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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR optimistic of positive changes under Yulo-Loyzaga's leadership

Published July 17, 2022, 2:43 PM

by [Jel Santos](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed optimism that the leadership of its incoming Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga will lead to a more resilient country.

"The DENR family looks forward to the effective and efficient implementation of the Department's mandate under the new Secretary's leadership. With her expertise and competence in climate and disaster resilience, I see better days ahead for the environment and for the Filipino people," DENR officer-in-charge Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. said in a statement.

The previous DENR administration, according to him, ended with "significant achievements" in its programs on solid waste management, biodiversity, rehabilitation of Boracay Island and Manila Bay, and restoration of heavily silted rivers under the Task Force Build Back Better.

Adobo assured the incoming secretary of the DENR that she has their full support.

"We will work with her for the effective implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the new administration," he said.

Loyzaga, he said, will be facing several challenges, such as disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss, and forestry.

With the environmental expertise of Loyzaga, Adobo said he is certain that climate actions will be strengthened and that the compliance of the Philippines to the Paris Agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be fulfilled.

DENR secretaries are tasked to uphold the agency's mandate that aims for the conservation, management, development, and sustainable use of the country's ecosystems and natural resources.

On July 12, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. nominated Loyzaga as chief of the DENR.

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

For nine years, she served as the executive director of the MO and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

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



Better days ahead for environment with Loyzaga as DENR head

July 17, 2022, 11:22 am



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed the nomination of Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as its new secretary under the administration of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. expressed optimism over Yulo-Loyzaga’s nomination, as he envisions a more climate-resilient Philippines under her leadership.

“The DENR family looks forward to the effective and efficient implementation of the Department’s mandate under the new Secretary’s leadership. With her expertise and competence in climate and disaster resilience, I see better days ahead for the environment and for the Filipino people,” Adobo, also the DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs, said in a news release on Sunday.

He said the previous DENR administration ended with significant achievements in its programs on solid waste management, biodiversity, rehabilitation of Boracay Island and Manila Bay, and restoration of heavily silted rivers under the Task Force Build Back Better.

“We assure the new Secretary that she has our full support. We will work with her for the effective implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the new administration,” Adobo said.

Adobo pointed out that the environment is still faced with several challenges, such as disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss and forestry.

He said these issues have to be addressed not just by the DENR with Yulo-Loyzaga as its new secretary, but by everyone being part of the solution.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga as the next DENR chief on July 12.

Known for her expertise in climate and disaster resilience, Yulo-Loyzaga has experience in leading and working with the National Resilience Council, Manila Observatory, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College.



With the environmental expertise of Yulo-Loyzaga and support of President Marcos in prioritizing climate change issues, Adobo said he is certain that climate actions will be strengthened and that the compliance of the Philippines to the Paris Agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be fulfilled.

As the new DENR Secretary, Yulo-Loyzaga is tasked to uphold the Agency's mandate that aims for the conservation, management, development, and sustainable use of the country's ecosystems and natural resources. **(PR)**



DENR welcomes Loyzaga nomination as new chief

Published on: July 17, 2022

By Elaine Allanigue

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Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga (Contributed photo)

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DENR Welcomes Nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga as New Secretary

by [Village Connect](#) about 12 hours ago



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He added: *“The previous DENR administration ended with significant achievements in its programs on solid waste management, biodiversity, rehabilitation of Boracay Island and Manila Bay, and restoration of heavily silted rivers under the Task Force Build Back Better. We assure the new Secretary that she has our full support. We will work with her for the effective implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the new administration.”*

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Pagbuti ng tubig sa Manila Bay ipinagmalaki ng DENR-EMB



July 17, 2022 @ 9:42 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ipinagmalaki ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau–National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) ang ‘significant improvement’ sa kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay, na iniuugnay sa patuloy na rehabilitasyon ng lahat ng mga river systems at daluyan ng tubig sa loob ng bay region.

Batay sa datos ng EMB-NCR, noong Hunyo 2022, ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay beach nourishment station malapit sa United States Embassy in Manila ay bumaba sa 2,400 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) mula 7,100 MPN/100mL noong 2021.

Sa press release ng DENR dalawang water quality monitoring stations malapit sa Dolomite Beach ay nagtala rin ng mababang fecal coliform levels – mula 7,300 MPN/100mL ay naging 1,700 MPN/100mL, at mula 10,200 MPN/100mL ay bumaba sa 2,100 MPN/100mL, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Nakapagtala rin ang apat na Metropolitan Environment Offices ng ‘significant decrease’ sa fecal coliform levels sa loob ng kanilang mga lugar.

Kaugnay nito bumaba rin ang mga fecal coliform levels sa Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros River System mula 3.7 billion MPN/100mL ay naging 4.8 million MPN/100mL. Gayun din ang tubig malapit sa Navotas Fishport, mula 920,000 MPN/100mL pababa ng 9,200 MPN/100mL.

Samantala kahit na ang mga readings ay nagpapakita na ang kasalukuyang lebel ay malayo pa din sa fecal coliform standard na 100 MPN/100mL upang maibalik ang water quality to Class SB level, sinabi ni Matias na ang layon ay isang malaking hamon ngunit ito ay kayang abutin sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan ng local at national governments at ng publiko.

Ang Class SB ay klasipikasyon ng DENR para sa coastal areas at waters kung saan ang publiko ay ligtas na makaliligo, makalalangoy, skin diving, at iba pang katulad na recreational activities.

Kaugnay nito binabantayan ng EMB-NCR ang 412 monitoring sampling stations na nasa iba’t ibang anyong tubig sa Metro Manila.

Dalawampu’t tatlong istasyon, kabilang ang mga istasyon na malapit sa Dolomite Beach, Rizal Park Hotel, at US Embassy, ay binabantayan tatlong beses sa isang linggo.



Samantala, 18 stations – kabilang ang Manila Yacht Club sewerage treatment plant at Aristocrat Restaurant monitoring stations – ay binabantayan linggo-linggo.

Nagsasagawa din ang EMB-NCR ng monitoring kada buwan ng 133 na istasyon kabilang ang Manila Bay river outfalls at Marikina River.

May 32 stations, kasama ang Estero de Marala, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Vitas, at Estero de Sunog Apog, ang binabantayan semi-annually. **Santi Celario**



Kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay, lalong umayos

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 17, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Lalo pang gumanda ang kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau–National Capital Region, (DENR EMB NCR) nagkaroon ng ‘significant improvement’ sa kalidad ng tubig sa naturang baybayin.

Binanggit pa ni DENR-EMB-NCR Regional Director Michael Drake Matias, bunga ito ng patuloy na rehabilitasyon ng lahat ng mga river systems at daluyan ng tubig sa loob ng bay region.

Nabatid na noong Hunyo 2022, ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay beach nourishment station malapit sa United States Embassy sa Maynila ay bumaba sa 2,400 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) mula 7,100 MPN/100mL noong 2021.

Ang dalawang water quality monitoring stations malapit sa Dolomite Beach ay nagtala rin ng mababang fecal coliform levels – mula 7,300 MPN/100mL ay naging 1,700 MPN/100mL, at mula 10,200 MPN/100mL ay bumaba sa 2,100 MPN/100mL, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

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“We have seen remarkable gains in Manila Bay based on the water quality monitoring results. Rest assured that we will not stop here and will continue our work as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project,” pahayag ni Matias.



UNTV UNTV News and Rescue ✓
July 16 at 2:32 PM · 🌐

Malaki ang ibinaba ng fecal coliform level sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay, kabilang na ang malapit sa US embassy na ngayon ay nasa 2,400MPN na lang.

Pero ayon sa DENR, dapat umabot sa 100MPN ang level para masabing ligtas at maganda na ang kalidad ng tubig.

See Translation



YOUTUBE.COM

Antas ng polusyon o fecal coliform sa ilang bahagi ng Manila Bay, patuloy na bumababa – DENR

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 **ABS-CBN News** ✓
15h · 🌐

Kabayan, kilalanin natin ang ilan sa mga kababayan nating 'pangangapa' o ang pagsisid sa dagat ng halaan at iba pang yamang dagat ang kabuhayan sa Baseco, Maynila.

Panoorin ang [KBYN: Kaagapay ng Bayan kasama si Kabayan Noli de Castro](#), Linggo, Hulyo 17, 2022, 5PM sa A2Z, TeleRadyo, Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, youtube.com/ABSCBNNews at sa news.abs-cbn.com/live.

[See Translation](#)



0:00 / 0:30

Luxury Amethyst and 227 others

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Pasay LGU receives recognition from DENR-EMB

Published July 17, 2022, 4:45 PM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) in the National Capital Region recognized the Pasay City government for implementing Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

The city government received a certificate of recognition during the Solid Waste Management Summit held at The Manila Hotel on July 14 and 15.

Pasay City Environment and Natural Resource Office (CENRO) supervising administrative officer RR Salvador, representing Mayor Emi Callixto-Rubiano, received the certificate of recognition from DENR-EMB-NCR Regional Director Michael Drake Matias.

Rubiano thanked the DENR-EMB and said her administration prioritized clean environment and the health of every resident.

She also said the clean environment is part of her HELP agenda, referring to health and housing, economic growth, education and environment, livelihood and lifestyle, peace and order, “palengke” (market) and “pamilya” (family).



Maynilad program gears up for its 1 millionth tree this year

July 17, 2022, 5:36 pm



MANILA – The Maynilad Water Services Inc. and other MVP Group of Companies recently launched the Plant for Life’s Road to One Million Trees Planted with 90,000 trees committed for 2022 at the Million Tree Nursery and Eco-Learning Center at La Mesa Watershed, Quezon City.

This, as Maynilad celebrates its 15th anniversary celebration as water concessionaire and to support the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System’s (MWSS) annual One Million Trees Challenge.

The Plant for Life 2022 kickoff was led by Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez, MWSS Administrator Leonor “Bobby” Cleofas, MWSS Chief Regulator Lester Patrick Ty and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Director, Million Trees Foundation President Melandrew Velasco capped by actual planting of 2,000 trees at the La Mesa Watershed and ceremonial handprints for their commitment to climate neutrality.

“Since we started this program in 2007, we have already covered around 570 hectares of land with more than 923,000 indigenous trees and mangroves. Planting a tree may seem simple enough. However, its impact can be tremendous as far as watershed protection is concerned. The more denuded forestlands we can recover, the better our chances of improving water security, and providing a sustainable environment for future generations,” Fernandez said in his welcome remarks.

He added that since its launch in 2007, engagement with government agencies and like-minded private organizations allowed for the expansion of Plant for Life.

“What started as a reforestation initiative for the Angat, Ipo and La Mesa watersheds eventually expanded to afforestation areas along the coasts of Manila Bay, Laguna Lake, Umiray River, and Malabon. We would like to reiterate our call to protect and clean Laguna Lake. Laguna Lake is our raw water source in the south and currently addresses the needs of Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Cavite,” he said.

He credited creative partnerships and volunteerism among 12,000 internal and external volunteers who have been tapped to get all those tree saplings and mangrove propagules planted for the success of the Plant for Life and just recently to the Annual Million Trees Challenge.



Maynilad has so far collectively planted 913,000 trees in a span of 14 years with survival growth rate of more than 80 percent in the last five years and now gearing up of planting its 1 million trees in 2022.

Fernandez thanked all volunteers who joined Maynilad since the Plant for Life started as he personally cited their collective efforts and sacrifices who took long boat rides and trekked several hours to reach planting sites, sometimes even during rainfall.

Climate neutrality by 2037

Fernandez said through the Plant for Life, Maynilad has been able to reduce carbon emissions by around 25,000 tons per year even he stressed that carbon sequestration is essential in reducing the greenhouse gases that lead to global warming and climate change.

Fernandez added that Maynilad is aiming for climate neutrality by year 2037 which he described as an ambitious target.

“Carbon sequestration—through our reforestation and watershed rehabilitation initiatives—is going to be a major part of that effort,” he said. **(PR)**

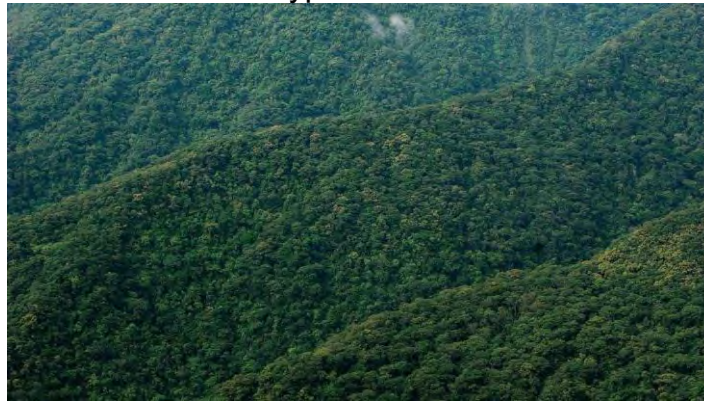


Solon to PBBM: Protect Sierra Madre, Luzon from floods

Published July 17, 2022, 6:04 PM

by [Raymund Antonio](#)

Rizal 4th District Rep. Fidel Nograles introduced a bill to Congress to establish the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA) that would protect and conserve the 500-kilometer-long mountain range that protects Luzon from typhoons.



(Forest Foundation Philippines / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The lawmaker said that House Bill No. 1972, which was also proposed during the 18th Congress, will create a government body tasked with the conservation and management of the Sierra Madre.

“I hope that with President Bongbong Marcos vowing to prioritize climate change, the House leadership will follow and place this issue at the top of our legislative agenda. The effects of climate change sweep far and wide and affect all sectors of society and governance, so we cannot simply turn a blind eye,” Nograles said in a statement accompanied with the copy of the bill.

The bill’s explanatory note states that, “Through the Sierra Madre Development Authority, we can further strengthen not only the protection that the Sierra Madre deserves, but a wholistic approach to enhance development of indigenous resources in the Sierra Madre region to its fullest potentials for economic development in order to raise the standard of living of our people.”

The Sierra Madre is a long and huge mountain range in the eastern seaboard of Luzon, from Quirino and Aurora in the north, down to Quezon, Laguna, and Rizal.

Nograles emphasized the need to protect the Sierra Madre region, which includes the majority of the country’s 68 Protected Areas, consisting of national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, and protected landscapes and seascapes.

Despite several protected areas, some in the mountain range have not been declared “protected” and continue to face abuse because of economic activities.

“While these areas may be explored and developed, they also need some regulation and safeguards in place,” the explanatory note said.

“It is important that the government strengthen its campaigns to stop illegal logging and promote forestation, avoid construction of unwarranted infrastructures, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development and providing information/information dissemination about the importance of the Sierra Madre in our daily living,” it added.



The lawmaker emphasized that climate change is not an issue that would go away and the onset of the rainy season should “serve as a stark warning for us in Congress.”

“We need to confront it head-on and seek to craft legislation that would comprehensively address the myriad issues surrounding it,” Nograles said.

The Sierra Madre Mountain Range is the richest in terms of habitat diversity, genetics, and species.

With its large surface area with slopes and curves, the Sierra Madre had been largely credited for helping break the eye of the cyclone that will result in slower wind speed and less intense impact.

However, experts said that the mountain range, which represents 40 percent of the Philippines’ forest cover, faces threats from human activities, such as mining, deforestation, sprawling, and industrialization.

“It is considered and known as the ‘backbone of Luzon’ as the mountain range with its forest cover is a natural shield and barrier protecting the island of Luzon by attenuating the entry of typhoons coming from the Pacific Ocean even before reaching the mainland and protecting the island from storm surges as well,” the bill’s explanatory note said.

Under the proposed legislation, the SMDA will “conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region’s physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region’s social and economic development.”

It will also recommend the financial and technical support needed by the mountain range, assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range, and plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood, and tidal control work, wastewater and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing, and related work.

The agency will also “undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development, and maintenance of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.”



Bill seeks to form Sierra Madre Devt Authority

BY JOVEE MARIE DE LA CRUZ JULY 18, 2022

TO help protect its forest cover and prevent flooding in areas in Luzon, a lawmaker is pushing for the passage of a bill creating a government body tasked with the conservation and management of the 500-kilometer-long Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

In filing House Bill (HB) 1972, Rizal 4th District Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles said the bill seeks to establish the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA). The measure was also filed during the 18th Congress.

Nograles said the need to protect the Sierra Madre region, which includes the majority of the country's 68 Protected Areas, consisting of national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves and protected landscapes and seascapes.

Under the bill, the SMDA would be tasked to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region's social and economic development.

The measure said the SMDA shall also provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the region;

It also provides recommendations to the proper agencies regarding the financing and technical support to be given to agricultural, industrial and commercial projects.

The bill also mandates the SMDA to assess and approve all plans, programs and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range.

The SMDA would be tasked to plan, program, finance and undertake infrastructure projects such as river, flood and tidal control work, wastewater and sewerage work, dams and water supply, roads, irrigation, housing and related work.

It should also undertake studies on the conservation, improvement, exploration, development and maintenance of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

According to HB 1972, the SMDA would also spearhead the government's campaigns to stop illegal logging and promote reforestation, prevent construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.

"The onset of the rainy season should serve as a stark warning for us in Congress that climate change is not an issue that will go away," Nograles said. "We need to confront it head-on and seek to craft legislation that would comprehensively address the myriad issues surrounding it."



Bill seeking to create gov't body to protect Sierra Madre refiled

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 17 2022 05:01 PM



A landslide hits the Sierra Madre mountain range on June 1, 2022. *Courtesy: Ervin Suguitan*

MANILA — A bill seeking to establish a government agency to manage the Sierra Madre Mountain Range has been refiled at the House of Representatives.

In a statement Sunday, Rizal Rep. Fidel Nograles said he filed House Bill No. 1972, which proposes the creation of the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA).

If signed into law, the bill would establish a government body "tasked with the conservation and management of the 500-kilometer-long Sierra Madre Mountain Range to help protect its forest cover and prevent flooding in areas in Luzon."

"I hope that with Pres. Bongbong Marcos vowing to prioritize climate change, the House leadership will follow and place this issue at the top of our legislative agenda. The effects of climate change sweep far and wide and affect all sectors of society and governance, so we cannot simply turn a blind eye," Nograles said.

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Nograles emphasized the need to protect the Sierra Madre region, which includes majority of the country's 68 Protected Areas, consisting of national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, and protected landscapes and seascapes.

He added that the SMDA, if established, would also spearhead the government's campaigns to stop illegal logging and promote reforestation, prevent construction of unwarranted and illegal infrastructure, enhance and develop indigenous resources in the areas that can be utilized for development, and educate people on the importance of the mountain range.

"The onset of the rainy season should serve as a stark warning for us in Congress that climate change is not an issue that will go away. We need to confront it head-on and seek to craft legislation that would comprehensively address the myriad issues surrounding it," the solon said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier committed to addressing climate change during his June 30 inaugural address.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/17/22/bill-seeking-to-protect-sierra-madre-refiled?fbclid=IwAR2PGJ_vjIaNLsKTYFqHXZINhich1F-sd4P5n1FLolej8BZEFnaaKONq0uY

BAN Toxics spotlights National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines

Sunday, July 17, 2022 Journal Online



Small-scale miner digs through tunnels for gold ores. Photo by AC Dimatatac for BAN Toxics.

Toxics and wastes watchdog group BAN Toxics spotlights their partner organization, the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines, in time for the coalition's incoming third national assembly on July 28 to 30, 2022.

The National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines is an alliance of small-scale mining associations nationwide that promotes responsible mining through the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in the country.

The national coalition was formed to respond to various issues plaguing the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector in the Philippines, such as poverty, human rights, legalization and formalization, amendment of mining laws, occupational health and safety, and environmental impact.

Established in April 2016, the coalition was formed during the Fourth National Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Summit in Davao City. It was organized with the help of its secretariat organization, BAN Toxics, and several partner organizations, including United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United States Department of State (USDOS), Dialogos, and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

The union also aims to uplift the lives of ASM community members [through responsible mining](#).



Participants warm up during the 4th National ASGM Summit in Davao City last April 2016. Photo by BJ Patino for BAN Toxics.



The National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines and BAN Toxics work hand-in-hand to help transition miners to mercury-free technology to protect both human health and the environment, improve working conditions, assert occupational safety and health for miners, promote human rights, and eliminate child labor in the sector. BAN Toxics aimed to reduce and eliminate mercury use in ASGM mining processes and, at the same time, promote the empowerment of women and children, and facilitate community development programs.

The objective of the coalition is to achieve a progressive, healthy, and sustainable artisanal small-scale mining community through responsible mining, good governance, and unity. The group aims to be advocates and stewards of a toxic-free society and responsible mining that uplifts the lives of marginalized Filipinos.

The national coalition continues to coordinate with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and various Provincial Mining Regulatory Boards (PMRB) for the declaration of several Minahang Bayan and issuance of mining contracts to legalize small-scale mining operations.

The organization also promotes and assists miners and mining associations to sell their gold to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to improve the country's gold reserves and help the economy.

ASGM in the Philippines

More than 40 provinces in the Philippines are home to an estimated 500,000 individuals and their families whose primary source of income is gold extraction from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sites.[1] Around 75% percent of these miners are engaged in subsistence mining where their daily income barely covers their basic needs.[2]

The ASGM sector has been identified as the main anthropogenic source of mercury pollution, accounting for 35% of the total emissions in the global atmosphere.[3]

According to the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment 2018, mercury emissions from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) are estimated to exceed 2000 tonnes annually. It is the sector that demands and consumes the most mercury, with mostly all of it being released into the environment.[4]

Mercury emissions into the atmosphere have a variety of public health and environmental consequences, including marine life contamination, human contamination through fish consumption, land degradation and river siltation, as well as the associated deforestation, loss of organic soil, and loss of aquatic habitat.[5]

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from man-made emissions of mercury and mercury compounds. The Convention provides a comprehensive policy to address mercury emissions to soil, water and the atmosphere, phase out mercury use in products and processes, and the regulation of the informality of the ASGM sector. It also addresses the storage and disposal of the chemical.

The Philippines ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury on July 8, 2020.

“We call for the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector to improve the working and occupational safety and health conditions of all the miners. It is high time for the Philippines to prioritize the protection of small-scale mining communities,” says Gil Indino, chairperson of the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines.

“The effect of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the main anthropogenic source of mercury emissions and releases worldwide, remains unknown due to the sector's informality and illegality. The legalization of the sector will not only help protect mine workers and mining community members but also the environment from the adverse effects of mercury,” says



Arleen Honrade, Secretary of the national coalition and Monitoring and Evaluation of BAN Toxics.

The National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines will be convening for their third assembly on July 28 – 30, 2022, in Villa Silvina Hotel and Restaurant in Baguio City. Hosted by the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, the theme of the third assembly is “Pag-usad ng Responsableng Maliitang Pagmimina sa New Normal.”

Coastal cleanup: Lapu-Lapu police collect nearly 200 kilos of garbage in Marigondon

By: Futch Anthony Inso - Multimedia Correspondent - CDN Digital|July 17,2022 - 07:58 PM



Lapu-Lapu City policemen conduct a coastal cleanup and scubasurero drive on Friday, July 15, where they have collected nearly 200 kilos of garbage. | Contributed photo

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines — Close to 200 kilos of garbage were collected during the coastal cleanup and “scubasurero” initiated by the Lapu-Lapu City Police Office (LCPO) on Friday, July 15, 2022, at Sitio Marbeach, Barangay Marigondon, Lapu-Lapu City.

“The ocean provides us with so much. It’s important to make sure we are taking care of it, so that it can continue to take care of us,” Police Colonel Arnel Banzon said, city director of LCPO.

The majority of the garbage that was collected during the activity were food wrappers, nylon, bottles, used tires, and PVC plastic.



Lapu-Lapu City policemen collect garbage at the seashore of Sitio Marbeach in Barangay Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City on July 15. | Contributed photo

Around 55 policemen and their members of their partner groups participated in the activity, which was in line with the 27th Police community Relation Month Celebration 2022 with a theme: “Ugnayang Pulisya at Komunidad Tungo sa Mapayapa, Maayos at Maunland na Pamayanan.”

According to the LCPO, they collected garbage which they placed in 7 sacks weighing 20 kilos each and there were still others that were not placed in the sacks.

So they estimated the garbage gathered during the activity were nearly 200 kilos.



The Lapu-Lapu City Police have hauled at least seven sacks of garbage weighing 20 kilos each during their coastal cleanup drive in Barangay Marigondon, Lapu-Lapu City on Friday, July 15.

| Contributed photo

Police Major Marciso Abapo, LCPO Police Station 3 chief, and Police Major Aibert Jay Samson, LCPO Police Station 4 chief, also joined the activity.

The partners of the LCPO, who participated in the cleanup drive were members of the the Lapu-Lapu City Hope for Corals Divers Association, SAWUM Free Divers, Mactan Adventure Cue, SugarSea Inn Dive Resort, Clean and Green, and Barangay Marigondon BPSO.

/dbs

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/453415/coastal-cleanup-lapu-lapu-police-collect-nearly-200-kilos-of-garbage-in-marigondon?fbclid=IwAR0s11AAQqs2693stB3y704tr6yzrgD6Ku3p06GUSS45y6fC7j4vZq7LrE#ixzz7ZlaLtyeA>



Baradong waterways at naipong basura nagpalala sa baha sa Kidapawan City Alkalde may panawagan sa publiko

By **Bombo Garry Fuerzas** - July 18, 2022 | 1:24 AM

CENTRAL MINDANAO-Nagdulot ng malaking problema ang mga baradong waterways tulad ng drainage at ang mga tambak na basura sa tabing-ilog at mga kanal sa iba't-ibang lugar sa Lungsod ng Kidapawan.

Ito ang iniulat ni City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management o CDRRM Officer Psalmer Bernalte sa Incident Command Post meeting na ginanap sa City Mayor's Office.

Ayon kay Bernalte, lubhang napakalakas ang ulan sa lungsod kung saan umabot ito sa 144.4 mm rainfall na naging sanhi ng pagbaha sa ilang mga barangay at naging malala ito dahil sa mga baradong waterways at mga basurang itinapon sa mga tabing-ilog at pati na sa mga kanal.

Katunayan, umabot sa mahigit 12 tonelada ng basura ang nakolekta ng team mula sa City Engineering Office matapos linisin ang mga baradong waterways sa mga binahang barangay tulad ng Sudapin, Balindog, Kalasuyan, Lanao, Singao, Poblacion, at iba pa.

Kaugnay nito, nanawagan si Kidapawan City Mayor Atty Jose Paolo Evangelista sa publiko na palakasin pa ang kamalayan sa wastong pagtapon ng basura at pangangalaga ng kalikasan upang maiwasan ang kahalintulad na sitwasyon kung saan naging malala ang mga insidente ng pagbaha.

Ipinag-utos ng Alkalde sa City Engineering Office ang agarang pagsasaayos ng mga nasirang drainage at box culverts, ilan dito ay nasa Barangay Lanao at Sudapin at ang mabilisang de-clogging at desilting ng mga waterways na ginagawa naman ng tanggapan sa mga oras na ito.

Sa kabilang dako, pinag-iingat naman ng City Health Office o CHO ang mamamayan sa mga sakit na posibleng makuha kaugnay ng baha tulad na lamang ng leptospirosis.

Nakukuha ang sakit mula sa mga hayop na nagdadala ng Leptospira bacteria na naikakalat sa tubig-baha.

Payo ngayon ni City Health Officer Dr. Jocelyn Encienzo sa publiko na kung may nararamdamang sintomas ng leptospirosis tulad ng mataas na lagnat, pananakit ng ulo at kalamnan, pagsusuka at jaundice (paninilaw ng balat at mata), rashes at iba pa ay agad na magpatingin sa doktor.



TINGNAN: Mga melon-headed whale na namataan sa Aklan

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 17 2022 01:51 PM



Kuha ng mga melon-headed whale na namataan sa karagatan sa may Aklan noong Marso. *Retrato mula kay Nauti Dre*

Mga nakamamanghang retrato at video ang ibinahagi kamakailan ng mga taong nakakita ng marine animals sa karagatan ng Visayas.

Sa video na ibinahagi nitong Sabado ni Nauti Dre, makikita ang grupo ng melon-headed whales sa may karagatang sakop ng Buruanga, Aklan.

Natuwa ang netizens sa mga retrato ni Dre dahil tila nagpapapansin ang mga balyenang patalon-talon mula sa tubig at sumasabay pa sa bangka habang kinukuhanan.



Kuha ng mga melon-headed whale na namataan sa karagatan sa may Aklan noong Marso. *Retrato mula kay Nauti Dre*

Ayon kay Dre, Marso pa ang kuha pero kamakailan lang niya nai-post dahil akala niyang nawala ang kaniyang SD card.

Samantala, nakuhanan naman ng video noong Hulyo 2 ang limang dolphin sa may Mantampok Fish Sanctuary sa Quinapondan, Eastern Samar.

Ayon kay Lt. Jose Fortunato Lumain, officer-in-charge ng Quinapondan police, nagsasagawa sila ng sea patrol kasama ang mga kasapi ng bantay-dagat nang magpakita ang mga dolphin.

Napansin din ng mga awtoridad na kumakain ng mga maliliit na isda ang mga dolphin at pagkatapos ng 30 minuto ay lumangoy na palayo ang mga ito.

— Ulat nina Rolan Escaniel at Ranulfo Docdocan

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/17/22/melon-headed-whales-namataan-sa-aklan?fbclid=IwAR0q4Q0uoZDHZ2j-fz6R3Y7q3m5EP93uXOKVX6Sup6khw5HkKKMnD97cnYA>



Climate forecasts and alerts on extreme weather

July 17, 2022 | 12:24pm Location: PHILIPPINES



18 hours ago

A summer heatwave that has triggered devastating forest fires across southwest Europe showed no signs of abating Sunday, as parts of the continent readied for new temperature records early next week.

Firefighters in France, Portugal, Spain and Greece are battling forest blazes that have ravaged thousands of hectares of land and killed several personnel since the start of the week.

It is the second heatwave engulfing parts of southwest Europe in weeks as scientists blame climate change and predict more frequent and intense episodes of extreme weather.

Firefighters in the coastal town of Arcachon in France's southwestern Gironde region were fighting to control two forest blazes that have devoured more than 10,000 hectares since Tuesday.

"It's a Herculean job," said Lieutenant-Colonel Olivier Chavatte from the fire and rescue service, which has 1,200 firefighters and five planes in action.

Further evacuation orders were given on Saturday for a few hundred residents, firefighter spokesman Arnaud Mendousse told AFP. -- AFP



Unlocking impactful change

BYKPMG PERSPECTIVES JULY 18, 2022



AS we reach climate tipping points and global temperatures rise, consumers are looking to the businesses they interact with for help to do the right thing. The changing regulatory environment is also forcing hands. Investments are being made in decarbonization and offsetting emissions, in circular business models and sustainable and ethical supply chains.

Businesses that are focused on finding environmentally-favorable solutions are seeing greater business efficiency, profit, and growth. Understanding your operating model and how the various layers interact is key to unlocking long lasting, impactful change for your business, your people and the planet.

Confronting climate change. Customers want to interact with environmentally responsible businesses that are working in alignment with their values and helping them to play their part. We also know that to stay in business we need to turn a profit.

Buying in to change. Whether you have been an early adopter, a market leader or have been forced to react, it is likely by now that you will have some form of sustainability activity underway—a business continuity plan and some level of investment to improve your environmental standing perhaps.

Understanding how all six components of your Operating Model layers relate to each other is key to leading the way on sustainability and ensuring real impact and returns on our investments are realized.

Service delivery layer—partnerships are key. The location and means by which your products and services get to market is arguably the biggest area for opportunity. As consumers themselves, businesses rely on other players to be environmentally responsible and ethical as their brands are interlinked.

People and culture—it takes a village. Sustainability and social good becomes a collective responsibility. The second leap to a regenerative business model is “how can I do more good.” The emphasis shifts to long term value rather than short term gain. Transparent and demonstrable values, strategies, and goals related to increased sustainability and climate considerations are also evolving as a key factor in talent attraction and retention. The relationship between sustainability and climate considerations and the recruitment and retention of top talent is increasingly being regarded as more than a challenge—it’s a key business risk.

Governance—the rise of the sustainability manager. The time is now to think beyond disclosure and ensure you have a license to operate. For those with limited resources, business networks can plug gaps and first movers will be at an advantage. If you can support your sustainability leaders and staff to drive change in line with your strategy and goals, you are more likely to remain future focused, protecting and strengthening the resilience of your business and aligning your offerings to support a position of growth.



Performance insights—what gets measured gets done. It is a no brainer that the right incentives are needed to drive the right behaviors from within your organization and your partners across the supply chain. Be clear about the outcomes you want to drive and what takes priority to help raise and resolve conflicts effectively. Make sure goals don't become their own individual "tick boxes" and processes and technology are in place to enable you to celebrate, communicate and build on your success.

Process and technology sustainability pays if you do it right. The core principles of lean manufacturing and process improvement have been around for years. By identifying and removing waste, you can focus only on what adds value. By focusing on what is seen as value, to your customers and your business, you can run a business that is more efficient and less costly.

Focusing on sustainability can make your business more efficient to run and help you achieve a better bottom-line so you can invest sustainably and ethically for future generations.

In addition to lean processes, creativity is key to solving business challenges. Your investment in people and culture needs to be complemented by processes and technology that enable opportunities to be identified and acted on in the most efficient way.

For first mover advantage, ideas need to be well executed. Over time, the more people demanding sustainable ways of working will bring down costs for all.

KPMG's Innovation Summit in the Philippines on July 20, July 21, July 26 and July 27, 2022, will feature innovation stories from stakeholders with an emphasis on sustainability, governance and technology, and will take place alongside the firm's internal Ideation Challenge focusing on promoting ESG initiatives. Registration is free.

The excerpt was taken from the KPMG Thought Leadership publication: <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/nz/pdf/2022/06/Unlocking%20impactful%20change.pdf>

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‘International alliances needed to enforce West Philippine Sea ruling’

By [Michael Punongbayan](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 17, 2022 - 12:00am



This March 22, 2021 aerial photo shows Chinese vessels still present in the Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea, well within the Philippine exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines should enlist the support and cooperation of its international allies in order to fully enforce the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) invalidating China’s vast territorial claims in the South China Sea.

“The PCA legally transformed our maritime claims into a territorial right. Therefore, it is clear that the West Philippine Sea is ours,” said Professor Victor Andres Manhit at the recent international forum organized by The Stratbase Institute.

But in order to enforce the ruling, local and international experts gathered at the forum to mark the sixth anniversary of the arbitral award to the Philippines agreed that the country needs critical global alliances.

“With our collective will and effort, we must not allow any blatant disregard of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) or the rule of law by any state,” said Manhit, president of Stratbase.

“The Philippines has every right to exercise sovereignty over its maritime territory. Our maritime vessels have the right to patrol our waters without being threatened. Our scientists have the right to conduct research in the West Philippine Sea without being closely observed. Our fishermen have the right to fish in the waters safely and without fear,” he added.

The arbitral court ruled that China’s claims on the disputed territory, based on its so-called nine-dash line, had no basis in international law.

However, the previous administration was seen to have largely ignored the ruling as it pivoted toward China and pursued what former president Rodrigo Duterte dubbed as an “independent foreign policy.”

During the forum, international participants emphasized the need to respect not only the PCA decision but the rules-based international order governing relations between and among countries.

Murray Hiebert, senior associate of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and director for Research for BowerGroup Asia, said the US now has the opportunity to re-energize an alliance that had become more than a little wobbly under Duterte.



Hiebert, who has published a book called “Under Beijing’s Shadow: Southeast Asia’s China Challenge,” said: “The first thing they ought to do is invite Marcos to come to Washington... This could provide a great opportunity for the US and the Philippines to reboot by inviting the new president to Washington as soon as possible.”

He said the US and the Philippines should work together to protect the rights of the Philippines in the South China Sea, including sovereignty, hydrocarbons and fish. Lisa Curtis, director of the Indo-Pacific Security Program and senior fellow at the Center for a New American Society, agreed that maritime issues are critical to the United States-Philippine alliance.

“We have a mutual interest in ensuring that nations in the region maintain their sovereignty and independence. Standing up to China’s maritime aggression and taking steps to push back against it are necessary to maintain a rules-based international order. And ultimately, this is the best way we can avoid any conflict,” Curtis said.

Dr. Yusuke Takagi, associate professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, said bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, specifically in the areas of maritime security and safety, has been on the right track for many years, with Mindanao as focal point.

He said that aside from bilateral relations, it is also important to think about Philippine relations in the Indo-Pacific.

John Blaxland, a professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies at Australia National University, said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has limited ability to deter, and AUKUS sees the bolstering of the US’s commitment to the defense of Australia and, by implication, of the region.

He acknowledged the overwhelming amount of overlap of interest between Australia and the Philippines, including their interests and enemies, noting that “we can’t just sit on the fence. We have interests to defend. Our interests are being challenged. Our deterrents need to be bolstered. Our weakness invites adventurism.”

In closing the forum, Manhit cited a recent Pulse Asia survey commissioned by Stratbase showing that 89 percent of Filipinos want Marcos Jr. to assert the country’s rights in the West Philippine Sea; and 90 percent agree that the new administration must invest in the capability of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard.

18 JULY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

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Better days ahead at DENR seen

BY MARIA ROMERO
@tribunephil_mbr

Officer-in-charge Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. sees "better days ahead" at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the new administration with nominated Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga at its helm.

"The DENR family looks forward to the effective and efficient implementation of the Department's mandate under the new Secretary's leadership. With her expertise and competence in climate and disaster resilience, I see better days ahead for the environment and the Filipino people," Adobo said.

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

"We assure the new Secretary that she has our full support. We will work with her for the effective implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the new administration," he added. Adobo is also the DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs.

Despite the significant progress spearheaded by the previous DENR officials, Adobo pointed out that the Philippine environment is still facing challenges. These include disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss, and forestry.

He said that these issues need to be addressed not just by the DENR with Yulo-Loyzaga as its new Secretary but by everyone being part of the solution.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced on Tuesday that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. nominated Loyzaga as DENR secretary, but with a caveat that her nomination is still subject to the fulfillment of required documents.

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



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NEWS BRIEFS

DENR welcomes nomination of Loyzaga

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed the nomination of Ma. Antonia Yulo Loyzaga as its new secretary. DENR officer in charge Secretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. said he was looking forward to Loyzaga's leadership and expressed optimism that climate actions would be further strengthened. "The DENR family looks forward to the effective and efficient implementation of the department's mandate under the new secretary's leadership. With her expertise and competence in climate and disaster resilience, I see better days ahead for the environment and for the Filipino people," he said in a statement on Sunday. President Marcos last week nominated Loyzaga, former chair of the International Advisory Board of Manila Observatory, to lead the DENR. Loyzaga previously served as executive director of Manila Observatory and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. She is currently a member of the Senior Advisory Board of the Command and General Staff College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Several environmental groups like Greenpeace Philippines, Masungi Georeserve Foundation and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment earlier welcomed Loyzaga's appointment.

--FRANCES MANGOSING



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Better days ahead for environment with Loyzaga as DENR head

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed the nomination of Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as its new secretary under the administration of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. expressed optimism over Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination, as he envisions a more climate-resilient Philippines under her leadership.

"The DENR family looks forward to the effective and efficient implementation of the Department's mandate under the new Secretary's leadership. With her expertise and competence in climate and disaster resilience, I see better days ahead for the environment and for the Filipino people," Adobo, also the DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs, said in a news release on Sunday.

He said the previous DENR administration ended with significant achievements in its programs on solid waste management, biodiversity, rehabilitation of Boracay Island and Manila Bay, and restoration of heavily silted rivers under the Task Force Build Back Better.

"We assure the new Secretary that she has our full support. We will work with her for the effective implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the new administration," Adobo said.

Adobo pointed out that the environment is still faced with several challenges, such as disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss and forestry.

He said these issues have to be addressed not just by the DENR with Yulo-Loyzaga as its new secretary, but by everyone being part of the solution.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga as the next DENR chief on July 12.

Known for her expertise in climate and disaster resilience, Yulo-Loyzaga has experience in leading and working with the National Resilience Council, Manila Observatory, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College.

With the environmental expertise of Yulo-Loyzaga and support of President Marcos in prioritizing climate change issues, Adobo said he is certain that climate actions will be strengthened and that the compliance of the Philippines to the Paris Agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be fulfilled.

As the new DENR Secretary, Yulo-Loyzaga is tasked to uphold the Agency's mandate that aims for the conservation, management, development, and sustainable use of the country's ecosystems and natural resources.



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“SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT” NAITALA SA KALIDAD NG TUBIG SA MANILA BAY

NAITALA ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau–National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) ang ‘significant improvement’ sa kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay, na iniuugnay sa patuloy na rehabilitasyon ng lahat ng mga river systems at daluyan ng tubig sa loob ng bay region.

Batay sa datos ng EMB-NCR, noong Hunyo 2022, ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay beach nourishment station malapit sa United States Embassy in Ma-

nila ay bumaba sa 2,400 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) mula 7,100 MPN/100mL noong 2021.

Dalawang water quality monitoring stations malapit sa Dolomite Beach ay nagtala rin ng mababang fecal coliform levels – mula 7,300 MPN/100mL ay naging 1,700 MPN/100mL, at mula 10,200 MPN/100mL ay bumaba sa 2,100 MPN/100mL, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Nakapagtala rin ang apat na Metropolitan Environment Offices ng ‘significant decrease’ sa fecal coliform levels sa loob ng kanilang mga lugar.

Bumaba ang mga fecal coliform levels sa Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros



River System mula 3.7 billion MPN/100mL ay naging 4.8 million MPN/100mL. Gayundin ang tubig malapit sa Navotas Fishport, mula 920,000 MPN/100mL pababa ng 9,200 MPN/100mL.

“We have seen remarkable gains in Manila Bay based on the water quality monitoring results. Rest assured that we will not stop here and will continue our work as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project,” saad ni EMB-NCR Regional Director Michael Drake P. Matias.

Kahit na ang mga reading ay nagpapakita na ang kasalukuyang lebel ay malayo pa rin sa fecal coliform stan-

dard na 100 MPN/100mL upang maibalik ang water quality to Class SB level, sinabi ni Matias na ang layon ay isang malaking hamon ngunit ito ay kayang abutin sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan ng local at national governments at ng publiko.

Ang kasalukuyang Manila Bay rehabilitation project ay ayon sa continuing Supreme Court mandamus na nag-uutos sa 13 ahensya ng gobyerno, kabilang ang DENR, na linisin, i-rehabilitate, at ibalik ang tubig ng Manila Bay na maaaring gamitin sa paglangoy at iba pang contact recreation activities.



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Govt acts to stop clam shell poaching

BY KRISTINA MARALIT

THE Climate Change Commission will be working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government agencies to stop the poaching and illegal importation of giant clam shells.

Undersecretary Albert de la Cruz over the weekend discov-

ered while the commission's personnel and private volunteers

were conducting coastal cleanup and tree-planting activities in Agno, Pangasinan, the poaching of giant clam shells continues.

De la Cruz said the poaching and illegal selling of the clam shells, or *taklob*, are no different from the "tuko" (gecko) scam of the past, where syndicates would pay locals to capture geckos in the wild.

Enzymes produced by the geckos' gall bladder are believed to cure diseases, sparking the illegal trade. The reports turned out to

be a hoax.

"This promise of big money to our countrymen in exchange for the giant clams is just like the old tuko scam," de la Cruz said.

He added "businessmen" promise locals they will be paid at least P50,000 per clam, but it has been four years and nothing has come out of the "deal."

De la Cruz said the commission will coordinate with the DENR to find out the appropriate action to take.



Musings by the bay



THRICE a week, starting at daybreak, I have been doing brisk walks, often by Manila Bay.

For the first time since its creation, I saw the "dolomite beach" that I once defended in this space when so many were criticizing the project due to environmental fears and alleged health hazards.

Since dolomite is not indigenous to the sea and was "mined" from the mountains of Alcoy in Cebu, there was quite a furor over the DENR-initiated creation of a "white sand" beach in that stretch between the US Embassy and the Manila Yacht Club, a distance of less than two kilometers.

I wrote then that crushed dolomite has also been added to resorts in Mactan, after Boholans raised a howl when the earlier resorts filled their craggy beachfronts with real white sand taken away from the beautiful seaside of Anda. So don't fret too much about it, I stated then.

As of now, only half, perhaps less of that short stretch, has been filled with the crushed dolomite, and one wonders when the project will be finished, or whether its P389 million budget has been spent and funds have to be scrounged further in the 2023 GAA to complete the project.

Most of the visitors and family groups who troop to the bayside marvel at the "creation," posing for pictures with the "white sand" as backdrop, and one is happy for the little pleasures they get in these difficult times. To the "masa," all the concerns on the bay's bio-diversity are washed away by these simple pleasures.

But wait! What is this rust-painted monstrosity in the area fronting the Aristocrat Restaurant, likely a water reservoir camouflaged as an armored tank, complete with a clumsily designed "cannon" aimed at the bay? Is this symbolic of how we will defend our city from the intruders of the West Philippine Sea should hostilities erupt?

Tacky as tacky could be.

One is left to wonder what would happen to the beige-colored crushed dolomite when strong waves pummel the shores come typhoon season?

So, to avert such, inflated rubber gabions are being installed some 200 meters away, anchored to bedrock I suppose, acting like a breakwater to lessen the impact of the periodic waves upon the "creation". Will the gabions be like King Canute commanding the waves to stop? Vamos a ver.

And then, to protect the project from a swarm of onlookers, a white "picket" fence has been erected, and the public allowed into the beachfront through a gated entrance and exit manned by the ubiquitous security guards.

Two proudly emblazoned "public restrooms" were built in the middle of the project, covering the view of the Manila Bay and its marvelous sunset from passersby, pedestrian or motorized.

There is also a small "souvenir shop" with a glass front. Though yet unopened to the public, one wonders why these were built right smack into the center of the stretch, blocking the view?

But what takes the cake is a two-story building with a glass frontage on whose façade is emblazoned in gleaming stainless steel — "Mandamus Agencies Office". What a funny Latin name to identify an office which does nothing but obstruct the view.

Oh but they would say it was the Supreme Court which ordered the 13 agencies in 2008 through a writ of mandamus to "clean up, reha-

bilitate and preserve Manila Bay and maintain its waters to a level fit for swimming, skin diving and other forms of contact recreation".

Yet there can be no swimming in the waters off the dolomite beach.

Granted, but why have an office in the middle of their beautification project? Do these mandamus officers and staff have to preen over their wonderful "creation" each time they meet? Any of these 13 agencies have space in their offices to spare, ne c'est pas.

Or, they could have lumped the offices, the souvenir shop, the water reservoir and the public restrooms on the end portions of the beach, to the north and south, bounded by the Manila Yacht Club and the US Embassy, right?

"Gone are the days when one could gaze lazily at the beautiful orange orb of the setting sun majestically dying in the horizon of a clean bay, especially in the months of November till early March when cool winds waft in the air"

You need no architect (was there any?) to appreciate that consideration. Only a little bit of taste.

As you walk northwards, you reach the humongous compound of the US Embassy.

And you wonder why at this point, the sidewalk narrows down, and the embassy appropriated the walkway as a waiting area for the hundreds of Filipinos who line up for their all-too-difficult quest at getting an entry visa to the once upon a not-too-distant time, land of milk and honey.

Why did the City of Manila, or was it the national government, allow this misappropriation of public land?

In some part, the sidewalk narrows down to around 40 centimeters which the pedestrian could use, only to reach an abandoned public toilet before the Museo Pambata, its state of disrepair openly displayed for locals and foreign visitors alike.

Gone are the days when one could gaze lazily at the beautiful orange orb of the setting sun majestically dying in the horizon of a clean bay, especially in the months of November till early March, when cool winds waft in the air.

But wait! Gone forever will this world-appreciated beauty be when the many side-by-side reclamation projects "steal" the sunset away from the hoi polloi. From Paranaque to Pasay to Manila to Navotas, Manila Bay will be appropriated for the exclusive use of the moneyed elite, with high-end skyscrapers dotting its western front.

By then, the waters fronting the dolomite beach enclosed by an inflatable gabion will likely be fetid, as the newly constructed islands on municipal waters will trap the free flow of the bay's waters.

But that is another regretful story in the benighted land where the simple pleasures of ordinary folks are always stolen by the rich and the mighty.



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Improved water supply seen

MANILA Water Co. Inc. aims to further improve its services in Rizal Province with the scheduled completion of the first phase of the East Bay water treatment plant (WTP) next year.

“Components of the P2.7 billion WTP project include an 8-million liter capacity reservoir, an intake structure, pumping station and water treatment plant using dissolved air flotation system, multi-media and granular activated carbon filters as well as reverse osmosis system,” said Byder Nangit, Manila Water senior project manager, in a statement.

The company said East Bay WTP will draw water supply from the eastern part of Laguna Lake which is considered as the cleanest portion of the Laguna Lake.

The project will need the cooperation and buy-in of key stakeholders to be completed and operational by April 2023.

Once operational, the first phase of the East Bay WTP can provide 50 million liters per day

of treated water to 390,000 population in the towns of Jala-Jala, Pililla, Baras, Cardona, Morong and Binangonan.

To complement the WTP, two submarine pipelaying projects are also being implemented with the first pipe system connecting Morong to Cardona 50 percent complete. Another high-density polyethylene pipe system connecting Pililla to Morong has started construction.

The submarine transmission lines will convey treated water from the WTP to the distribution system to safely reach customers once the facilities begin operations.

“Manila Water has been regularly coordinating with the relevant local government units and the Laguna Lake Development Authority to ensure that the project complies with all necessary laws and regulations and is implemented upholding strict safety protocols,” added Badet Del Rosario, Manila Water’s project management group-stakeholder engagement department head. - *Jed Macapagal*



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Bill protecting Sierra Madre pushed

BY EDJEN OLIOQUINO
@tribunaphl_eao

Rizal 4th District Rep. Fidel Nograles hopes that the 19th Congress will finally pass a bill establishing an agency to maintain and manage the 500-kilometer Sierra Madre Mountain Range to safeguard its forest cover and avoid flooding in portions of Luzon.

The lawmaker made the sentiment after President "Bongbong" Marcos vowed to prioritize the issue of climate change during his inaugural speech last 30 June.

"I hope that with President Bongbong Marcos vowing to prioritize climate change, the House leadership will follow and place this issue at the top of our legislative agenda. The effects of climate change sweep far and wide and affect all sectors of society and governance, so we cannot simply turn a blind eye," Nograles said.

The Sierra Madre region, which contains

the majority of the nation's 68 Protected Areas, including national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, and protected landscapes and seascapes, is the target of House Bill (HB) 1972. The bill aims to create the Sierra Madre Development Authority (SMDA).

According to the proposed bill, the SMDA would be entrusted with conducting an extensive assessment of the region's physical and natural resources and creating a detailed plan to protect and utilize them to advance the social and economic development of the area.

Likewise, establishing the framework for providing perspective and current regional investors with the necessary planning, management, and technical assistance. It also includes making recommendations to appropriate agencies regarding funding and utilization of regional resources.

The solon claimed that the SMDA would also lead government initiatives

to combat illegal logging and promote reforestation, prevent the building of unauthorized infrastructure, develop indigenous resources in areas that can be used for development, and raise awareness of the importance of the mountain range.

He stressed that the beginning of the rainy season should clearly remind members of Congress that climate change is a problem that won't go away.

He also said that they must face it head-on and work to create laws that will fully address the numerous problems it raises.

"We are presenting this bill for our countrymen who are always worried every time the rainy season comes. We in Montalban are fed up with the flood, and the fear and persecution it causes. We hope to support this measure so that we can live peacefully," he said in vernacular.

Nograles filed HB 1972 on Friday as one of his priority bills in the 19th Congress. He also filed a similar bill in the previous Congress.



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Solon refiles bill creating Sierra Madre Development Authority

RIZAL Representative Fidel Nograles refiled a measure seeking for the creation of Sierra Madre Development Authority.

Nograles said he is now confident that Congress will pass the measure this time, especially that the new administration has vowed to tackle the issue of climate change.

The main goal of the said body is to conserve and manage the 500-kilometer-long Sierra Madre Mountain Range to help protect its forest cover and prevent flooding in areas in Luzon. "I hope that with Pres. Bongbong Marcos vowing to prioritize climate change, the House leadership will follow and place this issue at the top of our legislative agenda. The effects of climate change sweep far and wide and affect all sectors of society and governance, so we cannot simply turn a blind eye," Nograles said.

House Bill No. 1972, which is among the lawmaker's priority bills for this Congress, seeks to establish the Sierra Madre Development Authority. The measure was also filed during the 18th Congress.

Nograles emphasized the need to protect the Sierra Madre region, which includes the majority of the country's sixty-eight Protected Areas, consisting of national parks, watershed forest reserves, natural monuments, marine reserves, and protected landscapes and seascapes.

Under the bill, the SMDA would be tasked to: conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote the region's social and economic development; provide the machinery for extending the necessary planning, management, and technical assistance to prospective and existing investors in the region; provide recommendations to the proper agencies regarding the financing and technical support to be given to agricultural, industrial, and commercial projects; assess and approve all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government offices/agencies within the region related to the development of the mountain range.



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SPPI

Nurturing Marikina river park Investment & Capital Corporation of the Philippines group's Science Park of the Philippines Inc. participated in the ceremonial launch of the Regional Development Council Forest Park at the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Antipolo City, Rizal. The UMRBPL is a protected area in the Province of Rizal that forms the upper area of the drainage basin of the Marikina River. Representatives from SPPI's Light Industry & Science Park with DENR IV-A CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria (center) oversee the campaign.



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Daily Tribune

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TRASH from Manila Bay is washed ashore along the seawalls of Diokno Bridge near the Mall of Asia complex, providing an eyesore to tourists trying to enjoy the view of the famed Manila sunset.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_al



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A woman makes a mat using plastic straws in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur yesterday. Plastic straw is an alternative material in the local mat-making industry due to a shortage of *burl*. ANDY ZAPATA JR.





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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman
PAMBANSANG PUNONG REHIYON
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

PAGBESENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources—National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa *DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City* sa pamamagitan ng isang sealed bidding na makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng OCT 16, 2022 ng lupang matatagpuan sa Western Bicutan (Pinagsama) na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUNAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMADRASADO	HALAGA NG LUPAKADA METRO KUMADRASADO	HALAGANG HALAGA NG LUPA	HALAGANG HALAGA NG MGA STRUKTURA
IGPSA No. 007607-1396	CRUZALDO V. ACOSTA	Lot 3, Block 12, Pcd-007-025896-D	60 sq.m.	PHP140.00	PHP6,400.00	PHP1,000,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selyado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisiyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang oras at petsa sa taas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No.007607-1396. Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, sertipikadong tseke, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumbili ay nais bawin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanghian ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH B. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division
MSG/JCP/DLM

JUNE 13, 20 27, JULY 4, 11, 18, ENZ



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, LPDD, in pursuance to Administrative Order No. 38 dated 19 April 1990, will sell at **DENR-NCR, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**, through sealed bidding to the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on **OCT 18, 2022**, the tract of land situated in **Brgy. Western Bicutan (Pinagsama), Taguig City** which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK. NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007807-2214	JARYX MIL A. JARO	Lot 16, Block 50, Ped-00-036894	60 sq.m.	P 140.00	P 8,400.00	P 4,500,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007807-2214". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines

Atty. Alvin Joseph G. Constantino
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK. NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007807-2182	KEISHA RANKEIN DT. ORPILLA	Lot 8, Block 51, Ped-00-036894	100 sq.m.	P 400.00	P 400,000.00	P 3,500,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007807-2182". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines

Atty. Alvin Joseph G. Constantino
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK. NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007807-1396	CRUZALDO V. ACOSTA	Lot 3, Block 12, Ped-007807-025896-D	60 sq.m.	P 140.00	P 8,400.00	P 1,100,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007807-1396". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK. NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007807-2096	JACQUELINE N. SY	Lot 5, Block 48, Ped-00-036894	60 sq.m.	P 140.00	P 8,400.00	P 1,000,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007807-2096". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines

Atty. Alvin Joseph G. Constantino
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	NAME OF APPLICANT	LOT NO. / BLK. NO. / PLAN NO.	AREA IN SQ.M.	APPRAISED VALUE PER SQ.M.	TOTAL VALUE OF LAND	TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENT
IGPSA No. 007807-2157	LILIA C. MARTIRES	Lot 23, Block 13, Ped-007807-025896-D	60 sq.m.	P 140.00	P 8,400.00	P 1,000,000.00

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the above-mentioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and plainly marked "Bid for Land Described in MSA/SA/IGPSA No. 007807-2157". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. Then a bid is withdrawn after the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding deposit therefore shall be forfeited to the government. No bid shall be less than the appraised value of the land. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Quezon City, Philippines

Atty. Alvin Joseph G. Constantino
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division

18 JULY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NCR COVID-19 cases may peak within a week, says OCTA

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 16, 2022 3:56:15 PM

Updated Jul 16, 2022 9:07:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 16) — The OCTA Research on Saturday projected that Metro Manila is likely to reach the peak of its current wave of COVID-19 cases within a week.

"Bagamat nandyan pa rin 'yung surge, buhay na buhay siya, bumabagal na 'tong surge na 'to sa National Capital Region at ang estimate ng OCTA, 'yung peak natin, maaabot natin in a week or so," OCTA Research fellow Ranjit Rye told CNN Philippines' Newsroom Weekend.

[Translation: Though the surge is there, it's slowing down in the National Capital Region and OCTA estimates that the peak will be reached in a week or so.]

"If we all help each other — that means following minimum public health standards, wearing our masks, getting ourselves vaccinated and boosted — we could see a major slowdown, and once that peak is reached... *pababa na 'yung mga kaso. 'Yun 'yung implication ng peak* [cases will decrease. That's the implication of peaking]," he explained.

OCTA said Metro Manila recorded an average of 802 cases daily over the past week — higher than the 624 cases during the July 2-8 period.

Despite this, it noted the weekly growth rate has slowed to 28% from 41%.

The reproduction rate — or the number of people infected by a single case — also dropped slightly to 1.38 as of July 12, coming from 1.49 as of July 5.

"With the current rate of decrease, the peak in the NCR could happen within seven days," OCTA said.

"Note that the (Omicron) BA.4/BA.5 wave in the NCR is figuring to last longer than the corresponding wave in South Africa," it added.

The current wave, it stated, is still less severe than the Delta surge that hit the country last year, as well as the Omicron surge in January.



It stressed that only 29.6% of COVID-19 beds in the region were occupied as of last week, while the ICU utilization rate was at 22.8%.

"Hospitals are not likely to get filled up. Still, the public is advised to take necessary precautions," its report read.

18 JULY 2022, MONDAY



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