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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR allots P250M for 268 trash traps in tributaries of 'most polluted rivers'



by [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

July 15, 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will spend P250 million to build trash traps in river tributaries leading to Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauyan, and Pampanga Rivers.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) said a total of 268 trash traps would be installed in the tributaries of the four rivers, considered to be among the most polluted rivers in the country and major contributors to pollution in Manila Bay.

The project is in support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) in accordance with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-10 as the national marine litter framework plan with an overarching goal of "Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040."

EMB Director Engr. William P. Cuñado said the project aims to improve waste collection and disposal within the tributaries which can help reduce flooding during the wet season.

"We are working closely with the local government units [LGU], seeking their suggestions from procurement to installation, to ensure that these trash traps are installed in strategic locations and maximized for the benefit of the LGU and the communities residing in these water bodies," Cuñado said in a news release.

Cuñado added that the entire activities and strategies provided in the NPOA-ML are included in the top priorities of the DENR-EMB. NPOA-ML was developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management.

"We need to control the additional leakage of waste into our water bodies. For this year, EMB will augment the existing activities of the DENR related to the implementation of NPOA-ML," Engr. Cuñado added.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) and a deed of donation (DOD) will be entered between the EMB Regional Office and the recipient LGUs. Under the MOA, procurement items such as brand-new trash traps manually operated waste lifter, plastic boats, and tools/materials for operation will be distributed to the four identified rivers between the bureau and the LGUs concerned.

"The LGUs will be monitoring the trash traps installed in their jurisdiction. Also, they will handle the collection, hauling and proper disposal of wastes from the trash traps and the maintenance and operation of the equipment. And there will be personal protective equipment [PPE] for operators. Engagement of collection and disposal services through the LGUs will also be included to ensure that the collected waste will be properly disposed," Cuñado said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/15/denr-allots-p250m-for-268-trash-traps-in-tributaries-of-most-polluted-rivers/>



## DENR to set up trash traps in Manila Bay tributaries



by [Rio N. Araja](#)

[July 14, 2022, 11:20 pm](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will install trash traps in most polluted rivers considered major tributaries to Manila Bay in a bid to lessen floods during the rainy season.

The DENR'S Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) is set to put up 268 trash traps in tributaries leading to Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan and Pampanga rivers.

The project is in support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter in accordance with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-10 as the national marine litter framework plan with an overarching goal of Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040.

William Cuñado, EMB director, said the project aims to improve waste collection and disposal within the tributaries which can help reduce flooding during rainy season.

“We are working closely with the local government units, seeking their suggestions from procurement to installation, to ensure that these trash traps are installed in strategic locations and maximized for the benefit of the LGU and the communities residing in these water bodies,” he said.

“We need to control the additional leakage of waste into our water bodies. For this year, EMB will augment the existing activities of the DENR related to the implementation of NPOA-ML,” he added.

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“The LGUs will be monitoring the trash traps installed in their jurisdiction. Also, they will handle the collection, hauling and proper disposal of wastes from the trash traps, and the maintenance and operation of the equipment. And there will be personal protective equipment for operators. Engagement of collection and disposal services through the LGUs will also be included to ensure that the collected waste will be properly disposed,” Cuñado said.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314243951/denr-to-set-up-trash-traps-in-manila-bay-tributaries.html>



## DENR-EMB to install 268 trash traps in most polluted rivers

July 14, 2022, 5:43 pm



(File photo)

**MANILA** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) will install 268 trash traps in tributaries leading to Pasig, Tullahan, Meycauayan, and Pampanga Rivers, determined to be among the most polluted rivers and major contributors to Manila Bay.

This project is in support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) in accordance with DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-10 as the national marine litter framework plan with an overarching goal of “Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040.”

EMB Director, Engr. William P. Cuñado, said the project aims to improve waste collection and disposal within the tributaries which can help reduce flooding during rainy season.

“We are working closely with the local government units, seeking their suggestions from procurement to installation, to ensure that these trash traps are installed in strategic locations and maximized for the benefit of the LGU and the communities residing in these waterbodies,” Cuñado said.

Cuñado added that the entire activities and strategies provided in the NPOA-ML are included in the top priorities of the DENR-EMB. NPOA-ML was developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management.

“We need to control the additional leakage of waste into our water bodies. For this year, EMB will augment the existing activities of the DENR related to the implementation of NPOA-ML,” Cuñado added.



## DENR-EMB to install 268 trash traps in most polluted rivers

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“The LGUs will be monitoring the trash traps installed in their jurisdiction. Also, they will handle the collection, hauling and proper disposal of wastes from the trash traps, and the maintenance and operation of the equipment. And there will be Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for operators. Engagement of collection and disposal services through the LGUs will also be included to ensure that the collected waste will be properly disposed,” Cuñado said.

For the beneficiaries, a survey will be conducted by the contractor and to be approved by the EMB Regional Office for suitable sites to install the trash traps. The beneficiaries/recipients for this project are selected LGUs that have jurisdiction of area where the trash traps are installed.

The components of this project include: site survey and assessment; trash trap per linear meter; manually operated waste lifter; plastic boat; tools/materials for operation, and hauling/disposal.

For this project, over PHP100 million will be allocated for EMB-National Capital Region, and PHP152.4 million will be allotted for Region 3 (Central Luzon). For more information, you may visit [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph). (**PR**)





## [Legarda lauds Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination to DENR](#)

JUL 14, 2022, 3:51 PM



Opinyon News Team  
News Reporter

*Senator Loren Legarda said the nomination of Toni Yulo-Loyzaga to the DENR will bring to the department a "deep and broad understanding" of the convergence of the environment, climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.*

Senator Loren Legarda has hailed the recent nomination of Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as the new Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement issued Wednesday (July 13), Legarda said Yulo-Loyzaga will bring to the department a "deep and broad understanding" of the convergence of the environment, climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.



## Legarda lauds Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination to DENR

*"The appointment is timely and strategic given the triple threats of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change to the Philippines. I look forward to the DENR's effective implementation of at least 10 landmark environmental laws we have passed in the past decades, all sorely lacking in serious, strict and efficient monitoring," Legarda, who is known for her advocacies for the environment and sustainable development, added.*

*"I am confident that, working together with relevant National Government Agencies and Development Partners, and the scientific community, the DENR under the helm of Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga will provide and undertake critical environmental policies and projects to safeguard and protect the interests of the natural resources of our country, thus saving our people from more poverty and health crises," she said.*

Yulo-Loyzaga, who was personally nominated for the post by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. last July 12, was a 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.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/legarda-lauds-yulo-loyzaga-s-nomination-to-denr?fbclid=IwARodDXJ1zPq2fosVgfQ2E\\_obQYpZGKMQhOik7j7bOkKiw5-JMTsVNSUksyc](https://opinyon.net/national/legarda-lauds-yulo-loyzaga-s-nomination-to-denr?fbclid=IwARodDXJ1zPq2fosVgfQ2E_obQYpZGKMQhOik7j7bOkKiw5-JMTsVNSUksyc)



## Pagkakasama ng Boracay sa “50 World’s Greatest Places of 2022” ipinagmalaki ng DENR



July 14, 2022 @ 8:00 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ipinagdiwang ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagkakasali ng Boracay Island sa Time Magazine ‘50 World’s Greatest Places of 2022.’

Ayon kay DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. ang parangal mula sa award-winning publication ay patunay ng tagumpay ng pagsasaayos ng Boracay Island sa ilalim ng Duterte administration.

“We are very happy and honored that the authoritative Time Magazine included the Philippines’ island paradise, Boracay Island, in its prestigious list and dubbed it as a ‘paradise reborn.’ This shows that the work we have done has borne fruit. Thanks to the political will of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte,” saad ni Adobo.

Sa July 25-August 1 issue ng Time Magazine, inilista nito ang 50 “top spots to visit this year” sa buong mundo.

Ang mga nominasyon ay mula sa network ng correspondents at contributors ng naturang American news magazine.

“As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence,” saad ng Time feature article sa ‘50 extraordinary destinations to explore in 2022’.





## Pagkakasama ng Boracay sa “50 World’s Greatest Places of 2022” ipinagmalaki ng DENR

Magugunitang noong May 8, 2018 inilabas ni dating pangulong Duterte ang issued Executive Order (EO) No. 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) na ang layon ay mag “formulate, implement, and oversee policies, as well as strictly enforce national laws and local ordinances, to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of the Boracay Island.”

Kaugnay nito pinalawig ni Duterte ang termino ng BIATF sa pamamagitan ng EO 115 noong 2020 at EO 147 noong 2021 upang maipagpatuloy ang rehabilitasyon na nasimulan na hanggang Hunyo 30, 2022.

Kinilala din ni Adobo, na dating BIATF secretariat head, ang pamumuno ni dating DENR Secretary at BIATF chair Roy A. Cimatú, ang co-chairs na sina dating Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año at dating Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat sa tagumpay ng rehabilitasyon ng Boracay.

Si dating DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang humalili kay Cimatú matapos itong magbitiw sa pwesto noong Pebrero 2022. **Santi Celario**



## Baguio city council: Redevelopment project won't displace tenants



By [Gaby B. Keith](#)

July 15, 2022

**BAGUIO CITY:** Tenants along Governor Pack Road have been assured that they would be accommodated in the new enterprise structures once the redevelopment of prime lots under Original Certificate Title (OCT) 1 is completed.

During the City Council's regular session last June 27, Ralph Pablo, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR), said occupants along Governor Pack Road with contracts with the DENR who religiously pay their monthly rentals would not be displaced.

"As long as they have a good standing and they religiously pay their rent, they would be included in the development plan," Pablo added.

He said 12 of the occupants are faithful rent payers while seven do not pay their rent.

Pablo said the seven occupants should settle their arrears, which had already accumulated to millions of pesos if they want to be included in the redevelopment plan.

He also assured the council that there would be consultations with the occupants regarding the proposed project to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns.

Donna Tabangin, city planning and development coordinator, said a conceptual plan for the redevelopment of the prime lots had already been formulated.

The conceptual plan includes a high-density and multi-use area with green architecture for commercial and parking purposes.

Part of the plan is the construction of a public transport terminal with commercial amenities along the Governor Park Road.

The terminal will serve as a shared terminal for mini-buses, taxi and public utility jeepneys.

Tabangin explained that the project is part of the city government's pedestrianization and green walks program.

"Once the public transport passengers reach the transport terminal at Governor Pack Road, they are expected to walk from there to their final destination," she stated.

Tabangin said a more detailed plan on how the current tenants at the Governor Pack Road will be incorporated into the redevelopment is yet to be crafted.

According to her, public-private partnership (PPP) is most likely the best modality in realizing the project, considering that the project cost might be beyond the financial capacity of the city government.



## Baguio city council: Redevelopment project won't displace tenants

She clarified that south-bound buses occupying Governor Pack Road would be relocated to the proposed integrated bus terminal along the Aspiras-Palispis Highway (formerly known and still referred to as Marcos Highway).

OCT 1, with an area of 299,083 square meters, is under the name of the Insular Government and is managed by the DENR.

It covers the lot along Governor Pack Road with an area of 4,586 square meters and the Bibak (Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao and Kalinga) lot with an area of 5,000 square meters.

Earlier this year, the city government expressed its intent to rehabilitate, modernize and utilize the lots.

The project shall "cater to commercial, parking and transit-oriented development as well as pedestrian and park spaces."

Mayor Benjamin Magalong, in his letter dated May 18, 2022, requested the Baguio City Council an authority to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the DENR for the project.

During the regular session last June 27, it was clarified that the Bibak lot had been excluded from the proposed MoA as it was the subject of a congressional hearing regarding its administration.

The agreement shall be for a period of 25 years and renewable as long as both parties agree to it.

It shall be a profit-sharing agreement through the equal division of shares.

Pablo said the MoA was drafted and jointly discussed on Feb. 7, 2022, then it was transmitted to the City Legal Office.

The signing of the agreement, however, will be held in abeyance in light of the installation of a new DENR secretary who will be the signatory to the document, he added.

Pablo said the MoA would be reviewed, taking into consideration comments and suggestions of the city council members.

The city council, in a resolution (Resolution 265-2022), requested the DENR-CAR to furnish the council members the title of OCT 1 and the list of tenants as well as informal settlers in aid of legislation.





## Salceda, pinasalamatan ang DENR sa itinatayong 'Biosphere Reserve and Research Center' sa Albay



July 14, 2022 @ 6:30 AM 1 day ago

Salceda, pinasalamatan ang DENR sa itinatayong 'Biosphere Reserve and Research Center' sa Albay

LEGAZPI CITY – Taos pusong pinasalamatan ni Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa itinatayo nitong Biosphere Reserve and Research Center (BRDC) sa bayan ng Manito, Albay.

Magsisilbi itong pansamantalang tirahan ng mga nailigtas na mga hayop at sentro ng pagmamasid sa iba't-ibang likas na buhay, lalo na ng mga likas na buhay sa dagat at mga tubigan sa lalawigan.

Ang Abay ay idineklarang 'World Biosphere Reserve' ng United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noong Marso 2016. Kasama na ito sa mga lugar sa mundo na itinuturing na "learning sustainable development and biodiversity conservation with the sustainable use of natural resources."

Nabatid na noong gobernador pa ng Albay sa Salceda, sinikap nitong ideklara ng UNESCO ang Albay bilang 'biosphere reserve site,' isa sa tanging dalawang lugar na deklaradong ganon sa Pilipinas. Iginawad ang deklarasyon para sa Albay noong Marso 2016 sa Lima, Peru, kasunod sa pag-endorso nito ng 'Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program International Co-ordinating Council (ICC).



## Salceda, pinasalamatan ang DENR sa itinatayong 'Biosphere Reserve and Research Center' sa Albay

Ang pagtatayo ng dalawang palapag na gusaling Albay BRDC na may toreng bantayan sa bubungan, ay pinasimulan nitong ika-11 ng buwang kasalukuyan at ayon sa DENR matatapos ito sa Disyembre ngayong taon. Nasa gitna ito ng 500 metro-kwadrang lote na donasyon ng bayan ng Manito.

Ayon kay Salceda, ang pasilidad ay magiging sentro ng mga hakbang at inisyatibo sa pangangalaga sa likas na kapaligiran at yaman ng Albay, kasama ang mga likas na buhay at mga tirahan nila. Magsisilbi din diumano itong taguan ng mahalagang datus at mga ulat ng pag-aaral. Ipinanukala din ni Salceda ang paglikha ng DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ilang taon nang nakaraan.

Bukod sa mga naturang silbi ng pasilidad, magiging 'rescue center' din ito ng nanganganib na mga likas na buhay sa dagat at tubigan, Ang 'watch tower' nito sa bubungan ay gagamitin din ng mga organisadong Bantay Dagat (Sea Rangers) at Bantay Gubat (forest rangers) sa lalawigan. Ang bayan ng Manito ay bahagi ng ika-2 'Congressional district' ni Salceda.

Ayon pa kay Salceda, bilang isang 'biosphere reserve' ang Albay, palatandaan ng kahusayan at hamon din sa sa mga Albayanon sa patuloy at mabisang pangangalaga sa mayaman nilang likas na kapaligiran.

"Lubos na malalim ang pagnanais naming mga Albayanon na makatulong sa pambansa at pandaigdigang pagtugon sa mga hamon ng pagbabago ng panahon o 'climate change.' Naniniwala kaming maaki ang maitutulong namin sa 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Ang BRDC ng Albay ang mababang-loob naming ambag sa magiging pamana ng bansa sa susunod nating mga henerasyon," madiing pahayag ng mambabatas.

Ayon kay Salceda, kasama sa kahalagahan ng Albay bilang isang 'biosphere reserve' ang 182 uri (species) ng halaman nito na ang 46 ay likas sa lalawigan, at mga 'marine and coastal ecosystems' nito na kinabibilangan ng 12 uri ng bakhawan o 'mangrove,' 40 uri ng 'seaweed or macro-algae' na tinatawag nilang "lato" at 10 uri ng damong dagat o 'sea grass.' Ang lima sa pitong uri ng mga pawikan sa mundo ay matatagpuan din sa Albay.

Matapos ideklarang 'biodiversity reserve' ang Albay ng UNESCO, lalao pang napalawak ng lalawigan ang 'terrestrial buffer zone' sa 62,000 ektarya mula 35,000 ektarya. Kasama rin sa binagong sona nito ang mahigit na 65,000 ektaryang 'marine transition zone.'

Lalo ring pinalakas at pinatibay ng Albay ang mga kakbang nito mapprotektahan ang nanganganib nang mga itlugaan at limliman ng itlog ng mga pawikan sa lalawigan, dagdag ni Salceda. RNT

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/salceda-pinasalamatan-ang-denr-sa-itinatayong-biosphere-reserve-and-research-center-sa-albay/>



## PRIORITY BILLS SA 19TH CONGRESS INIHAIN NI VILLAR

[July 13, 2022 jake](#)



Photo Courtesy of journal.com.ph

ILANG araw bago magbukas ang 19th Congress sa July 25, isinampa ni Senator Cynthia A. Villar ang kayang priority bills para mapabilis ang paglago ng agrikultura ng bansa, mapangalagaan ang kapaligiran at matulungan ang Pinoy entrepreneurs.

Mananatili kay Villar ang chairmanship ng Senate Committees on Agriculture and Food at Environment and Natural Resources sa darating na Kongreso. Pinangunahan din niya ang mga naturang komite noong 18th Congress.

Iginiit ni Villar na mapaiigting ng kanyang mga panukalang batas ang food sustainability at sufficiency ng bansa.

Sinabi pa niya na sa mga panahong ito, kailangang tutukan ang ating livestock industry. Aniya, ang sektor na ito na binubuo ng cattle, hogs, poultry at dairy ang magpapakain sa ating mga kababayan. Mapababa rin nito ang kahirapan sa kanayunan sa pagbibigay ng mas magandang kita at trabaho sa mga magsasaka at kanilang pamilya.

Sa pag-unlad nito, sinabi ng senador na magiging abot-kaya ang ligtas at masustansyang produkto ng livestock, poultry at dairy para sa 110 milyong Pilipino.

“The draft bill on livestock, and poultry, together with the Yellow Corn Development Bill were crafted with the help of the NEDA and in consultation with various stakeholders,” ayon kay Villar.

“The African Swine Fever which hit the industry in 2019 resulted in the culling of thousands of pigs, wiping out entire farms and growers which adversely affected the 260 Billion-peso swine industry of the country,” dagdag pa niya.





## PRIORITY BILLS SA 19TH CONGRESS INIHAIN NI VILLAR

Sa kasalukuyan, sinabi ni Villar na unti-unting umuusbong ang ASF na mga lugar na noo'y hindi naman idineklarang "red zones".

Binanggit din niya na patuloy din ang pagkalat ng Avian influenza o bird flu sa buong bansa. May mga naitalang bagong outbreaks sa Luzon at Mindanao.

Inilahad niya ang kanyang mga inihaing bills na may kaugnayan sa agrikultura:

- 1- Livestock, Poultry and Dairy Development and Competitiveness Act of 2022;
- 2- Yellow Corn Industry Development Act of 2022;
- 3- Marine Hatchery in Baybay City, Province of Leyte;
- 4- Marine Hatchery in the Municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan Del Sur;
- 5- New Land Bank of the Philippines Act;
- 6- Philippine Fiber Industry Development Program of 2022;
- 7- Integrated Urban Agriculture Act of 2022;
- 8- Agriculture Information System Act;
- 9- National Farmers, Fisherfolks and Agri-workers Day and
- 10- Anti-Illegal Movement of Animals or Plants.

Ang kanya namang mga panukalang batas upang pangalagaan ang ating kapaligiran at likas na yaman ay ang mga sumusunod:

- 1- National Wetlands Conservation Act;
- 2- Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act;
- 3- Integrated Coastal Management;
- 4- National Mangrove Forest Protection and Preservation;
- 5- Rainwater Harvesting Facility;
- 6- Paoay Lake Protected Landscape Act (Province of Ilocos Norte);
- 7- Taklong and Tandog Group of Islands Natural Park Act (Province of Guimaras);
- 8- Minalungao Protected Landscape Act (Province of Nueva Ecija) and

Kinilala ni Villar na 'most productive and biologically diverse landscapes known to man' ang ating coastal environments na kinapapalooban ng iba't ibang ecosystems gaya ng shore lands, mangroves, seagrass beds at coral reefs.

"Coastal and marine areas are vital sources of food, minerals and raw materials while marine-related economic activities, including fisheries, marine transportation, tourism, coastal mining, and offshore oil and gas development make significant contributions to a country's GDP as well as provide livelihood and employment opportunities to coastal communities," pahayag ni Villar.

Nagsampa rin siya ng dalawa pang bills- ang Buy Pinoy, Build Pinoy Month at ang Small and Medium Enterprises Stock Exchange (SMEX).



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## PRIORITY BILLS SA 19TH CONGRESS INIHAIN NI VILLAR

Layunin ng bill sa Buy Pinoy, Build Pinoy Act na ideklara ang November kada taon bilang “BUY PINOY, BUILD PINOY Month” para isiksik sa isip ng bawat Pilipino na suportahan ang mga produktong gawang Pilipino at kilalanin ang Pinoy producers.

Ang SMEX bill naman ang tutulong sa Small and Medium Enterprises upang makakuha ng financing requirements mula sa developing capital market sa bansa. (ESTONG REYES)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/pfbido2UDHNcqhhCAYBoHfyyb5NNJQL5oVWhuNSrQbzhBDMV1yMJyTxWPNmB5Yaw3ChmsNHI/?app=fbl>



## Human rights, climate change, agrikultura, ipinatuturo sa paaralan



July 14, 2022 @ 1:15 PM 18 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Dapat matutunan ng estudyanteng Pilipino ang pangunahing karapatan tulad ng karapatang pantao, epekto ng pagsasayang ng pagkain, agrikultura at entrepreneurial skills, ayon kay Sen. Loren Legarda.

Sinabi ni Legarda na naghain siya ng panukalang batas upang maisama ang mga ito sa kurikulum.

Ayon sa mambabatas na kapag nagkaroon ng school subject hinggil sa Bill of Rights sa ilalim ng Saligang Batas, maitataguyod nito ang prinsipyo ng karapatang pantao sa mga kabataan.

Layunin naman ng “Zero Waste Bill na isama sa kurikulum ang pandaigdigang at pambansang sitwasyon sa pagsasayang ng pagkain at kung paano ito matutugunan.

Gusto din ni Legarda na ituro sa paaralan ang mga sumusunod:

- Food forest gardening sa senior high school at college students
- Urban agriculture
- Entrepreneurship for all school levels





## Human rights, climate change, agrikultura, ipinatuturo sa paaralan

- Cultural education programs and activities
- Culinary Heritage and Philippine Gastronomy sa grade school at high school students

Human rights, climate change, agrikultura, ipinatuturo sa paaralan

Aniya, makatutulong na tugunan ang hamon na dulot ng climate change at pandemya kung maituturo sa ating mag-aaral ang kaalamanan hinggil sa natural resources.

“Nature-based solutions should be taught to every Filipino. These are solutions that protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems,” aniya.

Aniya, dapat mabigyan ng sapat na kaalamanan at suporta ang kabataang Filipino kung pag-uusapan ang inobasyon,.

“We have to invest in knowledge economy and keep on advancing the competencies of our workforce by introducing them to software programming and other innovation capabilities,” ayon sa senador. **Ernie Reyes**



## Legarda files bill regulating single-use plastics

By HANA BORDEY, GMA News

Published July 14, 2022 6:00pm



A man looks at discarded plastic packaging littering Manila Bay's dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on Sunday, July 3, 2022. DANNY PATA

Senator Loren Legarda has filed a bill regulating the manufacturing, importation and use of single-use products by providing penalties, levies and incentives for industries and consumers.

Called the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Act of 2022, the measure provides an "ambitious yet comprehensive" approach to solving the problem of single-use plastics, Legarda said.

The proposed act will cover the manufacture, importation, use, recycling, and disposal of all single-use plastics used in trade or commerce in business enterprises, as well as by retailers and consumers in the Philippines.

Under the measure, the phase-out of single-use plastics by all business enterprises to consumers will be in full force a year after the effectivity of the bill.

Within the one-year interim period, single-use plastics shall be prohibited in food establishments, markets, and retailers; consumers will be encouraged to use reusable materials as substitute; and single-use plastics that are already manufactured and in circulation in the general will be collected, recycled and properly disposed of by the manufacturers.

For the single-use plastics which cannot be avoided, business enterprises must ensure that these are recycled following the guidelines provided in the bill.

For each single-use plastic already manufactured and in circulation at the time, retailers will impose a minimum of P5 levy on consumers.



## Legarda files bill regulating single-use plastics

The collected amount shall be reflected in the official receipt and 20% of this shall be kept by the business enterprise to cover the cost of the bag while 80% shall be remitted monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually to the Special Plastic Fund that will be created by the bill.

After the one-year period, businesses enterprises as well as the consumers' use of single-use plastics shall be prohibited.

A discount of P5 is proposed for consumers bringing their reusable or recyclable containers for take-outs and selling of food and beverages.

The proposed measure also directs the Department of Finance, through the Bureau of Customs, in coordination with other agencies such as the Departments of Environment and Resources, Trade and Industry, Health, and the Climate Change Commission to ensure that no single-use plastics, including waste products, will be imported to the country.

Further, the bill will require the business enterprises to establish Materials Recovery Facility, which shall serve as the collection points for used plastics.

The local government units, plastic manufacturers, and business enterprises will be mandated to establish a system and procedure for the proper collection and delivery of single-use plastics to recycling centers.

Manufacturers will be tasked to maintain records describing the recovery, collection, transport, and recycling of plastic bags collected annually and it shall be submitted to the national Solid Waste Management Commission and/or the LGUs.

Under the bill, the Department of Science and Technology and the NSWMC shall also be mandated to include in their programs and research and development agenda research on single-use packaging.

Business enterprises, individuals, cooperatives, partnerships, and corporations that engage in manufacture of identified alternatives to single-use plastics will be given incentives provided under the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, and other laws applicable.

The DENR and the DTI in coordination with the DOF shall provide technical and financial assistance to these manufacturers.

LGUs are likewise encouraged and allowed to provide additional benefits and incentives to these manufacturers.

A regular inspection by the NSWMC and DTI, in coordination with the LGUs and law enforcement agencies, is also provided under the bill.

The inspection covers entry or access to the premises of operation and business, including storage rooms and stockrooms as well as inspection of off-site storage facilities, distribution centers and transshipment points.

The bill also imposes penalties ranging from P5,000 to P100,000 for violations of MSMEs and P50,000 to P500,000 to Value Added Tax-registered stores, establishments and enterprises.



## Legarda files bill regulating single-use plastics

“We need to correct our behavior and mindset when it comes to single-use plastics by adopting more sustainable practices, such as recycling or upcycling, reducing our consumption, and proper disposal, to mitigate their detrimental effects to our environment, health, and our climate,” Legarda said in a statement.

“But we also need to continue demanding more effective policies and solutions especially from companies to manage plastic waste and incentivize consumers to help address plastic pollution,” she added.

In her explanatory note, Legarda noted the Journal Science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s study which showed that the Philippines ranked third among countries with the highest source of plastic ocean pollution with around 1.88 metric tons of mismanaged plastic garbage per year.

“The plastic crisis we face right now calls for a rethinking of our approaches to our governance and market systems and operations. We need to sustain this growing movement on sustainability and circularity by improving our policies, implementing more adequate interventions from the public and private sectors, and opening more spaces where citizens can support and take lead in addressing single-use plastics,” Legarda said. — **BM, GMA News**





## As 'multiple crises' hound PH environment, green warriors urge new chief to ensure private interests won't get in the way

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Jul 13 2022 10:49 PM



Climate activists join residents of communities affected by pollution from coal-fired power plants as they picket in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City on March 5, 2020, calling on the government to increase efforts in ensuring cleaner air. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News file*

MANILA — Environmentalists on Wednesday urged newly-appointed Environment Secretary Toni Loyzaga to fight for climate justice and openly communicate with green defenders on the ground, citing "multiple crises" hounding the environment.

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. [has chosen Loyzaga](#) to lead the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which had faced backlash for what groups have described as counterintuitive projects under the previous administration, among them the alleged [neglect](#) of protected areas and the go-signal for Manila Bay's [dolomite beach](#).

"There are multiple crises where the environment department's leadership will be crucial if we are going to rise above these challenges," said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment.

"Definitely, the upcoming environment secretary has her hands full in terms of ensuring the non-negotiables in the environment and climate justice, especially at a time where definitely there'll be competing interests," Dulce added.



## As 'multiple crises' hound PH environment, green warriors urge new chief to ensure private interests won't get in the way

Heidi Fernandez, head of the Save Zambales Kalikasan Movement, said it would be important for DENR to be a model in following laws.

Fernandez lamented how they "experienced a lot of violations from the agency itself" in the past administration.

She advised Loyzaga to "follow the laws because we have all the environmental laws present. If we follow the laws, then we will be able to protect the environment."

### STOP DESTRUCTIVE PROJECTS

Dulce said they should continue watching out for the new environment chief, given her ties to Malacañang as a relative of First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and her background in public-private partnerships.

Loyzaga served as the executive director of the Manila Observatory for [9 years](#), and a technical adviser to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

"There could be some family interests that could obstruct the integrity of our environmental governance in the DENR," Dulce said.

"We hope that the imperatives of science and the imperatives of social justice will be the primary thrust of this new governance in the DENR would be the different projects and destructive and extractive projects."

They also urged Loyzaga to issue an omnibus moratorium on "destructive" and "enormous" projects like the Kaliwa Dam or the Pasig River Expressway until these get scientific backing or until the proponents consult with stakeholders.

Several groups have questioned the Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon as it would displace thousands of indigenous people. It secured an [environment clearance](#) in 2019 as the government seeks new water sources.

Dulce hopes the new DENR secretary will "stick to her expertise" and remember that the "people are the biggest factor" in that risk.

"We hope for an open line and an honest line with environmental defenders on the ground," he said.

"It is going to be a tightrope that Secretary Toni will be walking and we hope that she puts an emphasis in applying her Ignatian values from the Ateneo in really listening to the cry of the poor, really listening to the land and environmental defenders," he added.

A new study released by the United Nations' (UN) climate experts warned about a [catastrophic climate change](#) by 2025 if carbon emission levels remain unchanged, worrying climate activists.



## As 'multiple crises' hound PH environment, green warriors urge new chief to ensure private interests won't get in the way

PAGASA's climate center in May said the sea level in the Philippine Sea has already [risen to about 12 centimeters](#) or nearly 5 inches in the past 20 years as global temperatures continue to rise.

Experts, the state weather bureau added, have observed the rise of sea levels in the country's eastern portions. This was seen in Cebu, while the highest increase was reported around Manila Bay.



## Environmental groups urge Marcos to veto EPR bill

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

**Published** July 14, 2022 4:31pm

Several environmental groups on Thursday called on President “Bongbong” Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to veto the bill institutionalizing the extended producers’ responsibility (EPR) in waste management.

EPR makes it the responsibility of companies to properly recover, recycle, treat, or dispose of what they produce after they have been sold and consumed.

At a press conference, the groups said the bill has alarming provisions that will pose serious threats to public health, climate and environment.

EcoWaste Coalition policy and advocacy officer Coleen Salamat said the legislation only covered plastic packaging, mandatory only to big enterprises, included false solutions, and aimed only at recovery or off-setting.

“This version of EPR is not really consistent with the principles of the EPR, which is to make the polluters pay,” she said.

Break Free From Plastic project coordinator for corporate accountability Miko Aliño said a strong EPR law should include time-bound targets for reuse, refill, and recycled content; informal waste sector; transparency; and wider policy approach focusing on waste prevention and sustainable product design.

He added that there should be eco-modulation of EPR fees to concerned producers or companies which involve penalizing materials that are environmentally harmful.

“Having these five elements help improve the EPR scheme,” he said.

Greenpeace Philippines’ zero waste campaigner Marian Ledesma said that passing the bill can endanger communities, disrupt livelihood, destroy homes and infrastructure, and lead to food insecurity.

“Given the Marcos administration has been vocal about its commitment to tackle climate change, the President must veto this bill because it can affect the government’s climate goals and worsen the situation of affected communities in the Philippines,” she said.

Health Care Without Harm’s Dr. Glenn Roy Paraso, executive director and CEO of Mary Johnston Hospital Inc., reminded the adverse impacts of plastic on people’s health and lifestyle.

“Eliminating the use of plastics would be the better option for us,” he said.

He added that national manufacturers should “improve our products and look for alternative ways to repackage them, and look at the possibility of strictly implementing a recovery mechanism.”

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives executive director Froilan Grate clarified that their groups are for legislation of EPR but the country needs a genuine and straightforward version.





## Environmental groups urge Marcos to veto EPR bill

“When the very companies who are supposed to be the target of these national laws are the ones calling for its passage, and civil society organizations are the ones calling to oppose, I think it will give everyone reason to doubt whether the EPR bill that is currently being considered really is meant to address the problems of plastic pollution or it is meant to provide businesses way to continue with business as usual,” he said.

The environmental groups made the call as the proposed EPR Act has already been sent to Malacañang for the president's signature and will lapse into law soon if not vetoed.—**LDF, GMA News**



## Allergies on the rise due to climate change

July 13, 2022 | 12:05 am



UNSPLASH

Climate change has increased the incidence of skin and respiratory allergies, according to allergologists at a July 10 event organized by the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (PSAAI).

“There’s longer pollination as well as increasing humidity, leading to the proliferation of dust mites, molds, pollens, and fungi. This leads to an increasing incidence of skin and respiratory allergies,” said Dr. Addah S. de Peralta, an allergologist at De La Salle University Medical Center.

Dust mites, molds, pollens, and fungi are among the most common allergens, or substances that cause allergic reactions.

A [March 2022 study published in \*Nature Communications\*](#) found that atmospheric conditions affect the release of pollen, and the timing and magnitude will be altered by climate change. Simultaneous exposure to allergens and toxic air pollutants can also worsen allergic responses, [warned the US National Climate Assessment](#).

“To decrease the effects of climate change, we need to practice solid waste management in our barangays [communities],” said Dr. Glaiza M. Madulara, an allergologist affiliated with Pacific Global Medical Center.

Atopic dermatitis, also known as eczema, is a chronic skin condition that makes one’s skin red and itchy. It tends to flare periodically, and may be accompanied by asthma or hay fever (seasonal allergic rhinitis).



## Allergies on the rise due to climate change

Patients with this condition have a 50%–75% risk of developing asthma and allergic rhinitis, Dr. Madulara said. “Atopic dermatitis is usually the starting point for food allergies to develop later in life too.”

While there is no cure for it, individuals can control atopic dermatitis by the avoidance of skin triggers and good skin care.

“Shower with lukewarm water, use a gentle skin cleanser, and apply moisturizer after tapping dry your skin,” said Dr. Madulara. “Flareups can be treated with steroidal anti-inflammatory creams or ointments, per the supervision of each individual’s doctor.”

Avoiding triggers is also a good management strategy for allergic rhinitis, according to Dr. Jose Carlo Miguel M. Villanueva, an allergologist from Capitol Oral Rehabilitation Center Medical/Dental Clinic.

If you have a runny nose in the morning, sneeze when it’s dusty, and have itchy eyes especially at night, then you might have allergic rhinitis, he said. “[Another telltale sign] is mouth breathing because of a clogged nose, which can result in dry lips, a change in the shape of your jawline, and crooked teeth,” he added.

Symptoms worsen with weather changes, strong emotions, and air pollution. “One of the most important things to find out is which allergens give you your symptoms,” said Dr. Villanueva. “One way to do it is through a skin allergy test.”

A patient’s skin is exposed to suspected allergens in a skin prick test. The skin area is then observed for signs of an allergic reaction. Those with a family history of atopy — or the genetic tendency to develop allergic rhinitis, asthma, and eczema — are more predisposed to having allergies ([a 20%–40% risk among children with one atopic parent, and a 40-60% risk among children with parents who are both atopic](#)).

“As we go through the new normal and start to finally get our old lives again, let’s not forget that there are people who struggle with diseases in everyday life,” Dr. de Peralta said.

The overall prevalence of allergic rhinitis in the Philippines [based on the National Nutrition and Health Survey of 2008](#) is 20%.

July 8 is National Allergy Day. – **Patricia B. Mirasol**

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064329023551/posts/pfbidoZ5vLDoVh5yV3hfhKvLSRDHcWYK6fFLiNPtLL83sWkdrit3HNLu7mcKfR2pUhy2knl/?app=fbl>



## Strategies for sustainable CSR



By [Dafort Villaseran](#)

July 15, 2022



IMAGE BY MYSTIC ART DESIGN FROM PIXABAY

WITH the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) planning to make sustainability reporting mandatory for publicly listed corporations in the country starting 2023, companies would be strategic to practice publishing reports and stepping up efforts on corporate social responsibility (CSR) if they have not been doing so already.

Such strategies are timely in a highly globalized world, disrupted with supply chain inefficiency, prime commodity scarcity, and dwindling land and sea productivity due to contagion, conflict or contamination.

Global reports show corporate social responsibility strategies directly impact the sustainability of small enterprises and big companies.

### **The economic consequences of corporate activities**

Corporations that prioritize CSR find that their sustainable practices not only nurture the environment, but also enhance brand image and loyalty, boost productivity, augment bottom lines for shareholders and streamline costs over time.

Thus, environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards are the criteria through which savvy investors evaluate corporations for possible capitalization. This, in turn, encourages companies to be more socially responsible to their investors, workers and customers as well as to the communities in which they live and operate.

Environmental standards, naturally, take into account the means through which companies protect nature and its bounty with particular focus on striking an equitable balance between profit and impact on climate change mitigation and alleviation.





## Strategies for sustainable CSR

Social standards view businesses through the lens of dynamic interconnectedness and mutual benefit between all the communities and stakeholders within the economic ecosystem, namely the investor, supplier, labor and customer sectors, among others.

Governance underscores the indivisible importance of leadership in direction setting and pivoting, merit remuneration and promotion, audit quality and compliance, corporate checks and balances, and shareholder privileges and responsibilities.

These imply that it is in the best interests of businesses to apply ESG in evaluating CSR growth opportunities.

### Social and environmental implications of businesses

These days it is par for the course for companies that are considered highly attractive as viable investments to take into account the social and environmental impact of their business.

What sets one socially conscious company apart from another are its policies and initiatives that allow it to play the long game well and create a positive impact on not just a continuously incremental contribution to the country's gross domestic product but more importantly, to a more sustainable society, incorporating this hierarchal mission into its corporate DNA and company strategies.

Companies are seen as more attractive investments and as brands that resonate better with socially conscious consumers when corporations promote programs that push public health and community improvement through human capital development (e.g., training and education) and the cleanup of the environment.

Companies are also seen as more attractive when they inculcate responsible growth and sustain the circular economy — the economy that minimizes environmental degradation in the course of commercial operations and that recycles or repurposes the end products or by-products of commerce — through data-driven and responsive mobilization of financial, material and human capital.

Therefore, companies are more attractive, promoting equality, legality and humanity.

### Way of giving back to society

Many business organizations and corporations now care for the welfare of society, for the communities in which they operate and for their surrounding natural environment. They demonstrate and concretize care by giving back to the customers and their families the surplus of the overflowing bounty that consumers have given to the companies.

In this endeavor, socially responsible corporations are supported by the national government through regulatory rewards and agency assistance. For starters, aside from providing assistance, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is directed to acknowledge and award all business entities with globally groundbreaking and outstanding ESG projects. On top of that, stock companies that regard the impact of their businesses on the environment, employees, customers and communities get to retain profits in excess of 100 percent of their paid-in capital as mandated



## Strategies for sustainable CSR

by the amendment to Section 42 of Republic Act 11232 or the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.

It is this excess profit that makes them more attractive investments and paves the way for giving back, contributing greatly toward CSR activities in addition to the hefty war chest that corporations set aside annually in their budgets for sustainability these days.

### To thank consumers for their loyalty

Because of the fiscal and intangible benefits to environmental and human capital, there are hardly any humane and heartfelt ways out of CSR, as business organizations are encouraged, although not yet mandated, to submit their list of CSR activities as a component of regular reports to the DTI, the SEC and the Department of Finance (DoF). And the most humane and heartfelt activities to place on the CSR list are the ways in which corporations thank customers for their loyalty and show gratitude for patronizing their company.

For years now, particularly and continuously during the pandemic, companies have ramped up fundraisers, donations, and numerous forms of aid and assistance as reported in various media platforms, especially this newspaper. At the height of the community quarantines in May 2020, one of the largest of these philanthropic efforts, Project Ugnayan, was led by leading business organizations, reportedly coming up with a combined amount of around P1.4 billion in contributions, excluding individual initiatives of member corporations in their respective areas of activity.

Companies have donated equipment for medical facilities, connectivity devices for distance learning and housing for stimulating provincial repatriation as examples of gratitude for consumer loyalty.

### Sustaining growth for employees and consumers

Socially conscious corporations sustain growth for their investors, their employees and their consumers through collaborative efforts with their respective communities and with concerned government agencies. For example, this can be with cooperatives and socio-civic groups, with disaster risk reduction and management agencies, with local government units, or with departmental and national authorities.

Among other things, this sustainability involves ensuring equitable labor practices and human rights. This also involves applied research and development for purposes of improving the long-term benefits of products and services by reducing their harmful effects throughout all stages of their life cycle.

Sustainability also includes balancing the rights of all stakeholders and placing safeguards against abuse and unethical business behavior in the application of donations and tax deductions. Public policies on consumer and investor protection should be insulated against vested interests of corporate management.

Hence, codes of conduct, company best practices, and implementing rules and regulations are key in ensuring sustained growth.



## Strategies for sustainable CSR

All these strategies are critical because private sector sustainability efforts such as these are engendered by the government through the provision of tax-deductibility of donations given the compliance of certain conditions of the DTI, the SEC and the DoF.

On May 18, 2020, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 6137 or the Corporate Social Responsibility Act, aiming to propagate environmental conservation and green economic development, rewarding companies that exemplify CSR in their strategies and activities for the improvement of society.

As part of their return on investment (ROI), companies are now incentivized to voluntarily collaborate with concerned sectors and stakeholders and commit toward green policies and programs via workforce support and growth, charitable projects, health initiatives, emergency response, science-based research, and sports and youth advocacies.

This plants and nurtures the seed that ROI is now rooted in ESG.



## Bangladesh bats for boosted business environment with PHL

BYBUSINESSMIRROR

JULY 13, 2022

FOR the Bangladeshi envoy to the Philippines, local businesses and those from his country should maximize the benefits of a huge, combined consumers' market of 270 million people.

With focus on the present state of investments and trade, Ambassador F. M. Borhan Uddin mentioned in a June 24 business seminar that the volume of two-way trade between Bangladesh and the Philippines was \$124 million. Although the volume was "not satisfactory after 50 years," he was quite impressed with the growth of mutual trade in the last decade.

He also mentioned that the mobilization of capital and goods between the two markets might bring about remarkable breakthroughs, while pointing out the necessity of joint study on increasing bilateral trade and investments.

"The two countries," Uddin said, "should make their future plans of action to further diversify cooperation on the basis of the achievements they made in the last 50 years." As such, he gave more weight on intensifying people-to-people contacts.

For him, the frequency of bilateral visits at the government and private-sector level needs to be increased, and that exchanges among their business leaders have to be intensified to bring about tangible changes in trade and investment.

Highlighting the commonalities on many issues, including climate change, he said both Bangladesh and the Philippines were climate-vulnerable countries, and they could work together to achieve their common goals.

The ambassador referred to the tremendous development in various sectors in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They cover businesses on ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, plastics, glass fiber, shipbuilding, jutes, agricultural products, and processed food, then also cited mega projects undertaken by his government

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Manila organized with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) the "Prospects of Bilateral Trade and Investment between Bangladesh and the Philippines" seminar, where around 60 business leaders participated—including those from the PCCI, representatives from Filipino companies, those from the local Bangladesh business community, and the media.

Uddin thanked the PCCI and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for their support in organizing the seminar. He said Bangladesh and the Philippines "have completed 50 years of diplomatic relations in February 2022, and the embassy has [undertaken a number of programs...to mark the golden jubilee of their] bilateral ties."





## Bangladesh bats for boosted business environment with PHL

### Philippine response

CITING the depth of fraternity between the two countries, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Nathaniel Imperial thanked the embassy for organizing the business seminar, and Uddin for inviting him to speak.

The DFA official touched on the establishment of Bangladesh's Telsu Inc. in Baguio in 2017, and the Philippines's Liwayway Corp. in Gazipur in 2019, as both firms opened doors for the two countries' mutual investments.

He expressed hopes that in the coming years, there would be more interaction between the two countries' private sectors through their respective chambers. He also anticipates that the seminar would pave the way for closer economic cooperation, as well as trade and investment.

Imperial also expects the opening of the new Bangladesh Honorary Consulate in Cebu will help spur investments and people engagements in the Visayas.

As the pandemic and current geopolitical developments have further highlighted the importance of food and health security, the assistant secretary projects that the event will usher opportunities for both the countries to explore increasingly vital areas of cooperation, namely the agriculture and health sectors, which comprised the main topic of discussions during Uddin's recent courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Imperial mentioned that the Philippines was one of the first Southeast Asian countries that recognized Bangladesh's statehood in February 1972.

Meanwhile, PCCI's International Committee Chair Jude Aguilar acknowledged the "good opportunity to increase trade and investments between Bangladesh and the Philippines," as he proposed to enhance cooperation of their business leaders, with a particular emphasis on the formation of a business council.

The comparative analysis and main features of mutual relations, dynamic sectors of Bangladesh, factors for foreign investments in the South Asian country, and avenues for future collaborations between the two countries were highlighted.

After the presentation, a question-and-answer session took place, where the guests shared their views about the investment opportunities in both countries.



## Pacific leaders urge 'immediate' climate action



By Agence France-Presse

July 15, 2022



**CUTTING CORNERS** Pacific leaders cut a cake after the launch of their 2050 Strategy during the Pacific Islands Forum in Fiji's capital Suva on Thursday, July 14, 2022. AFP PHOTO

**SUVA, Fiji:** Vulnerable Pacific islands demanded "urgent, immediate" global action on climate change on Thursday while stressing a commitment to democracy and the "rules-based" international order in the face of growing Chinese regional influence.

At the Pacific Islands Forum in the Fijian capital Suva, island leaders warned that time was running out to avoid "worst-case scenarios" that would see their countries — many teetering just above sea level — subsumed or rendered uninhabitable by ever-fiercer storms.

"We are at the forefront of the adverse impacts of climate change," the leaders said in a joint 2050 strategy document agreed upon after three days of talks.

"Urgent robust and transformative action" is needed "globally, regionally and nationally," they added.

The regional summit is the first to be held in person since the coronavirus pandemic began, but instead of a warm reunion, the event has been overshadowed by internal divisions and a battle for influence between the United States and China.

On the eve of the summit, Beijing-allied leaders in Kiribati announced they would not attend and resigned from the forum.

The vast Pacific region is smattered with verdant sparsely populated islands but sits along major international shipping routes that make it a crucible for geopolitical rivalry.



## Pacific leaders urge 'immediate' climate action

United States Vice President Kamala Harris used a video address to the forum to announce that Washington would establish new embassies in Tonga and Kiribati, appoint a regional envoy and pump an extra \$600 million into the region.

China has made no secret of its ambition to challenge long-standing US primacy in the Pacific, deploying state-backed firms and checkbook diplomacy to build a foothold.

There was widespread alarm earlier this year when Beijing inked a secretive security agreement with the Solomon Islands, which critics fear could pave the way to establishing a military base.

Leaders noted the region's security environment was "becoming increasingly crowded" and "positioning by major powers" was taking a toll.

But echoing language often used by Washington, leaders also warned that the "rules-based order for peace and security" was coming under "increasing pressure" and that the "Pacific region is not immune."

They also committed to "democratic principles" and "human rights" that fly in the face of China's authoritarian system of government.

On the sidelines of the event, China also suffered another seeming setback, with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare stressing his country would not host a foreign military base.

Establishing such a base would make the Solomons "an enemy" of the Pacific and would "put our country and our people as targets for potential military strikes," Sogavare told broadcaster RNZ Pacific.

The "Solomon Islands government will never allow our country and people to become military targets," he said.

The premier made similar assurances when he met with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese for the first time on Wednesday.

Sogavare embraced Albanese on the forum's sidelines, telling the Australian leader: "I need a hug."



## New species of water scavenger beetles discovered, named after Robredo's Angat Buhay program

By RICHA NORIEGA, GMA News  
Published July 14, 2022 4:39pm



*Anacaena angatbuhay*  
Sanchez, Delocado & Freitag, 2022



*Anacaena auxilium*  
Sanchez, Delocado & Freitag, 2022

COURTESY: ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

Two new species of water scavenger beetles were recently discovered and one was named after former Vice President Leni Robredo's Angat Buhay program, the Ateneo de Manila University said on Thursday.

[In a statement](#), the university said the new species were discovered and described by Enrico Gerard Sanchez, his thesis adviser Dr. Emmanuel Delocado, and co-adviser Prof Dr Hendrik Freitag from the Ateneo Biodiversity Research Laboratory of the Department of Biology.

"Discovered in Ifugao, the first of the two new species is 'Anacaena angatbuhay,' named after the Angat Buhay anti-poverty program launched during the term of former Vice President Leni Robredo," the Ateneo said.

The Ateneo, citing the authors, said the species is named "to honor the program's outstanding and unparalleled service, especially during the pandemic."

According to Delocado, the species has long existed but remained unnoticed until its publication.

"The species' name is a nod to the countless Filipinos working for and with far-flung communities whose efforts were not widely recognized," the university said.





## New species of water scavenger beetles discovered, named after Robredo's Angat Buhay program

Robredo earlier launched non-profit [Angat Pinas, Inc.](#), which aims to provide anti-poverty programs. It is her first engagement as a private citizen.

The former vice president said the Angat Buhay programs will focus on three main areas: health, education, and disaster response, to address the country's most urgent problems.

Meanwhile, the second species is named "Anacaena auxilium" in honor of Mary Help of Christian High School Seminary in Binmaley, Pangasinan, which Sanchez attended during junior high school.

"The paper noted that help (auxilium in Latin) alludes to the need to pay attention to the vulnerable state of freshwater biodiversity in the Southeast Asian region," the Ateneo said.

"The study is noteworthy because it was conducted amidst the pandemic using an innovative lab-at-home set-up. These home lab microscopes were acquired with the support of SC Johnson Environmental Leadership Development Fund," it added.

The university said Sanchez conducted sorting and dissection at home, with several virtual walkthroughs and Zoom consultations with Delocado and Freitag.

It added that courier services were utilized to transport samples and materials among the authors.

Sanchez's study was done using an innovative lab-at-home set-up amid the pandemic. He did sorting and dissection at home with guidance from Delocado and Freitag through Zoom.

They also utilized courier services to transport samples and materials among the authors, then later did specimen observations and photo documentation when the campus reopened.

Sanchez earned awards for his study including the Dean's Choice Awards at the SOSE Student Research Symposium. He also won first place in the Young Systematic Biologists of the Philippines.

His undergraduate thesis is also published in the international scientific journal ZooKeys. — ***With a report from Franchesca Viernes/LA, GMA News***

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/838162/new-species-of-water-scavenger-beetles-discovered-named-after-robredo-s-angat-buhay-program/story/?fbclid=IwAR2jzblerYZx3wOgNHj5LhaFnuXsnAFcGUAMHFzyNL8Rm1DufDHIRZwhYko>



## Database on foreign agreements, treaties on disaster risk management launched

By GMA News

Published July 14, 2022 3:43pm

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Thursday launched a database on foreign agreements and treaties related to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) to which the Philippines is a party.

The DFA, through the Office of Civilian Security, said it launched the database in celebration of the National Disaster Resilience month.

“The database aims to provide a consolidated reference for generating periodic reports on its compliance with various DRRM agreements and treaties, in order to help strengthen partnerships and coordination among all key actors and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and management,” the DFA said in a statement.

According to the DFA, the database includes multilateral instruments such as the Paris Agreement on climate change and bilateral treaties with countries like Vietnam, Norway, and Thailand.

Each entry contains a summary of the key points of the instrument and is linked to a copy of the document.

“The database is in line with Activity 11.2.1, Output 11.2, Outcome 11 of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020-2030, which calls for the conduct of an inventory of foreign agreements/treaties on DRRM to which the country is a party,” the DFA said. —**Richa Noriega/VBL, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/838148/database-on-foreign-agreements-treaties-on-disaster-risk-management-launched/story/?just\\_in&fbclid=IwAR2BDeYtbtkW4vG2WEFmzzMk1APXT6T4gjr1cgVA3tnsUeKXiyBglgdiZHI](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/838148/database-on-foreign-agreements-treaties-on-disaster-risk-management-launched/story/?just_in&fbclid=IwAR2BDeYtbtkW4vG2WEFmzzMk1APXT6T4gjr1cgVA3tnsUeKXiyBglgdiZHI)



## DBM supports rightsizing of govt agencies, personnel

Published on: July 14, 2022

By Susan De Leon



**CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA)** -- Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Wednesday said the agency supports the thrust of the Marcos administration for a lean, efficient, and responsive government workforce.

In an interview over DZBB, Pangandaman revealed that a proposal to rightsize the bureaucracy is being polished for submission to Congress before the delivery of the President's State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA).

*"Ang overarching objective nito (rightsizing) ay magkaroon ng maliit na burukrasya na agile at responsive sa makabagong panahon. Aayusin po ng programang ito 'yung mga ahensya na mayroong repetitive functions or overlapping functions (The overarching objective of this rightsizing is to have a small bureaucracy that is agile and responsive to this modern time. This program will fix the agencies that have repetitive functions or overlapping functions)," she said.*

Pangandaman said the proposal for rightsizing will determine which among the 187 government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) with about 2 million personnel may be streamlined through merging, restructuring, or abolition.

She said that with the proposed rightsizing, the government will be able to save a significant amount of the budget which may be used to fund priority projects, such as building much-needed infrastructure, for social services, programs in the health sector, agriculture, among others.

*"Halimbawa po, kung 5 percent po ang maapektuhan ng programa, ang katumbas po nito ay PHP14.8 billion po kada taon na matitipid natin sa ating personnel services (For example, if 5 percent will be affected by this program, this is equivalent to PHP14.8 billion every year that we can save on our personnel services," she added.*

Pangandaman said affected personnel may apply to positions that will be created as an effect of the rightsizing.



## DBM supports rightsizing of govt agencies, personnel

She said the government will also provide a retooling program for personnel so they may apply for vacant positions. Those who opt to retire will receive appropriate retirement benefits.

The proposal for rightsizing, however, excludes teaching and teaching-related positions, medical and allied medical positions or those in the health sector, and the military as well as other uniformed personnel. *(PIA-NCR)*





## IATF continues to work: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 14, 2022, 5:14 pm



**MANILA** – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) continues to perform its duties amid the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, Malacañang said Thursday.

*“Ang masasabi lang po natin ay tuloy-tuloy naman po ang trabaho ng IATF. Hindi naman po sila naantala kahit po bago na ang administrasyon. So tinutuloy pa rin po ang IATF (What we can say if the IATF continues to do its job. It was not disrupted when the new administration took over. So IATF continues to fulfill its mandate),”* Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said in a press conference.

Cruz-Angeles issued the statement, when asked if the IATF-EID is set to announce the new Covid-19 alert levels for the second half of July.

She said she is not privy as to when the IATF-EID members would meet to discuss the implementation of new alert level classifications in the country from July 16 to 31.

Pressed if the new alert levels would be announced before July 15, Cruz-Angeles said: *Titignan po natin. Medyo speculative kasi maaari naman po tayong gumawa ng extension for necessary agencies kung saka-sakali (Let’s see. It’s somehow speculative because necessary agencies could make an extension, if need be). So, we’ll see.”*

A total of 85 of 121 provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs), as well as 166 of 744 other component cities and municipalities, have been placed under the most lenient Alert Level 1 from July 1 to 15.

Metro Manila is one of the areas placed under Alert Level 1 for the first half of July.



## IATF continues to work: Palace

The intensified campaign to encourage more Filipinos to receive Covid-19 booster shots is among the priorities of the Marcos administration.

In a virtual speech delivered before newly elected mayors and governors on Friday, Marcos raised the possibility of further lowering the Covid-19 alert level status and ordering the “optional” wearing of face mask, if the booster vaccination drive becomes successful.

Marcos said he may further ease the Covid-19 protocols, in case he sees an indication that it is already “safe” to take such step.

He also asked the local government units to support the Covid-19 booster vaccination campaign to ensure the safe reopening of the economy and in-person classes.

Around 71 million Filipinos are fully vaccinated against the Covid-19, the Department of Health (DOH) announced Tuesday.

Of the 71 million, almost 15.3 million fully vaccinated individuals have received their first booster, as of July 1, the DOH added. *(PNA)*



15 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

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**DAVAO**

## DENR-EMB debunks 'virtual cesspool' story on Pujada Bay

By IVY TEJANO

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-EMB) belied a report from Rappler written by Ferdinand Zuasola, captioned "Davao Oriental's world-class bay transforms into a virtual cesspool."

Zuasola was a former staff of the Davao Provincial Information Office.

EMB-Davao chemical and hazardous waste permitting section head Engr. Myhrra Harquilla paid a visit to the office of City of Mati Mayor Michelle Nakpil Rabat on Wednesday, July 13, to discuss the inadequacy of the report.

Harquilla said the particular report, published online by Rappler on June 28, has a lot of loopholes.

Among the loopholes is the so-called Philippine Environmental Management Bureau office, which is not a government agency, Harquilla said, adding that the agency that sets air and water quality standards and monitors ambient and points source pollutants is the DENR-EMB.

The unit parts per million, which are no longer being utilized by the EMB to determine the bacteria count, was also mentioned in the article, according to Harquilla. The latter said the term "most probable number per 100 milliliters," or MPN/100ml, is now in use.

"It was also written in the article that Pujada Bay does not

have water sampling stations operated by the DENR-EMB. We have water sampling stations in Mayo Bay but none yet in Pujada Bay," Harquilla said.

DENR-Davao regional executive director Bagani Fidel Evasco earlier said that the water sampling is specific only to the area where the water sample was taken and does not necessarily reflect the situation in the entire bay.

Regardless of the water sampling result, the environmental officials said that what is essential is that the local government units, along with the DENR, implement mitigating measures to minimize, if not prevent, contamination in the bay.

The DENR officials claimed that both the provincial and city local government units (LGUs) have long implemented policies such as ongoing mangrove rehabilitation in areas near Pujada Bay, rehabilitation and retrofitting of the sanitary landfill, improvement of garbage collection service, ongoing information, education, and campaign (IEC) on proper waste disposal, recent establishment of the IEC Team of the City Integrated Ecological Solid Waste Management Board, bamboo riverbank stabilization program, and water and saline resource management.

The City of Mati LGU was recently honored by the DENR for its exceptional solid waste management practices and IEC initiatives for its ongoing programs targeted at safeguarding Pujada Bay.





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**Sen. Cynthia Villar receives recognition from Ernesto Adobo, officer-in-charge of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, during the Environmental Summit and Exhibit at the Manila Hotel yesterday. She received the award in behalf of the Villar SIPAG Foundation, of which she is director, for its dedication, continuous support and contributions toward a cleaner, healthier and greener environment.**

GEREMY PINTOLO



# Paradise reborn Boracay's inclusion in TIME's 2022 world's greatest places list makes DENR proud

**By Joel dela Torre**

THE inclusion of Boracay Island in the Time Magazine's 50 World's Greatest Places of 2022 has made the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) family proud, honored and extremely happy.

According to DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto Adobo Jr., a recognition from an award-winning publication is a testament to the success of the rehabilitation program that transformed a once described "cess-pool" to a "paradise reborn."

The DENR, he added, has all the reasons to celebrate as he attributed this achievement to the strong political will of former President Rodrigo Duterte.

It was Duterte who ordered a massive and ambitious clean-up of Boracay resort through Executive Order 53, creating the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to formulate and oversee policies, as well as strictly enforce national laws and local ordinances, to ensure the rehabilitation and ecological sustainability of the Boracay Island.

The Time Magazine, in its July 25-August 1 issue,

compiled 50 "Top Spots to visit this year" from all over the world, with nominations coming from the American news magazine's network of correspondents and contributors.

"We are very happy and honored that the authoritative Time Magazine included the Philippines' island paradise, Boracay Island, in its prestigious list and dubbed it as a 'paradise reborn.' This shows that the work we have done has borne fruit. Thanks to the political will of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte," Adobo said.

In its February 2022 article, Time Magazine featured that "international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence."

It refers Boracay Island as on the 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in 2022.

A former BIATF secretariat head, Adobo also made special attributions to the leadership of former Environment Secretary and BIATF chair Roy Cimatu, and co-chairs former Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo An-o, and former Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.





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CEMEX employees from its Solid Cement Plant recently joined river clean-up and bamboo planting activities in Rizal.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF C

## Cemex gives back to nature

Cemex Philippines joined local government units and its communities in Rizal and Cebu in observance of the Philippine Environment Month last June, to bring awareness and action toward environmental stewardship.

This year's Environment Month theme, "Aksyon Para Sa Natatanging Mundo" and global slogan *#OnlyOneEarth* calls for a collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore the planet.

Over 100 volunteer-employees from Cemex Philippines' APO Cement Plant and Solid Cement Plant participated in the tree-planting and clean-up drive initiatives at Pangdan River in Naga City, Cebu and Tagbac River in Antipolo City, Rizal.

These are in support of the Adopt-An-Estero (Waterbody) program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). They also joined succeeding tree-planting activities in their respective communities, with mangroves being planted along the shores of Naga, Cebu, while bamboo propagules were planted in the watershed of Antipolo, Rizal.





DAPAT paigtingin ang health care facilities sa mga nangungunang tourist destinations sa bansa gaya ng Boracay.

Ito ang isa sa mga natalakay sa ipinatawag na Cabinet meeting ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Malacañang nitong Martes.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na dapat tingnan at pag-aralan ang mga ginagawa sa mga pangunahing tourist destinations gaya ng Hawaii at Thailand na kilala dahil sa kanilang magagandang beaches.

Kapag aniya may hindi inaasahang aksidente ay madaling maaalalayan at mada-

## **PBBM sa DOT sec:** **Boracay, iba pang patok sa mga turista paigtingin health care facilities**

la sa ospital ang mga turista na nangangailangan agad ng agarang atensiyon.

"Sa beach, maraming police and everything...

So, if anything happens along that stretch, meron silang tatakbuhan kaagad. The lifeguards know exactly where to bring them," he said. "That is supported by the local industry. Tokatoka sila, to keep a doctor there, to keep a nurse there," anang Pangulo.

Bilang tugon, sinabi ni Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco na hindi naman nahuhuli ang Pilipinas pagdating sa turismo dahil sagana ang ban-

sa ng mga natural na yaman ng kalikasan, gayundin sa kakayahan at talento ng mga Pilipino.

Tiniyak naman ng kailihim na susundin nila ang ano mang direktiba ng Presidente para mas mapaangat pa nang husto ang turismo sa bansa.

"Certainly, to benchmark their policies in this regard would be the direction that we would take per your instructions," ani Frasco. **(Aileen Taliping)**



(DOT)





## Malay anti-crime drive nets 6 Boracay MWP

By **CHRISTIAN SUPNAD**

**BORACAY, Aklan** - The Malay Municipal Police Station (MPS), headed by P/Col. Don Dicksie de Dios, chief of police, scored a major breakthrough in separate anti-crime operations conducted in the whole municipality of Malay, including Boracay Island.

Malay Police collared six most wanted persons (MWPs) in separate manhunt operations led by Lt. Conrado Espino, chief of the Intelligence division.

According to Col. De Dios, Malay PNP (Philippine National Police) nabbed

three suspects for violating PD 1602 in relation to RA 9287 on "illegal gambling" in Bgy. Manocmanoc, Boracay Island on July 11.

An additional four suspects were caught in the act of playing "tong-its" and arrested by the authorities in the same barangay during the anti-illegal gambling operation.

The suspects were presented before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office in Kalibo, Aklan, for inquest proceedings and filing of cases.

Malay PNP also arrested a woman in Bgy. Manocmanoc, Boracay Island, for qualified theft with recommended bail of P40,000.

Between July 1 and 11, the Malay Police anti-crime

operations arrested at least five suspects, including a foreigner.

They were subsequently turned over to the proper court concerned to face their cases.

"This only shows that the Malay PNP is committed in its fight against illegal gambling and wanted persons. Our relentless efforts on launching operations as directed by our Provincial Director Col. Crisaleo Tolentino and our Regional Director Gen. Flynn Dongbo, [we] will continue and strictly impose the full force of the law as it steps up its campaign against all forms of lawlessness to minimize criminality in Malay," de Dios said.



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## EcoWaste hails Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment as DENR chief

THE environment-advocate group EcoWaste Coalition welcomed the nomination of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. on climate protection advocate Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The group's national coordinator, Aileen Lucero, said that they trust Loyzaga that she will do what is needed to protect public health and the environment, including the people's livelihoods, from the adverse impacts of greenhouse gases, plastic chemicals and wastes, and other pollutants.

"Loyzaga's expertise and experience in advocating for climate action and disaster resilience will surely help the DENR and the Marcos government in pursuing cohesive policies and programs leading to the protection of the forest and marine ecosystems, in particular, and public welfare, in general, against destructive and polluting operations and practices," Lucero said.

Lucero added that as an organization aspiring for a "zero waste" and toxics-free society, they are willing to collaborate with Loyzaga and her team in promoting the effective implementation of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, through the comprehensive reuse, recycling, and organics treatment programs and the enforcement of prohibited acts under Section 48 of the said law.

Lucero added that they can also help adopt policies and measures to control the volume and toxicity of wastes generated by households, institutions, and industries, including banning single-use plastics and phasing out non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging materials.

Cory Martinez



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## Angat, Bustos to resume irrigation allocation

MALOLOS - The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has approved the release of water for irrigation from Angat Dam starting today.

Bustos Dam will start providing irrigation supply to farmlands in Bulacan and parts of Pampanga, also today, Francisco Clara, officer-in-charge of the water control and coordinating unit of Bustos Dam, confirmed yesterday.

He said 35 cubic meters per second have been allocated to rice fields in Bulacan and parts of Pampanga.

Sevillo David Jr., NWRB executive director, said rehabilitation works in Angat Dam resulted in the suspension of the release of irrigation supply allocation from Angat to Bustos Dam.

Meanwhile, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is preparing for the construction of another dam in Bulacan after it recently inaugurated the rehabilitated Bulo Dam in Doña Remedios Trinidad town.

Josephine Salazar, NIA-Central Luzon director, confirmed that the feasibility study and detailed engineering design for the Bayabas Dam have been completed.

- Ramon Efren Lazaro





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## NEWS BRIEF

### Plastik ipagbawal - Legarda

MULING inihain ni Senador Loren Legarda ang kanyang panukala na naglalayong ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng plastik na isa sa pangunahing nag-aambag sa polusyon.

Nanawagan din ang senadora sa publiko ng suportahan ang Plastic Free July, isang global movement ng nag-uugnay sa mga tao sa bu-

ong mundo na iwasan at bawasan ang paggamit ng plastic araw-araw sa bahay, trabaho, eskuwelahan at mga establisimiyento.

"We need to correct our behavior and mindset when it comes to single-use plastics by adopting more sustainable practices, such as recycling or upcycling, reducing our consump-

tion, and proper disposal, to mitigate their detrimental effects to our environment, health, and our climate," paliwanag ni Legarda.

Itinutulak din ni Legarda na bigyang prayoridad ang mas matibay na implementasyon ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, isang batas na kanyang iniakda, para sa pagpapatayo ng install materials recovery facilities sa bawat barangay. **(Dindo Matining)**





## Human rights, climate change, agrikultura, ipinatuturo sa paaralan

DAPAT matutunan ng estudyante Filipino ang pangunahing karapatan tulad ng karapatang pantao, epekto ng pagsasayang ng pagkain, agrikultura at entrepreneurial skills, ayon kay Sen. Loren Legarda.

Sinabi ni Legarda na naghain siya ng panukalang batas upang maisama ang mga ito sa kurikulum.

Ayon sa mambabatas na kapag nagkaroon ng school subject hinggil sa Bill of Rights sa ilalim ng Saligang Batas, maitataguyod nito ang prinsipyo ng karapatang pantao sa mga kabataan.

Layunin naman ng "Zero Waste Bill na isama sa kurikulum ang pandaigdigang at pambansang sitwasyon sa pagsasayang ng pagkain at kung paano ito matutugunan.

Gusto rin ni Legarda na ituro sa paaralan ang mga sumusunod: Food forest gardening sa senior high school at college students; Urban agriculture; Entrepreneurship for all school levels;

Cultural education programs and activities;

Culinary Heritage and Philippine; at Gastronomy sa grade school at high school students.

Aniya, makatutulong na tugunan ang hamon na dulot ng climate change at pandemya kung maituturo sa ating mag-aaral ang kaalaman hinggil sa natural resources.

"Nature-based solutions should be taught to every Filipino. These are solutions that protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems," aniya.

Aniya, dapat mabigyan ng sapat na kaalaman at suporta ang kabataang Filipino kung pag-uusapan ang inobasyon.

"We have to invest in knowledge economy and keep on advancing the competencies of our workforce by introducing them to software programming and other innovation capabilities," ayon sa senador.

ERNIE REYES



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## DFA releases DRRM database

BY GAB HUMILDE VILLEGAS

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through the Office of Civilian Security, released a database of foreign Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) accords and treaties to which the Philippines is a party on Thursday, as part of the celebration of the National Disaster Resilience Month.

The launch, coordinated by Office of Civilian Security Executive Director Arnel G. Talisayon, took place during the National Disaster Resilience Month's Resilience Hour on Preparedness Webinar.

**The Database contains multilateral instruments such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as bilateral treaties with nations such as Vietnam, Norway and Thailand.**

The Database's goal is to serve as a centralized reference for creating periodic reports on its compliance with different DRRM agreements and treaties, in order to promote partnerships and coordination among all important actors and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and management.

The Database contains multilateral instruments such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as bilateral treaties with nations such as Vietnam, Norway and Thailand. Each item contains a synopsis of the instrument's important points and a link to a copy of the document.

**The Database's goal is to serve as a centralized reference for creating periodic reports on its compliance with different DRRM agreements and treaties, in order to promote partnerships and coordination among all important actors and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and management.**

Former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana praised the DFA for the effort, saying it will help the whole National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

The Database is in accordance with Activity 11.2.1, Output 11.2, and Outcome 11 of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020-2030, which asks for the compilation of a list of international disaster risk reduction agreements/treaties to which the country is a party.





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## Experts' expert

**“The division caused by the polarizing elections is slowly waning down with the right decisions being made thus far.”**

The “experts’ expert” — a most apt description of newly-minted Cabinet appointee Toni Yulo-Loyzaga as Environment Secretary, made by Representative Joey Salceda. This must be held as a huge compliment coming from Salceda who is widely considered in the business industry and by his peers as an expert himself in the field of economics. Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga’s appointment has been hailed by stakeholders and industry players as a bright decision made by President Bongbong Marcos Jr. We are most thankful that these wise and strategic picks for the Cabinet are becoming a trend for this administration, a breath of fresh air compared to our past experiences of placing squares in circular holes.

For most of the Cabinet appointees, we can say that they are experts’ experts: Experienced technocrats whose resumes can speak for themselves. A number of them have spent years holding top posts in the government before, while some are fresh from the private sector. The question is whether they can weather the problems that are forthcoming especially with our economic and social situation — a developing country recovering from a pandemic, webbed in a global economy that is in danger of entering a recession. Now is definitely the time for these experts’ experts to come in.

Incoming Energy Secretary Perpetuo “Popo” Lotilla is another experts’ expert, having held the same position before during the time of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and having continued



QUO VADIS  
DARREN M. DE JESUS

to hold high positions in energy companies thereafter. Although some questions need to be settled before his appointment can be made official, Secretary Lotilla is another welcome addition to the pool of experienced technocrats that compose the Marcos government. Secretary Lotilla enters the energy industry with accolades to boast about, and just like Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga, industry players welcomed his appointment.

The environment and energy appointments can usher in a renewed awareness to climate change and renewable energy, especially now when everyone is highly affected by increasing oil prices, something we do not see stopping in the near future. Yulo-Loyzaga and Lotilla will have to balance economic growth and environmental protection, without displeasing the Filipinos with limited funds. The two departments must work together to lower electricity costs with minimal damage to the environment, an endeavor that is easier said than done.

With this, only a few high-profile appointees lack. One of which is the Health Secretary, another most vital post right now as we are amid a mild

surge in Covid-19, albeit one that is being managed well by authorities. With the trend of the appointees, we can safely assume that the next Health Secretary should be someone who has a long experience in the industry, hopefully in the public health sector (Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire has been designated as Department of Health officer-in-charge Thursday — editor) From this appointment, we must look at who will be chosen to lead PhilHealth, the government health insurance provider, that has always been embattled in controversies.

President Marcos, Jr. is outdoing himself so far, as I have written before, and the groundwork is being laid down in time for his first State of the Nation Address (SoNA) to be held in over a week’s time. The first in-person SoNA at Batasang Pambansa Complex that will be filled in full-capacity, is eagerly awaited by the Filipino people. The division caused by the polarizing elections is slowly waning down with the right decisions being made thus far, although there are still some who have yet to be pleased. Note, we are no longer counting on the die-hards whose minds are made up. The President’s success is the Philippines’ victory, and we are slowly seeing the blueprint on how this Administration will govern us until 2028.

**“The environment and energy appointments can usher in a renewed awareness to climate change and renewable energy.”**

For comments, email him at darren.dejesus@gmail.com.





## Villar hopes Circular Explorer helps save coastal resources

**By Macon Ramos-Araneta**

SEN. Cynthia A. Villar has expressed hope that the Circular Explorer, will help preserve the country's natural resources and save the environment from further degradation.

The Circular Explorer is a solar-powered recycling catamaran designed for recovering and recycling plastic wastes from coastal areas.

"As an active proponent of recycling and responsible waste management, I am confident, that the circular explorer will be effective in promoting recycling and raising awareness on responsible consumption and production that will have lasting benefits for us and the environment," Villar said.

Villar, the chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, was the guest speaker during the launching of the Circular Explorer by Holchim Group and One Earth One Ocean at Manila Yacht Club on June 7.

The launching, Villar stressed, is

truly a momentous event since it is the first of its kind as a renewable-powered recycling catamaran.

Villar renewed her call for responsible consumption and production which is in line with United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—SDG No. 12.

She said the Philippines is committed to these goals in order to boost developing countries' scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Villar said she agrees with the groups' stance that "accelerating the circular economy is only possible with stakeholders teaming up and working together to find solutions".

"This is a perfect platform for stakeholders from the country's scientific and academic communities, business and industry sectors as well as government agencies to promote awareness and spur actions in circularity in production processes and resource management," Villar said.





## Villar hopes Circular Explorer will help save PH environment

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

Senator Cynthia A. Villar has expressed hope that the Circular Explorer would preserve Philippine natural resources and save the environment from further degradation.

The Circular Explorer is a solar-powered recycling catamaran to promote sustainable practices and commitment to a circular economy by recovering and recycling plastic wastes from coastal areas.

"As an active proponent of recycling and responsible waste management, I am confident that the Circular Explorer will be effective in promoting recycling and raising awareness on responsible consumption and production that will have lasting benefits for us and the environment," Villar said.

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Villar said she agrees with the position of the group that "accelerating the circular economy is only possible with stakeholders teaming up and working together to find solutions."

"This is really a perfect platform for stakeholders from the country's scientific and academic communities, business and industry sectors as well as government agencies to promote awareness and spur actions in circularity in production processes and resource management," she stressed.

Villar noted that the circular economy or the shift to circular living is fast gaining ground globally. It has been adopted and endorsed by governments worldwide.

"I think this circular model will help our existing efforts in waste management here in the Philippines as it has in other countries," she said.

"The circular model is about keeping resources in circulation or in the loop for as long as possible. So, it means there will be lesser and eventually no more plastic wastes ending in landfills or reaching our seas and polluting our water sources," she added.



## 'Cleanup Day' paigtingin - Mayor Honey

**NANAWAGAN** ng suporta sa 896 na mga barangay sa lungsod ng Maynila si Mayor Honey Lacuna na higit na paigtingin ang 'Cleanup Day' sa linggong ito upang magkaroon ng awareness ang lahat ng pamayanan na maging malinis sa kaniyang kapaligiran lalo na't napaulat na tumataas ang bilang ng kaso ng dengue sa bansa.

Matatandaan na noong unang linggo pa lamang sa kanyang tanggapan, ang bagong alkalde ng Maynila ay nagpalabas ng Executive Order na nagdedeklara na ang bawat Biyernes ng buwan ay itinatalaga bilang 'Cleanup Day.'

Sakop ng order hindi lamang ang Manila City Hall kundi maging ang mga barangay, health centers, police stations, palengke at iba pa.

Layunin ng direktiba na panatilihin malinis ang

kapaligiran sa lahat ng oras dahil ang malinis na paligid ay replektibo ng ugali, asal at kalidad ng serbisyo na kayang ibigay ng isang nilalang.

Ayon pa kay Lacuna ay napapanahon ang EO dahil ang mga dengue-carrying mosquitoes ay kadalasang namumugad at nangingitlog sa maruruming lugar.

Idinagdag pa ni Lacuna na dahil tag-ulan inasahan ang pagdami ng lugar kung saan nangingitlog ang mga lamok kung kaya't kailangan itong linisin nang madalas lalo na sa ating lugar.

"With the threat of what health authorities described as an 'alarming' rate of growth of dengue cases recently, the cleanup day should in fact be observed daily and voluntarily for one's own sake," ayon kay Lacuna na isa ring doktor.

Sinabi ng kasalukuyang

OIC ng Department of Health (DOH) na si dating Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na nitong Martes na 15 sa 17 rehiyon sa bansa ay lagpas na sa epidemic threshold ng dengue, at nalagpasan na rin ang inaasahang bilang ng infections base sa nakaraang trends o figures ng mga nakaraang taon sa parehong panahon.

Base sa National Dengue Data mula sa DOH, may total na 64,797 dengue cases ang naitala sa bansa mula January 1 hanggang June 25, 2022. Ito ay 90 percent na mas mataas sa 34,074 dengue cases na naitala noong parehong panahon nang nakaraang taon.

Ayon pa sa DOH nakapagtala din ng 274 na mga nasawi, ito ay January, 36; February, 32; March, 39; April, 46; May, 63 at June, 58.

(ANDI GARCIA)





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# Pacific leaders urge 'immediate' climate action

**SUVA, Fiji:** Vulnerable Pacific islands demanded "urgent, immediate" global action on climate change on Thursday while stressing a commitment to democracy and the "rules-based" international order in the face of growing Chinese regional influence.

At the Pacific Islands Forum in the Fijian capital Suva, island leaders warned that time was running out to avoid "worst-case scenarios" that would see their countries — many teetering just above sea level — subsumed or rendered uninhabitable by ever-fiercer storms.

"We are at the forefront of the adverse impacts of climate change," the leaders said in a joint 2050 strategy document agreed upon after three days of talks.

"Urgent robust and transformative action" is needed "globally, regionally and nationally," they added.

The regional summit is the

first to be held in person since the coronavirus pandemic began, but instead of a warm reunion, the event has been overshadowed by internal divisions and a battle for influence between the United States and China.

On the eve of the summit, Beijing-allied leaders in Kiribati announced they would not attend and resigned from the forum.

The vast Pacific region is smattered with verdant sparsely populated islands but sits along major international shipping routes that make it a crucible for geopolitical rivalry.

United States Vice President Kamala Harris used a video address to the forum to announce that Washington would establish new embassies in Tonga and Kiribati, appoint a regional envoy and pump an extra \$600 million into the region.

China has made no secret of its ambition to challenge long-standing

US primacy in the Pacific, deploying state-backed firms and checkbook diplomacy to build a foothold.

There was widespread alarm earlier this year when Beijing inked a secretive security agreement with the Solomon Islands, which critics fear could pave the way to establishing a military base.

Leaders noted the region's security environment was "becoming increasingly crowded" and "positioning by major powers" was taking a toll.

But echoing language often used by Washington, leaders also warned that the "rules-based order for peace and security" was coming under "increasing pressure" and that the "Pacific region is not immune."

They also committed to "democratic principles" and "human rights" that fly in the face of China's authoritarian system of government.

On the sidelines of the event, China also suffered another seeming setback, with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare stressing his country would not host a foreign military base.

Establishing such a base would make the Solomons "an enemy" of the Pacific and would "put our country and our people as targets for potential military strikes," Sogavare told broadcaster RNZ Pacific.

The "Solomon Islands government will never allow our country and people to become military targets," he said.

The premier made similar assurances when he met with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese for the first time on Wednesday.

Sogavare embraced Albanese on the forum's sidelines, telling the Australian leader: "I need a hug."

AFP



## Beetle species named 'angathuhay'

ONE of two new species of water scavenger beetles was named after "Angat Buhay," the social services program of former Vice President Leni Robredo.

The two beetles were discovered by an undergraduate student of Ateneo de Manila University, Enrico Gerard Sanchez, and his thesis advisers, Dr. Emmanuel Delocado and Prof. Dr. Hendrik Freitag, the university said

Thursday.

Discovered in Ifugao, Anacaena angathuhay was named "to honor the program's outstanding and unparalleled service, especially during the pandemic."

"Moreover, as the species has been thriving unnoticed in a humble mountain creek in Ifugao for at least the last few centuries, dedicating a

*Next page*



**NEW BEETLE.** Meet 'Angat Buhay,' a newly-discovered beetle named after the social service program of former Vice President Leni Robredo. **Ateneo de Manila University**

### Beetle...

*From A1*

species name to the Angat Buhay program is a nod to the countless Filipinos silently and persistently working alongside far-flung communities despite the lack of due recognition," said Delocado in a

Facebook post.

The second species was named Anacaena auxilium in honor of the Mary Help of Christian High School Seminary, which Sanchez attended during his junior high school.

The thesis was conducted in the middle of the pandemic using a laboratory-at-home setup.





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# Legislators consider new tax, privatization bills

By **Diego Gabriel C. Robles**  
and **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**  
Reporter

MEMBERS of Congress are exploring untapped sources of potential funds, ranging from taxes on digital transactions, single-use plastics, and carbon emissions as signaled by economic managers, as well as privatizing government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and public land.

Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda backed legislation taxing online transactions, saying that digitization in business processes is outpacing government efforts to tax the activity.

"Digital transactions are getting cheaper by the year, as innovation leads to efficiencies. But our tax collections aren't keeping pace with the growth in digital sales," Mr. Salceda told *BusinessWorld* in a Viber message.

"As more of the bricks-and-mortar economy moves to the digital space, we could see revenue erosion—leading to depleted tax resources for basic services. So, we need to plug that gaping hole," he added.

"The top 1% of the population consumes 87% of paid digital services, so the effect on the general public will be extremely minimal."

The Marcos government is seeking new sources of revenue to shrink the fiscal deficit and pay down about P3.2 trillion in additional debt incurred during the pandemic. The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) has estimated that the government needs to raise P249 billion annually in incremental revenue to avoid new borrowing and reduce the debt load.

The House of Representatives approved in September 2021 a bill seeking to impose a 12% VAT on online advertisements, subscription services, and others. However, the Senate did not approve its counterpart measure.

Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian said the lack of value-added tax (VAT) in online services makes such legislation necessary.

"*Ako sang-ayon ako diyan dahil for example 'pag bumibili ka sa Amazon, walang VAT. Pero 'pag bumili ka sa SM ng kaparehas na bagay, may VAT* (I am for taxing the industry because if you buy from Amazon, you won't be charged VAT, but if you buy the same thing from SM, you will)," he said in an interview with DWIZ radio on Saturday.

"So, *lugi naman 'yung mga nagbebenta dito sa atin. Kasi mas mura sa labas at di naman kumikita ang gobyerno* (Vendors here face unequal competition because goods sold online are cheaper, and the government earns nothing from their transactions)," he added.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES

Congress is also considering taxing activities that have a negative impact on the environment.

The Philippines is one of the world's largest polluters of single-use plastics because plastics are cheap, Mr. Salceda said.

"Along with the looming effectivity of the Expanded Producer Responsibility Act which would make businesses more accountable for the plastic waste they produce, plastic taxation, the promotion of alternatives, and other non-tax measures are a basket of policy tools we want to enact to reduce our plastic waste," he said.

"Alternatives to single-use plastics are widely available. Encouraging consumers to bring reusable packaging would actually result in consumer savings of between P200 to P740 per year for the average consumer, since supermarkets and even vendors charge as much as P2 to P3 pesos per bag."

Mr. Gatchalian, whose family runs a major plastics business and represents Valenzuela, the hub of the industry, said taxes on single-use plastics could have implications on jobs.

"*Dapat pag-aralan na mabuti iyan dahil maraming plastic factory sa ating bansa at maraming umaasa dito sa trabaho. Ako aminin ko sa Valenzuela, marami kaming mga plastic factories na marami ang empleyado libo ang kinukuha nila na empleyado* (That has to be studied carefully because there are many plastics factories that provide jobs. I will admit that in Valenzuela, we have many plastics factories that employ thousands)," Mr. Gatchalian said.

"So *dapat tingnan natin ang anggulo na 'yan, dahil baka naman na mawalan tayo ng trabaho at mataas ang unemployment rate natin ngayon pumapalo ng 6%* (We have to consider the employment angle, because the job losses could add to our 6% unemployment rate)," he added.

Mr. Salceda, however, said the developed world needs to do its share in reducing carbon footprints, and the Philippines should not be left to solve the problem using its own resources.

"Without equity from the developed world, who caused and continue to exacerbate climate change, it could be detrimental to





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our national development," Mr. Salceda said.

"Even if we curtail our already low per-capita emissions, the global needle will not move (while) our energy and industrialization will get more expensive," he explained.

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno last week said the economic team is considering the taxes on digital or online transactions, single-use plastics, and carbon emissions.

Under the previous administration's fiscal consolidation plan, a P20 excise tax per kilogram of single-use plastics was estimated to generate P1 billion in revenue annually.

On the other hand, a 12% VAT on online advertisement services and other digital and online services was projected to generate P13.2 billion annually.

Antonio A. Ligon, a law and business professor at De La Salle University, said that given the government's fiscal bind and debt load, "it's not easy to say whether (it) will avoid new taxes."

"We cannot avoid new taxes because of the need to pay back our huge debt incurred during the pandemic. Economic growth alone will not be sufficient to raise the necessary revenue," added economist Bernardo M. Villegas of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

"I support the suggestions about taxing single-use plastic products and digital transactions. The government can also increase sales taxes on luxurious consumption of the wealthy," he said in an e-mail.

Terry L. Ridon, a public investment analyst and convenor of think tank InfraWatch PH, said that "new taxes should only be

limited to segments which do not cover a wide swath of the population, such as sin taxes, gambling, (and) luxury goods."

## PRIVATIZATION

Aside from imposing new taxes, the government should also consider privatizing GOCCs and public land, Mr. Gatchalian said.

"I think privatization was frowned upon in the past. But I think this is an area to raise revenue, considering that the government is probably the biggest landowner in the Philippines," Mr. Gatchalian said in an interview with the ABS CBN News Channel on Tuesday.

"There are a lot of GOCCs that are inefficient. My concept here is that government should not be in the business of business, government should be in the business of governance. There's so many GOCCs that can be privatized; let the private sector run it," he added.

When asked about a specific government asset that is being considered, Mr. Gatchalian singled out the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR).

"I think PAGCOR is a good company or a good GOCC but the private sector can unlock the value and unlock the potential even further. I think that's one area that the private sector can participate in."

"Land is also another privatization opportunity. There's a lot of land. For example, the old domestic airport. If we move to Bulacan, then the old domestic airport can be privatized for developers to come in," he added.

The Privatization Council of the Department of Finance declined to comment, telling BusinessWorld the office is still in the

process of transition after the new government took over.

Mr. Ligon added: "government should not be doing business because the primary intent of business is to make profit."

"If we want government asset(s) and corporations to engage in profit-making, then let's leave it to (the) private sector. Conflicts of interest will be avoided because profitability sometimes is not consistent with social concern," Mr. Ligon said in a Viber message.

"If privatized, these new private enterprises can also contribute to raising revenue from income and business taxes."

"In principle, it is better to privatize government corporations that have a business mission. Government should stick as much as possible to regulating monopolies and oligopolies and public utilities, as well as delivering public services such as public education and public health," Mr. Villegas said.

However, there are only about 70 GOCCs that can be surrendered as most GOCCs "run special economic zones, airports, large infrastructure projects, or regulate critical sectors such as housing, food and tourism," Mr. Ridon said.

"These types of GOCC activities cannot be surrendered to the private sector, even at a high premium, because there is a clear public purpose being served by these entities which may conflict with the objectives of private enterprise," he said.

With PAGCOR in particular, while privatization can raise revenue, its role as a regulator is more important, Mr. Ridon added.





## PERSPECTIVE

# The world is burning; we need a renewable revolution

BY ANTONIO GUTERRES

**UNITED NATIONS:** Nero was famously accused of fiddling while Rome burned. Today, some leaders are doing worse. They are throwing fuel on the fire. Literally.

As the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine ripples across the globe, the response of some nations to the growing energy crisis has been to double down on fossil fuels — pouring billions more dollars into the coal, oil and gas that are driving our deepening climate emergency.

Meanwhile, all climate indicators continue to break records, forecasting a future of ferocious storms, floods, droughts, wildfires and unlivable temperatures in vast swaths of the planet.

Our world faces climate chaos. New funding for fossil fuel exploration and production infrastructure is delusional. Fossil fuels are not the answer, nor will they ever be.

We can see the damage we are doing to the planet and our societies. It is in the news every day, and no one is immune.

Fossil fuels are the cause of the climate crisis. Renewable energy is the answer — to limit climate disruption and boost energy security. Had we invested earlier and massively in renewable energy, we would not find ourselves once again at the mercy of unstable fossil fuel markets.

Renewables are the peace plan of the 21st century. But the battle for a rapid and just energy transition is not being fought on a level field. Investors are still backing fossil fuels, and governments still hand out billions in subsidies for coal, oil and gas — some \$11 million every minute.

There is a word for favoring short-term relief over long-term well-being. Addiction. We are still addicted to fossil fuels. For the health of our societies and planet, we need to quit. Now.

The only true path to energy security, stable power prices, pros-



■ Solar power stations in plain areas, wind turbines in the distance. UN PHOTO

perity and a livable planet lies in abandoning polluting fossil fuels and accelerating the renewables-based energy transition.

To that end, I have called on G20 governments to dismantle coal infrastructure, with a full phase-out by 2030 for OECD countries and 2040 for all others.

I have urged financial actors to abandon fossil fuel finance and invest in renewable energy. And I have proposed a five-point plan to boost renewable energy around the world.

### Five-point plan

First, we must make renewable energy technology a global public good, including removing intellectual property barriers to technology transfer.

Second, we must improve global access to supply chains for renewable energy technologies components and raw materials.

In 2020, the world installed 5 gigawatts of battery storage. We need 600 gigawatts of storage capacity by 2030. Clearly, we need a global coalition to get there.

Shipping bottlenecks and supply-chain constraints, as well as higher costs for lithium and other battery metals, are hurting the deployment of such technologies and materials just as we need them most.

Third, we must cut the red tape

that holds up solar and wind projects. We need fast-track approvals and more effort to modernize electricity grids. In the European Union, it takes eight years to approve a wind farm, and 10 years in the United States. In the Republic of Korea, on-shore wind projects need 22 permits from eight different ministries.

Fourth, the world must shift energy subsidies from fossil fuels to protect vulnerable people from energy shocks and invest in a just transition to a sustainable future.

And fifth, we need to triple investments in renewables. This includes multilateral development banks and development finance institutions, as well as commercial banks. All must step up and dramatically boost investments in renewables.

We need more urgency from all global leaders. We are already perilously close to hitting the 1.5 C limit that science tells us is the maximum level of warming to avoid the worst climate impacts.

To keep 1.5 alive, we must reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by mid-century. But current national commitments will lead to an increase of almost 14 percent this decade. That spells catastrophe.

The answer lies in renewables — for climate action, for energy security, and for providing clean

electricity to the hundreds of millions of people who currently lack it. Renewables are a triple win.

There is no excuse for anyone to reject a renewable revolution. While oil and gas prices have reached record price levels, renewables are getting cheaper all the time.

The cost of solar energy and batteries has plummeted 85 percent over the past decade. The cost of wind power fell by 55 percent. And investment in renewables creates three times more jobs than fossil fuels.

Of course, renewables are not the only answer to the climate crisis. Nature-based solutions, such as reversing deforestation and land degradation, are essential. So too are efforts to promote energy efficiency. But a rapid renewable energy transition must be our ambition.

As we wean ourselves off fossil fuels, the benefits will be vast, and not just to the climate. Energy prices will be lower and more predictable, with positive knock-on effects for food and economic security.

When energy prices rise, so do the costs of food and all the goods we rely on. So, let us all agree that a rapid renewables revolution is necessary and stop fiddling while our future burns. **IPS**

*Antonio Guterres is the secretary-general of the United Nations.*





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# Corporate Social Responsibility Trends 2022

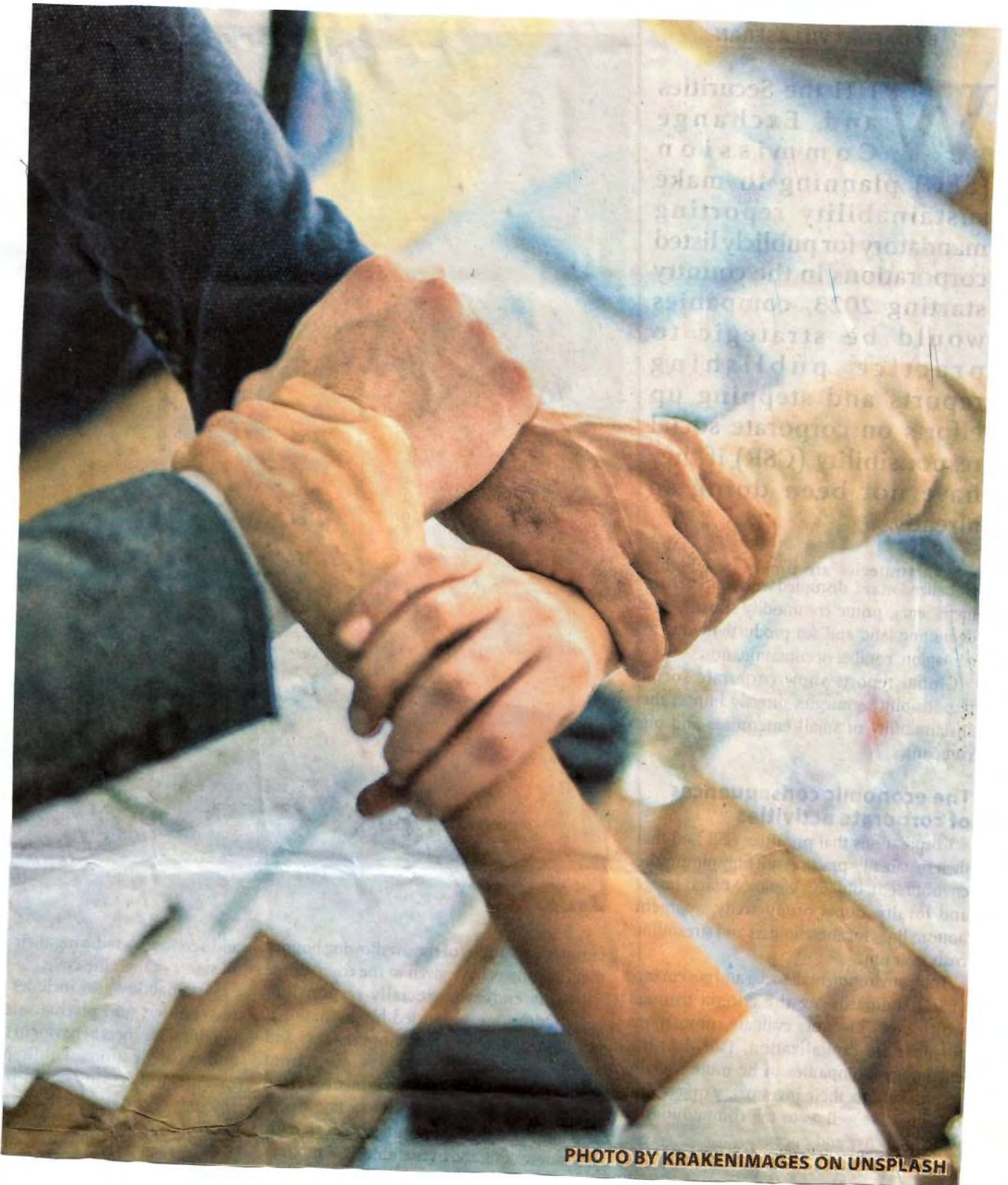


PHOTO BY KRAKENIMAGES ON UNSPLASH





## Having a positive impact is increasingly important for every business.

That's why corporate social responsibility (CSR), an obligation a company makes towards supporting people, communities, and the world at large is a must. Between humanitarian projects, environmental projects, and companies that go above and beyond to support their employees, there are many, diverse corporate social responsibility trends.

But first, let's define what is corporate social responsibility?

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido) defines corporate social responsibility,

"CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives ("Triple-Bottom-Line-Approach"), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders."

Meanwhile, the European Union, said corporate social responsibility is the voluntary integration of companies' social and ecological concerns into their business activities and their relationships with their stakeholders. Being socially responsible means not only fully satisfying the applicable legal obligations but also going beyond and investing "more" in human capital, the environment and stakeholder relations. This was published in 2001 by the European Union on a Green Paper on CSR.

Meanwhile, the International Organization for Standardization (IOS), an international standard-setting body, defines CSR as "the responsibility of an organization for the impacts of its decision and activities on society and the environment, resulting in ethical behavior and transparency which contributes to sustainable development, including the health and well-being of society; takes into account the expectations of stakeholders; complies with current law and is consistent with international standards of behavior and is integrated throughout the organization and implemented in its relations."

In the Philippines, CSR has always been voluntary. Donations may qualify as CSR.

These local guidelines reflect globally accepted frameworks for reporting non-financial information, such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards, which is aligned with the UN Global Compact — a voluntary agreement by businesses to uphold sustainability principles.

### CSR attracts and retains employees

Companies engaged in CSR are attractive for new employees and better at retaining existing employees. Research has found that companies engaged in CSR reported staff turnover rates that were an impressive 50 percent lower.

Research has also demonstrated that organizations that adopted a CSR program reported an astounding 16 percent boost in employee productivity.

### CSR improves customers' perception

The 2021 PwC Global Consumer Insights Pulse Survey, found that 53 percent chose to support companies "very often or often" that had strong company values and demonstrated a commitment to doing the right thing. Seventy seven percent of American consumers were motivated to do the same, while 74 percent of UK consumers also consider brand values before making a purchase.

### CSR is good for business

Most investors consider CSR as a sign of ethical corporate behavior that minimizes risk. A 2022 study found that CSR can boost a business' bottom line by creating value, increasing innovation, improving customer and employee relations, and expanding growth options.

CSR has the potential to make a company more competitive, lower financing costs, and increase overall economic value. Not only that, but it's the way of the future. Business as usual is harming our planet. Using business as a force for good has the potential to save it.









## Types of CSR

THERE are four types of CSR according to the study done by Pacific Oaks Colleges of B.S. Administration: environmental responsibility, ethical responsibility, philanthropic responsibility and economic responsibility.

### Environmental responsibility

For companies committed to CSR, it's important for businesses to engage in environmentally friendly practices. Corporations can be significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, waste and natural resource depletion — but by committing to environmental responsibility, a business takes ownership over its impact on the environment.

Depending on a business size and industry, environmental responsibility can take many different forms. For some companies, it means using alternative energy sources and sustainable materials. For others, it means enacting a company-wide recycling program or donating to and volunteering for local environment-focused organizations.

### Ethical responsibility

Being ethically responsible means ensuring a business engages in fair business practices across the board—including treating all employees, stakeholders, and customers ethically and with respect.

This type of CSR can also take a lot of different forms. Some common examples of ethical responsibility include setting a higher

minimum wage, guaranteeing all materials are ethically sourced, and ensuring that all employees receive competitive pay and comprehensive benefits as well as treated with respect.

### Philanthropic responsibility

In today's world, it's almost expected for businesses to give back to the communities they exist in and donate to causes that align with their company mission. When businesses do this, they're following through with their philanthropic responsibility.

This philanthropic responsibility can be as small scale as sponsoring a local nonprofit's annual fundraiser or as large-scale as donating a percentage of a business annual earnings to a prominent cause.

### Economic responsibility

When a business is acting with economic responsibility in mind, it is making financial decisions that prioritize doing good, not just making more money. This means that this type of CSR is intertwined with the other types above.

For example, this could mean that a business signs a contract with a supplier that uses sustainable materials — even if it costs more. Another example of economic responsibility is when a company commits to a transparent salary system that fairly compensates all employees and makes up for past gender and race pay gaps.



**JOINT DENR AND LRA MEMORANDUM ORDER**  
No. 01 Series of 2022

**TO:** All concerned personnel of the Land Management Bureau, DENR Regional Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENROs), Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENROs), Land Registration Authority (LRA) and its Registers of Deeds (ROD), Private and Government Geodetic Engineers and Public Clientele

**SUBJECT:** PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PATENTS AND PLANS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE REGISTRIES OF DEEDS, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

**I. PREFATORY STATEMENT**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is implementing the Land Administration Management System (LAMS) which is designed to provide effective management of land records and efficient delivery of land transactions and information services to the public, and is used by the different offices of the DENR to process and approve transactions covering the Issuance of Patents (the "DENR-issued Patents") and the Approval of Original and Subdivision/Consolidation Plans (the "DENR-approved Plans").

The following DENR issuances provide the guidelines for the implementation of LAMS:

1. Department Administrative Order No. 2010-18 - Improving Management of Land Information through the Adoption of the Land Administration and Management System;
2. Department Administrative Order No. 2016-01 - Adoption of Digital Land Survey Data (DLSD) Lodgment as a Standard Format for the Submission and Exchange of Survey Data in Digital Form under the Land Administration and Management System (LAMS); and,
3. Department Administrative Order No. 2016-06 - Adoption of the Manual for the Operationalization of the Land Administration and Management System Inspection, Verification and Approval of Surveys (IVAS).
4. DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2017-05 - Verification, Approval and Data Capture of Ongoing or Newly Submitted Survey Plans and Public Land Applications (PLAs) under the Land Administration and Management System (LAMS).
5. Department Administrative Order No. 2018-15 - Guidelines on Digital Land Data Sharing and Security Measures of Land Administration and Management System (LAMS) Philippines Transactions.
6. DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2021-07 - Adoption of the Online Public Land Application (PLA) Module under the LAMS Philippines.

On the other hand, the Land Registration Authority (LRA) is implementing the Land Titling Computerization Project (the LTCP) which involves, among others, the supply of Information Technology (IT) products and services, training of end-users, conversion of titles and documents from physical to digital format, nationwide network interconnection, rehabilitation and construction of IT-enabled government offices, and the development of customized application systems (PHILARIS), which are used in the Registries of Deeds (RD) to register deeds and instruments, including the DENR-issued Patents and DENR-approved Plans, and issue titles resulting from the processing thereof.

Under the LTCP, the operations of the LRA and its RDs shall be fully computerized, where all documents, deeds and instruments shall be electronically registered and requests for verifications, certifications and certified true copies (CTC) shall be processed pursuant to the published Circulars and Guidelines of the LRA, namely:

1. Implementing Guidelines on Electronic Registration of Land Titles and Deeds issued on July 2, 2009;
2. Implementing Guidelines on Electronic Registration of Land Titles and Deeds and Processing of Central Office Transactions issued on December 21, 2010; and,
3. Amendment to the Implementing Guidelines on Electronic Registration of Chattel Mortgage and Other Personal Properties, Electronic Recording of Transactions on Unregistered Land, and Electronic Registration of Land Titles and Deeds issued on January 21, 2011.





In the spirit of inter-agency cooperation, the DENR and LRA signed Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 01, Series of 2021 on February 3, 2021, with the objective of adopting a set of standard operating procedures that shall help ensure efficiency and security in the registration of DENR-approved Plans and DENR-issued Patents in LRA and its RDs using Application Programming Interface (API). The PHILARIS of LRA and LAMS Philippines of DENR shall be connected using the developed API in a secured network.

As provided under Section V Item A (7) of DENR - LRA JMC No. 01, Series of 2021, DENR and LRA shall be responsible for the issuance of Memoranda and Circulars to its various officers and personnel to ensure compliance with the provisions of the said JMC, and ensure the continuing compatibility of DENR and LRA Processes, Systems and Data Records.

**II. PURPOSE AND COVERAGE**

This document is being issued to provide guidance to all concerned in relation to the implementation of DENR - LRA JMC No. 1, Series of 2021, particularly on the processing of the registration of DENR-approved Plans and DENR-issued Patents.

**III. USERS OF THESE GUIDELINES**

All concerned personnel of the DENR-LMB, DENR Regional Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), LRA and its Registries of Deeds (RD), Private and Government Geodetic Engineers and Public Clientele.

**IV. COVERED PROCESSES**

This Joint Memorandum Order shall cover and provide the guidelines for the following processes:

**A. DENR Transactions**

1. Processing and Approval of Original and Subdivision/Consolidation Plans (the "DENR-approved Plans");
2. Processing and approval of transactions covering the Issuance of Patents (the "DENR-issued Patents"); and,
3. Issuance of Certification as the Lot Status of the Parcel as requirement on the processing of judicial application.

**B. LRA Transactions**

1. Processing, Registration and Issuance of subsequent titles in relation to the DENR-approved Plans;
2. Processing, registration and issuance of subsequent titles in relation to the LRA-approved Plans;
3. Issuance of Certification as to the Lot Status of the Parcel as requirement on the processing of Public Land Applications;
4. Processing and Original Registration of DENR-issued Patents; and,
5. Processing, Original Registration and Issuance of LRA-issued Decree.

**V. OPERATING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR DENR-APPROVED PLANS**

**A. Processing, Registration and Issuance of subsequent titles in relation to the DENR-Approved Plans**

1. The client shall lodge a request for a CTC of title and LRA approved survey plans through the LRA Central Office, LRA eSerbisyo Portal ("eSP") or through the RD and pay for the corresponding fees;
2. Prior to the acceptance of survey returns at the DENR, the front desk shall check the status and validity of the submitted CTC of title/s. The designated personnel shall input the transaction details in the LAMS, then the LAMS shall send a CTC verification request to LRA through the API/web service, with the following parameters:
  - (a) If the transaction is a CTC of Title:
    - (a.1) RD Code of the Requesting Site; and,
    - (a.2) Any of the Serial Number ("SN") of the accountable form issued by LRA where the CTC is printed.





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(b) If the transaction is a CTC of Survey Plan:

- (b.1.) Plan Number of the LRA-approved Survey Plan; and,
- (b.2.) Any of the SN of the accountable form issued by LRA where the CTC is printed.

3. Upon receipt of API request for verification of CTC of title/s/survey plans, the LRA shall validate the details with that received from DENR in the API request. If the details are not verified, LRA shall inform DENR through the API. If validated by LRA, the following information of the CTC transaction shall be sent to DENR:

(a) If the transaction is a CTC of title:

- (a.1) RD Name;
- (a.2) Title Type;
- (a.3) Title Number;
- (a.4) Title Registration Date;
- (a.5) Registered Owner's Name;
- (a.6) Plan, Block, Lot (the Common Parcel Identifier);
- (a.7) Title Status (i.e., Active, Cancelled or Partially Cancelled); and,
- (a.8) Survey Plan Number of the LRA-approved Survey Plan or the survey plan currently being processed in LRA, covering the subject title.

(b) If the transaction is a CTC of Survey Plan:

- (b.1) Image of the LRA-approved Survey Plan; and,
- (b.2) Encoded technical description/s ("e-TD") if the plan was approved by the Subdivision and Consolidation Plan Approval System ("SCPAS") of LRA.

4. After the verification of status of the title and the plan, the DENR shall process the approval of the survey plan;
5. After approval of the plan, the client shall be notified by DENR, and the list of requirements for the registration of the DENR-approved Plan in the RD shall be provided to the client;
6. If the client chooses to register the DENR-approved Plan with LRA, through its RD, the client shall be required by DENR to pay the cost of the eTD/s, which shall be the pre-requisite for DENR to send the eTD/s corresponding to the DENR-approved Plan to LRA through the Linkage;
7. Once paid by the client, DENR shall forward to LRA the corresponding eTD/s and the image/s of the DENR-approved Plan, which shall be considered by LRA as part of its mandatory documentary requirement for the entry and registration of the same.

In the absence of these eTD/s, as per item 6 above, the subject DENR-approved Plan shall be denied entry, subject to existing LRA policy;

8. The corresponding eTD/s of the lots/parcels to be registered shall be accessed and used by the RD for the processing of transaction; and,
9. Once the transaction is registered, a confirmation shall be sent to DENR providing the following title details:
  - (a) Common Parcel Identifier (CPI);
  - (b) RD where the property is registered;
  - (c) Title type;
  - (d) Title number;
  - (e) Title registration date; and,
  - (f) Registered owner.

B. Processing, registration and issuance of subsequent titles in relation to the LRA-approved Plans

1. Prior to the acceptance of survey returns at the LRA, the LRA shall be able to send verification requests of DENR-approved plan using the CPI through the API/web service;



TITLE:

PAGE

3/6

DATE

(b) If the transaction is a CTC of Survey Plan:

- (b.1.) Plan Number of the LRA-approved Survey Plan; and,
- (b.2.) Any of the SN of the accountable form issued by LRA where the CTC is printed.

3. Upon receipt of API request for verification of CTC of title/s/survey plans, the LRA shall validate the details with that received from DENR in the API request. If the details are not verified, LRA shall inform DENR through the API. If validated by LRA, the following information of the CTC transaction shall be sent to DENR:

(a) If the transaction is a CTC of title:

- (a.1) RD Name;
- (a.2) Title Type;
- (a.3) Title Number;
- (a.4) Title Registration Date;
- (a.5) Registered Owner's Name;
- (a.6) Plan, Block, Lot (the Common Parcel Identifier);
- (a.7) Title Status (i.e., Active, Cancelled or Partially Cancelled); and,
- (a.8) Survey Plan Number of the LRA-approved Survey Plan or the survey plan currently being processed in LRA, covering the subject title.

(b) If the transaction is a CTC of Survey Plan:

- (b.1) Image of the LRA-approved Survey Plan; and,
- (b.2) Encoded technical description/s ("e-TD") if the plan was approved by the Subdivision and Consolidation Plan Approval System ("SCPAS") of LRA.

4. After the verification of status of the title and the plan, the DENR shall process the approval of the survey plan;
5. After approval of the plan, the client shall be notified by DENR, and the list of requirements for the registration of the DENR-approved Plan in the RD shall be provided to the client;
6. If the client chooses to register the DENR-approved Plan with LRA, through its RD, the client shall be required by DENR to pay the cost of the eTD/s, which shall be the pre-requisite for DENR to send the eTD/s corresponding to the DENR-approved Plan to LRA through the Linkage;
7. Once paid by the client, DENR shall forward to LRA the corresponding eTD/s and the image/s of the DENR-approved Plan, which shall be considered by LRA as part of its mandatory documentary requirement for the entry and registration of the same.

In the absence of these eTD/s, as per item 6 above, the subject DENR-approved Plan shall be denied entry, subject to existing LRA policy;

8. The corresponding eTD/s of the lots/parcels to be registered shall be accessed and used by the RD for the processing of transaction; and,
9. Once the transaction is registered, a confirmation shall be sent to DENR providing the following title details:
  - (a) Common Parcel Identifier (CPI);
  - (b) RD where the property is registered;
  - (c) Title type;
  - (d) Title number;
  - (e) Title registration date; and,
  - (f) Registered owner.

B. Processing, registration and issuance of subsequent titles in relation to the LRA-approved Plans

1. Prior to the acceptance of survey returns at the LRA, the LRA shall be able to send verification requests of DENR-approved plan using the CPI through the API/web service;





TITLE:

PAGE 5 5/6

DATE

c. The RD shall access through system linkage the relevant patent information upon presentation of the judicial form for entry and registration at the RD;

d. The RD shall compare the patent information received through the linkage with the manually transmitted judicial form and process the same accordingly; and,

e. The LRA shall provide the DENR a confirmation that the patent was successfully registered, including information on the registered patent:

- (1) RD where the property is registered;
- (2) Title type;
- (3) Title number;
- (4) Title registration date; and,
- (5) Registered owner.

**3. Registration of e-Patents approved by the DENR**

- a. After approval of the e-Patent at the concerned DENR Office, the DENR shall immediately forward the e-Patent to LRA for registration;
- b. The RD shall access the e-Patent for entry and registration at the concerned RD;
- c. The LRA shall provide the DENR a confirmation that the e-Patent was successfully registered, including information on the registered e-Patent:
  - (1) RD where the property is registered;
  - (2) Title type;
  - (3) Title number;
  - (4) Title registration date; and,
  - (5) Registered owner.

**B. Original Registration of Judicially Decreed Titles under Presidential Decree No. 1529**

- 1. Issuance of Certification as to the Status of the Lot as a requirement for the Judicially Decreed Titles under Presidential Decree No. 1529**
  - a. The LRA shall forward the request for Certification of Status of the Lot by providing the lot and survey number and location of the subject lot parcel to DENR;
  - b. The concerned Regional Office/CENRO/PENRO shall check the status of the subject parcel. The following certification shall be issued to LRA through the linkage:
    - (1) Certification of Isolated Survey Plans if covered by previously applied and issued patent;
    - (2) Certification of status of cadastral land if it is a portion of previously-approved isolated survey;
    - (3) Land Classification Status whether the subject parcel is within Alienable and Disposable (A&D) Land or not; and,
    - (4) Status whether the subject parcel is (a) patented or not and (b) with or without ongoing PLA.
  - c. The LRA shall access the certification issued by DENR and continue the registration of judicial application;
- 2. Once a judicial decree is registered, LRA shall send a confirmation to DENR providing the following data and the title details of the registered decree:**
  - a. RD where the property is registered;
  - b. Title type;
  - c. Title number;
  - d. Decree number;
  - e. Title registration date; and,
  - f. Registered owner.

**VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The DENR and the LRA shall supervise and keep track of the activity and ensure the compliance with this Joint Memorandum Order.

**VIII. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

**A. Operating Procedures**

The LRA Administrator and the LMB Director shall issue the corresponding Circulars and directives to their respective offices to ensure the effective implementation of this Joint Memorandum Order such as policy adopting digital signature, paperless submission of public land application, Transition Plan and Operational Manual, among others.

**B. Manual Transmittal of Notice of Patent Issuance**

The concerned DENR Office assigned in the approval of patent shall continue transmitting manually the Notice of Patent Issuance (Transmittal) to the concerned Registry of Deeds for entry and registration until such time that all Judicial Forms are utilized.

**C. Adoption of e-Patent**

Pursuant to the DENR-LRA Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 series of 2021, the DENR shall endeavor to adopt the issuance of Patents in electronic/digital format to replace the manual Judicial Form. For this purpose, a Transition Plan for the full adoption of the process shall be developed by the DENR in consultation with LRA.

**D. Pilot Implementation in DENR Offices**

To test the efficiency of the system linkage as provided by the JMC, this Joint Memorandum Order shall be piloted in Regions 4-A (CALABARZON), 7, 10 and NCR, and will be implemented to other Regions in the succeeding years.

**IX. FUNDING**

All activities including consultancy, hardware and software procurement to implement the provisions of this Joint Memorandum Order shall be funded separately under DENR and LRA budget.

**X. PERIODIC REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS ON THE MEMORANDUM ORDER**

This Joint Memorandum Order may be amended as may be deemed necessary. All amendments shall be in writing and shall be jointly approved by the LRA Administrator and LMB Director. The DENR and LRA shall conduct a joint periodic review of this Joint Memorandum Order for future system and hardware adjustment/enhancement.

**XI. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any provision of this Joint Memorandum Order, or application to such provision to any circumstance, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**XII. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All orders, circulars, memoranda, and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded, amended and/or repealed accordingly.

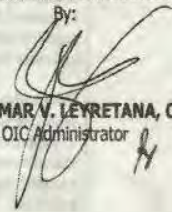
**XIII. EFFECTIVITY**

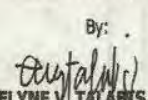
This Joint Memorandum Order takes effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Done Jf Diliman, Quezon City on JUN 28 2022

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

By:   
ROBERT NOMAR V. LEYRETANA, CESO II  
OIC Administrator

By:   
EMELYNE V. TALABIS, CESO IV  
LMB Director



15 JULY 2022, Friday



**DENR**

**NEWS**

**ALERTS**

**COVID-19**

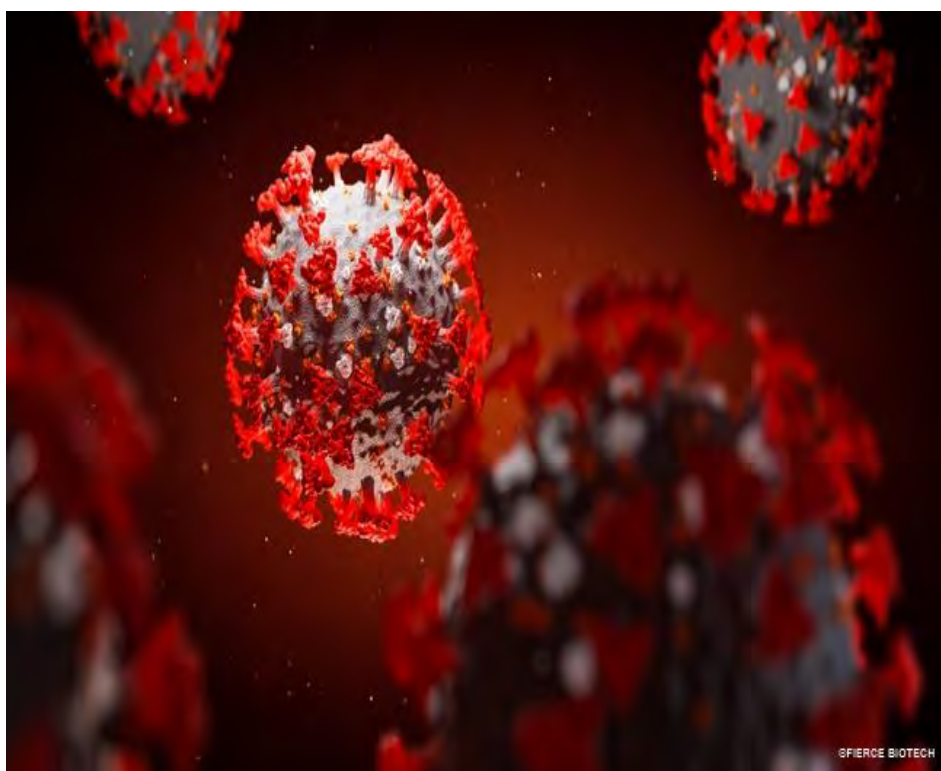
**NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## COVID-19 POSITIVITY RATE SA NCR, SUMAMPA SA 11.5%

by [Mara Valle](#) July 14, 2022



Sumampa sa 11.5% ang COVID-19 positivity rate sa National Capital Region (NCR).

Ayon sa independent monitoring group na OCTA Research bunsod nito ay posibleng umakyat sa isang libo ang mga bagong kaso ngayong araw.

Mababatid na ang positivity rate sa NCR ay tumaas sa mula sa 10.9% noong Hulyo 9 at malaki ang itinaas nito.

Sinabi naman ni OCTA Fellow Dr. Guido David na bagamat bumaba ang reproduction number ng NCR sa 1.36 ay tumaas naman sa 30.2% ang hospitalization rate ng rehiyon.

Una nang inihayag ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na posibleng tumaas ang hospital utilization rate sa pagtatapos ng Agosto o pagpasok ng Setyembre dahil sa COVID-19 infections.

Source: <https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/covid-19-positivity-rate-sa-ncr-sumampa-sa-11-5/>





## Covid close to endemic phase; declaration 'just a matter of time'

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 14, 2022, 5:32 pm



Infectious disease expert Dr. Edsel Salvaña (PPD photo)

**MANILA** – The Covid-19 situation is moving toward the endemic phase considering the Covid-19 metrics, an infectious disease expert said Thursday.

In a televised public briefing, Dr. Edsel Salvaña said in an endemic phase, the damage brought about by a certain disease is predictable.

*“Ang endemic naman hindi ibig sabihin ay wala nang pinsala ang isang bagay (Endemic [phase] does not mean something can no longer cause damage),”* he said.

*“Ang ibig sabihin lang ng endemic is predictable na ‘yung pinsala ng isang disease na meron na tayong gamot, meron na tayong bakuna, at kaya na ng ating healthcare systems (Endemic means the damage caused by the disease is predictable and we already have treatment, medicine and our healthcare system can address it),”* he added.

Health experts say there are endemic diseases like dengue and tuberculosis which still circulate and claim lives worldwide.

However, the main problem with Covid-19 is mutation and the risk of having a new variant that is more difficult to deal with.

*“But, overall the vaccines are keeping the number of severe cases low, so, papunta na ‘yan sa endemicity, it is just a matter of time kung kailan ‘yan ide-declare ng (it’s moving to endemicity, it’s just a matter of time when it will be declared by the) WHO [World Health Organization],”* Salvaña said.

*“And we can help that along by getting vaccinated and getting boosted and wearing masks para mas makarating tayo sa point na ‘yun (so we can quickly reach that point),”* he added.



## Covid close to endemic phase; declaration 'just a matter of time'

To date, the country remains under the low-risk classification for Covid-19 despite the continued increase in cases as the healthcare utilization rate remains below 50 percent.

About 71 million Filipinos are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, 15.3 million individuals have an up-to-date vaccination or have received their first booster and over 954,000 have received their second booster shot. *(PNA)*



15 JULY 2022, Friday



**DENR**

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# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





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Manila Bay Update, July 14,2022 maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone #Denr #SaveManilaBay #Battleformanilabay ...

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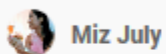


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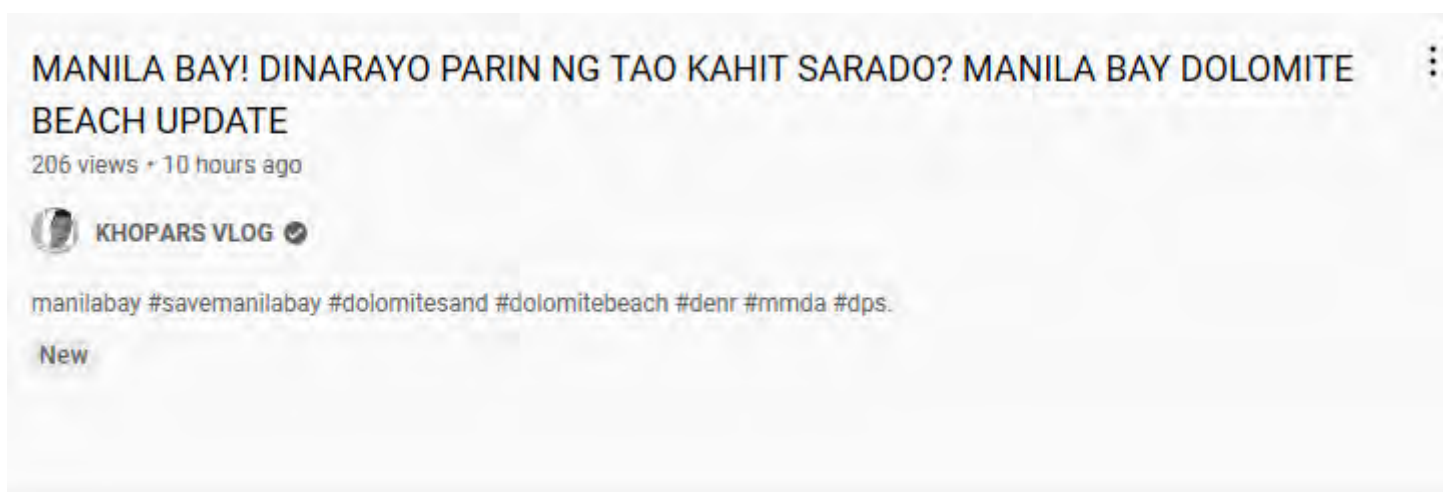


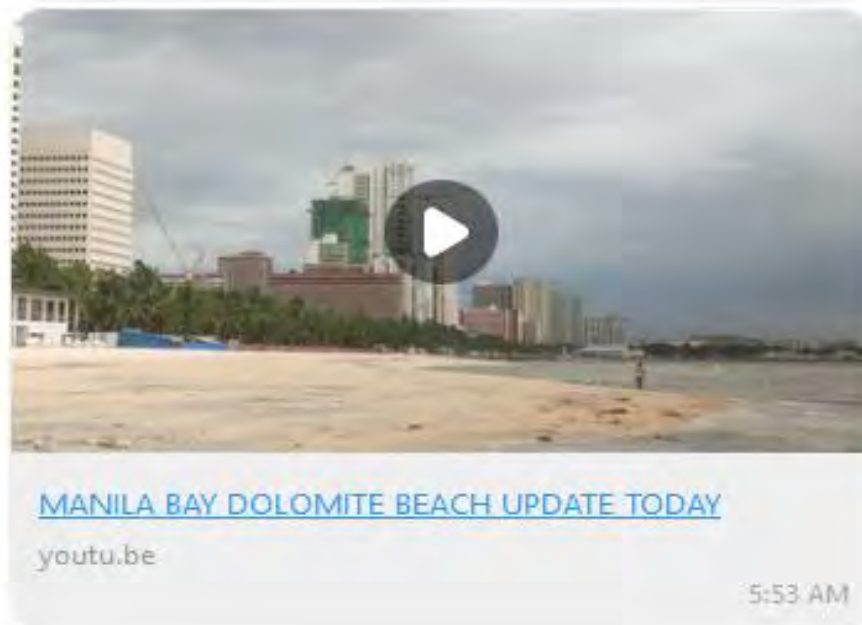




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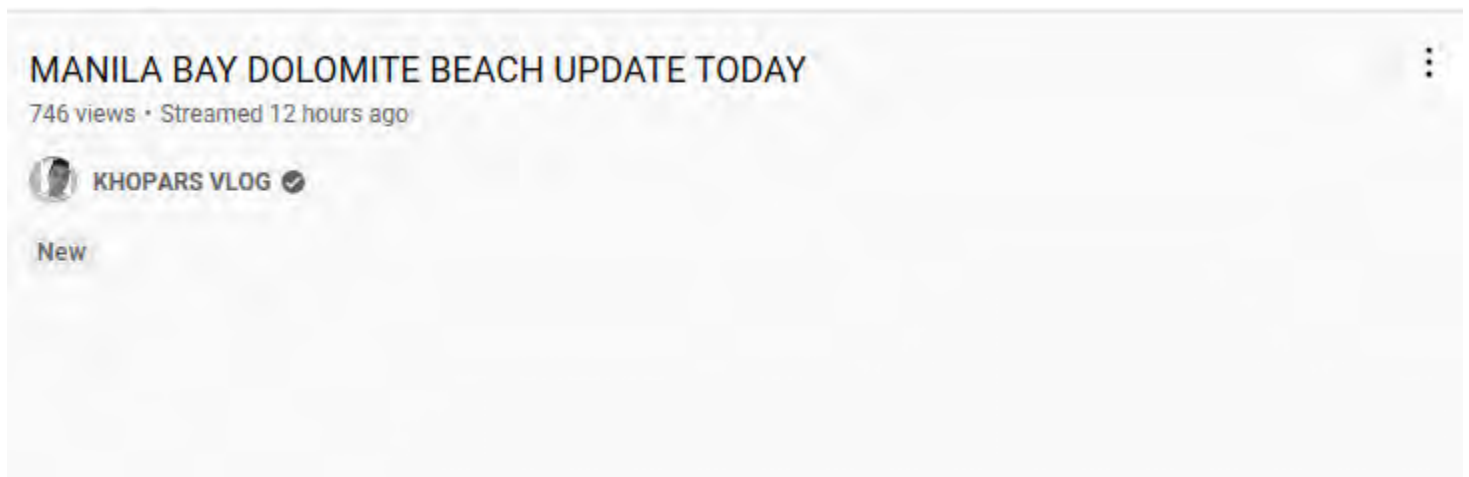
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#CUTunying #TuneInKayTunying #AnthonyTabernaExclusives

### DOLOMITE BEACH, NANGANGANIB BA SA BAGONG DENR SECRETARY?

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Sa kauna unahang interview kay DENR Secretary Toni Loyzaga, andami agad naming napag-usapan. Isa na rito ang tungkol sa Manila Bay Dolomite Beach. Meron siyang sinabi na baka kabahan ang mga nag enjoy na sa dolomite beach. Matutuloy ba ito o baka namemeligrong

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






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