at mapanatiling malinis ang area para sa lahat Pilipino man o...





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MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY TODAY, KAKAIBANG TAGPO! MAY NAG PASILIP SA DOLOMITE SAND! Miz July

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Miz July
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Mama pa wowwww kanalang talaga Sa saya ng mga Tao



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Evening thumbs up done boss Marlon God
bless thanks for the update





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#manilabay #dolomitebeach

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Nice update bro. 🙌

