

12 JULY 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Sampulna urges PBBM to prioritize 'climate-resilient' PH

July 11, 2022 Cory Martinez 20 Views

THE Philippines, being one of the most “vulnerable” countries to climate change, will take a more prominent presence on the global climate stage under the administration of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.

Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna made the statement as he urged the Chief Executive to build on the country’s climate momentum in order to sustain the work towards a more climate-resilient Philippines.

Sampulna noted that the interest shown by the President in climate change, as mentioned in his inaugural speech, is an indication that his administration would strengthen the country’s position on sustainable and renewable energy.

“The development and promotion of renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies must be high in the development agenda, not only to address the problem of high power costs, but as one way the country could move forward to address climate change and global warming,” Sampulna said.

He stressed that President Marcos’ optimism is seen in his consideration to attend the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) upon the invitation of Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim of Egypt last month.

The meeting will be held in Egypt in November.

Sampulna disclosed that the Philippines has been a “leading voice” in the global community on climate justice for access and technical support for initiatives of developing countries, especially those at most risk to climate change.

In 2021, the Department of Finance (DOF) reported that climate-related hazards cost P506.1 billion in economic losses over the last decade.

During the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2021, former Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, as head of the Philippine delegation, called on developed countries to set aside funds to help developing countries, like the Philippines, shift to clean energy.

Further, the DOF established the Sustainable Climate Finance Roadmap (SCFR), which serves as the country’s blueprint to address policy and regulatory gaps in promoting sustainable investments through finance and facilitate investments in public infrastructure and development projects that promote sustainable financing in the Philippines.

In 2020, the DOE imposed a moratorium on new coal power plants, as it would no longer accept new endorsement applications for the construction of greenfield coal power plants, which refer to power facilities that are yet to be constructed.



The DENR sees that low carbon, sustainable, and climate-disaster resilient development is not far off, as the agency pushes for the implementation of the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75%, as well as efforts toward water resilient and secure Philippines.

The move will help propel the country's strides towards a resilient and green economic recovery marked by a sustainable power system that would accommodate the entry of new, cleaner, and indigenous power sources.



DENR, UPLB Sign MOA for Masteral Program

Monday, July 11, 2022 Journal Online



Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) former Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna and University of the Philippines Los Baños Chancellor Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. (2nd and 3rd from left, seated) sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to open the university's Master of Science in Natural Resources Conservation (MSNRC) to DENR employees. MSNRC is designed to train and educate the technical staff of DENR on the principles and different approaches on natural resources conservation, and on policy formulation and advocacy work for the protection of the environment. Others in the photo are: DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr, (3rd from left, standing), DENR Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (extreme right, standing), and officials from UPLB.



DENR turns over engineered sanitary landfill to Marawi City

Published on: July 11, 2022
By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has turned over the operations, maintenance, and management of a newly built sanitary landfill facility (SLF) to the government of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur province.

Former DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada said that the completion of the engineered SLF serves as a “landmark accomplishment that will finally put an end to Marawi City’s long-time garbage problem.”

“The turnover of the 31.7-hectare SLF in Marawi City starts the ball rolling for the proper implementation of solid waste management in the historic Islamic City. We hope that the residents of Lanao del Sur province will make good use of it for the benefit of their health and environment,” he said following the turnover ceremony and unveiling of markers in Brgy. Malimono, Marawi City and Brgy. Kasanayan, Kapai town, in Lanao del Sur province on June 28.

Fragada said the facility is also the DENR’s contribution to the Comprehensive Marawi Recovery, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation Program.

During the event, DENR officials led by Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Michelle Angelica Go, who serves as the head of the DENR Sub-Committee on Land Resource Management of Task Force Bangon Marawi, signed a deed of donation and turned over a manual guidebook for the proper operation of the SLF.

Under the deed of donation, the DENR will prepare and implement a five-year solid waste management project for Marawi City.

It will also procure several units of heavy equipment, machineries, and tools for information and communications technology development.

The DENR will likewise be responsible for the cost of the fuel, service and maintenance of the vehicles, trucks, and heavy equipment, and their regular maintenance until the end of the project on December 31, 2022.

After the said period, the vehicles and equipment will then become the property of the Marawi City local government, and the expenses relative to the operation of the SLF will be at their cost.

The properties, however, will only be used for the purpose of the donation.

Go pointed out that the construction of SLF in Marawi City is a “result of collaboration and shared action among the officials of the DENR, Marawi local government, Lanao del Sur provincial government, and the Task Force Bangon Marawi.”



“When you do not have a sanitary landfill, where do you put the garbage? If you dump it elsewhere, it affects the environment. This emphasizes the imperative need for shared action among government, non-government organizations, stakeholders, and communities,” Go said.

Following the ceremony, officials of the DENR officials and the Marawi city government also planted pine tree seedlings to preserve the ecosystem near the SLF. (DENR)



National, News

DENR unveils 2 heritage trees in Pasig City

Published July 11, 2022, 7:50 PM
by Jel Santos

Two heritage trees, which are the 36th and 37th heritage trees of Metro Manila, were unveiled by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), and the Pasig City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

Trees designated by the DENR as heritage trees are “old, rare, native, or endemic, with a minimum girth or circumference of 100 centimeters and measures one-half meter above ground.”

During the unveiling last Friday, July 8, the two acacia trees were unveiled by the city government and agency officials at the Rizal High School in Pasig.

The DENR said the two heritage trees are said to predate the establishment of the school in 1902.

“Known by teachers and students past and present as ‘Batibot’, the acacia trees serve as a reminder [of] the rural and humble past of Pasig City, once the capital of Rizal Province prior to its integration with the National Capital Region in 1975,” the agency said.

“Standing more than a hundred years old, the trees provided shelter and protection to the number of students who have studied and graduated since, becoming an integral part of the history and heritage of the learning institution.”

According to the DENR, trees treasured by the people not only for their ecological value but their historical significance are the target of the Heritage Tree Program.

Trees included in the program receive special attention and protection from a pool of foresters of the DENR-NCR to ensure they live longer for the benefit of future generations.

Host communities nominate trees that are within the DENR’s definition of heritage trees. Then, regional offices designated such trees as heritage trees.



DENR CagVal eyes protected area summit

Published on: July 11, 2022

By Benjamin Moses Ebreo



The DENR is planning to conduct the First Protected Area Summit in Cagayan Valley. The proposed PA Summit will be conducted in partnership with the DOT and the DILG. Photo from DENR CagVal FB Page

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya (PIA) - -The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be conducting the First Protected Area Summit in Cagayan Valley this year.

DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the conduct of the Protected Area Summit will be done in observance of the Year of Protected Area (YoPA).

She said the Regional Eco-Tourism Council (REC) was recently convened to bring out inputs for the proposed Protected Area Summit in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Bambalan said the meeting highlighted among others the management of the 'tourism circuit', tapping the involvement of travel and tour companies that will promote ecotourism in the Protected Areas(PA).

She said the Protected Area Summit will showcase the different PA natural attractions including the diverse flora and fauna species endemic in Cagayan Valley region.

"While we ensure the protection of our PAs, we also would like to promote economic and social development without of course compromising the state of our natural ecosystems and biodiversities," Bambalan said.

She said ecotourism program, for as long as it is implemented in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, can bring the concept of sustainability of natural resources as management in PAs is contributing to the booming tourism industry in the Philippines.



The YoPA is an information campaign that geared towards the implementation of the country's conservation roadmap called Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) from 2015 to 2028. (OTB/BME/PIA NVizcaya)



Biosphere reserve center soon to rise in Albay

By Connie Calipay

 July 11, 2022, 8:55 pm



BIOSPHERE CENTER. A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week for a biosphere reserve research and development center building amounting to PHP15 million in Manito, Albay. The building will serve as a rescue shelter and monitoring area for marine wildlife and biodiversity in the province. *(Photo from Albay Biosphere Reserve's Facebook page)*

LEGAZPI CITY – A biosphere reserve research and development center building amounting to PHP15 million will soon rise in Albay, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Officer (PENRO) said.

Jerry Arena, Albay ENRO chief, in an interview on Monday, said the construction of the building has started and is expected to be completed by December this year.

"After the groundbreaking ceremony last week and the ongoing construction, we are expecting to finish the construction shorter than six months," he said.

He added that the two-storey building with a rooftop as watch tower is being built on a 500-square meter lot donated by the local government unit (LGU) of Manito.

"The building will serve as a rescue shelter and monitoring area for marine wildlife and biodiversity for the province of Albay," Arena said.

Asked why Manito was chosen as site, Arena said one of the considerations is the mangrove conservation in the area.

2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda proposed the construction of the Albay Biosphere Research and Development Center to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to support the Albay Biosphere Reserve.



Justin Jay Bolaños, Salceda's 2nd District chief operation officer, said the project is in line with the inclusion of the province of Albay in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere (MAB) as Biosphere reserve on March 19, 2016, which was also an initiative of then Governor Salceda.

The building will also serve as a “rescue center” for marine habitat, watch tower, and station for the organized Bantay Dagat (Sea Rangers) and Bantay Gubat (forest rangers) in the area.

Albay is the 3rd declared biosphere reserve in the Philippines to be part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the MAB Programme, joining a list of areas around the world that are prime examples of sustainable development and biodiversity joined by Puerto Galera (declared in 1977) and Palawan (declared in 1990). (PNA)



National, News

PRC spearheads reforestation activity at La Mesa Watershed Reservation [OBJ]

Published July 11, 2022, 7:06 PM
by Charie Mac F. Abarca



(Professional Regulation Commission)

As part of its goal to promote a healthier ecosystem through the rehabilitation of the environment, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) led a tree planting activity at the La Mesa Watershed Reservation in Quezon City.

Days after PRC, together with its partner agencies, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) formalizing their convergence on the Carbon Neutral Program (PRC), also known as the process of balancing carbon dioxide emissions with carbon offsets by scientific forestation, the Commission began its reforestation activities.

“This year’s celebration of PRC’s founding anniversary and 2022 PRC Week was even made noteworthy with the conduct of the tree planting and tree growing activity,” said PRC.

Among PRC’s partner agencies were the Society of Filipino Foresters Incorporated (SFFI), Climate Change Commission (CCC), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Volunteers, staff, and guests planted primewood Molave at the Million Trees Project Nursery and Eco-Learning Center of La Mesa Watershed Reservation area in Quezon City last June 25 in time for the 49th Founding Anniversary of PRC and in support of the Philippine Arbor Day, said the Commission on Monday, July 11.



MWSS and partners pledge to plant 1.7-M trees in 2022

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA · JULY 11, 2022

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its partners in the Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) have set the ball rolling for an ambitious plan to grow 10 million trees by 2030.

According to Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) chairman emeritus retired Lt. Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco, for this year alone, pledges have already reached a total of 1.7 million tree seedlings, as he expressed confidence that growing 10 million trees by 2030 to protect and nurture the seven critical watersheds that supply potable water to Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, and Rizal is indeed achievable.

Velasco issued the optimistic remark during the pledging session attended by stakeholders and partners of the Annual Million Tree Challenge (AMTC) recently.

Velasco, former Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator and Chairman 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 planting a total of 1,710,005 trees that will reforest a total of 3,278 hectares of land in different watersheds.

Reforestation targets

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 cover 660 hectares. 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 in 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 project, which is on now its sixth year.

MTFI President Mel Velasco said that based on “The Road to 10 Million Trees by 2030,” which was produced during the Strategic Planning Workshop for the Development of Watershed Restoration Roadmap last February 23, 2022, the restoration gaps and challenges, goals, and strategies in watershed restoration, have been identified.



Pledges and commitment

Among those who committed their pledges to participate in tree-planting activities toward 10 million trees more in 2030 were: MWSS Corporate Office (80,000); MWSS Regulatory Office (25,000); Manila Water Co. Inc. (118,000); Maynilad Water Services Inc. (90,000); Luzon Clean Water Development Corporation (10,000); PENRO Rizal (410,000); DENR-National Capital Region (50,000); CENRO Guiguinto (54,005); Laguna Lake Development Authority (155,000); National Power Corporation (200,000); Municipality of General Nakar, Quezon, (25,000); AFI-Bantay Kalikasan (32,000); World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (110,000); Sta. Clara International Corporation (50,000); Century Properties Group, Inc. (5,000); Rotary International – Districts 3780/3800/3830 (10,000); JCI Senate Philippines-Greenlink (1,000); San Miguel Corporation (100,000); China Energy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (25,000); Professional Regulation Commission – Board for Foresters (5,000); Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (100,000); DOHWA Engineering Co. Ltd & Engineering and Development Corporation of the Philippines (DOHWA-EDCOP) (5,000); 5th PNP Mobile Force Command (50,000); China SHECB-BIDR-SXSY(CSBS) Consortium (5,000); and, PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation (100,000).

‘A balancing act’

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) National Capital Region Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, CESO III, in her message, 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.

She commended the MWSS as a formidable partner in conserving and protecting the La Mesa Watershed Reservation and vowed DENR-NCR’s continued support to the Annual Million Tree Challenge by providing planting materials to MWSS and the Million Trees Foundation, assisting in the validation of planted seedlings, and other developmental measures. “In protecting a watershed, the primary consideration is the protection of its forests,” she added.

She also underscored the participation of various stakeholders as imperative for the DENR to carry out its mandate of protecting the environment.

This was echoed by MFTI Chairman Emeritus Velasco who said that protecting the environment cannot be done by the government alone. “There is a need for the public and private sectors to work together.”

During the same event, Velasco congratulated MWSS Administrator Cleofas for continuing the AMTC project, one of his legacies in the MWSS. He also thanked the AMTC project partners for their continued support and enjoined them not only to plant trees but also to educate everyone on the value of planting trees.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/11/mwss-and-partners-pledge-to-plant-1-7-m-trees-in-2022/>



Public Square

Nayong Pilipino, DENR plant trees during PH Environment Month

July 12, 2022



When Filipinos conserve the environment today, future generations will be able to live healthier lives. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TO celebrate this year's Philippine Environment Month, the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in a tree planting activity at the Entertainment City, a 9.5-hectare NPF property in Parañaque, on June 23.

Employees of the NPF and DENR's Biodiversity and Forest Management Bureaus have planted more than 100 trees with different saplings, namely ipil-ipil, tindalo, yakal, makaasim, phil ash, lipote, palawan cherry, dita, batino and bignay.

This year's theme, "Aksyon para sa natatanging mundo," highlighted the collaborative efforts between the two agencies to provide a healthy and breathable environment for future generations. The said planting activity coincided with Proclamation No. 237, declaring the month of June as Philippine Environment Month, aimed at instilling environmental awareness and concern among the country's various sectors.



Speaking on behalf of NPF Executive Director Gertie Duran-Batocabe, NPF Deputy Executive Director for Marketing and Operations Jovertlee Pudan emphasized the foundation's advocacy for a greener environment and nature conservation through Project Sambayanihan.

"This initiative aims to transform this 9.5-hectare property into an urban green space by planting more than 400 trees this year [and] by promoting a participatory approach through partnerships with other government agencies," Pudan said.

Last March, NPF partnered with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in planting flowering trees in honor of the Philippine Women's Month. In May, NPF teamed up with the Department of Health to promote mental health awareness by creating greener spaces in Metro Manila.



DENR, BFAR personnel undergo underwater crime scene investigation training

By Interaksyon - July 11, 2022 - 4:58 PM



Training participants simulate underwater crime scene investigation by locating, identifying, documenting, and collecting pieces of evidence. (US Embassy/Released)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recently trained Philippine government partners in underwater crime scene investigation and law enforcement. This program is part of USAID's Project SIBOL (Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes).

According to the U.S. Embassy, the training was focused on responses to environmental crime scenarios and law enforcement issues such as coral reef crime scene investigation, marine wildlife crime forensics, oil spills, and marine and coastal pollution.

Twenty-seven representatives from Philippine agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) attended the training program.

With the help of international experts, participants were taught proper procedures and practices when dealing with environmental crime scenarios such as blast fishing, poaching and vessel grounding which causes the destruction of coral reefs. The program befits the country's goals of reducing the threats against biodiversity and endangered species, and well as eradicating crimes against wildlife.

"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 John Piggot.




This is in line with the growing concerns about illegal fishing in the Philippines. A 2020 joint report by USAID and BFAR revealed that 27 to 40% of fish caught in the Philippine seas are illegal, amounting to P62 billion (\$1.3 billion) every year.

“We hope that this activity will lead to increased cooperation among enforcement agencies on coral reef-related cases, enhancement of existing local training modules on reef protection, and development of local policy and protocols on coral reef-related investigations,” Piggot said in a release. —Regina Adolfo



HEADLINES

Philippines, US reaffirm commitment on supply chains, climate crisis

Cecille Suerte Felipe - The Philippine Star 

July 12, 2022 | 12:00am



A tug boat sails along the Pasig river before high-rise buildings of the Makati business district in Manila on May 29, 2022.

AFP / Maria Tan

MANILA, Philippines — Officials of the Philippines and the United States have reaffirmed their countries' commitment to jointly reinforce supply chains and address the climate crisis.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said he agreed with Secretary of State Antony Blinken for the Philippines and the US to work together on building resilient supply chains, addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy.

“Spoke with @SecBlinken. Appreciate US commitment to the alliance and to PH as an equal and sovereign partner in promoting peace, prosperity and international law-based order in the region,” Manalo posted on his Twitter account on Sunday.

“@SecBlinken and I agreed to continue working together on building resilient supply chains, addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy,” the DFA secretary said.

Manalo's post complemented the official statement of State Department spokesman Ned Price in an official statement on the US government website over the weekend, saying “Blinken spoke today with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo.”



“Secretary Blinken congratulated Secretary Manalo on his recent appointment and highlighted the increasing significance of the US-Philippine bilateral alliance to security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world,” Price added.

He said “the Secretary also emphasized the importance of respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

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



LATEST

Senators favor taxing single-use plastics, online purchase



Published 13 hours ago on July 11, 2022 06:23 PM
By Jom Garner

Senators on Monday, 11 July said they are in favor of taxing single-use plastics and online purchases in a bid to increase the government's revenue.

This is after Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said that he is looking into the proposal to impose tax on digital transactions which he said had an estimated yearly value-added tax (VAT) collection of as much as P13.2 billion.

Diokno added that the government may get P1 billion additional income from single-use plastic products.

Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, who is set to retain the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means in the 19th Congress, said he is in favor of taxing commodities and services being sold online.

"Goods and services bought through the internet should really be taxable for VAT as all goods and services are unless expressly made exempt by law," Angara said.

He also said that he is in favor of taxing plastic, citing that this is also the practice in other countries.

"This is intended to incentivize or encourage the use of recyclable bags and materials, which is better for the environment," he stressed.

In a separate statement, Senator Grace Poe also expressed her support to the proposal of taxing single-use plastics which she said is "detrimental" to the environment.

"The rampant use of single-use plastics is detrimental to our environment," Poe said.

"Taxing them can discourage its use and even encourage the use of locally available materials for packaging. I have no problem with it," she added.

On the matter of taxing online purchases and subscriptions of streaming service companies like Netflix, the senator said she would want to see the proposal of the Finance department first.

"We cannot discourage small businesses especially and add more burden to consumers by heavily taxing them while there is an unmitigated increase in fuel prices," she said.

Meanwhile, Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero expressed worries over the proposal, citing that it would be "burdensome" for the public.



“It’s always easier to go for imposing new, or increasing whatever existing taxes in order to raise revenues for government. However, this is burdensome and is not in keeping with the times,” Escudero said.

Instead of imposing additional taxes, the returning lawmaker urged the Department of Finance to go after those who are evading their taxes.

“I think the first order of business for the new Finance Secretary is to plug loopholes, clean up and make collection of existing taxes and duties by the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and BoC (Bureau of Customs),” he said.



NEW TAXES | Senators mixed on proposals to tax digital services, single-use plastics

July 11, 2022 , 07:10 PM

By Clarist Zablan

(July 11, 2022) – Senators on Monday expressed mixed reactions to renewed proposals from the finance department to impose new taxes, particularly on digital services and single-use plastics, as the government seeks new sources of revenue.

Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. said he is willing to re-file his resolution in the previous Congress to look into proposals to collect digital taxes as this could help finance the government's national economic recovery plan from the coronavirus pandemic.

“Unfair din kasi na yung mga local online businesses covered ng taxation laws, ang mga multinational corporations who have less physical presence but wider reach, mukhang hindi naaabot,” Revilla said in a statement.

Sonny Angara, who is expected to continue as chair of the Senate finance committee, also agreed with proposals to tax online goods and services as well as single-use plastics, which he said intends to “incentivise or encourage the use of recyclable bags and materials.”

On the other hand, Chiz Escudero expressed reservations for the proposals, which he described as “burdensome” and “not in keeping with the times” amid the slow economic growth, rising joblessness and soaring inflation of basic commodities.

The senator proposed strengthening tax collections by plugging loopholes and fighting corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) to increase revenues.

“Hindi pa nga lubusang nakakatayo ang ating mga kababayan, ibabaon na naman ba natin sila sa mga bagong bayarin? Sana ay huwag na nating dagdagan pa ang hirap na kanilang dinaranas,” Escudero said in a press release.

Earlier, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said he will support measures to tax digital services and transactions, noting that this will ensure that they will be taxed in the same way as products sold in brick-and-mortar stores.

Diokno also expressed support for any proposals to regulate or tax the consumption of single-used plastics to reduce pollution amid the worsening climate crisis.

In the Lower House, ways and means chair Joey Salceda said he has refiled a measure seeking to plug legal loopholes that have allowed some digital services and goods to remain outside of coverage of the value-added tax (VAT).

Under the measure, services such as digital advertising, subscriptions, and other online services will be considered VAT-able.



“Our tax system really needs to catch up to the digital economy, which grows and changes by the day,” Salceda said in a statement.

Former Bayan Muna congressman Carlos Zarate opposed the taxation on online services, raising concerns that consumers will bear the brunt of the additional tax burden.

“Even the claim that it is the foreign company that is being taxed is specious as it is still the consumers who will foot the bill in the end since VAT is a pass on tax – it would mean higher subscription fees, service charges, and, even prices of online products,” Zarate said.

(MM)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/new-taxes-senators-mixed-on-proposals-to-tax-digital-services-single-use-plastics?fbclid=IwAR13Bp5vhv44AVHeYKTzWkhN4Xtz89SqDHPd4EY1mlNioYk-EyTUTMbU3os>



UNTV News and Rescue 17h

Suportado ng Department of Finance ang panukalang patawan ng buwis ang paggamit ng plastic labo o sandong bags at iba pang single-use plastics.

Ayon sa kagawaran, kailangan ng pondo ng pamahalaan para sa pagpapatupad ng mga programa ukol sa maayos na garbage disposal.



BUWIS SA SANDO BAGS

YOUTUBE.COM
Panukalang buwisan ang paggamit ng sandong bags o plastic labo, suportado ng Finance dept.

Jerrick Toloy and 121 others 26 Comments 5 Shares



Davao Light, Coast Guard partner for marine conservation



Photo by Krizzy Daugdaug

KRIZZY S. DAUGDAUG
July 11, 2022

- A A +

ABOITIZPOWER subsidiary Davao Light and Power Co. and the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary-Davao (PCGA-Davao) have partnered for the conservation of marine life, which was highlighted by a donation of a ship to draw out trash from the sea.

On July 8, 2022, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the two organizations for a Conservation Program Partnership specifically with Davao Light's sea turtle sanctuary, the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park.

"You might be wondering what utility company like Davao Light has to do with the pawikan or the environment, we want to take care of the environment, we want to contribute to the biodiversity," Rodger Velasco, President and Chief Operating Officer of Davao Light, said during their signing ceremony.

Velasco said the partnership with the PCGA-Davao will also help to spread awareness on how to take care of the environment.

According to Davao Light, the park has become home to nearly 100 endemic migratory bird species, marine species, and at least three critically endangered pawikan species such as the Hawksbill turtle, Green Sea turtle, and Olive Ridley turtle since it opened in 2014.

"We want to protect them [pawikan] because they always mistake plastics as their diet, kasi favorite diet nila is jellyfish (because jellyfish is their favorite diet), and they mistake plastic as the jellyfish. We have rehabilitated a few, we took care of them in the past then ang popo nila plastic din," Velasco said.



Meanwhile, PCGA-Davao described the current situation of the park as a “dump site.”

“In our area of responsibility (AOR) because of the informal settlers ang basura kay nagka-anam. Ang Punta Dumalag sad to say, mura man nahimo nag tambakan sa basura because of the current of the water, katong mga basura from Davao River and nearby area didto magpundo (it looks like a dump site because of the water’s current, waste from Davao River and nearby areas have gathered [around the park]),” VADM. Beethoven Sur, National Director of PCGA, said.

Velasco said the park cleanliness should be maintained.

“Imo na siyang limpyohan karung adlaw, the following day, two to three days daghan na pud og basura (If you’re going to clean it today, the following day or after two or three days, it will be littered with trash again), and since it has become a haven for the turtles, we have to help maintain the area,” Sur said.

Sur said the partnership is timely considering that they are set to receive a special kind of ship from the central PCGA.

“Naay idonate sa ato nga usa ka barko nga mosuyop og basura sa dagat, ang atoa nalang gihulat nangita me og aplikante nga captain para mokuha sa Manila dal-on dire sa Davao, kung moabot na dire, we assure you nga every month or every two weeks bisitahan nato ang Punta Dumalag, suyopon nato ang basura diha, it will be one of our priorities (We are will receive a donation of a ship that will help us collect trash from the sea. We are just waiting for a captain who can bring it to Davao from Manila. Once in Davao, we assure you that every month or every two weeks we will visit Punta Dumalag, we will help collect the garbage in the area),” Sur said.

The Aboitiz Cleanergy Park is an eight-hectare ecological preserve and biodiversity conservation site located on the coast of Punta Dumalag, Matina Aplaya, Davao City. The park is managed by Davao Light, an AboitizPower subsidiary, and the Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. KSD



'KMJS'

Pabilog na higanteng uka sa Toril, Davao City, paano nalikha at dapat bang ikatakot?

Hulyo 11, 2022 7:03pm GMT+08:00



Kung nasa ibaba, magandang tanawin ang masisilayan sa isang lugar sa Toril, Davao City. Pero mula sa itaas habang sakay ng eroplano, kapansin-pansin ang higanteng uka sa lupa. Gawa ba ito ng bulkan, sinkhole o bumagsak na kometa?

Sa nakaraang episode ng “Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho,” sinabi ni Frank Yves Pacatang na dati na niyang nakikita ang malaking uka kapag bumibiyahe siya mula Cebu at Davao sakay ng eroplano.

Dahil sa nahihiwagahan siya kung papaano nagawa ang higanteng uka, naisipan niya itong kunan ng larawan at ipinost niya social media.

Nababalot na ng mga puno at halaman ang lugar. May mga naninirahan din sa ibaba at maging sa itaas ng uka.

Mula sa nagkomento sa larawan, nalaman ni Pacatang na ang uka ay bahagi ng Barangay Bato sa Toril.

Nang puntahan ng KMJS team ang lugar, makikita ang maganda nitong tanawin. May overlooking din na kainan sa itaas kaya dinadayo rin ito ng mga tao.

Mula sa itaas halos isang oras ang kailangang lakbayan upang marating ang sitio sa ibabaw ng uka. Kabilang sa mga nakatira rito si Eduardo Comido, na may ipinagawang swimming pool na maaaring rentahan.



Dahil sagana sa tubig ang lugar, maaaring magtanim sa iba ng mga prutas at gulay na ikinabubuhay ng mga tao.

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

Ayon sa isang 90-anyos na residente na si Manuel Alad, ang dating pangalan ng kanilang lugar ay Banud, o kawa.

Damuhan daw noon ang paligid sa kanilang lugar noong bata pa siya.

Pero papaano nga ba nagkaroon ng dambuhalang uka sa lugar?

“You can have ‘yung mga sinkhole pero ‘yun kasi, mostly mga carbonate rocks. Puwede rin ‘yung mga impact craters,” ayon kay Jyreen Penaloga mula sa 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,” dagdag niya.

Pero paliwanag ni Penaloga, wala sa listahan nila ng mga aktibong bulkan ang lugar.

Ayon naman kay Valerie Shayne Ofindo, research specialist sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, ang malaking uka ay isang low-relief volcanic crater o Maar. Isa itong low volcano na nabubuo dahil sa 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 napo-form,” pahayag ni Ofindo.

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

Ang kapitan ng barangay sa lugar na si Alfredo Cabrerros, sinabing handa sila kung kailangang ilikas ang mga tao kapag nagkaroon ng emergency.

“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,” ani Comido. —FRJ, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/837777/pabilog-na-higanteng-uka-sa-toril-davao-city-paano-nalikha-at-dapat-bang-ikatakot/story/?fbclid=IwAR2syN20RhSunXGTx_CU1JyhNH51bo5PQQWx5K3ehOdWuaxGDluFY83tXTU



PLDT's biggest solar rooftop facility in Visayas energized



Published 5 hours ago on July 12, 2022 01:42 AM

By TDT [@tribunephil](#)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PLDT | The PV panels will generate approximately 214,953 kilowatt hours (kWh) of solar power annually to augment electricity drawn from the commercial power grid, reducing PLDT's carbon footprint by 152 tons of carbon dioxide each year

To cap off the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month in June, the Philippines' largest integrated telco network PLDT Inc. and its wireless unit Smart Communications, Inc. marked another significant milestone in their sustainability journey after energizing solar rooftop panels in its biggest business facility in the Visayas, located along Osmeña Boulevard in Cebu City.

This is the third PLDT facility in the Visayas, partly powered by solar energy. Two more offices in the central Philippine region are set to be equipped with solar panels in July. The project, which aims to cut carbon emissions by integrating renewable sources of power in its energy mix, not only aligns with PLDT and Smart's direction to embed sustainability in the business further but is also an opportunity to reduce energy costs. Spectrum, a subsidiary of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), installed solar panels in the five facilities.

"We continue to look for opportunities to install solar rooftop panels in more PLDT and Smart facilities to enjoy the same benefits from the current deployments. Under the environmental pillar of our ESG (environmental, social and governance) initiatives, focus areas include energy efficiency, green network technologies, and renewables. By doing so, PLDT and Smart are also doing their part to help the government achieve its target of reaching net-zero by 2050," said Melissa Vergel de Dios, PLDT and Smart chief sustainability officer and head of investor relations.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/07/12/pldts-biggest-solar-rooftop-facility-in-visayas-energized/>



Baguio mayor asks for waste disposal discipline



Dy Gaby D. Keith  July 12, 2022

BAGUIO CITY: Mayor Benjamin Magalong has appealed for more discipline on the waste disposal practices in the Summer Capital. "If we can be more involved and more concerned on the manner we dispose of our discards from segregating and packing down to the time they make it to the garbage trucks, then we can be of great help to our garbage collectors and our city," the mayor said. City General Services Officer Eugene Buyucan said they need more cooperation, especially in tourist and commercial areas. "In the residential areas, we have fewer problems because of fairly high compliance of the residents to the rules but the problematic areas are the central business district and in our tourist spots where people are converging," Buyucan said. He appealed to owners of accommodation and other business establishments to exert more effort in observing proper segregation and wrapping and to obey the prescribed schedule of bringing out their garbage. "With the increase in population, in and out-migration of students and visitors, we really cannot expect 100 percent compliance but we have to give our best." He said the plea also applies to compliant residents. "Residents need to cooperate more. As the primary waste generators, we should have community concern. Our garbage collectors deserve some dignity and they need our help. Their job is not easy working rain or shine, with no holidays or day-offs," he said. "Let's comply not only for our sake but for the sake of those managing our wastes like our barangay officials and our garbage collectors. Again, we need everyone's help," Buyucan said.



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Philippine Star ✓

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Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto and his team planted Katmon trees at the Masungi Geopark Project last weekend.

"We thank them for giving the environment some of their precious time, and for being willing to learn more about the biodiversity and forest restoration efforts we are doing," the Masungi Georeserve wrote in its Facebook post Monday.

The group said that Pasig is one of the local government units that supported the appeal to halt quarrying agreements in Masungi and Upper Marikina Watershed to minimize the risks of flooding. (Facebook/Masungi Georeserve)







Greco Belgica and 5.4K others

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What value on nature? Countries now have 1st guidelines

Countries have approved the first comprehensive guidelines for judging the value of nature following four years of intense debate, officials said Monday.

The report was endorsed by 139 countries that are members of the United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, or IPBES.

Its authors hope the guide they've drawn up with the help of experts from a wide range of disciplines will make it easier for governments to consider more than just the economic benefits of a project when deciding whether and how to go ahead with it.

This includes figuring out how local communities will gain or lose from a project such as a hydroelectric dam — a situation that has regularly led to friction between businesses, citizens and authorities in the past.

Rather than prescribe a set way for governments to estimate these non-economic benefits, the report provides them with tools for working through the often complex assessment process, said its co-author Patricia Balvanera of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"We provide a roadmap to decision-makers for how to deal with this very complex situation they face every single day," she said.

Fellow author Unai Pascual of the Basque Center for Climate Change in Bilbao, Spain, said the report's approval represents a "milestone" for the way governments view nature, by challenging some of the underlying assumptions that have contributed to environmental destruction.

The report was drafted with the help of dozens of experts from both social and natural sciences in an attempt to bridge the often considerable differences between disciplines and find a common approach they could all support, he said.

"We don't know what will come next," said Pascual, but suggested the guidelines are likely to be reflected in the negotiations at December's UN conference on biodiversity in Montreal.

Representatives of Indigenous groups welcomed the new guidelines and an IPBES report published last week which highlighted the need for sustainable use of nature.


"There is a growing body of evidence showing that when the rights of Indigenous peoples are guaranteed, we outperform all other forest managers in reducing deforestation and preventing wildfires," said José Gregório Díaz Mirabal of COICA, a coordinating body for the indigenous organizations of the countries of the Amazon Basin.

"If the goal is to succeed in saving the Amazon, any plan must be carried out in collaboration with Indigenous peoples," he said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/11/what-value-on-nature-countries-now-have-1st-guidelines/>



Plastic bag ban creates new opportunities in Tanzania

 July 11, 2022, 9:05 pm

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania – The blanket ban on plastic bags Tanzania introduced three years ago has unleashed a huge market potential for eco-friendly paper bags, creating new opportunities for local traders who reap bigger profits.

Tanzania effected its ban on single-use plastic bags in June 2019, prohibiting the use, manufacture or importation of thin polyethylene bags, with offenders risking jail time or a hefty fine.

The new policy has yielded positive results as alternative paper bags and packaging materials have become available in several marketing centers, according to officials.

“The ban of plastic was a blessing in disguise, although I had incurred some loss, switching to paper bag business is more profitable,” entrepreneur hawker Lilian Kamnyoge told Anadolu Agency ahead of the World Paper Bag Day to be observed July 12.

Kamnyoge said the ban has made her more creative and she is working hard to supply paper bags to hotels, restaurants and bars in the nation’s capital, Dar es Salaam.

“Many people are becoming used to paper bags, thin plastic bags are out of the sight --not in a single place,” she said.

In the port city, the ubiquitous single-use plastic bags, which had become a tricky enemy, have largely disappeared, according to residents.

“The government has succeeded to eliminate this plastic bag menace, with ongoing education people will learn to care for the environment,” Kamnyonge said.

Toxic chemicals

For decades, scientists have sounded the alarm about the dangers of plastic bags which not only pollute the ocean but shed toxic chemicals into the ecosystem and taint food webs.

As the East African country is working to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030, experts warned that single-use paper bags that are now widely used can be just as destructive.

“When you ban plastic bags you must ensure reusable alternatives are friendly to the environment, but that is not the case,” environmental activist Gregory Isaac said.

He told the Türkiye’s news agency that for the ban to be more effective, it should be aimed at changing the behavior of consumers.

“It is a good start but we have a long way to go because even the re-usable thick plastic in the end is bad for the environment,” he said.

While the ban has inflicted huge losses to manufacturers and traders, observers said it has created new opportunities for businesses.



"I have seen a 30 percent growth of our business in the past two years. If the ban on polyethylene is properly enforced our business is bound to grow even more," Fayaz Hirji, owner of Cutex, a paper bag manufacturer and supplier in Dar es Salaam, told Anadolu Agency.

Increasing awareness

Hirji joined the paper bag manufacturing business five years ago and said the demand started rising two years ago because of increasing awareness of the dangers that plastic bags posed to the environment and a willingness of consumers to use a cleaner alternative.

The company produces all types of paper bags, shopping bags and paper gift bags.

Hirji said brown paper bags are most in demand among business owners and residents.

"We supply paper bags and envelopes for takeaway food packaging to many businesses," he said.

Tanzania has imposed harsher penalties for those caught producing, selling and importing single-use thin polyethylene bags but the country is still struggling to get rid of plastic waste.

In the bustling Tegeta open air market on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, thin polyethylene bags have disappeared, banished by the national plastic bag ban.

Traders in the busy market pack perishables in thicker bags made from synthetic fabric while others use paper bags.

Durable plastic

On one humid morning, Zuhura Kajuna, 26, prepares to arrange her vegetables on a maze of wooden stalls with her baby strapped in the back.

She briskly unpacks tomatoes, onions, ginger, and cucumbers from canvas sacks and places them on the stall under an umbrella shade to shield them from the blazing sun.

A man pops up on a motorcycle and drops off paper and reusable plastic bags at Kajuna's stall.

Made from thick plastic that is more durable and easier to recycle, Kajuna said the bags are friendly to the environment.

"I wouldn't say the ban on plastic bags is 100% successful because we still use them although these are thicker and of a higher quality," Kajuna told Anadolu Agency.

Since Tanzania enforced a plastic bag ban in 2019 with tougher penalties, alternative paper bags are widely used at markets and shopping centers. (Anadolu)



Startup company to dig 20-km hole to unlock geothermal energy 'anywhere in the world'

Published July 8, 2022 2:39pm



A startup company plans to drill one of the deepest holes on Earth to harness geothermal energy.

Founded in 2018, Quaise Energy uses technology based on research conducted by Paul Waskov at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Using gyroton vacuum tubes, the company utilizes modern fusion technology to dig a deep hole on the ground.

"Millimeter wave drilling will unlock the most abundant and powerful clean energy source on Earth by allowing us to drill down to 20 km and 500 degrees Celsius," Quaise said.

The company has raised \$70 million (P4 billion) to fund the project and explore geothermal energy underground.

"Our technology allows us to access energy anywhere in the world, at a scale far greater than wind and solar, enabling future generations to thrive in a world powered with abundant clean energy," said Carlos Araque, CEO of Quaise Energy.

According to Quaise, deeper geothermal energy is more universal compared to geothermal energy sources on the surface of the Earth.

"At these depths, we can reach geothermal anywhere on Earth, making it a truly global energy source. It provides a path to energy independence for every nation."

—MGP, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/837499/startup-company-to-dig-20-km-hole-to-unlock-geothermal-energy-anywhere-in-the-world/story/?fbclid=IwAR1YZ9CI3TVOkZEy9kLYP_YJLh_0TJEBXa5OAey7AmVGIpgTS-qaiFgma8



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Inter-Agency meeting para sa mga paghahanda sa kauna-unahang State of the Nation Address o SONA ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos sa July 25, isinagawa ngayong araw. [#SuperBalitaSaGabi](#)



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Marcos urged to defend West PH Sea in China visit

Zandro Ochoa, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 11 2022 07:38 PM



Filipino youth activists hoist a Philippine flag on the shores of Zambales facing the West Philippine Sea on June 12, 2017. Jun Dumaguing, ABS-CBN News/File

MANILA — A youth group on Monday urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to defend the West Philippine Sea as he is set to visit China.

"Hinahamon namin si Presidente Marcos sa pagharap niya sa China ay ang pagtindig niya para sa karapatan ng mga Pilipino na malaya na mabuhay at maghanapbuhay sa West Philippine Sea," said Justine Balane, secretary general of Akbayan Youth and member of the West PH Sea Coalition.

(We are challenging President Marcos to stand for our rights to freely live and earn a living on the West Philippine Sea as he faces China.)

Balane made the call a day before the 6th anniversary of the historic Hague ruling, where the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in favor of the Philippines on the disputed waters.

"Gusto natin na ipakita at sabihin niya direkta ang reversal ng 6 years of the failed and destructive policy ng Duterte administration na hinayaan ang bilyon-bilyong damages doon sa marine resources ng West Philippine Sea," he added.

(We want him to directly reverse the 6 years of the failed and destructive policy of the Duterte administration that allowed billions of pesos worth of damages in the West Philippine Sea's marine resources.)



The group also said that the Marcos administration must assert the removal of illegal structures that China built in the West Philippine Sea, while also calling on the demilitarization of the area.

”Ang isang kailangan talaga ay itigil iyong mga harassment sa mga mangingisda at kilalanin yung freedom of navigation doon sa disputed waters. Praktikal iyon na makatutulong agaran sa libo-libong mangingisda na umaasa sa lugar na iyon,” said Benjamin Alvero from Sentro Youth, also a member of the coalition.

(We really need them to stop the harassment of our fisherfolk, and to recognize the freedom of navigation in the disputed waters. That would practically help thousands of fishers relying on that area for their livelihood.)

Marcos earlier said that under his administration, the Philippines will assert its claim over the West Philippine Sea while still continuing to pursue bilateral ties with China.



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Mas maraming mineral processing plant itinutulak ng DENR

Isinusulong ni dating Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acting Secretary Jim Sampulna ang pagtatayo ng mas maraming mineral processing plants at paggamit ng rare Earth deposits upang makatulong sa pagtaas ng mineral production at revenue generation ng bansa.

Sa isang pahayag sinabi ni Sampulna na ginagawa ng mga planta sa pagproseso ng mineral ang minahan na mineral na handang gamitin para sa aplikasyon. Halimbawa, ang limestone, kung iproseso, ay magiging semento, na handa nang gamitin para sa pagtatayo.

"Kung marami tayong mga planta na ito at mas maraming mineral ang ipoproseso sa bansa, tataas ang halaga nito ng higit sa 100 porsiyento, at mas kakaunting raw materials ang ipapadala sa ibang mga bansa, tulad ng Japan o China,"

dagdag niya.

Sa ngayon, ang DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau ay nakapagbigay na ng 108 mineral processing permit, karamihan ay para sa construction materials.

Gayundin, iminungkahi ni Sampulna ang pagtukoy ng mga rare earth elements (REEs), tulad ng scandium at yttrium, sa mga nagpapatakbo ng mga minahan.

Si Sampulna, na dating DENR undersecretary para sa pagmimina, ay nagsabi na ang mga metal na ito ay mahalagang bahagi ng maraming high-technology device.

Binanggit ni Sampulna na ang isang proposed iron mineral processing plant sa Zamboanga ay nagkaroon ng groundbreaking ceremony noong Hunyo 18, upang suportahan ang mga hakbangin ng DENR tungo sa self-utilization ng mga mineral commodities sa bansa. (Mina Navarro)



Phl, US reaffirm commitment on supply chains, climate crisis

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Officials of the Philippines and the United States have reaffirmed their countries' commitment to jointly reinforce supply chains and address the climate crisis.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo said he agreed with Secretary of State Antony Blinken for the Philippines and the US to work together on building resilient supply chains, addressing the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy.

"Spoke with @SecBlinken. Appreciate US commitment to the alliance and to PH as an equal and sovereign partner in promoting peace, prosperity and international law-based order in the region," Manalo posted on his Twitter account on Sunday.

"@SecBlinken and I agreed to continue working together on building resilient supply chains, addressing the climate

crisis and transitioning to clean energy," the DFA secretary said.

Manalo's post complemented the official statement of State Department spokesman Ned Price in an official statement on the US government website over the weekend, saying "Blinken spoke today with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo."

"Secretary Blinken congratulated Secretary Manalo on his recent appointment and highlighted the increasing significance of the US-Philippine bilateral alliance to security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world," Price added.

He said "the Secretary also emphasized the importance of respect for human rights and the rule of law."

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



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THIS IPSOS IN PH INSPIRES YOUTH TO CARE, DO MORE FOR ENVIRONMENT PAGE 1/2

DATE

IPSOS IN PH INSPIRES YOUTH TO CARE, DO MORE FOR ENVIRONMENT

By Amy R. Remo
@amyremoINQ

The Philippine office of Ipsos, one of the largest market research companies in the world, recently led a tree-planting activity at the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City as part of its commitment to the planet.

Around 50 volunteer employees of Ipsos in the Philippines, along with students from the UP Dilliman Honor Society (UPDHS-ESD Alpha Chapter) and youth from Anak Tulay Ng Kabataan Foundation (TNK) participated in the activity last June 24, planting approximately 100 seedlings at the reserve. Ipsos initiated this activity with the intent of helping reduce carbon emissions. At the same time, it is meant to inspire the younger generations, such as the volunteers from UPDHS-ESD Alpha Chapter and TNK, to actively take part in protecting the planet by engaging in simple yet impactful activities including the reforestation of critical watershed areas like the La Mesa Nature Reserve.

"We, at Ipsos, are well aware that concerns about



Ipsos' recent tree-planting activity was also meant to inspire younger generations, like the volunteers from UPDHS-ESD Alpha Chapter and TNK, to actively take part in helping save and protect the planet.



Some 50 employees of Ipsos in the Philippines, along with youth volunteers, planted 100 seedlings at the La Mesa Nature Reserve.

the environment, climate change and sustainability are increasingly becoming priorities in the agenda of most businesses and governments globally. Besides offering best-in-class advisory and insight solutions that could help companies build a more sustainable and prosperous future, we have also sought to act through simple activities that

can have meaningful impact in the future," said Vicky Abad, country manager of Ipsos in the Philippines.

"Our tree-planting activity last June involved five Adhoc employee circles within Ipsos in the Philippines: Corporate Social Responsibility, Climate Cares, Health & Wellness, Inclusion & Diversity, and Employee Engagement. We have

also decided to have students from the University of the Philippines and the foundation we support, Anak Tulay Ng Kabataan, onboard as we wanted to impress upon them, this early, the importance of protecting the environment even through simple activities such as this," Abad added.

The La Mesa Watershed is a critical area in the metro. Not only is it a source of drinking water for some 12 million people in Metro Manila, but it also serves as a carbon sink, reportedly absorbing at least 3 percent of the capital region's carbon emissions. As such, many have come to refer to the La Mesa Watershed and Eco Park as the green lung of Metro Manila.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is one of the largest market research companies with a presence in 90 markets globally. Its research professionals, analysts, and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide powerful insights into the actions, opinions, and motivations of citizens, consumers, doctors and patients, customers, and employees.



Water supply projects for Yolanda, Zambo/Marawi crises not completed

BY PETER TABINGO

THE Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) has failed to complete any of the three big ricker water supply projects totaling P1.25 billion even if full funding were released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) between 2014 to 2017, the Commission on Audit revealed.

In the 2021 audit of LWUA released last July 2, the COA identified the water projects as the P541.953 million Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan, the P527.075 million Zamboanga City Roadmap Recovery and Reconstruction Program, and the P181.386 million Marawi Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Program.

Agency records showed only P586.106 million has been disbursed from the available funding,

leaving an unreleased balance of P664.308 million.

"The slow implementation of the identified Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Funded Projects for the Yolanda affected areas and Zamboanga and Marawi City siege defeats the state policies of RA 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010," the audit team said.

Likewise, it criticized delays in LWUA's actions, saying the intention was to respond to the immediate needs of the residents in disaster-stricken areas and restore the normal supply of potable water.

Based on audit records, the national government released P77 million on January 8, 2014 to LWUA under the Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan (YRRP) for the procurement and

installation of generator sets, pumping equipment, and treatment system for affected provinces and municipalities.

As of December 31, 2021, auditors said P11.217 million remains unreleased.

"The long delay of seven years in the implementation of YRRP projects deprived the beneficiaries of much needed assistance," the COA pointed out.

Another P466 million was released to LWUA for the water supply provision under the Yolanda NHA Permanent Housing Program but, as of the yearend, P68.464 million remained untouched.

Likewise, P527.075 million was transferred by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the agency on November 16, 2015.

However, procurement problems by the Zamboanga City

Water District and failed bidding processes by the LWUA caused the project to crawl at a snail's pace so that only P85.766 million was downloaded to the ZCWD as of December 31, 2021, leaving a balance of P441.309 million.

Between 2017 and 2020, funds were turned over to the LWUA for the construction and improvement of the water supply and sewerage system in war-ravaged Marawi City.

In 2017, the agency received P38.25 million from the national government. This was followed by P41.739 million in 2018, and P101.4 million in 2020.

Of the total P181.385 million it received, only P38.068 million was utilized.

"Management informed that the delays in the implementation of the project was due to failed biddings, project site issues, and lack of signatories," the audit team said.



07-12-22

FILE:

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Chiz binasura tax sa plastic, online shopping

Mas mainam na hubulin ng gobyerno ang mga hindi pa nakokolektang buwis dahil sa korupsiyon sa halip na magpatay ng buwis sa paggamit ng plastic at pagbili online, ayon kay Senador Francis 'Chiz' Escudero.

"It's always easier to go for imposing new, or increasing whatever existing, taxes in order to raise revenues for gov't. However, this is burdensome and is not in keeping with the times (of slow economic growth, increased unemployment and rising infla-

tion)," sabi ni Escudero sa kanyang text message.

"I think the first order of business for the new Finance Secretary is to plug loopholes, clean up and make collection of existing taxes and duties by the BIR and BOC," dagdag pa ng senador, patungkol sa Bureau of Internal Revenue at Bureau of Customs.

Sa kasalukuyan ay may P200 bilyong 'uncollected taxes' ang gobyerno, sabi pa ni Escudero, dating chairman ng Senate committee on ways and means.

"With nearly P200B in

uncollected taxes lost to either corruption and/or inefficiency, this is by far more than any projected revenue of the new taxes he is mulling," ayon kay Escudero.

Una rito ay sinabi ni Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno na ang pagbuwis sa paggamit ng plastic at pagbili online ay ilan sa mga revenue measure na kinokonsiderang kanyang tenggapan.

May ilang senador naman ang pabor sa naturang panukala. (Dindo Matining)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
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The Manila Times

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PERSPECTIVE

What does it mean to be lost and damaged?

BY JOHN LEO ALGO

AS July is National Disaster Resilience Month, there has never been a better time to ask ourselves what does it mean to be lost? What does it mean to be damaged?

We have our own standards for when a person reaches either state. For some, being lost means not knowing where you are or where to go from here. It could also mean being deprived of something invaluable that can never be replaced.

Being damaged can take many forms. It can be a broken window, a dent in the bumper of a vehicle, or having the roof of your home being blown off. It can also mean emotional heartbreak, trauma from a near-death experience, or a minor injury.

Imagine that you experience some or all of these definitions within a short period of time, say a few hours. That overwhelming feeling was not imagined, but really felt by millions of people worldwide. This is not an exaggeration; just ask anybody who experienced the wrath of "Yolanda," "Ompang," "Rolly," "Ondoy," or any typhoon in the past 15 years alone.

Now, remember when your friend or relative talks about how life starts to wear you down as you get older, then you wake up one day and realize that there are things you cannot do anymore because too much time has passed.

Climate crisis

That feeling of opportunities lost or a lifestyle damaged is similar

to what families displaced from their homes due to rising sea levels or droughts are feeling, but on a much more devastating scale. These stories are becoming more common in the Philippines or anywhere else, far too common.

That is the gravity of the impacts of climate change, a crisis of our own making. To be specific, it is a crisis created largely from excessive pollution from corporations and enabled by governments of industrialized countries. This was all in the name of pursuing a concept of development that is flawed and unjust, as seen through the issues our nation is facing today.

There are usually two primary ways for dealing with the climate crisis. The first involves addressing the source of the problem: mitigating greenhouse gases emitted from human activities, especially burning fossil fuels. The second includes communities adapting to impacts already happening.

Climate action clearly remains lagging behind the speed at which our climate is changing. What happens when a community or an ecosystem reaches their limit? What happens when the economic, environmental and social impacts of this crisis become too much for them to bear? Disasters, Catastrophes.

This is the context for the issue of loss and damage (L&D), impacts and risks caused by the climate crisis that are beyond the capacities of either adaptation or mitigation. While elements of this issue have been given importance in global and national policies, the worsening impacts of the climate crisis requires for L&D in

its entirety to be elevated into an agenda as important as adaptation and mitigation.

Found or fixed

To say that the Philippines is at high risk to the climate crisis is an understatement. The nation recorded more than P506 billion in climate-related L&D for the past decade, equivalent to 0.5 percent of its gross domestic product.

To put this in another perspective, nine of the 10 most destructive typhoons in Philippine history in terms of damage to property have also occurred since 2011. For a country that is the most exposed to tropical cyclones in the world, the trend should be that costs of destruction from recent storms should be lower. Yet last December, the Category 5 typhoon, "Odette," brought about P51.8 billion worth of losses, the second-most behind the impact of Yolanda eight years before.

It can be argued that this is partially due to lapses in the country's strategies for managing climate-related disasters, and truthfully so. The case of Yolanda has placed so much emphasis on improving response to calamities that it spawned proposals for the creation of a response-focused Department of Disaster Resilience. What the national government should prioritize instead is improving programs to minimize risks to communities and ecosystems before these threats even hit, including empowered stakeholders at the local level.

Yet at the same time, expert studies have shown that the intensity of

many of these threats would likely increase, which means more L&D. As a developing country with more than 20 percent of its population below the poverty line, it would simply become more difficult for the Philippines to adapt or mitigate impacts without proper adjustments and support from other nations.

And then there is the question of how to uphold justice for those victimized by typhoons, drought and other forms of climate change. We still hear that some communities are still rebuilding year after being hit. They should be compensated for not only L&D with direct monetary value like homes and livelihoods, but also the so-called non-economic L&D which includes loss of culture and impacts on mental health.

These are only a few of the reasons why the government needs to further step up its prioritization of L&D in its national and global climate agenda. For a nation becoming more known for violence against environmental defenders, human rights abuses, and increasing reliance on the same fuels that cause the climate crisis, it is an obligation that is as unavoidable as some climate change impacts themselves.

As a wise man once said, prevention is better than cure. But in cases where L&D has already happened, the following are the words we should live by: when something is lost, it may be found. When something is damaged, it can be repaired.

John Leo is the deputy executive director for programs and campaigns of ILS, and a climate and environment journalist.



AFP – Around 2,800 firefighters were battling multiple wildfires in central and northern Portugal on Sunday amid a heatwave, prompting the government to implement a "state of contingency".

The fires have been burning in several areas since Thursday, destroying at least two homes. Nearly 250 fires were reported to have started on Friday and Saturday.

The blazes come amid an intense heatwave in Portugal, with temperatures reaching over 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) this week and expected to rise in the coming days.

Scientists say extreme weather events such as heatwaves and droughts are linked to climate change. They are expected to become even more frequent, more prolonged and more intense in the future.

On Sunday the Portuguese government issued a national "state of contingency", which puts rescue services on alert. It is above state of alert but beneath state of calamity and state of emergency.

The Civil Protection agency said some 1,500 firefighters were battling blazes in Ouren, Pombal and Carraceda de Ansiães municipalities.

"The fire got 50 metres (165 feet) from the last house in the village," pensioner Donzília Marques, from the hamlet of Travessa de Almogadel in central Portugal, told AFP.

"Up there everything burned," the 76-year-old said, pointing to the hills between her home and the town of Freixianda.

More than 700 soldiers were dispatched to the area on Sunday after the fires destroyed an estimated 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres) of vegetation, the Civil Protection agency said.

The fires have injured around 40 firefighters and civilians. Most were treated on the spot for breathing problems or exhaustion.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa cancelled a planned trip to Mozambique to keep track of the fires.

The government has asked the European Union to trigger its common civil protection mechanism, which will allow Portugal to access two water bomber planes stationed in Spain.

"We are facing an almost unprecedented meteorological situation", national civil protection commander Andre Fernandes said on Saturday.

Portugal regularly sees extreme weather this year. Extreme drought affected around 28 percent of the country in June. In May, 97 percent of the country suffered severe drought and one percent was classed as extreme.



BALKAN ACTIVISTS KEEP FIGHTING FOR EUROPE'S LAST WILD RIVERS

By SABINA NIKSIC
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina—It took a decade of court battles and street protests, but Balkan activists fighting to protect some of Europe's last wild rivers have scored an important conservation victory in Bosnia.

A new electricity law, which passed Thursday, bans the further construction of small hydroelectric power plants in the larger of Bosnia's two semi-independent entities. Still, the new law only highlights the long road ahead to protect such rivers across the entire Balkans from being degraded, diverted and commercialized by people with connections to the region's corruption-prone political elite.

"This is extraordinary. It will become the role model for other European countries. I am sure," said Ulrich Eichelmann of the Vienna-based conservation group River Watch and coordinator of the Save the Blue Heart of Europe campaign to protect the entire network of wild Balkan rivers.

Since it was launched in 2013, the campaign has brought together environmental activists, conservation groups and local people to jointly fight for protection of what it calls "one of the most important spots for European biodiversity." It says the Balkans has over 28,000 kilometers (17,400 miles) of waterways in pristine or near-natural state, with extensive gravel banks, untouched alluvial forests, deep gorges, spectacular waterfalls and even karstic underground

rivers." Overall, more than 2,700 large and small hydropower plants are projected to be built on these Balkan rivers, including some inside national parks.

Bosnia alone has 244 rivers and had plans to build over 350 hydropower plants with the installed capacity of up to 10 mW—or more than one on every waterway.

"This whole business with small hydropower plants began some 15 years ago when investors started visiting villages and promising prosperity to the local people," explained Lejla Kusturica, a prominent Bosnian river conservation activist.

In their telling, she added, "rivers were supposed to be purified, we were supposed to generate significant quantities of clean electricity and local communities were promised it will all benefit them greatly."

Instead, Kusturica said, investors began trapping rivers and diverting them by pipe, taking away water used daily by locals and wildlife, eroding and degrading nearby forests.

Undeterred, the authorities offered investors public subsidies and fixed above-market prices for long-term contracts, arguing that this would help Bosnia reduce its dependence on coal and speed up its transition to renewable energy.

But following a construction boom that saw 110 small hydropower plants built in Bosnia, people from across the ethnically divided country began arguing that these projects were in fact harmful for both the environment and their livelihoods.

Residents of Bosnia's riverside

villages and towns spontaneously started mobilizing against the small hydroelectric plants, documenting their destruction of nature, analyzing official statistics on their alleged economic contributions and launching court challenges against the permits authorities continued to issue for new projects.

The resistance included peaceful, at times months-long sit-in protests on roads and bridges to prevent investors and their heavy machinery from accessing the rivers. At times, local authorities used violence to disperse the activists.

Still, a grassroots river protection movement gradually captured broad popular support in Bosnia and abroad, especially after it disclosed that numerous contracts for the commercial exploitation of rivers were awarded to the politically connected.

"People stood up against investors on their rivers. They were not knowledgeable people; they were no ecological experts or scientists, they were ordinary people that live next to a river," Eichelmann said.

According to official data in Bosnia, painstakingly collected by activists, the owners of small Bosnian hydropower plants over the past decade have been raking in millions of euros in subsidies while paying minuscule concession fees, typically between 1 percent to 3 percent of their income.

In the meantime, the promised transition to renewable energy never really materialized. In 2021, Bosnia's small hydropower plants contributed only just

over 2.5 percent of the nation's electricity. The battle has been especially fierce along the Neretva River, a cool, emerald green 255-kilometer (158-mile) waterway that is a popular destination for rafters, fishermen and hikers. Before emptying into the Adriatic Sea in Croatia, the river and its tributaries run through both parts of Bosnia.

At first, stopping the commercial exploitation of Neretva and its tributaries, where 67 new small power plants were originally planned, appeared impossible. It required deep knowledge of the different and sometimes conflicting laws of Bosnia's two administrative parts.

But unlike any other issue in Bosnia since the end of its brutal 1992-1995 war, the opposition to commercial exploitation of the free-flowing rivers brought people of different ethnic backgrounds together. So far, the activists fighting for the Neretva River have stopped or delayed the construction of 56 hydropower plants.

While villagers were physically blocking access to the rivers for construction crews, teams of legal experts and scientists have been challenging those permits in the courts. In about a dozen cases, Bosnian courts said authorities had failed to uphold the requirement to consult with local communities, protect nature conservation areas and demand environmental impact studies from investors before consenting to their plans. The court said authorities also failed to properly inspect the construction and operation of the plants.



Taal alert status downgraded

The seismology bureau said that the Taal Volcano has been characterized by baseline volcanic earthquake activity

BY GAB HUMILDE VILLEGAS
@tribunephil_gab

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Monday disclosed that it has downgraded the status of Taal Volcano from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1 and while it has downgraded the alert status, the volcano is still in abnormal condition and should not be interpreted that unrest has ceased or that the threat of an eruption has disappeared.

In its bulletin, Phivolcs said that the Taal Volcano has been characterized by baseline volcanic earthquake activity, stabilizing ground deformation of the Taal Caldera and Taal Volcano Island (TVI) edifices, and weak degassing and surface activity at the Main Crater over the last two months.

The agency also recorded a decline on the daily average of volcanic earthquakes from seven events per day between January to May 2022, to zero since 13 June over the Taal Volcano Network.

"The sustained seismic quiescence for the past month indicates that degassing and rock-fracturing processes related to magmatic activity beneath TVI have abated, and that the possibilities of magma intrusion into the Main Crater have significantly decreased," Phivolcs said.

Local government units are advised to continuously assess previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest.

It recorded a short to medium-term deflation, with deflation rates in the Taal Volcano Island, particularly declining (or slowing down), and slight uplift of the western Taal Caldera through its Continuous Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring from November 2021 to April 2022 and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) monitoring from January 2021 to June 2022 using ESA Sentinel-1 data.

"Such motions have been consistent with the overall ground deformation behavior of Taal Volcano since January 2020 and broadly with post-eruptive deflation of the Taal edifice," it added.

The sulfur dioxide emissions in Taal averaged 1,214 tonnes/day between May and July 2022, with the least emission rates falling to 237 per day, saying

low concentrations are consistent with weakened degassing from magna beneath TVI and volcanic gas being efficiently absorbed by the Main Crater Lake and by Taal's recovered hydrothermal system.

Phivolcs said the surface activity has declined due to weak emission of 300- to 2,400-meter tall steam-rich plumes from fumaroles or active gas vents on the Main Crater.

The last significant activities from the Main Crater were phreatomagmatic bursts on 2 and 10 February and 26 March 2022 that respectively spewed 300- and 3,000-meter tall steam-rich plumes. Since then, background hydrothermal activity in the Main Crater Lake has been quietly transpiring.

The seismology bureau stressed that the alert level may be raised to Alert Level 2 anew if an uptrend or significant change in monitored parameters predicts renewed unrest.

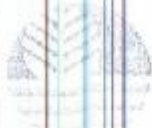
"Local government units are advised to continuously assess previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest," said Phivolcs.

"People are also advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, possible ashfall and minor earthquakes. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircrafts," it added.



TED ALIBRE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

THE Taal Volcano has been downgraded to Alert Level 1 by the seismology bureau.



07-12-22

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Bataan resident dies in landslide

BY VICTOR REYES

A 27-year-old female died after she was buried in a rain-induced landslide in Abucay, Bataan last Saturday, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported yesterday.

Citing information from the field, NDRRMC information officer Lasha Mariano said the incident occurred in Sitio Labangan, Purok Hacienda, Barangay Gabon in Abucay town.

Mariano said the victim's father discovered their house buried in mud at around 7 a.m. last Saturday and promptly sought assistance.

Search and rescue teams later recovered the body of the victim and brought it to the Jumong Funeral Services in Barangay Capitangan, also in Abucay town.

"We received an initial report sent by our regional counterpart that there is one reported dead, subject for verification, from the landslide incident," said Mariano.

Mariano declined to name the victim, pending validation by local authorities. But police officials identified the fatality as Roselyn Dela Cruz.

Officials said the soil in the area was softened by heavy rains since Friday, causing the landslide.



PHOTO

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SLOWEST PACE SINCE 1950

WORLD POPULATION TO HIT 8 BILLION THIS YEAR, SAYS UN

UNITED NATIONS—The world's population is expected to reach 8 billion on Nov. 15, the United Nations forecast on Monday, in a report that said India will surpass China as the most populous country on earth in 2023.

That overall population milestone "is a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for our planet, and a moment

to reflect on where we still fall short of our commitments to one another," secretary general Antonio Guterres said, without citing specifics.

"This is an occasion to celebrate our diversity, recognize our common humanity and marvel at advancements in health that have extended life spans and dramatically reduced maternal and child mortality rates," he added.

The forecast by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the world's population is growing at its slowest pace since 1950.

Rise in 8 countries

It should hit 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050, peaking at around 10.4 billion people in the 2080s before steadying at that level until 2100.

While a net drop in birth rates is observed in several developing countries, more than half of the rise forecast in the world's population in the coming decades will be concentrated in eight countries, the report said.

It said they are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania. —AP



GETTING TIGHTER

People cram in London's Granary Square on Sunday to watch the Wimbledon men's singles final tennis match on a giant screen. The UN said eight billion people would pack the earth by Nov. 15 this year.

—REUTERS

12 JULY 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Daily average of Covid-19 cases from July 4-10 up by 39%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [July 11, 2022, 5:37 pm](#)



MANILA – The country's daily average of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases went up by 39 percent from July 4 to 10, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Monday.

From 1,057 per day from June 27 to July 3, the number of Covid-19 cases reached 1,467 daily from July 4 to 10.

The latest case bulletin showed that there were 10,271 new cases and 50 verified deaths in the recent week.

For the same period, 27 cases were added to the tally of severe and critical infections, which went up to 555 from the previous week's 497.

Only 17 percent or 411 out of the 2,414 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are in use, while 22.7 percent or 4,863 of 21,424 non-ICU beds are utilized.

To date, about 71,055,752 or 78.95 percent of the country's target population (90,005,357) are vaccinated against Covid-19, including 77.72 percent of 8,721,357 senior citizens.

As of July 10, a total of 15,342,652 have received booster shots out of the total 71,055,752 who are fully vaccinated. **(PNA)**



OCTA: COVID-19 positivity rate in Metro Manila at 10.9%

Philstar.com July 11, 2022 | 2:30pm



A street vendor wearing an umbrella hat prepares snacks for sale in Quiapo, Manila on July 5, 2022.

AFP / Jam Sta. Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — The COVID-19 positivity rate in Metro Manila increased to 10.9%, exceeding the threshold set by the World Health Organization, OCTA Research reported.

Latest data from the research firm showed that 10.9% or one in every 10 COVID-19 tests done in the capital region yielded positive results, up from 8.3% on July 2.

The WHO recommends that the proportion of COVID-19 tests coming back positive should remain below 5% to ensure that the spread of the coronavirus is under control.

Data from OCTA Research also showed that the positivity rate in Aklan rose to 26.9% from 21%.

Other areas with positivity rates surpassing 10% were Antique (17.8%), Batangas (11.3%), Capiz (18.8%), Cavite (14.9%), Iloilo (11%), Isabela (10.3%), Laguna (18.2%), Nueva Ecija (14%), Pampanga (16.5%), Rizal (16.6%), and Tarlac (16.7%).

‘Good indicators’

Meanwhile, the healthcare utilization rate in Metro Manila was 28.4%, classified as “low.”

In an interview with state broadcaster People’s Television, OCTA Research fellow Guido David said the capital region’s reproduction rate—or the number of people a person positive for COVID-19 can infect—decreased to 1.49 from 1.6. Ideally, the figure should be less than one.

The average daily attack rate in Metro Manila was 4.5, which is considered low, according to David.

“These are good indicators. Actually not only in the National Capital Region, but also in the rest of the Philippines. Most areas have hospital utilization rates below 50%,” he said in Filipino.

OCTA Research projected that cases in Metro Manila, which is home to more than 13 million people, may peak at around 1,000 to 2,000 cases per day by mid- or late July.

Authorities said the presence of fast-spreading COVID-19 variants, increased mobility, and waning vaccine immunity are fueling the renewed increase in cases. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/11/2194612/octa-covid-19-positivity-rate-metro-manila-109>



Lifting of mask mandate depends on Covid-19 metrics

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 11, 2022, 5:15 pm



(Photo courtesy of QC government Facebook page)

MANILA – The lifting of the face mask mandate depends on Covid-19 metrics monitored nationwide, an infectious diseases expert said Monday.

In a televised public briefing, Dr. Rontgene Solante said the healthcare utilization rate is one of the factors being considered regarding the mandatory wearing of face masks.

“So, *ibig sabihin kapag hindi pa ganun kataas ang healthcare utilization rate, like less than 50 percent, pwede tayong mag-optional sa mask* (So, if the healthcare utilization rate, like less than 50 percent, we can go optional on the mask),” he said.

However, the government would not allow the discontinuation of face mask use if the average daily attack rate goes up, he added.

Earlier, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said the government may consider wearing face masks optional if it is clearly safe.

“*Kung magtatanggal man tayo ng mandate sa face mask, unang matatanggal diyan o magiging optional ang pagsusuot ng mask sa outdoor na because of the risk for the indoor* (If we forgo the face mask mandate, the first to be affected, or become optional, is the wearing of face mask outdoors because of the risk for the indoor),” Solante said.

“So far, at this point, *talagang we have to monitor especially now tumataas pa ang positivity rate although stable naman ang healthcare utilization rate* (we really have to monitor especially now the positivity rate is going up although the healthcare utilization rate is stable),” he added.

As of July 9, the positivity rate in the National Capital Region is at 10.9 percent from last week’s 8.3 percent.

Other areas with positivity rate over 10 percent include Aklan at 26.9 percent; Antique, 17.8 percent; Batangas, 11.3 percent; Capiz, 18.8 percent; Cavite, 14.9 percent; Iloilo, 11 percent; Isabela, 10.3 percent; Laguna, 18.2 percent; Nueva Ecija, 14 percent; Pampanga, 16.5 percent; Rizal, 16.6 percent; and Tarlac, 16.7 percent. **(PNA)**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

July 11, 2022

Official DOHgov
@DOHgovph

Healthcare Utilization

(as of July 10, 2022)

22.7%
Non-ICU Bed Utilization
4,863 out of 21,424 non-ICU beds used

17.0%
ICU Bed Utilization
411 out of 2,414 ICU beds used

555
Severe and Critical Admissions
8.7% of total COVID-19 admissions

Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of July 10, 2022)

78.95%
% Coverage of Target Population*

77.72%
% Coverage of Target A2 Population**

Fully Vaccinated Individuals
71,055,752
+697,115 vaccinated on Jul 4 to Jul 10
Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose
15,342,652
+394,872 vaccinated on Jul 4 to Jul 10

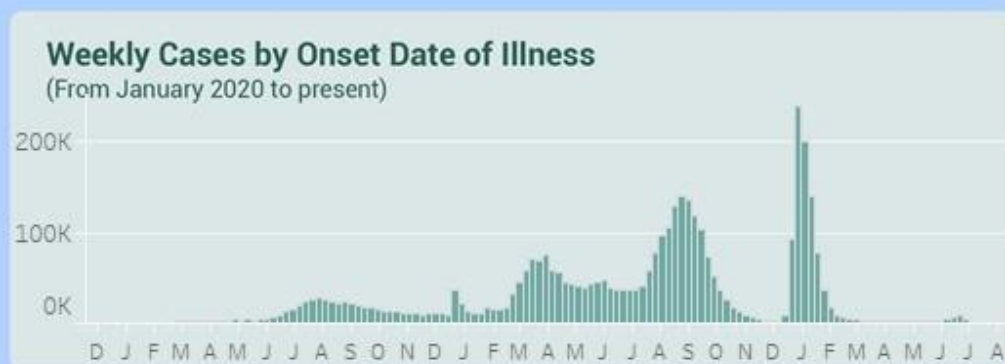
(added on Jul 4 to Jul 10)



COVID-19 Cases

(as of July 10, 2022)

New Cases
+10,271
Daily Average Cases = 1,467
(39% higher than cases on Jun 27 to Jul 3)
Severe and Critical Cases **+27**
(0.27% of new cases)
Deaths Verified During The Past Week **+50**
(0 deaths occurred on Jun 27 to Jul 10)



*Target population refers to 80% of the total population (90,005,357 individuals)
**Target A2 population refers to 85% of the total Senior Citizen population (8,721,357 individuals)

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

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• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

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12 JULY 2022, TUESDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

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