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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PBBM nominates Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR Secretary

July 12, 2022, 3:01 pm



MANILA - Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on Tuesday announced the nomination of Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents,” Angeles said.

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She was also the Manila Observatory’s executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also on the Senior Advisory Board of the AFP’s Command and General Staff College.

On Monday, Angeles said Atty. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla has been nominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as the secretary of the Department of Energy “pending the clarification of his employment status.”

Lotilla is currently an independent director of Aboitiz Power and the power firm ENEXOR.

Angeles said Section 8 of Republic Act 7638 or the Act Creating the Department of Energy provides that “No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two (2) years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom.”

“Thus while the matter is reviewed to determine whether an independent director is considered an officer of the company, Lotilla is considered a nominee,” Angeles said.

Lotilla was Energy Secretary under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from 2005-2007. He was also Deputy Director General of the National Economic Development Authority.



Lotilla was also President of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation or PSALM, the government corporation tasked to manage the privatization of power generation assets, independent power producers contracts and other non-power assets, including the management of financial obligations and stranded contract costs of the state-owned National Power Corporation. **(OPS)**



Bongbong Marcos nominates Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR secretary

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:38 PM July 12, 2022



Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga. Image from the National Resilience Council website

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has nominated Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Palace announced Tuesday.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles made the announcement, but with a caveat that Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination is still subject to the fulfillment of required documents.

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents," Cruz-Angeles said in a statement.

Yulo-Loyzaga previously served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she worked to advance more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She also served as technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and was a part of the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College.

Marcos has yet to announce his selection for the secretary's posts for the Department of Health, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

The status of Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment is similar to that of [Raphael Lotilla](#), whose nomination as the next Energy secretary was announced by the Palace on Monday.

EDV

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1626597/bongbong-marcos-nominates-toni-yulo-loyzaga-as-denr-secretary?utm_source=gallery&utm_medium=direct



The #MarcosCabinet: Marcos nominates Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR Secretary

Published July 12, 2022, 3:46 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has nominated Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Ma. Antonia ‘Toni’ Yulo-Loyzaga (Screengrab from NDRRMC)

Marcos announced the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga to the post on Tuesday, July 12.

“Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents,” Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said.

Yulo-Loyzaga was the chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She served as the Executive Director of the Manila Observatory for nine years and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

She is also a member of the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College.

Yulo-Loyzaga also serves as the President of National Resilience Council, a science and technology-based public-private partnership that supports government, communities, the academe, and the private sector in advancing the intersecting goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)’s Making Cities Resilient Campaign.



Marcos nominate Toni Loyzaga as DENR head



MANILA. Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga. (Photo from romulofoundation.org)

THIRD ANNE PERALTA-MALONZO

July 12, 2022

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has nominated Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Angeles said Loyzaga's nomination is subject to the "fulfillment of required documents."

Loyzaga was the chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila observatory and an executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

She is also on the senior advisory board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' command and general staff college. **(SunStar Philippines)**



Marcos nominates Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

Published July 12, 2022 3:16pm

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has nominated Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

This was announced by Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on Tuesday.

“The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia ‘Toni’ Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents,” Angeles said in a statement.

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she campaigned for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She also served as the Manila Observatory’s executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. — **RSJ, GMA News**



Marcos picks Toni Yulo-Loyzaga to lead DENR

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 12, 2022 | 3:24pm



Photo from National Resilience Council shows Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga
National Resilience Council

MANILA, Philippines (Updated 5:13 p.m.) — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. picked disaster resilience expert Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles confirmed Tuesday the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga.

Yulo-Loyzaga is the president of the National Resilience Council, which commits to building a resilient Philippines using science and technology-based public-private partnerships.

She was also a former executive director of research institute Manila Observatory.

According to Cruz-Angeles, the nomination of Yulo-Gonzaga "will still be subject to the fulfilment of required documents."

Days before he stepped down from office, President Rodrigo Duterte named Joselin Marcus Fragada as the officer-in-charge of the DENR. He replaced Jim Sampulna who was also appointed in a caretaker capacity.

Last month, various organizations said the next environment secretary should bring transformative changes to the agency mandated to manage the country's natural resources and ensure a healthful ecology for Filipinos.

"More than being a regulator or bureaucrat, the environment secretary must be a fierce, progressive, and passionate champion of the conservation of forests and biodiversity, the protection of environment defenders, and the enforcement of environmental laws, over and above the interests of a few," they said.

'Best' choice

Yulo-Loyzaga will inherit the task of protecting and conserving the country's rich ecosystem and natural resources threatened by illegal activities and development projects.

Restoring and protecting nature is one of the best strategies to tackle climate change.

As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines is one the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts such as strong cyclones, flooding and sea level rise, which disproportionately affect the poor.



Tony La Viña, associate director for climate policy and international relations of Manila Observatory, lauded the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga, calling her the best choice for the position.

"She combines a strong grounding in the natural and social sciences with an understanding of the business sector and urban poor communities in urban and rural areas, and sustainable development challenges," La Viña said.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment is hopeful that the prospective environment secretary will take urgent climate action based on the global frameworks and standards on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

But Alyansa Tigil Mina said it welcomes the appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga with cautious optimism.

"This is her first political appointment and she might face serious challenges in facing the vested corporate interests that want to influence DENR policies, especially on mining and [Environmental Impact Assessments] of projects," ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said.

In 2017, the powerful Commission on Appointments rejected the ad interim appointment of environment chief Gina Lopez.

Lopez, who died in August 2019, was considered a champion of environmental conservation.

Environment and its defenders at risk

The Duterte administration prides itself in rehabilitating Boracay island and cleaning up Manila Bay. But it was criticized for creating an artificial white sand beach made from crushed dolomite rocks, which scientists and groups called an expensive and temporary effort that will not solve the bay's problems.

Groups also criticized the administration for greenlighting projects that will harm the environment and communities such as the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan, the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province, and the Pasig River Expressway in the capital region.

In December 2021, the Duterte government lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining in a bid to bring more money into the Philippines after the economic slowdown brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also lifted a nine-year-old ban on new mining agreements in April of the same year.

Kalikasan PNE urged Yulo-Loyzaga to stand against various policy reversals on mining undertaken by the previous administration, and impose an omnibus moratorium on all extractive and destructive projects that have not undergone honest-to-goodness environmental due diligence.

Green groups fear that the vilification of and attacks against climate and environmental activists will worsen under the new administration. The Philippines has been consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous countries for environmental and land defenders.

"She must stand with the indigenous people, small farmers, park rangers, sea wardens, and active citizens who have suffered harassment, red-tagging, and deadly attacks for standing up for the environment," Kalikasan PNE said.



Marcos Jr. picks Yulo-Loyzaga to be next DENR secretary

The President has officially nominated Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga, wife of former professional basketball player Joaquin “Chito” Loyzaga, as the next head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

BYSAMUEL P. MEDENILLA JULY 12, 2022



[National Resilience Council/Zuellig Family Foundation](#)

Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. is eyeing to appoint a research and climate change resilience advocate to become the next head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Press Secretary Beatrix “Trixie” Cruz-Angeles on Tuesday announced the President has officially nominated Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga, wife of former professional basketball player Joaquin “Chito” Loyzaga, for the said position.

“Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents,” Angeles said in a news statement.

She said Loyzaga advocated for “more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience” during her stint as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, a Jesuit scientific research institute.

Loyzaga is currently affiliated with the Manila Observatory as part of its board of trustees, according to the institute’s web site.

She also served as the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines’s (AFP) Command and General Staff College.

Once officially appointed, Loyzaga will be tasked to address the environment-related agenda of Marcos Jr., which includes ensuring local mining operations will be “clean.”

The President wants to boost government revenue from locally mined ore before the said raw materials are exported.

Loyzaga was the second Cabinet nominee announced by Marcos Jr. this week after Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla, who is being considered to become the secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE).

Marcos Jr. has yet to complete the members of his Cabinet. Among the departments that still have no secretaries are the Department of Health and the Department of Science and Technology.

Image credits: [National Resilience Council/Zuellig Family Foundation](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/12/marcos-jr-picks-yulo-loyzaga-to-be-next-denr-secretary/>



BBM picks Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 12, 2022 3:43:18 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 12) — President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. nominated Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as his Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary, it was confirmed by Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on Tuesday.

In a statement, Cruz-Angeles said Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination will "still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents."

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She was also the Manila Observatory's executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also part of the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College.



Marcos picks Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as next DENR chief

Christhel Cuazon
12 July 2022

Maria Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga has been nominated by President Ferdinand Marcos to be the next chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Palace announced Tuesday.

In a statement, Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination will "still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents."

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents," Cruz-Angeles said in a statement.

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She also previously served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory.



Pangulong Marcos may napili nang DENR secretary

[Gemma Garcia](#) - Pang-masa July 13, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinili ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., ang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

Ito ang inanunsyo ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles na kung saan ang bagong kalihim ng DENR ay naging chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong nito ang scientific research tungkol sa climate and disaster resilient at na-ging technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay Senior Advisory Board ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Command at General Staff College.



Scientist named DENR chief

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star July 13, 2022 | 12:00am



Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga.
STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — An academe and known advocate of disaster risk resilience is President Marcos' choice for environment chief.

Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga, former executive director of the Manila Observatory and technical adviser to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, has been picked by the President to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced yesterday.

"Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents," Angeles said in a statement.

Angeles said Loyzaga, as chair of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

In its website, the Manila Observatory described itself as a Jesuit scientific research institution with research work in the fields of atmospheric and earth science in the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region.

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, meanwhile, is an alliance of businesses that seeks to enhance the disaster management capabilities of the private sector.

The incoming environment secretary is also on the senior advisory board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College.

In a previous Facebook post, the Office of Civil Defense said Loyzaga has extensive experience and involvement in disaster risk reduction management in various organizations, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's Global Science and Technology Advisory Group and its regional counterpart, the Asia Pacific Science and Technology Academia Advisory Group.

She was also a trustee of the Ateneo de Manila University, a member of the science department's committee on space technology applications and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization National Commission's Committee on Science and Technology.

In 2013, the military gave Loyzaga a special recognition for her contributions to the emergency disaster response operations during Super Typhoon Yolanda.



The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), comprising large-scale metallic minerals development companies, welcomed Yulo's nomination.

COMP said it looks forward to working with her in fulfilling President Marcos' thrust of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection under his administration.

"We are prepared to work with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals and climate change protection," COMP chairman Michael Toledo said in a statement.

"Our sector eagerly anticipates a meaningful engagement with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga as well as the members of the government's economic team led by Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno, who has said that mining will be accelerated under the Marcos administration to help buttress the country's post-pandemic recovery initiatives," he said.

The group said it would continue to foster and promote responsible minerals development in the country.

"Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga can count on our full support in weeding out illegal miners and curtailing irresponsible mining practices, which have tarnished the reputation of our industry for so long," Toledo said.

Cautiously optimistic

Alyansa Tigil Mina said they are cautiously optimistic with the nomination of Loyzaga as DENR secretary.

"With her experience as executive director of Manila Observatory in Ateneo de Manila University, we expect her to use and rely more on science-based analysis to decide on environmental policies and practices at the DENR," ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said.

"On the other hand, this is her first political appointment and she might face serious challenges in facing the vested corporate interests that want to influence DENR policies, especially on mining and EIA of projects," he said.

If appointed, Loyzaga's choices for undersecretaries for senior management would bare the kind and direction of environment policies that she would prioritize.

"It will be interesting to see how her science-based background will respond to the clamor of the economic team for more mining projects, that environment science says will increase our risks and vulnerabilities to climate impacts," Garganera said.

Overall, Marcos' choices for his Cabinet secretaries were laudable and enough to give more confidence to the business community.

"President Marcos' appointment of technocrats and experts to Cabinet posts is a welcome development on the part of PCCI, most especially in the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Finance, National Economic Development Authority, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)," Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) vice president for Industry Affairs Perry Ferrer said at a briefing yesterday.

Marcos' Cabinet secretaries include Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe Medalla, Trade Secretary Alfredo Pasua and DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy.



On Monday, Malacañang announced the nomination of Raphael Lotilla as chief of the Department of Energy (DOE).

“PCCI sends the appointed Cabinet members our most heartfelt congratulations and we assure you that our organization is looking forward to working with you,” Ferrer said.

PCCI president George Barcelon said he expects the Cabinet officials to come up with long-term plans for their respective sectors.

Meanwhile, Department of Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla said they would study rules of the Philippine Competition Commission as well as provisions of Republic Act 7638, or the law that created the DOE, to determine the legality of Lotilla’s nomination.

After Malacañang’s announcement of its nomination of Lotilla, Angeles clarified that his employment status in a company engaged in the energy sector is still being checked.

Angeles said that Lotilla is currently an independent director of Aboitiz Power and Enexor BioEnergy.

Section 8 of Republic Act 7638 states: “No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as secretary within two years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom.”

Lotilla was DOE chief from 2005 to 2007, during the Arroyo administration. – **Danessa Rivera, Catherine Talavera, Evelyn Macairan**



BBM taps environment scientist for DENR post

by [Vince Lopez](#), [Rev E. Requejo](#) and 1 others [July 13, 2022, 12:50 am](#)

The President has nominated Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as the secretary of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Palace said Tuesday.



Toni Yulo-Loyzaga

But Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said her nomination as DENR chief “will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents.”

In a statement, Masungi Georeserve said it supports Yulo-Loyzaga’s nomination given her background in disaster resilience and environment studies.

“We recognize her invaluable leadership as a former Executive Director of the Manila Observatory (MO). After typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed’s deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities,” the organization said.

“The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people. We are hopeful that the new Secretary will share our vision and those of many others, to make Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed free from quarry interests and other intrusive developments,” Masungi added.

Before her appointment, Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, where she advocated more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

Yulo-Loyzaga was also the Manila Observatory’s executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. She is also on the Senior Advisory Board of the AFP’s Command and General Staff College.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla on Tuesday said the Department of Justice will inquire into the legal issues surrounding the possible appointment of Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla as the next secretary of Energy.

Remulla made the statement when asked if there will be legal obstacles to Lotilla’s appointment, considering his position as the independent director of Aboitiz Power and Exenor.

Remulla said they would have to study the Philippine Competition Commission rules and the DOE law of 1992.



Cruz-Angeles Lotilla's appointment would depend on clarification of his employment status as an independent director.

She cited Section 8 of RA 7638 or the Act Creating the Department of Energy which provides, "No officer, external auditor, accountant, or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two (2) years from his retirement, resignation, or separation therefrom."

Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra said the issue will be discussed internally for now.

Lotilla first served as Energy secretary from 2005 to 2007 during the term of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian said he believed Lotilla should be allowed to sit as the next DOE chief, because the law prohibits an officer from an energy company—which can be viewed as someone with direct management responsibilities—from being appointed.

He noted Lotilla did not have any direct management responsibilities in the companies mentioned.

The chairman of the House of Representatives committee on ways and means, meanwhile, welcomed Lotilla's appointment.

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda of Albay, the panel's chairperson, said that Lotilla "is among the strongest appointments" that President Marcos has made, and "quite likely the best appointment he could have made for DOE."

He recalled that he worked closely with Lotilla during the Arroyo administration, and said that thanks to Lotilla, the power sector "is no longer the financial wreck that decades of neglect turned it into."



Environment secretary named

Published 6 hours ago on July 13, 2022 12:05 AM

By [Michelle R. Guillang @tribunephil_mish](#)



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s Cabinet is almost complete after Malacañang announced on Tuesday the nomination of Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as environment secretary.

“The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources,” said Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles.

“Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents,” she noted.

Yulo-Loyzaga currently serves as the president of the National Resilience Council.

From 2007 to 2016, she worked as the executive director of the Manila Observatory.

The new DENR chief was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She also served as the technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and the Senior Advisory Board of the AFP’s Command and General Staff College.

Yulo-Loyzaga took her Master’s degree in government studies at Georgetown University in Washington, United States.

During the presidential campaign, Marcos vowed to institute programs that would “balance” economic gains and protection of the environment.

Marcos is pushing for the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience, which he said should look at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an effective model of disaster resilience that integrates many other agencies.

The President vowed to promote reforestation and push for stricter anti-illegal logging laws during his campaign.

He added that he plans to develop a comprehensive internet-based Disaster Risk Information Roadmap as part of his program to protect the general population and environment from the onslaught of natural calamities.



Marcos wants to replicate and use as a model the United Nation Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) system.

Under the program, UNDRR would have comprehensive information on all dimensions of disaster risk, including hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, related to persons, communities, organizations, countries and their assets.

Aside from this, Marcos eyes to establish the Department of Water and Resources Management to make sure that clean and potable water is available to all Filipinos.

The Chief Executive has yet to name secretaries for Health and Science and Technology departments.

Malacañang has clarified lawyer Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla's nomination to lead the Department of Energy (DoE).

Lotilla's nomination clarified

Meanwhile, Malacañang has clarified lawyer Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla's nomination to lead the DoE.

In a statement, Angeles said Lotilla is the "personal choice" of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., but his appointment is still pending.

Angeles cited Section 8 of Republic Act 7638 or the Act Creating the DoE, which provides that: "No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom."

"Thus while the matter is reviewed to determine whether an independent director is considered an officer of the company, Lotilla is considered a nominee," said Angeles, a lawyer.

Currently, Lotilla is an independent director of Aboitiz Power and the power firm ENEXOR.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda noted, however, that independent directors (ID) are not "officers" of a company.

"By definition, an ID is a person other than an officer or employee of the corporation," he told in a message to reporters.

Salceda said that Lotilla "is among the strongest appointments PBBM has made and is quite likely the best appointment he could have made for DoE."



Toni Yulo-Loyzaga named as new DENR Secretary

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 12 2022 03:20 PM | Updated as of Jul 12 2022 06:52 PM



National Resilience Council/Zuellig Family Foundation

MANILA (2nd UPDATE) — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as the next Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Palace said on Tuesday.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said Loyzaga's nomination as the next DENR chief "will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents."

Loyzaga was the executive director of the Manila Observatory, and the chairperson of its International Advisory Board. She also served as the technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

She is also part of the AFP's Command and General Staff College's senior advisory board.

The DENR earlier said that the agency will urge the new President to continue the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay, two coastal areas that former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu focused on.

Cimatu stepped down as DENR chief in February due to health reasons. He has since been replaced by two officers-in-charge, with the [most recent appointment](#) made by former President Rodrigo Duterte days before he steps down from office.

'HOPEFUL'

In a statement, Masungi Georeserve said it supports Loyzaga's nomination as the next environment chief given her background in disaster resilience and track record in environment studies.

The nature reserve in Rizal is a [subject of harassments](#) and encroachment despite being a protected landscape.

"We recognize her invaluable leadership as a former Executive Director of the Manila Observatory (MO). After typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed's deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities," Masungi said.

"The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people. We are hopeful that the new Secretary will share our vision and those of many others, to make Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed free from quarry interests and other intrusive developments," the organization added.



Earlier this year, Marcos said the Philippines should take advantage of its mineral resources, noting that he is open to "sustainable" mining, but is wary about open-pit mining operations.

"Ang laki ng ating mga natural resources dito sa Pilipinas. Dapat siguro lalo na in these difficult times, we should take advantage of that," Marcos said in an earlier interview.

"However, we have seen some of the disasters that have happened when it comes to mining, ay kailangan natin talagang iwasan yan," he said.

(We have a lot of natural resources in the Philippines. We should, especially in these difficult times, we should take advantage of that. However, we have seen some of the disasters that have happened when it comes to mining, we need to really avoid those.)



ENVIRONMENT CHIEF | Marcos names disaster resilience expert as environment secretary

July 12, 2022 , 05:55 PM

By Clarist Zablan

(July 12, 2022) – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has named a disaster resilience expert as the head of the environment department, the press secretary said on Tuesday as the leader seeks to complete the members of the Cabinet.

Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga, the former head of an international advisory board of the Manila Observatory, a non-profit research institute based in the Ateneo de Manila University, was nominated secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Trixie Angeles announced in a press release.

Loyzaga has been working to advance scientific research in climate and disaster resilience through research collaboration and public-private partnerships and is the technical adviser to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Her appointment is still subject to the “fulfillment of required documents,” said Angeles.

Yulo-Loyzaga has not yet issued a statement on the announcement as of writing.

Yulo-Loyzaga is the president of the National Resilience Council (NRC), a science and technology-based public-private partnership that advocates for addressing the challenges of disaster risks, according to its official site.

Alyansa Tigil Mina, a coalition of groups that oppose large-scale mining operations in the country, said the group is “cautiously optimistic” with her appointment, expecting her to rely on science in deciding on environmental policies while facing challenges in the face of corporate interests.

“It will be interesting to see how her science-based background will respond to the clamor of the economic team for more mining projects that Envi science says will increase our risks and vulnerabilities to climate impacts,” the coalition said in a statement.

Public policy think tank Infracore said they are looking forward to Yulo-Loyzaga to bring forward an environment agenda that is “grounded on the needs of the people, environment and the planet.”

In his inaugural speech, Marcos Jr. promised to seek out partners to help the Philippines deal with the climate crisis. The country is considered one of the most vulnerable in the world to the crisis as global warming heightens the frequency of more powerful, deadlier typhoons.

The president has yet to appoint secretaries for the department of health and science and technology as of writing.

Last Monday, former energy secretary [Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla](#) was nominated to his old post, but Angeles clarified that his nomination is still pending “clarification of his employment status” as independent director of energy companies Aboitiz Power and ENEXOR.

(MM)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/environment-chief-marcos-names-disaster-resilience-expert-as-environment-secretary?fbclid=IwAR0DEtAriZPh3d15MRhsMJCpEaYMVU0-nmbYjfl61eyrq2SftM2J7xiCOco>



Loyzaga, itinalagang DENR chief

By [Gemma Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 13, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nagtalaga na si Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ng bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa anunsyo ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, hinirang ni Marcos si Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng DENR.

Ayon kay Angeles, ang bagong kalihim ng DENR ay naging chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong niya ang scientific research tungkol sa climate and disaster resilient at naging technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay Senior Advisory Board ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Command at General Staff College.

Kaya habang hindi pa niya nakukumpleto ang kanyang mga dokumento ay nananatili siyang nominado ng DENR.



MB Daily News Update: Yulo-Loyzaga is next DENR chief

Published July 12, 2022, 4:55 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

In a bid to fill more vacancies in his Cabinet, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. nominated Ma. Antonia “Maritoni” Yulo-Loyzaga as the next Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary, even as it reviewed the designation of Raphael Lotilla as Energy Secretary.

Despite the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases the past week, the country remains at low-risk, according to the Department of Health (DOH). This, as the OCTA Research Group said the recent mild surge in cases in Metro Manila may be starting to plateau as the growth rate starts to slow down.

A recent Pulse Asia survey showed that Filipinos would want the new government to focus on controlling inflation and increasing wages.

These are among the top stories this Tuesday afternoon, July 12, 2022.



VIRTUAL MEETING – Members of the Cabinet listen to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as he speaks during a Cabinet meeting held through teleconferencing at the Presidential Guest House in Malacañang on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. (Photo from the Office of the President)



ONE News 11h

"Cautiously optimistic"

Some environmental groups are cautiously optimistic with the appointment of Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as the next environment chief.

Alyansa Tigil Mina hopes she would use science-based analysis to make her decisions, given her work in the Manila Observatory.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines also welcomes the appointment as they look forward to working on disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection.

The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment though is hoping she will impose a moratorium "on all extractive and destructive projects that have not undergone honest-to-goodness environmental due diligence."

"Pundits have noted that Sec. Toni is a cousin of First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos. We hope this does not become an obstruction to the Ignatian values and scientific imperatives expected of her by the scientific, environmental, and climate advocacy communities," the group added.

one news **MARCOS NOMINEE**

ANTONIA 'TONI' YULO-LOYZAGA
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- CHAIRPERSON, MANILA OBSERVATORY INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
- FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MANILA OBSERVATORY
- SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, AFP COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE
- TECHNICAL ADVISER, PHILIPPINE DISASTER RESILIENCE FOUNDATION
- MEMBER, UNISDR ASIA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIA ADVISORY GROUP (SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION)
- MA IN GOVERNMENT, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

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Philippine Star

11h

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on Tuesday said that President Ferdinand "Bonbong" Marcos Jr. is fully supportive of proposals to review the country's education curriculum in basic and tertiary levels to address the existing job mismatch. | via Helen Flores

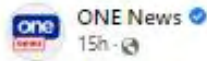


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New environment secretary

Pres. Bongbong Marcos nominates Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as the new chief of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, according to Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles.

Yulo-Loyzaga was the chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory. She is also the Manila Observatory's executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. (via #MoJo/Julie Baiza)



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DWIZ 882

15h · 🌐

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JUST IN: Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles inanunsiyo ang nominasyon ni Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). | via Philippine News Agency

See Translation



  311

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 News5
9m · 🌐

Supportado ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation ang nominasyon kay Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga bilang Environment secretary.

"We recognize her invaluable leadership as a former Executive Director of the Manila Observatory (MO). After typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed's deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities. The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people. We are hopeful t... See more



MASUNGI
— GEORESERVE —

STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF "TONI" YULO-LOYZAGA AS DENR SECRETARY

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation supports the nomination of Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as Environment Secretary. We recognize her invaluable leadership as a former Executive Director of the Manila Observatory (MO). After typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed's deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities. **The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people.** We are hopeful that the new Secretary will share our vision and those of many others, to make Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed free from quarry interests and other intrusive developments.

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DENR-LMB, LRA Partnership to Ensure Hassle-Free Land Registration

by [Village Connect](#) about 14 hours ago



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Land Management Bureau (LMB), has partnered with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to ensure a more accurate and accessible land information system.

The partnership aims to relieve the transacting public of the hassles of land registration through the use of an online data linkage system.

LMB Director Emelyne V. Talabis and LRA OIC Administrator Robert Nomar V. Leyretana on June 28 led the signing of a joint memorandum order (JMO) on the Procedural Guidelines for the Registration of Patents and Plans Approved by the DENR in the Registry of Deeds, and Other Related Matters.

This is in consonance with the DENR-LRA Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2021, which prescribed the full systems linkage and land data exchange between the two agencies in relation to DENR-approved plans and DENR-issued patents submitted for registration in the Registers of Deeds.

Talabis highlighted that the new JMO will provide a more coordinated, accurate, and accessible land information system between the DENR-LMB and LRA.

It provides the protocols for land-related transactions of the DENR and LRA, such as the processing and approval of survey plans, verification of lot status, and patent issuance and registration through the integration of the data linkage systems.

Former DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus E. Fragada said the signing of the JMO is a land industry milestone as the DENR-LRA data linkage is a *“progressive step in addressing the fragmented system of land administration and management in the country for a more secure, credible, and streamlined titling processes.”*

“We have several land title-issuing authorities in the country, and these agencies have their own separate land information databases. With this fragmented setup of titling and registration, double-titling is prone to happen. This innovation will solve such problem and improve public service delivery,” Fragada said.

Through a software intermediary called Application Programming Interface (API), LMB’s Land Administration and Management System (LAMS) will communicate and exchange land information databases such as maps, survey plans, patents, and lot status with those from LRA’s Philippine Land Registration and Information System (PHILARIS) and seamlessly process land-related transactions securely.



Thus, the API will enable land processors to view land records and status in both systems, eliminating discrepancies and the current requirement for applicants to personally acquire clearances and certifications from the DENR and LRA offices.

Talabis said the implementation of the project is just a start, as the DENR-LMB and LRA are still looking at the other features of the LAMS and PHILARIS that can be linked.

"This JMO is a continuation of our journey towards a better land information system. I believe that this will lead to more reforms in the land administration management system, especially with digitization," Talabis said.

She also shared that plans for full digitization of land processes are in the works and plans for implementing electronic patents or e-patents to replace the manual judicial form.

To test the efficiency of the system linkage, implementation will be piloted in the DENR-Region 4-A, Region 7, Region 10, and National Capital Region, followed by other regions in the succeeding years.

"A real honest-to-goodness whole-of-government approach with an interagency task force that will dovetail our undertaking would be very ideal. This is only one milestone. We will not stop with a partnership with one agency. Someday, all land title-issuing agencies will be our partners," Leyretana said.



DENR-LMB, LRA tie up to ensure hassle-free land registration

July 12, 2022, 7:37 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Land Management Bureau (LMB), has partnered with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to ensure a more accurate and accessible land information system.

A statement issued by the DENR on Tuesday said the partnership aims to relieve the transacting public of the hassles of land registration through the use of an online data linkage system.

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To test the efficiency of the system linkage, implementation will be piloted in the DENR-Region 4-A, Region 7, Region 10, and National Capital Region, followed by other regions in the succeeding years. **(PR)**



Ex-DENR chief hopeful Marcos admin will give PH a stronger fight vs climate change

July 12, 2023 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Marcos administration may enhance the country's stance against climate change and global warming, a former environment chief said.

In a press statement, former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has expressed confidence that 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 present Marcos administration.

Sampulna urged President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s administration to build on the country's climate momentum to sustain the work towards a more climate-resilient Philippines.

He noted that the interest shown by President Marcos Jr. on 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.

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 added 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 of 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 percent, as well as efforts toward water resilient and secure Philippines.

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



DENR, partners seize 13K board feet of illegal logs in N. Ecija

Published on: July 12, 2022

By Carlo Lorenzo Datu

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga (PIA) -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and partner law enforcement agencies apprehended about 13,000 board feet of illegal logs in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.

This came after a composite team from DENR, Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office (NEPPO), municipal police station and Army 84th Infantry Battalion held an operation in barangays Pias and Rio Chico.

DENR Provincial Chief Gerundio Fernandez said that upon seeing operatives coming over near the area, illegal loggers immediately escaped and abandoned cut logs of Tanguile and Mayapis along the Sumacbao riverbank.

“Illegal loggers took advantage of the high level of water in Sumacbao River brought by heavy rainfalls. Confiscated logs were kept afloat and transported to the downstream of the river using balsa,” Fernandez furthered.

Apprehended products with a corresponding value of over P800,000 were brought to the municipal compound of General Tinio and NEPPO for temporary custody and safekeeping.

DENR, in collaboration with NEPPO, is in the process of filing criminal case against the identified culprits for violation of Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The agency’s forest rangers and protection officers are deployed in the area to strictly monitor potential movement of contrabands, following reports that illegal loggers may operate again to transport remaining logs through the Sumacbao River.

In a statement, DENR Regional Executive Paquito Moreno Jr. has expressed his gratitude to the Police and the Army for their significant support to efforts to curb illegal forest activities in Nueva Ecija.

“It is through their collective force and strong alliance that operations against environmental crimes have become deterrent and preventative,” he added.



This year, DENR and law enforcement partners conducted 85 operations leading to the apprehension of over P3.5-million worth of suspected illegal forest products.

Moreno reiterated the call for heightened public vigilance against environmental crimes and urged residents to immediately call authorities when they spot any incident of suspected illegal forest activities.

The public may report these concerns to the nearest DENR office in their area or contact hotline 0945-368-5303. (CLJD-PIA 3)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources and partner law enforcement agencies apprehend about 13,000 board feet of illegal logs in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija. (DENR)



Over 13K board feet of illegal logs seized in Nueva Ecija

July 12, 2022 2 min read

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – Over 13,000 board feet of illegal logs were seized in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija on Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office here said on Tuesday.

The confiscation was the result of the crackdown on illegal forest activities by a composite team from the DENR, Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office (NEPPO), General Tinio police, and the Philippine Army's 84th Infantry Battalion in barangays Pias and Rio Chico.

In his report, Gerundio Fernandez, DENR provincial office chief, said upon seeing operatives coming over near the area, illegal loggers fled and abandoned the cut logs of tanguile and mayapis along the Sumacbao riverbank.

“Illegal loggers took advantage of the high level of water in Sumacbao River brought by heavy rainfalls. Confiscated logs were kept afloat and transported downstream of the river using balsa (raft),” Fernandez said.

He said the over PHP800,000 worth of logs were brought to the municipal compound of General Tinio and NEPPO for temporary custody and safekeeping.

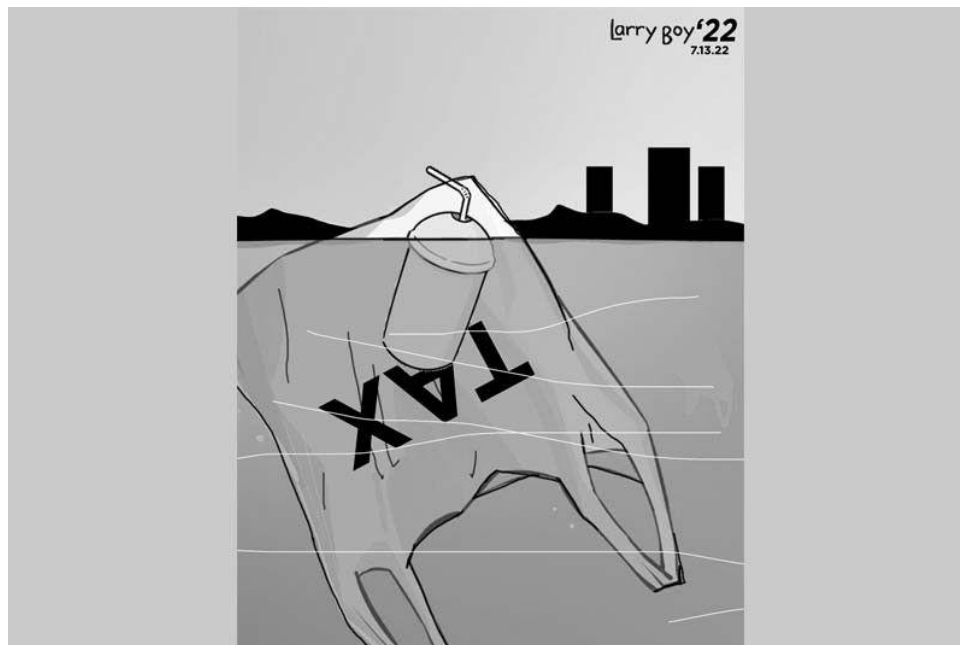
Meanwhile, DENR Regional Executive Paquito Moreno Jr. thanked the NEPPO and the Army for their significant support in the efforts of the DENR to curb illegal forest activities in Nueva Ecija.

This year, the DENR, along with said law enforcement partners, has conducted operations leading to the apprehension of over PHP3.5-million worth of suspected illegal forest products. (PNA)



EDITORIAL - Pag-tax sa single-use plastics, hindi sagot sa plastic pollution

Pang-masa July 13, 2022 | 12:00am



BALAK ng Marcos administration na buwisan ang single-use plastics para mapagkunan ng pondo. Ayon kay Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno, kikita ang pamahalaan ng karagdagang P1 bilyon taun-taon sa buwis mula sa single-use plastics. Ayon pa sa Finance secretary, hindi lamang karagdagang pondo ang idudulot ng pagbubuwis sa plastics kundi makatutulong din umano sa paglaban sa climate change.

Ayon sa World Bank, ang plastic production sa Pilipinas ay nakapag-contribute ng \$2.3 billion sa ekonomiya ng bansa noong 2018. Karaniwang ang bumibili ng mga produktong nasa single-use plastic ay mga mahihirap at middle-income na pamilya. Karaniwang nasa sachet ang mga produktong binibili. Ang problema, hindi maisaayos ang pagtatapon ng mga basurang plastic at humahantong sa karagatan. Kaya isa ang Pilipinas sa malaking contributor ng basurang plastic.

Sa inagurasyon ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. noong Hunyo 30, binanggit niya ang tungkol sa plastic pollution kung saan, ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa plastic polluter. Sinabi ni Marcos na lilinisin ang mga kalat.

Karaniwang hinahantungan ng mga plastic na basura, kabilang na ang mga single-use plastics ay ang karagatan. Karaniwang makikita ang mga basurang plastic sa mga estero, kanal, sapa at iba pang daluyan ng tubig. Nagdudulot ito nang pagbaha sapagkat hindi natutunaw. Hahantong sa dagat ang mga plastic at apektado rin ang mga lamandagat.

Kikita ang pamahalaan sa pagbubuwis sa single-use plastics subalit walang malinaw na nakikita kung paano masosolusyunan ang plastic pollution. Tiyak na patuloy ang produksiyon ng plastic kahit taasan ng buwis. Dapat magkaroon din ng kam-panya ang pamahalaan kung paano maitatapon nang maayos ang single-use plastic upang mapa-ngalagaan ang kapaligiran. Kikita nga sa buwis pero warat ang kalikasan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/07/13/2195009/editorial-pag-tax-sa-single-use-plastics-hindi-sagot-sa-plastic-pollution>



Bill declaring PH Rise a protected area will help preserve marine ecosystem—Hontiveros

Published July 12, 2022, 8:55 AM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Senator Risa Hontiveros said the measure seeking to declare a portion of the Philippine Rise—also known as the Benham Rise—as a protected area would be part of the campaign to utilize and conserve the integrity of the country's marine ecosystem.



Sen. Risa Hontiveros (Senate of the Philippines / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Hontiveros, in filing Senate Bill No. 146, said the measure seeks to add a layer of protection for the pristine habitats of the Philippine Rise—a vast seamount found in the Eastern Philippine Seaboard facing the Pacific Ocean—and establish the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve Management Board (PRMRR PAMB), which will supervise the area.

“It will also prohibit the destruction and hunting of any wildlife,” Hontiveros said in the explanatory note of the bill.

The senator noted the majority of the Philippine Rise has always been within the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). But on April 2012, the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UN-CLCS) adopted the recommendation granting additional 13 million hectares as part of the country's territory.

Under the bill, the PRMRR PAMB will not only manage the protected area but also approve policies, plans and programs, and any agreements for the management of the protected areas.

It will also be tasked to recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals who will enforce the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of the Philippine Rise.

Also under the bill, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall ensure that the PAMB will act within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict, the latter shall prevail.

The bill also includes a provision for a Special Fisheries Management Area (SFMA) within the PRMRR that would be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). The DA-BFAR shall be in charge of monitoring all the fishing activities within the SFMA.

Hontiveros' bill also seeks to prohibit acts within the PRMRR such as poaching, killing, destroying, disturbing of any wildlife within the protected area; hunting, taking, collecting, gathering or possessing of any wildlife or by-products or resources, whether living or non-living within the protected area without the necessary permit, or authorization or exemption.



The bill also prohibits the use of any fishing or harvesting gear or any practices that would harm or be detrimental to coral reefs, seagrass or seaweed beds or other marine life and associated habitats.

The mere possession of such gears within the protected area, Hontiveros said, shall already be prima facie evidence of their use.

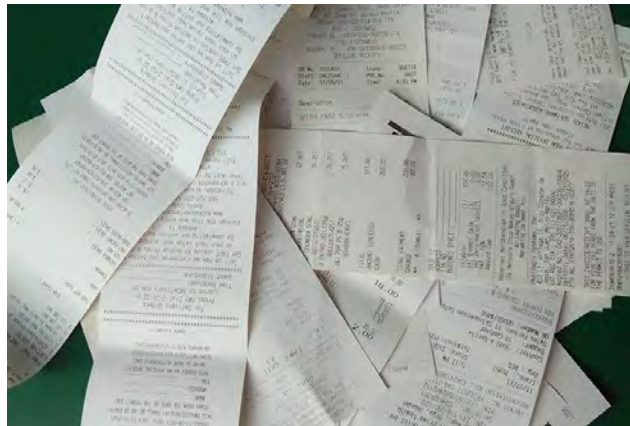
The bill also bans the dumping, throwing of any toxic chemical, noxious, or poisonous substance or non-biodegradable material, untreated sewage or animal waste products in the Philippine Rise, in compliance with Republic Act No. 6969, or the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act."

The measure also bans any move altering, or removing any boundary marks, buoys or signs in the protected area.



Envi groups flag toxic BPA, BPS in thermal paper receipts

[Jan Cuyco](#) - Philstar.com July 12, 2022 | 5:52pm



File photo of receipts.
EcoWaste Coalition/Released

MANILA, Philippines — Thermal paper receipts containing toxic chemicals may put women cashiers at greater risk for reproductive health problems, a recent study by environmental watchdogs found.

The EcoWaste Coalition and the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) found higher concentrations of Bisphenol-A (BPA) and its chemical cousin Bisphenol-S (BPS) in thermal paper receipts in select local establishments. This exceeded the European Union's limit of 0.02%.

The EcoWaste Coalition and IDIS collected at least 53 thermal receipt samples in November 2021 from various business and government establishments in the cities of Davao, Makati, Quezon, Taguig and Manila.

Of the 53 analyzed samples, 32 contained BPA with a concentration range of 0.92% to 1.86%. Meanwhile, 13 had BPS with concentrations ranging from 0.61% to 1.12%.

BPA and BPS are classified as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), or non-natural chemicals that interfere with the body's hormones resulting in health problems, especially for women cashiers and pregnant mothers.

"Cashiers who handle hundreds of thermal transaction receipts each day tend to be more exposed to these EDCs as these compounds are easily absorbed by the body through the skin," EcoWaste told **Philstar.com**.

Considered 'reproductive toxicant,' BPA and its cousin BPS have been linked to reproductive health problems such as infertility, polycystic ovarian syndrome, miscarriage, premature delivery, low birth weight and breast cancer.

"Customers are not spared. As we, humans, are exposed to other sources of bisphenols such as in food packaging, touching BPA/BPS in thermal receipts may contribute to additional exposure to these EDCs," EcoWaste added.

The groups noted that BPA was detected more in local franchise stores, small and large supermarkets, convenience stores, banks and hospitals or pharmacies. Meanwhile, BPS was more commonly used in global franchise stores.



Urgent policy needed

In their joint letter sent to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the groups called for the phase-out of BPA and BPS-laden thermal receipts from the Philippine market in a bid to reduce cashiers and customers' exposure to the toxicants.

The Philippines currently does not impose any other regulations on using BPA and BPS aside from the Food and Drug Administration's 2019 [ban](#) on BPA in infant feeding bottles and sippy cups as child care products.

"Society's inaction to address BPA/BPS in thermal paper receipts will mean continued exposure for cashiers and their customers to such a preventable source of EDC exposure," the EcoWaste Coalition said.

The groups also called on the DTI to create a national regulatory body that would restrict BPA and BPS in thermal paper receipts, following the footsteps of the European Union and Switzerland.

Since January 2020, the EU has banned the use of BPA in thermal paper from the market after the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) flagged the chemical as a "substance of very high concern." BPA has also been restricted as a substance on its own and in mixtures for commercial use in the EU since March 2018, according to the ECHA's [website](#).

Switzerland has also restricted the use of thermal paper with BPA and BPS concentrations of 0.02% or more since June 2020.

Amid the lack of regulation on thermal receipts in the Philippines, the groups advised store management to explore alternative paper receipts. Cashiers are urged to avoid marking thermal receipts with their fingernails, touching the printed side of the receipt, and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers before or after handling receipts.

They also cautioned the public, especially pregnant women, from accepting thermal paper receipts in transactions when possible. Handling thermal paper receipts should also be avoided after using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, as they could speed up the BPA absorption from receipts



ONE News 10h ·

Environmental groups claim "hidden hazards" in thermal paper receipts

EcoWaste Coalition and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability said endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) such as Bisphenol A (BPA) and its chemical cousin Bisphenol S (BPS) have been detected in thermal paper receipts collected from business and government establishments in Davao, Makati, Manila, Quezon City, and Taguig.

They cited the results of a study that showed 60%, or 32 of 53 samples, had BPA levels ranging from 0.92% to 1.86%, beyond the European Union limit of 0.02%.

"We express our concern about the plight of cashiers who touch and handle thermal paper receipts on a daily basis as this may result in high BPA/BPS exposure and cause negative health outcomes, especially for pregnant or nursing women, and women of childbearing age," they said.

The two groups said that the study was done as part of the EDC-Free Asia Project, led by the Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health with support from the Korea Financial Industry Public Interest Foundation.

Asked to comment, Trade chief Alfredo Pascual told BusinessWorld that he has yet to evaluate the two groups' proposals.

However, Pascual said that he is pushing for the use of digital receipts in the broader context of digitizing business transactions. (via BusinessWorld)

READ: <https://bit.ly/3n5eJ1s>

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THERMAL PAPER RECEIPTS, CLAIM 'HIDDEN HAZARDS' WITH EXPOSURE

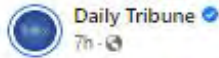
EcoWaste Coalition and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability sent a letter to the Dept. of Trade and Industry last week, calling for the phaseout of thermal paper receipts. The groups cited a study by the EDC-Free Asia Project, saying 60% of sampled receipts had levels of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) such as Bisphenol A (BPA) beyond EU limits.

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KULAY NA LANG KULANG

When kaya?

Tampok sa magazine ang islang hinirang nito bilang isa sa 50 pinakamagagandang lugar sa mundo ngayong taon.

"Paradise Reborn" ayon sa Time.

Matatandaang isa ang rehabilitasyon ng Boracay sa pamosong mga proyektong pangkalikasan at turismo ng nagdaang Duterte administration. | via Concept Central

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694

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Napasama sa listahan ng top 50 World's Greatest Places 2022 ng Time magazine ang isla ng Boracay. Sa artikulo, inilarawan ang Boracay bilang "paradise reborn."

Sa kasalukuyan ay bukas na muli ang isla para sa turismo matapos ang halos tatlong taong pandemya.

READ: bit.ly/3yynrXA

See Translation



[f](#) [t](#) Iyah Mae Espiritu, Rommel Romulo and 25K others

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Bountiful blessing from the sea



BOUNTIFUL BLESSING FROM THE SEA. Tons of mussels locally known as "tahong" greet residents of San Enrique town in Negros Occidental Monday morning, July 11. A four-kilometer stretch of the shoreline from the town's Barangay Tabao Baybay and Poblacion was engulfed by the sea's bountiful blessing washed ashore by strong waves starting Sunday night. The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO) said these mussels are safe for human consumption. In fact, locals as well as residents from nearby localities enjoyed getting the "tahong" that they can. The local government distributed some to households in far-flung areas. According to the LDRRMO of San Enrique, it's currently the season for mussel. (Elenita Amen Photo)

July 12, 2022

Tons of mussels locally known as "tahong" greet residents of San Enrique town in Negros Occidental Monday morning, July 11.

A four-kilometer stretch of the shoreline from the town's Barangay Tabao Baybay and Poblacion was engulfed by the sea's bountiful blessing washed ashore by strong waves starting Sunday night.

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The local government distributed some to households in far-flung areas. According to the LDRRMO of San Enrique, it's currently the season for mussel. **(Elenita Amen Photo)**



Matapos ang pag-ulan, todo-kayod sa paglilinis ang mga awtoridad sa Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue City partikular sa Mahiga Creek kung saan nakakolekta ng higit dalawang toneladang basura na karamiha'y plastic bottles.

Sa Cebu City naman, puspusan ang dredging at desilting sa mga ilog bukod pa sa pagbabantay kontra mga basura. (🗣️: Chairman Ernie Manatad) | via Annie Perez

BASA HIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/basura>

See Translation



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Market values are destroying nature: UN report

By MARLOWE HOOD, AFP

Published July 12, 2022 4:32pm



File photo: Karl Malakunas/ AFP

A major UN report warned Monday that a global economy focused on short-term profit is wrecking the planet and called for a drastically different approach as to how we value nature.

Without this shift, universally accepted goals of sustainable development and greater equity will remain out-of-reach, the science advisory panel for biodiversity, known as IPBES, found.

"The way we understand economic growth is at the core of the biodiversity crisis," Unai Pascual, an ecological economist at the University of Bern and co-chair of a 139-nation meeting in Bonn that approved the report, told AFP.

"The new assessment aims to bring different types of values into the decisions leading us to transformative change."

Some 80 experts combed through more than 13,000 studies, looking at how market-based values have contributed to the destruction of ecosystems that sustain us — and what other values might best foster sustainability.

A 34-page Summary for Policymakers, approved over the weekend, comes as the UN steers an international process to stem species loss and protect nature.

In December, nations gather to finalize a treaty tasked with halting the decline of biodiversity and setting humanity on a path to "live in harmony with nature" by mid-century.

"Nature is what sustains us all," commented Inger Andersen, head of the UN Environment Programme. "It gives us food, medicine, raw materials, oxygen, climate regulation and much more."

But a five-fold increase in per-capita GDP since 1950 has hurt the natural world that has made such growth possible.

A million species, including, arguably, our own — are threatened with extinction and global warming is on track to make large swathes of the planet unlivable.

'Not going to be easy'

Two landmark UN reports — one on climate change in 2018, another on biodiversity in 2019 — concluded that only a wholesale transformation of the way we produce, distribute and consume almost everything can stave off global warming and a collapse of ecosystems.



That already-Herculean task becomes nigh impossible, the IPBES report warns, unless humanity also changes the way it perceives and values nature.

"If you think of nature as a factory at your service, your emphasis will be on extracting the highest yields possible," said Patricia Balvanera, an ecologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a co-chair of the report.

Many still fear that sustainability can only be achieved at the expense of well-being, when in fact a natural world that can regenerate itself is the bedrock for healthy societies in the future, scientists say.

More nuanced valuations of nature could lead to better policy choices, the IPBES authors conclude.

A narrow cost-benefit analysis of development projects such as the Grand Renaissance Dam along Ethiopia's Blue Nile or the Mayan Train project on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula weighed the value of electricity, tourism or jobs against the cost of construction or displacing populations.

A "living from nature" perspective may even quantify the economic value of damage to ecosystems, such as a CO2 absorbing forest or wetlands, or the loss of insect populations that pollinate crops.

"If nature is part of me, part of my family, then as in a family, the priority is to take care of each other," said Balvanera. "It is a totally different mindset."

Many of the delegates and scientists in IPBES — the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services — are also part of the 196-nation Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), which has struggled to find consensus on the draft treaty to be delivered in December.

We think this values assessment can help the negotiations, politically speaking, to provide find a solution," noted Pascual, who said several delegates called it a "game-changer."

"Right now, there is a gloomy sense that this is not going to be easy at all." — **Agence France-Press**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/837872/market-values-are-destroying-nature-un-report/story/?fbclid=IwAR10RznmN9Jf12eXD2513trl3TtAIvU6aByuk5vqy_P2Yx6t5oFWFE_m_4Ik



Governments OK 2 new expert reports to address biodiversity crisis

The reports on “Sustainable Use of Wild Species” and “Values and Valuation of Nature” build directly on the results of the Global Assessment Report released in 2019 during the last meeting of #IPBES9 in Paris, which expressed the alarm on the extinction of a million species of plants and animals within decades.

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 12, 2022



[Danny Ocampo/ACB](#)

Collective actions help keep marine biodiversity vibrant and thriving. This is manifested in the corals and other sea life in the deep waters of Apo Island of the Apo Reef Natural Park off Negros Island in the Visayas.

Governments attending the 9th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (#IPBES9) in Bonn, Germany, recently approved two new expert reports to address the global biodiversity crisis.

The reports on “[Sustainable Use of Wild Species](#)” and “[Values and Valuation of Nature](#)” build directly on the results of the Global Assessment Report released in 2019 during the last meeting of IPBES in Paris, which expressed the alarm on the extinction of a million species of plants and animals within decades.

The meeting held by #IPBES9, an intergovernmental body that assesses the state of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides to society in response to requests from decision-makers, was attended by experts and representatives of almost 140 countries conferred to advance the necessary scientific evidence in addressing the biodiversity crisis.



NDRRMC: Agri damage from Ifugao flood hits P16.6 million; infra at P840K

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published July 12, 2022 5:09pm

Agricultural damage and losses in Ifugao have hit at least P16.6 million following the flashflood in several barangays last week, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The floods, induced by the Southwest Monsoon, also resulted in around P840,000 damage to infrastructure in the province, NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Timbal said at the Laging Handa briefing Tuesday.

At least six persons were injured, but no fatalities were reported.

“Wala po tayong fatality dyan sa nangyaring flashflood na yan, pero we had received reports na anim na kababayan natin ang nasugatan o na-injure as a consequence of the flood,” he said.

(There was no fatality in that flashflood but we have received reports that six persons were wounded or injured as a consequence of the flood.)

According to Timbal, a total of 1,048 houses were damaged.

Some 1,054 families in 10 barangays were affected by the disaster. Two families temporarily stayed at an evacuation center while five others took shelter in the houses of their relatives.

Assistance worth P2.4 million including 1,500 family food packs has been provided to the victims, the NDRRMC added.—LDF, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/837881/ndrrmc-agri-damage-from-ifugao-flood-hits-p16-6-million-infra-at-p840k/story/?fbclid=IwAR10RznmN9Jf12eXD2513tr13TtAIvU6aByuk5vqy_P2Yx6t5oFWFE_m_4Ik



Most Filipinos want Marcos to assert West PH Sea claim - analyst

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 12 2022 06:36 PM

MANILA—Majority of Filipinos want the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to assert the country's rights in the West Philippine Sea as he is set to visit China, a political analyst said Tuesday.

According to Dindo Manhit, president of Stratbase ADR Institute, some 89 percent of respondents in a recent Pulse Asia survey want the new administration to defend the country's sovereignty.

"Basically 9 out of 10 Filipinos are saying that the new government, the Marcos Jr. government, should assert our rights based on the 2016 arbitral ruling," he told ANC.

The Stratbase ADR Institute commissioned the Pulse Asia survey, which was conducted last month.

The respondents also told Pulse Asia they would like the government to improve the capability of Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Navy to defend the country's rights and protect marine resources.

"So, it's an issue that is in the heart, in the minds of the Filipino people that when they are asked they know it's very important," Manhit said.

The West Philippine Sea is the country's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, which China claims in near entirety.

On July 12, 2016, exactly 6 years ago, a United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal invalidated China's 9-dash line claim in the waters, in favor of a Philippine plea.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have partial claims in the resource-rich waters, a strategic sea route where billions worth of goods pass annually.

Last week, Malacañang announced Marcos had accepted China's invitation to visit Beijing. No date has been set yet for his visit.

In a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the President said he would "find ways to work to resolve the conflicts that we have" with China.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/spotlight/07/12/22/most-pinoys-want-marcos-to-assert-hague-ruling-analyst>

13 JULY 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

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Marcos names Yulo-Loyzaga DENR chief

BY KRISTINA MARALIT

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday nominated Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents," Press Secretary Rose Beatrix "Trixie" Cruz-Angeles said.

The President announced Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment during the Cabinet meeting where he participated virtually.

The Chief Executive is still in mandatory isolation after

contracting the coronavirus disease last week.

Yulo-Loyzaga was the chairman of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience, Cruz-Angeles said.

She likewise served as the Manila Observatory's execu-

tive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. Yulo-Loyzaga was also on the Senior Advisory Board of Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) Command and General Staff College.

Her nomination came a day after Marcos designated Raphael Lotilla to head the Department of Energy.

Lotilla, who was Energy chief under the Arroyo administration, is currently an independent director of Aboitiz Power and the power firm Enxor.

Section 8 of Republic Act

7638 or the "Act Creating the Department of Energy" provides that "No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two (2) years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom."

"Thus while the matter is reviewed to determine whether an independent director is considered an officer of the company, Lotilla is considered a nominee," Cruz-Angeles said.



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Marcos names Environment chief

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. has nominated Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga, a trustee of the Manila Observatory research group, as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said yesterday.

Angeles said the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga, also chairperson of Manila Observatory's international advisory group, "will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents."

Almost all of Marcos' nominated and designated appointees have to undergo confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

Marcos has yet to appoint heads for the Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, and the Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Angeles said Yulo-Loyzaga, as chair of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, advocates for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

The Manila Observatory is a private non-stock, non-profit, scientific research institution established in 1865 by the Jesuit mission in the Philippines. In its website, it said it has research work in the fields of atmospheric and earth science in

.....
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MARCOS

the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region and advocates a science-based approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also a member of the senior advisory board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College; technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation; member of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR) Asia Science and Technology Academia Advisory Group for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and leads the work theme on Education and Training for UNISDR ARISE Philippines.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also a member of the board of trustees of the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila and Ateneo de Naga

University.

LOTILLA CASE

The Department of Justice said it will look into the appointment of Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla as Energy secretary, considering his current position as an independent director of Aboitiz Power and Exenor.

"We will have to study PCC rules and the DOE law of 1992 as well," said Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla.

Lotilla's selection as head of the Department of Energy was announced by Angeles on Monday. Angeles clarified Lotilla's designation is "right now a nomination, pending clarification of his employment status." She said under the law creating the DOE, "no officer, external auditor, accountant, or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry

shall be eligible for appointment as secretary within two years from his retirement, resignation, or separation therefrom."

SECOND CABINET MEETING

The announcement of Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment came after the second Cabinet meeting that was virtually presided over by Marcos who is still in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.

Marcos, in his Facebook and Instagram posts, emphasized the importance of a stable internet signal and effective digital infrastructure to hold virtual meetings such as the one he had with his Cabinet.

"Kahit pangkasalukuyan tayong naka-isolate, patuloy ang ating mga pagpupulong at iba pang tungkulin sa pamamagitan ng internet. Marami ang maitatawid na komunikasyon sa matibay at mabisang digital infrastructure na siya ring sinisikap nating pagandahin pa (Even if we are in

isolation at present, we continue to do our meetings and implement our other responsibilities through the internet. We can get communications across through a stable and effective digital infrastructure which we hope to improve)," he said.

Angeles said among the topics discussed were the proposed 2023 budget with the theme "Towards the Promotion of Broad-based and Inclusive Economic Recovery and Growth" presented by the Department of Budget and Management; the Build, Build, Build and infrastructure convergence programs presented by the Department of Public Works and Highways; and priority transportation programs and projects presented by the Department of Transportation.

Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra said the Cabinet meeting, which also discussed issues related to the tourism industry was held from 9 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. — *With Ashzel Hachero*



PBBM NOMINATES

TONI YULO- LOYZAGA AS DENR SECRETARY

PBBM

FROM PAGE 1

The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfillment of the required documents," Angeles said.

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She was also the Manila Observatory's executive director and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also on the Senior Advisory Board of the AFP's Command and General Staff College.

On Monday, Angeles said Atty. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla has been nominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as the secretary of the Department of Energy pending the clarification of his employment status."

Lotilla is currently an independent director of Aboitiz Power and the

power firm ENEXOR.

Angeles said Section 8 of Republic Act 7638 or the Act Creating the Department of Energy provides that "No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal counsel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as secretary within two (2) years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom."

"Thus while the matter is reviewed to determine whether an independent director is considered an officer of the company, Lotilla is considered a nominee," Angeles said.

Lotilla was Energy secretary under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from 2005-2007. He was also Deputy Director General of the National Economic Development Authority.

Lotilla was also presi-

dent of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation or PSALM, the government corporation tasked to manage the privatization of power generation assets, independent power producers contracts and other non-power assets, including the management of financial obligations and stranded contract costs of the state-owned National Power Corporation.



PBBM NOMINATES

TONI YULO- LOYZAGA AS DENR SECRETARY

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Climate change advocate picked as next DENR chief

By Nestor Corrales
@NCorralesINQ

President Marcos on Tuesday nominated climate change advocate Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz Angeles made the announcement after the second Cabinet meeting in Malacañang, which was led by Mr. Marcos via teleconference as he was still in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.

Angeles said Loyzaga, wife of former basketball star Chito Loyzaga, was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

She also served as the executive director of the Manila Observatory and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, according to Angeles.

Loyzaga is currently a member of the Senior Advisory Board of the Command and General Staff College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Angeles said Loyzaga still needed to submit certain documents for her appointment, which she did not specify.

Several environmental groups like Greenpeace Philippines, Masungi Georeserve Foundation and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan) supported Loyzaga's appointment.

"We hope prospective en-

vironment secretary Toni Yulo Loyzaga will take urgent climate action based on the global frameworks and standards on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in her exercise of leadership," Leon Dulce, national coordinator for Kalikasan, said in a statement.

Dulce said he hoped that Loyzaga's duties and responsibilities at the DENR and her climate advocacy would not be affected by her family ties to first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, her cousin.

He pointed to the Philippines' climate assessment reports that mining, land conversion and pollution were the "key drivers" of the destruction of the forest ecosystem and biodiversity loss in the Philippines that helped produce greenhouse gases which lead to climate change.

Welcomed by mining sector

But big miners welcomed Mr. Marcos' pick for the DENR portfolio.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), a group mostly composed of the country's large-scale mining companies, expressed its readiness to strike a balance between "economic development and environmental protection" under the Marcos administration with Loyzaga as head of the DENR.

"We are prepared to work with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection," COMP chair Michael Toledo said in a statement.

Toledo said the mining sector was eagerly anticipating a "meaningful engagement" with



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Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo Loyzaga —PHOTO FROM NATIONAL RESILIENCE COUNCIL WEBSITE



DISASTER RESILIENCE Environmentalist Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo Loyzaga is known for pushing resilience to disasters that's based on scientific research. Her appointment as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was welcomed by environmentalists and mining companies, two groups often at loggerheads over ways to battle climate change. —PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS DIVISION

Loyzaga and members of the President's economic team led by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno "who has said that mining will be accelerated under the Marcos administration to help buttress the country's postpandemic recovery initiatives."

'Cautiously optimistic'

Alyansa Tigil Mina said it was "cautiously optimistic" about Loyzaga's nomination and expressed hope she would "strongly retain her bias for science and preference for social justice" in leading the DENR.

The Masungi foundation acknowledged Loyzaga's "invaluable leadership" at the Manila Observatory that "led the scientific studies" proving the impacts of Upper Marikina Watershed's deforestation to increased flood risks following Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (international name: Ketsana) in 2009.

Greenpeace Philippines has

"high expectations" of Loyzaga, its country director Lea Guerrero said. Guerrero said climate action and environment must be the Marcos administration's "top priority" as the world was on the brink of breaching the 1.5 degree threshold.

Lotilla's status

Angeles announced on Monday that Mr. Marcos had picked law professor Raphael "Popo" Lotilla as the secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE), a position he held from 2005 to 2007 during the Arroyo administration.

But she said that Lotilla was still considered a nominee "pending the clarification of his employment status" being an independent director at Aboitiz Power and the power company Enxer, Angeles said.

She cited Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7638 or the law that created the DOE which said: "No officer, external auditor, accountant or legal coun-

sel of any private company or enterprise primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as Secretary within two (2) years from his retirement, resignation or separation therefrom."

Technical expertise

Marikina Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, who are both economists, said Lotilla was highly qualified for the job.

"He has the technical expertise required of the position as he previously served as Neda deputy director general from 1996 to 2004," said Quimbo.

Lotilla's position as an independent director of two energy companies means that he "falls outside the list of disqualified individuals from becoming secretary of energy," Quimbo said. This was also Salceda's position.

"If anything, being elected as an independent director of a major publicly listed energy company adds more to Lotilla's

qualification rather than diminish it. It shows that stakeholders in the industry recognize him as a man of unquestionable integrity, possessing specialized knowledge of the energy sector," Quimbo said.

Salceda said Lotilla was "among the strongest appointments the President has made, and is quite likely the best appointment he could have made for DOE."

"We need someone like Popo who gets difficult but necessary reforms done. Given our energy situation, I am sure he will have to make hard choices. I am sure the decisions he will make are hard but right," Salceda said.

Character, competence

Two senators also vouched for Lotilla's character and competence.

"He has proven legal and technical knowledge necessary in addressing various pressing issues in the sector and to ensure energy security for our country," said Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who headed the Senate's energy panel.

"Most importantly, he has unquestionable integrity that is required of a leader of a vital government department," he said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said his former law school teacher was "well-versed" with the energy sector.

"I am confident that he will be able to wade through the myriad of problems facing the energy sector because of his competence, integrity and dedication to work," Escudero said.

—WITH REPORTS FROM JORDEENE B. LAGARE, DEMPSEY REYES, JULIE M. AURELIO AND DJ YAP INQ



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Loyzaga, itinalagang DENR chief

Nagtalaga na si Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. ng bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa anunsiyo ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, hinirang ni Marcos si Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng DENR.

Ayon kay Angeles, ang bagong kalihim ng DENR ay naging chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong niya ang scientific research tungkol sa climate and disaster resilient at naging technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay Senior Advisory Board ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Command at General Staff College.

Kaya habang hindi pa niya nakukumpleto ang kanyang mga dokumento ay nananatili siyang nominado ng DENR. (Gemma Garcia)



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Toni Yulo-Loyzaga itinalaga ni PBBM bilang DENR Secretary

NAPILI ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. na susunod na kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga.

Sinabi ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angel, nominado ng Pangulo sa pagiging kalihim ng DENR si Loyzaga.

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents," ayon kay Angeles.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay dating chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory, kung saan naging adbokasiya niya ang scientific research sa climate and disaster resilience.

Naging executive director din si Yulo-Loyzaga sa Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Nagsilbi rin si Yulo-Loyzaga ng Senior Advisory Board ng AFP Command and General Staff College.

(Vanz Fernandez)



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TONI YULO-LOYZAGA SA DENR — P-BBM

MAY napili na si Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. na susunod na kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sinabi ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles na nominado ng Pangulo bilang kalihim ng DENR si Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga.

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents," pahayag ni Angeles.

Nabatid na si Yulo-Loyzaga ay dating chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory, kung saan naging adbokasiya niya ang scientific research sa climate and disaster resilience.

Naging executive director din si Yulo-Loyzaga ng Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Nagsilbi rin si Yulo-Loyzaga na Senior Advisory Board ng AFP Command and General Staff College.

(Mylene Alfonso)



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Yulo bet ni Marcos na DENR chief

INANUNSIYO ng Malacañang ang nominasyon ni Ma. Antonio 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga para pamunuan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa inilabas na pahayag ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angles, kinukumples na aniya ni Loyzaga ang mga dokumentong kailangan para sa kanyang nominasyon.

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents," ani Angeles.

Si Loyzaga ay dating Chairperson ng International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong nito ang scientific research sa climate at disaster resilience.

Naging Executive Director din si Loyzaga

ng Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Bukod dito, kasalukuyan itong senior advisory board ng AFP's Command and General Staff College. (**Aileen Taliping**)



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PBBM MAY NAPILINANG DENR SECRETARY

Pinili ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., ang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

Ito ang inanunsyo ni Press Secretary Trixie

Cruz-Angeles na kung saan ang bagong kalihim ng DENR ay naging chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong nito ang scientific research tungkol sa climate and disaster resilient at na-

ging technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay Senior Advisory Board ngayon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines Command at General Staff College.-*Gemma Garcia*



Illegal logs seized in Nueva Ecija

The confiscated logs was said to be valued at around P800,000 and were transported to the municipal compound of General Tinio and NEPPO for temporary custody and safekeeping

BY JONAS REYES

GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) disclosed on Tuesday that at least 13,000 board feet of illegal logs were seized by the authorities during an operation in Barangay Pias and Rio Chico here.

DENR provincial director Gerundio Fernandez said that the agency – along with the Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office (NEPPO), local police station of General Tinio and 84th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army – were able to intercept the transport of the illegal logs.

Fernandez revealed that upon seeing operatives coming over near the area, illegal loggers immediately escaped and abandoned cut logs of Tanguile and Mayapis along the Sumacbao riverbank.

“Illegal loggers took advantage of the high level of water in Sumacbao River brought by heavy rainfalls. Confiscated logs were kept afloat and transported to the downstream of the river using balsa,” Fernandez said.

The confiscated logs were said to be valued at around P800,000 and were transported to the municipal compound of General Tinio and NEPPO for temporary custody and

safekeeping.

The authorities are set to file criminal cases against the culprits for violation of Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. The DENR, on the other hand, is initiating administrative adjudication of the case.

Forest rangers and protection officers of the DENR are deployed in the area to strictly monitor potential movement of contrabands, following reports that illegal loggers may operate again to transport remaining logs through the Sumacbao River.

For his part, DENR Regional Executive Paquito Moreno Jr. has expressed his gratitude to the NEPPO and the Army for their significant support to the efforts of the DENR to curb illegal forest activities in Nueva Ecija.

This year, the DENR, along with said law enforcement partners, has conducted 85 operations leading to the apprehension of over P3.5-million worth of suspected illegal forest products.

Aside from strengthening the Regional Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, the DENR has worked closely and sustained active partnerships with 7th Infantry Division, 703rd Infantry Brigade, First Scout Ranger Regiment, and 3rd Regional Community Defense Group of the Army, Philippine National Police, local government units and indigenous groups to boost the government's forest and wildlife protection programs, particularly in saving the remaining forests of Central Luzon.



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NWRB WATER PERMIT ONLINE APPLICATION

ANG National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ay isang ahensya ng pamahalaan na namamahala sa lahat ng katubigan sa buong bansa at nagmomonitor sa paggamit ng tubig.

Ang pagkontrol ng paggamit ng lahat ng uri ng katubigan tulad ng alokasyon, konserbasyon at pag-iingat na kaakibat ang pagsustena sa pagpapaunlad nito sa pamamagitan ng sistema ng water rights.

Ang Water Permit (WP) ay isang dokumento na ibinibigay ng NWRB, kung saan ipinagkaloob ang karapatan sa paggamit ng tubig at ma-

pagkukunan ng tubig mula sa ibabaw o lupa.

Ang Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) ay isang pormal na kasulatan na may kapangyarihan na maaaring nilang maipatakbo at mapanatili ang isang sistema ng tubig na may bayad.

Ang pagsumite ng aplikasyon para sa WP at CPC sa iba't ibang rehiyong ay isang mandatory proseso na kinakailangang gawin para maabot ang kanilang serbisyo sa mamamayan Pilipino.

Sa mga interesadong mag-aplay ng Water Permit (WP) at Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC), hindi na nila kailangang maglakbay



mula sa kanilang lalawigan patungo sa NWRB central office, Quezon City.

Ang mga WP at CPC application ay maaaring maipadala gamit ang bagong permitting system ng NWRB. Maaaring ng magpasa ng mga kaukulang dokumento sa email address ng NWRB, nwrsec@nwr.gov.ph at nwrphil@gmail.com o sa mga extension office sa Cebu at Davao City.

Ayon kay Executive Director Seville D. David Jr., ang Water Permit at CPC approval ay manggagaling pa rin sa NWRB main office na matatagpuan sa 8th floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sino nga ba ang dapat mag-apply ng water permit, bukod sa mga water service provider?

Dapat mag-apply ang mga may balak magpagawa ng deepwell o balon sa kanilang pabrika o subdivision. Paalala ng Executive Direktor, "Water Permit is a must", kaya kinakailangan humingi ng permiso muna sa NWRB sa pagkat may mga lugar gaya ng Metro Manila na hindi pwedeng basta-bastang maghukay nang walang karampatang assessment at pahintulot. Dagdag pa niya, mas magandang kumuha sa mga water service provider, na kung saan ay sapat ang supply at alokasyon, aniya.



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Pending EPR Law undermines environmental goals

IF President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. does not move to veto Senate Bill (SB) 2425, the "Practice of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on Plastic Packaging Waste" bill, it will lapse into law. Allowing this to happen will result in the continued, virtually unchecked production of plastic and other waste, and deal a severe and possibly irreparable setback to the Philippines' environmental management objectives.

To be sure, the proposed law was indeed conceived with the best of intentions to combat the Philippines' chronic waste problem. Those intentions are a most welcome development in the ongoing drive to significantly reduce, and ideally eliminate the unsustainable use of plastics in the Philippines. The bill passed by Congress is also praiseworthy for acknowledging the role of producers in creating plastic waste, and their fundamental responsibility to manage it.

But while we might laud the attempt by Congress to address this critical issue, we certainly cannot endorse the result of the effort. SB 2425 does not hold the producers of plastic waste — manufacturers and users of packaging, primarily — substantially responsible in a manner that compels them to find ways to reduce the use of plastic in the first place, which is the ultimate objective. The solutions the bill proposes for the management of plastic waste are even more troubling, allowing disposal and recycling technologies that involve incinerating or melting plastics, which are potentially even more environmentally harmful than doing nothing.

"EPR should not be scrapped entirely. It should be vetoed and returned to Congress for an overhaul, guided by consultations with environmental experts."

Given the glaringly obvious flaws in the proposed EPR Law, we have to wonder whether environmental experts were properly consulted, or consulted at all in the crafting of the legislation.

While EPR may be a new concept for the Philippines, it is certainly not a novelty; in other parts of the world, such as Europe, similar frameworks have been in place for nearly 30 years. That in itself is a red flag; EPR is a proactive approach, but the reality has been that it has had at best modest results that are nowhere near reversing or slowing the creation of new plastics. Globally, only about 9 percent of all plastic is recycled in any fashion, and in countries with robust EPR programs, such as Germany, plastic recycling is less than 30 percent.

The different ways in which plastic can be "recycled" are problematic as well, because only one of those forms — repurposing an existing plastic product for a similar use — does not create an additional negative environmental impact. The commercially preferred forms of plastic recycling, which are the ones implicitly promoted by SB 2425, including using plastic as fuel for cement kilns or so-called waste to energy facilities, or remelting and recasting it into new products all produce harmful emissions and some amount of chemical and solid waste pollution.

Another significant problem is that SB 2425 is limited in scope. Focusing on packaging is perhaps reasonable, but narrowing that to only plastic is insufficient. Plastic is the biggest problem, but it is not the only one. Broadening the EPR concept to include other materials such as paper, glass and metal would force producers and consumers to consider creation of potential waste rather than just its manner of disposal, which is all the proposed EPR law is concerned with. That limited focus is further watered down by excessive flexibility in exactly how plastic is disposed of, and opens the door to false solutions such as plastic offset schemes.

The EPR should not be scrapped entirely. As we said, it was created with the right intentions, and at least contains some of the ingredients of a plastic reduction and waste management framework that is desperately needed by the Philippines. But as often happens with the first attempts at legislating basically good ideas, just because lawmakers can recognize a target does not mean they can hit it. In the case of the proposed EPR law, they have missed it badly. SB 2425 should be vetoed and returned to Congress for an overhaul, guided by consultations with environmental experts.



Pag-tax sa single-use plastics, hindi sagot sa plastic pollution

BALAK ng Marcos administration na buwisan ang single-use plastics para mapagkunan ng pondo. Ayon kay Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno, kikita ang pamahalaan ng karagdagang P1 bilyon taun-taon sa buwis mula sa single-use plastics. Ayon pa sa Finance secretary, hindi lamang karagdagang pondo ang idudulot ng pagbubuwis sa plastics kundi makatutulong din umano sa paglaban sa climate change.

Ayon sa World Bank, ang plastic production sa Pilipinas ay nakapag-contribute ng \$2.3 billion sa ekonomiya ng bansa noong 2018. Karaniwang ang bumibili ng mga produktong nasa single-use plastic ay mga mahihirap at middle-income na pamilya. Karaniwang nasa sachet ang mga produktong binibili.



Ang problema, hindi maisaayos ang pagtatapon ng mga basurang plastic at humahantong sa karagatan. Kaya isa ang Pilipinas sa malaking contributor ng basurang plastic.

Sa inagurasyon ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. noong Hunyo 30, binanggit niya ang tungkol sa plastic pollution kung saan, ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa plastic polluter. Sinabi ni Marcos na lilinisin ang mga kalat.

Karaniwang hinahantungan ng mga plastic na basura, kabilang na ang mga single-use plastics ay ang karagatan. Karaniwang makikita ang mga basurang plastic sa mga estero, kanal, sapa at iba pang daluyan ng tubig. Nagdudulot ito nang pagbaha sapagkat hindi natutunaw. Hahantong sa dagat ang mga plastic at apektado rin ang mga lamandagat.

Kikita ang pamahalaan sa pagbubuwis sa single-use plastics subalit walang malinaw na nakikita kung paano masosolusyunan ang plastic pollution. Tiyak na patuloy ang produksiyon ng plastic kahit taasan ng buwis. Dapat magkaroon din ng kampanya ang pamahalaan kung paano maitatapon nang maayos ang single-use plastic upang mapangalagaan ang kapaligiran. Kikita nga sa buwis pero warat ang kalikasan.



Groups urge PBBM to include environment plans in 1st SONA

CIVIL society groups have urged President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. to include environmental concerns in its first-ever State of the Nation (SONA), particularly the strategies to address plastic pollution.

The EcoWaste Coalition, Mother Earth Foundation, Greenpeace Philippines, Oceana Philip-

pines, Consumer Rights for Safe Food (CRSF), and Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance Philippines (FCAP) made the appeal, saying that policies and strategies that will advance climate action and justice, zero waste, food security, and human and ecological health must also be part of the President's SONA.

Aileen Lucero, EcoW-

aste Coalition national coordinator, expressed optimism that the Chief Executive will use the occasion to make public his key policies and strategies to address plastic pollution during his first year in office.

Lucero noted the President's "we will clean up" statement in his inaugural speech last June 30.

"Stopping plastic pol-

lution at source, banning single-use plastics, listing non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging for phase-out, ratifying the Basel Convention Ban Amendment on hazardous waste exports, and declaring government's commitment to zero waste, non-toxic circular economy are some of the priorities that we would like him to set

By CORY
MARTINEZ

his sight on," Lucero said.

On the other hand, Mother Earth Foundation Chairman Sonia Mendoza emphasized that implementing Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, should be a top priority for the government to help solve the country's ballooning solid waste problem.

"Keeping organics out of landfills (KOOL) is a very effective measure to mitigate climate change. Organic waste in the landfill creates anthropogenic methane, which is a very powerful greenhouse gas causing global warming and climate change," Mendoza said.

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The Greenpeace Philippines, meanwhile, believed that the government must institute climate action as the central policy of the state and must protect people and the climate based on climate justice. Climate action must also be at the heart of the country's economic recovery plan.

"Marcos Jr. must heed the call of Filipino communities who are championing climate justice and people's welfare before corporate interests, confront big polluters and speed up the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy," said Lea Guerrero, country director, Greenpeace Philip-

pines.

For her part, Ocean defender Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, welcomed the President's declaration of food security and addressed climate change as a priority program of his administration.

"These are intertwined. Sadly, our country is way behind on many fronts, including the full implementation of the amended Fisheries Code and the provisions that would allow us to effectively address

We challenge the new administration to finally implement all the provisions of the amended fisheries code of the Philippines to effectively address IUU Fishing and prioritize

food security and climate resiliency in the country," Ramos added.

Anti-tobacco advocates also appealed for presidential support for their advocacy, specifically urging him to reject the controversial Vape Bill, a task left undone by former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

"We strongly urge President Marcos, Jr. to defend every Filipino's right to clean air as enshrined in the Clean Air Act and the highest attainable standard of health by supporting and continuing the smoke-free vision of his predecessor," said Dr. Maricar Limpin, immediate past President of the Philippine College of Physicians and FCAP Executive Director.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEY SANCHEZ MENDOZA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_joey
SPARSE as the crowd maybe due to the rains, the Dolomite Beach on Manila Bay remains a favorite go to place for the weary Manilans who want to rest and escape from the urban jungle.

13 JULY 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines detects 79 more cases of Omicron subvariants

Philstar.com July 12, 2022 | 12:34pm



People wearing face masks as protection against the COVID-19 while inside the market in Marikina City. On July 11, DOH reported a 39% increase in COVID-19 in the country.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has detected 79 additional cases of fast-spreading Omicron BA.5, BA.2.12.1, and BA.4 subvariants, the Department of Health said Tuesday.

Of the total, 60 were BA.5 cases, 17 were BA.2.12.1 cases, and two were BA.4 cases, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a briefing.

Fifty-eight individuals from Western Visayas, one from Davao region, and one from Soccsksargen were found to have BA.5. Of those, 43 are tagged as recovered, while 14 are still undergoing isolation.

Currently, there are 293 detected BA.5 cases in the country.

Of the additional BA.2.12.1 cases, six were from Western Visayas, 10 were from Davao region, and one was returning overseas Filipino. Fifteen individuals have recovered from COVID-19, while two are still undergoing isolation.

Authorities have so far detected 87 cases of the Omicron BA.2.12.1 subvariant.

The DOH also reported that one individual from Davao region and one from Soccsksargen tested positive for the Omicron BA.4 subvariant. Both cases presented mild symptoms and are now tagged as recovered.

Twelve BA.4 cases have been so far found in the Philippines.

The health department said the country's healthcare utilization rate remained low despite the continued increase in cases partly caused by the presence of more infectious COVID-19 variants.

The country confirmed 10,271 additional coronavirus infections, or an average of 1,467 cases per day, in the past week. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/12/2194854/philippines-detects-79-more-cases-omicron-subvariants>



DOH: BA.5 most dominant Omicron subvariant

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star July 13, 2022 | 12:00am



People crowd a street filled with stores as they shop in Manila on February 4, 2022, after authorities issued relaxation of COVID-19 rules.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — The most dominant Omicron subvariant in several regions is now BA.5, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

“Based on our sequencing results, we can really see more of the BA.5 as compared to other variants,” DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in an online briefing.

However, Vergeire noted that “we cannot conclude for all because we know that our sequencing is quite limited.”

“That depends only on who submitted samples. Thus, it is not giving us a complete picture of the entire country,” she added.

Latest available data from the DOH showed there were 60 additional BA.5 cases detected in the country, 58 from Region 6 and one each from Region 11 and Region 12.

One individual is vaccinated while the vaccination status of the other 59 are still being verified.

Of the infected, 43 are now tagged as recovered, 14 are still in isolation while the rest are being verified.

The DOH also reported that 17 more BA.2.12.1 cases were detected – six from Region 6, 10 from Region 11 and one returning overseas Filipino. Two presented mild symptoms, one was asymptomatic while the status of the remaining 13 is still being verified.

Of these infections, 15 were tagged as recovered while the two are in isolation.

Data from the DOH also noted the detection of two additional BA.4 cases – one each from Region 11 and 12 – one fully vaccinated while the other is unvaccinated.

Both cases presented mild symptoms and have now recovered. At the moment, the exposure of these individuals is still unknown and travel histories are being verified.

So far, the country has recorded a total of 293 BA.5 cases, 87 BA.2.12.1 cases and 12 BA.4 cases.

“No matter what type of variant you have of COVID-19, and you are vaccinated and boosted, you can still get the infection because the promise of vaccination is not to block transmission of the disease but to protect us against severe and critical infections and, of course, protection from dying from these diseases,” Vergeire said.



'Close to peaking'

The surge of new COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) may be close to reaching its peak, OCTA Research Group fellow Guido David said yesterday.

"The indicators show a slowing down of the growth rate in cases and there is a chance that cases in the NCR are peaking or have already peaked. The trends should be clearer after a week," David said, noting that the region's growth rate decelerated from 57 percent on July 4 to just 32 percent on Monday.

David earlier clarified that a positive growth rate means that the average number of new cases is still increasing. It will only decrease once the surge has reached its peak and the indicator is already negative.

According to OCTA, NCR had an average of 710 new cases per day from July 5 to 11, equivalent to an average daily attack rate of 4.93 new infections per 100,000 people. Health care utilization in the region is still at "low" 28 percent, while 20 percent of intensive care units for COVID-19 cases are occupied.

Warning

Those getting re-infected with COVID-19 should not be complacent, as it may take some two to three months before complications start to manifest, infectious diseases expert Dr. Rontgene Solante warned.

"The impact of this reinfection and breakthrough infections, it will not be felt at once. We will see the effects two to three months from now, those infected not because of COVID, but because of the long-term effect of COVID which will affect the heart, lungs and other vital organs," Solante said in Monday's episode of The Chiefs on One News.

"We have already seen a lot of data especially with reinfection, those getting more risks for long COVID and developing complications, and with breakthrough infections, there is also the possibility of more long COVID cases," he added.

"Right now, we are getting, although in small numbers, we are getting people who are now required for high mechanical ventilation in some of the hospitals I'm affiliated with. We are not yet safe, and that is why we are seeing people on the ground, having severe COVID. Even if we say, there are now less cases compared to when Delta was dominant, which is expected. That severe form of COVID is not zero even with these new variants," Solante stressed.

"It is high time for health experts and policy makers to really give a good look on how we can improve our vaccination, that is why I'm telling you, probably, the most important pathway, if there is no updated definition of the full vaccination, then let's have it mandatory, especially for the general public to get the first booster," he said.

The expert added that receiving booster shots is very important. "Yes, the symptoms now can be mild, because you had the primary series but then if you don't want to get sick more, you better get the booster."

Earlier, Solante called for booster shots to be made mandatory amid the continuing increase in COVID-19 infections and the higher positivity rates recorded in the past weeks.

Wall of immunity

The optional wearing of face masks will have to wait until such time that the country has achieved a stronger "wall of immunity," Vergeire said yesterday.



Vergeire said they have already discussed the matter with experts and even with the Office of the President, specifically on making it optional when a person is outdoors.

“But there are conditions for us to reach that point wherein we can already afford to allow a little leniency on the wearing of face masks when people are outside or in open areas, and that is only when our ‘wall of immunity’ has been strengthened,” Vergeire said at virtual press briefing.

“So now, how do we improve that wall of immunity, that is by increasing the uptake of booster shots for the general population, that is when we can say that that the population is protected,” she added.

“There is a need to go back to that principle we advocate and that is population protection. When you say you have protected your population, you have protected the priority population which is the vulnerable and this is what we want to achieve in the coming months. When you say vulnerable, they are the ones most vulnerable to severe and critical infections of COVID-19, and these are our senior citizens, those with comorbidities, our healthcare workers and the youth sector,” the DOH spokesperson said.

Vergeire added that for this to happen, there is a need to intensify the uptake of boosters and that, according to experts, the target they’ve set is enough and most feasible until the time that we reached the 100 days of the current administration.

“This is also because we want that our efforts will have a high impact and positive effect for the country’s population,” she added.

The OCTA Research Group earlier said that the possibility of optional wearing of face masks in the country could happen once endemicity is reached and if COVID-19 metrics are in good shape.

No mandatory boosters

The DOH yesterday brushed off the idea of making the third vaccine or first booster dose against COVID-19 mandatory.

At a press briefing, Vergeire said they do not see the necessity yet of making booster shots mandatory for the public.

“There is a need for such a proposal to be studied carefully. At this point in time, we don’t see the need to adopt such a strategy,” Vergeire said.

She said previous vaccination strategies have been successful despite not being mandatory.

“We saw that it was effective for the primary series. Hopefully, we can do this again in the coming weeks for us to be able to improve our booster uptake,” she added, noting that there is no law in the country that permits mandatory vaccination.

For their part, senators yesterday prodded Filipinos to get booster shots for COVID-19 but bucked calls to make the follow-up jabs mandatory.

“While we have to respect the right of each Filipino to choose whether to get vaccinated or not, we should also provide them all the right information they need to make the right decision for their safety and the safety of their communities – especially now that science shows the need to get inoculated again with booster shots,” Sen. Bong Go said.

“What should be done is to continue public health education to convince those who have not been vaccinated to get those shots freely for their sake, their family and society,” Sen. Risa Hontiveros said in Filipino.



Sen. Loren Legarda strongly urged all those qualified and eligible, based on age and comorbidities, to avail of the booster shots “to ensure our health and that of our workforce and families.”

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III was not too enthusiastic about the rollout of booster shots, which he warned was costing the country billions of pesos but is not effective against emerging variants.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, however, expressed support to make booster shots mandatory for the adult population, as vaccines have been proven to protect people against the worst effects of COVID infection.

Sen. Nancy Binay said she supports the experts’ recommendation for a third shot but “the DOH must be aggressive with those in the priority groups, intensifying vaccination in isolated and remote areas.” – **Janvic Mateo, Paolo Romero, Cecille Suerte Felipe**

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




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