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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Nominasyon ni Yulo-Loyzaga ikinatuwa ng DENR



July 18, 2022 @ 7:27 AM

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MANILA, Philippines – Ikinatuwa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nominasyon ni Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga bilang bagong kalihim nito sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

Si DENR OIC Secretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. ay nagpahayag ng optimismo sa nominasyon ni Yulo-Loyzaga, habang nakikita niya ang isang mas climate-resilient na Pilipinas sa ilalim ng kanyang pamumuno.

“Inaasahan ng pamilya DENR ang mabisa at mahusay na pagpapatupad ng mandato ng Departamento sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng bagong Kalihim. Sa kanyang kadalubhasaan at kakayahan sa 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, sinabi nito sa news release ngayong Linggo.

Aniya, ang nakaraang administrasyon ng DENR ay nagtapos sa mga makabuluhang tagumpay sa mga programa nito sa solid waste management, biodiversity, rehabilitation ng Boracay Island at Manila Bay, at restoration ng heavily silted rivers sa ilalim ng Task Force Build Back Better.

“Tinitiyak namin sa bagong Kalihim na buong suporta niya. Makikipagtulungan kami sa kanya para sa epektibong pagpapatupad ng mga batas, programa, at proyektong pangkalikasan sa ilalim ng bagong administrasyon,” sabi ni Adobo.



Kaugnay nito ipinunto ni Adobo na ang kapaligiran ay nahaharap pa rin sa ilang mga hamon, tulad ng mga sakuna dulot ng pagbabago ng klima, polusyon sa kapaligiran, mga ilegal na aktibidad ng wildlife, at iba't ibang isyu sa lupa, pagmimina, pagkawala ng biodiversity at kagubatan.

Aniya, ang mga isyung ito ay kailangang tugunan hindi lamang ng DENR kung saan si Yulo-Loyzaga ang bagong kalihim nito, kundi ng lahat na bahagi ng solusyon.

Samantala inihayag naman ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles ang nominasyon kay Yulo-Loyzaga bilang susunod na pinuno ng DENR noong Hulyo 12.

Kaugnay nito kilala sa kanyang kadalubhasaan sa klima at disaster resilience, si Yulo-Loyzaga ay may karanasan sa pamumuno at pagtatrabaho kasama ang National Resilience Council, Manila Observatory, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, at ang Armed Forces of the Philippines Command at General Staff College.

Sa pamamagitan ng kadalubhasaan sa kapaligiran ni Yulo-Loyzaga at suporta ni Pangulong Marcos sa pagbibigay-prioridad sa mga isyu sa pagbabago ng klima, sinabi ni Adobo na nakatitiyak siyang lalakas ang mga aksyon sa klima at ang pagsunod ng Pilipinas sa Paris Agreement sa pagbabawas ng greenhouse gas emissions ay magiging natupad.

Bilang bagong Kalihim ng DENR, si Yulo-Loyzaga ay inatasan na panindigan ang mandato ng Ahensya na naglalayong konserbasyon, pamamahala, pag-unlad, at napapanatiling paggamit ng mga ecosystem at likas na yaman ng bansa. Santi Celario



Metro, News

# Crocodile captured in Bulacan river

Published July 18, 2022, 11:54 AM  
by Freddie Velez



The crocodile captured in the river of Sitio Tabon in Barangay Malis, Guiguinto, Bulacan on Sunday, July 17. (Photo courtesy of Jaime Dela Cruz)

A crocodile that has been spotted three weeks ago in the Bulacan river was finally caught by the Oplan Buwaya Rescue and Recovery Team and residents on Sunday, July 17, in Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Based on the report of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the crocodile is alive and safe.

Guiguinto Mayor Agay Cruz thanked the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and village chiefs Diosdado Camua and Manny Joson of Barangays Malis and Sta Cruz, respectively, for their help in capturing the crocodile that has been sowing fear among residents.

Those who helped capture the crocodile were Josep Herrera, Richard Molido, Leonardo Arizapa, Kent Molido, Zaldy Esusan, Marion Esusan, Obet Chavezm Darel Jamboy, Joshua Gaspar, and Christian Esusan, all of Tabon.



# Guiguinto River crocodile captured



By Frederick Silverio July 19, 2022 50

A CROCODILE roaming free in Guiguinto River was captured by residents on Sunday afternoon.

Guiguinto Mayor Paula Agatha "Agay" Cruz confirmed that the crocodile was captured around 2 p.m. along the riverbank in Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis in this town.

She said the crocodile, which is more than four feet in length, was turned over to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Cruz said that residents in the area worked together to capture the reptile which has sowed fear among local folk in the past few weeks. She commended Joseph Herera, Richard Molido, Leonardo Arizapa, Ken Molido, Elizalde Esusan, Marion Esusan, Obet Chavez, Darel Jamboy, Joshua Gaspar and Christian Esusan for their initiative to capture the crocodile after it was spotted along the river in Sitio Tabon. It can be recalled that the sightings of the crocodile was coordinated with the BMB-DENR in the latter part of June this year and sowed terror among residents living near the Guiguinto River.

However, Donie Glico, who lives in Barangay Sta. Cruz near the Guiguinto River, said that the captured croc was not the one they sighted last month.

"Parang maliit yun nahuli compare sa namataan namin nakalutang sa ilog (The one they caught looks smaller than the one we sighted lurking in the river)," Glico said.

Some of the residents also believed that there are more crocodiles wandering in Guiguinto River.

Meanwhile, Emelita Lingat, provincial environment and natural resources officer in Bulacan, said that she is still waiting for the official report on the captured crocodile.



# Crocodile captured in Bulacan river

By Manny Balbin

 July 18, 2022, 7:49 pm



**CAPTURED.** A crocodile that was first spotted in the Bulacan river last June was finally caught in Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis, Guiguinto, Bulacan on Sunday (July 17, 2022). The reptile was turned over to the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *(Photo grab from Mayor Agatha Cruz's FB account)*

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan – A crocodile roaming free in the Guiguinto River here was finally captured on Sunday afternoon.

Mayor Paula Agatha "Agay" Cruz confirmed on Monday that the crocodile was captured around 2 p.m. along the riverbank in Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis.

Cruz said the crocodile was turned over to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

She said residents captured the crocodile upon spotting it in the river.

She also thanked the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Municipal Agriculture Office, and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office for their help in capturing the crocodile that has been sowing fear among the residents for the past three weeks.

Meanwhile, Emelita Lingat, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said she is still waiting for the official report on the captured crocodile.

The sightings of the crocodile were coordinated with the BMB-DENR in the latter part of June. (PNA)



GMA REGIONAL TV BALITANG AMIANAN  
Courtesy: ELIZALDE SUSAN  
GUGUINTO, BULACAN

Buwaya, nahuli matapos kagatin ang pain ng residenteng nangingisda

SAKSI

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# Bagong kuweba sa Laguna, nadiskubre

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 18 2022 04:02 PM



Natuklasan ng mga kawani ng DENR Calabarzon kamakailan ang Pinagdaop Cave, isang bagong kuweba sa Sta. Maria, Laguna. [DENR Calabarzon/handout](#)

MANILA — Isang bagong kuweba ang nadiskubre ng mga tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa bayan ng Sta. Maria, Laguna.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Calabarzon, pag-aaralan na nila at isasalilalim sa analysis kung paano magkakaroon ng tamang pangangasiwa, pangangalaga at pagkonserba ng mga likas yaman at buhay-ilang na matatagpuan sa loob at labas ng kuweba.

Tinatawag ito ng mga lokal na Pinagdaop Cave na matatagpuan sa kabundukan sa Brgy. Cueva.

Ang Pinagdaop Cave ay isang uri ng kweba na kung saan ang mga lagusan nito ay nalikha sa pagitan ng mga bato na nakasalansan sa mga dalisdis ng bundok at may elevation na 514 meters above sea level.

Sa pagsusuri ng DENR, naitala na 4.39 meters ang pinakamalawak na daan sa loob ng kweba, habang 0.64 meter naman ang pinakamakitid.

Bago ang pagkatuklas ng DENR, napag-alaman nila na mayroon nang mga aktibidad na nangyayari sa kuweba, sa kabila ng pagiging bahagi nito ng protektadong lupain alinsunod sa Presidential Proclamation 1636.





May mga nakita kasing mga istruktura at aktibidad sa kuweba tulad ng paglalagay ng kahoy na hagdan sa labasan nito; paglalagay ng konkretong sahig sa loob, at pagtitirik ng kandila na naging banta hindi lamang sa kweba, kundi maging sa wildlife na naninirahan dito.

Bilang rekomendasyon, isasailalim ang Pinagdaop Cave sa Class 1 category; ibig sabihin, mapanganib ang kondisyon nito dahil sa maselan at marupok na mga geological formation.

Patuloy na nakikipag-ugnayan ang CENRO Sta. Cruz sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Sta. Maria para sa tamang pangangasiwa at pagpapalano ng mga gawain na makakatulong sa pagsasaayos at pagprotekta ng Pinagdaop Cave.

—Ulat ni Ronilo Dagos



## 'Sierra Madre needs governing body'



By Ma. Reina Leanne Tolentino



July 18, 2022



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The Sierra Madre mountain range in this file photo as seen from Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija extends from Cagayan Valley down to Quezon province and needs extra environmental protection. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A BILL that seeks the creation of the Sierra Madre Development Authority has been filed in the 19th Congress of the House of Representatives.

The measure, House Bill 1972, was filed by Rizal Fourth District Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles.

"Through the Sierra Madre Development Authority, we can further strengthen not only the protection that the Sierra Madre deserves but a holistic approach to enhance the development of indigenous resources in the Sierra Madre region to its fullest potential for economic development to raise the standard of living of our people," the bill's explanatory note read.

If the bill is passed into law, the Authority will be created as a government corporation.

The bill empowers the Authority to, among others, approve or disapprove plans, programs, or projects proposed by local government offices, public corporations, and private persons where such plans, programs, or projects "are related to those of the Authority for the development of the region as envisioned in this act."

The bill provides that those whose plans, programs, or projects were disapproved by the authority may appeal the decision to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The bill gives the country's president the power to appoint the Authority's general manager. Under Section 17, the general manager shall be the authority's chief executive.



Under Section 12 of the bill, the authority's corporate powers "shall be vested in and exercised by a board of directors which shall be composed of nine members: the executive secretary; Neda's director general; the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry; the secretary of the Department of Energy; the chairman of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; a provincial governor representing the provinces that comprise the Sierra Madre region, who shall be designated and elected by the 10 provincial governors; a city/town mayor representing the cities/towns that comprise the Sierra Madre region; and the Authority's general manager."

The bill was filed on Thursday, July 14. During the 18th Congress, the creation of a Sierra Madre Development Authority was also proposed but was not given priority. The 19th Congress will open the regular session later this month.



## EDITORIAL - Basura, dahilan ng baha sa Metro Manila

Pilipino Star Ngayon ⓘ

July 19, 2022 | 12:00am



MATAGAL nang problema ang baha sa Metro Manila at hanggang ngayon hindi pa nareresolba at lumalala pa. Matindi ang pagbaha ngayon ang nararanasan sapagkat sa kaunting pag-ulan lang, apaw na ang mga kalsada at matagal bago humupa. Walang madaanan ang tubig baha kaya naiistak nang matagal. Basura ang dahilan kaya mabagal bumaba- ang tubig. Nakabara sa mga daanan ng tubig. Uma-apaw sa basura ang mga kanal, estero at sapa.

Noong Sabado ng gabi, dumanas na naman ng baha ang maraming lugar sa Metro Manila. Bumaha sa España Boulevard, Rizal, U.N., Qurino at Taft Ave-nues, Padre Faura Street sa Maynila; Araneta Avenue at Mother Ignacia sa Quezon City; Rizal Avenue at Monumento sa Caloocan City; Pasong Tamo Street at Buendia Avenue sa Makati City at ilang kalsada sa Pasay City.

Pawang plastic na basura ang inanod sa Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Mga single-use plastics, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, shampoo, catsup, shopping bags, cup ng noodles at marami pang iba. Apat na trak ng basurang plastic ang nakuha sa Araneta Avenue, sabi ng barangay chairman ng lugar.

Basura rin ang dahilan kaya laging bumabaha sa España Blvd. Pagkatapos ng baha makikita ang mga nakakalat na single-use plastic na posibleng galing sa isang palengke sa Vicente G. Cruz St. Matagal nang problema ang baha sa España subalit hindi masolusyunan. Tinaasan na ang kalsada pero nananatili pa rin ang problema.

Inamin na noon ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na mga basura ang dahilan nang pagbaha na karamihan ay pawang plastic. Hindi raw kaya ng pumping stations na pabilisin ang pagliit- ng baha dahil sa mga basurang plastic. Ayon sa MMDA, 66 pumping stations ang nag-ooperate sa Metro Manila pero kapag nabarahan ng plastic, nasisira ang ope-rasyon. Kadalasang informal settlers na nasa pampang ng estero ang nagtatapon ng mga basurang plastic.



Malaking hamon kay DENR secretary Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga ang plastic na basura. Nangako si President Marcos Jr. na lilinisin ang kalat ng plastic. Hamon din sa Metro Manila Development Authority ang basura. Regular na paglilinis o declogging sa drainages ang nararapat. Ipag-utos naman ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) sa mga kapitan ng barangay na paigtingin ang pagbabantay sa mga magtatapon ng basura sa mga kanal, estero, sapa at imburnal. Kastiguhin ang mga ito sa pag-apaw ng mga plastic na basura.



## PHL touts capital markets route to finance greening of economy

July 18, 2022 | 7:50 pm

FINANCE SECRETARY Benjamin E. Diokno said that the government intends to make its economy greener in part using resources raised by its sustainable financing program.

Speaking to the Group of Twenty (G20) gathering as a guest of host country Indonesia, Mr. Diokno said that apart from climate bonds, it hopes to fund its efforts with new taxes and aid from the international community.

“In this regard, we have assembled a group of Filipino experts to engage climate-vulnerable communities and prepare them to execute localized action plans,” Mr. Diokno told G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Saturday.

The G20 accounts for 80% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

Philippine officials, including Mr. Diokno’s predecessor and President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. himself, have taken the position that the Philippines bears a disproportionate burden from climate change, while the industrialized countries responsible for much of it have not, putting them on the hook at least morally for funding climate mitigation.

Mr. Diokno told the forum that the government is seeking to mobilize climate finance through the so-called Green Force, which is led by the Department of Finance (DoF) along with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

“This interagency task force was established to synergize public and private investment in green projects and mainstream climate change through the financial sector,” Mr. Diokno said.

Under the Philippines’ Sustainable Finance Framework, the government “recently issued its first-ever sustainability global bonds worth \$1 billion, and sustainability samurai bonds worth \$600 million. Both transactions were met with strong demand despite volatility in the global markets,” Mr. Diokno told the G20.

The Philippines also debuted Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Global Bonds in March, with 25-year Global Bonds offered at P1 billion.

Overall, “the Philippines successfully tapped the international capital markets with the country’s offering of \$2.25-billion triple tranche 5-year, 10.5-year, and 25-year Global Bonds. The transaction was the first triple tranche USD offering from the Philippines,” a press release from the DoF said.

In April, the Philippines also issued its first Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) Sustainability bond transaction in the Samurai bond market.

The Philippines successfully returned to the Samurai market with its 70.1-billion-yen (\$600 million) offering of five-year, seven-year, 10-year, and 20-year sustainability bonds, the proceeds of which will support Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) projects, the DoF said.



At the G20 forum, Mr. Diokno reiterated his intention to tax activities which impact the environment.

“We are supporting the passage of a bill that would either regulate or tax the use of single-use plastics to cut pollution and adopt more sustainable practices. We are also considering the imposition of a carbon tax,” he said.

A P20 excise tax per kilogram of single-use plastics was part of the previous government’s fiscal consolidation plan, although it had been targeted for rollout in 2023.

Meanwhile, a tax on carbon emissions was also contemplated in the third package of the same fiscal consolidation plan.

“The Philippines is one of the countries at highest risk for climate-related disasters. We are thus determined to be a world leader in this fight against the crisis,” Mr. Diokno said.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH ADB

Mr. Diokno also expressed the Philippines’ willingness to work with the international community on climate-related matters, citing an ongoing partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

“We will deal with the impact of climate change while bringing down energy costs through developing clean and renewable energy sources, such as hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar power. We will work together with the international community, such as our ongoing partnership with the ADB, to quicken our transition from coal to clean energy,” Mr. Diokno told the G20.

Aside from the Philippines, the ADB has also partnered with Indonesia in implementing the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) project, which was launched in October.

It aims to accelerate the transition of Southeast Asia from coal to green energy.

In addition, “the ADB just extended to the Philippines its first-ever climate change policy-based financing worth \$250 million, making the country one of the pioneers in climate policy development financing,” Mr. Diokno said, referring to the Climate Change Action Program, Subprogram 1 (CCAP1).

“It will support the Philippines in implementing its national climate policies, including its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which aims to peak greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, and scale up climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster resilience,” the ADB said.

“It focuses on sectors that are of national priority for climate action, targeting adaptation in highly vulnerable sectors (agriculture, natural resources, and environment), and mitigation in emissions-intensive sectors (energy and transport),” it added.

In April 2021, the government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 when then President Rodrigo R. Duterte approved the Philippines’ first NDC. — Diego Gabriel C. Robles



# Marcos urged to stop revival of Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

REYNALDO G. NAVALES

July 17, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have urged President Bongbong Marcos to stop the revival of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

This was included in the list of demands of various groups who participated in the National People's Summit held on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at the People's Hall of Quezon Memorial Circle.

The environment groups contributed demands actionable over the next 100 days, which were addressed to the Marcos Administration.

In the People's Summit's 9-point summary of demands, Marcos was challenged to "ensure environmental protection, rehabilitation and balanced use of the country's natural wealth, the conservation of the country's natural resources and the full exercise of national sovereignty of these."

The group said their demands may be achieved by stopping the revival of the BNPP, stopping destructive open-pit mining operations and destructive reclamation projects, promoting marine biodiversity and sustainable livelihood for the people, protecting indigenous communities who are the stewards of the environment, and demanding loss and damage compensation from polluter nations and corporations for climate justice.

Among the groups who joined the pre-summit consultations to contribute to the environmental agenda were 350.org Pilipinas, AGHAM, Aksyon Klima, Ecowaste Coalition, Greenpeace Philippines, Institute for Nationalist Studies, International League of Peoples' Struggle, Kalikasan PNE, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Pamalakaya, Panatang Luntian coalition, and the Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines.

The green groups called on the government to demand just compensation for the damages caused by the world's top polluter countries and carbon major companies, which have worsened the effects of ecological degradation and climate disruption suffered by the Filipino people.

The environmentalists also asked the government to institute an omnibus moratorium on destructive projects funded by foreign investment such as Kaliwa-Kanan Laiban Dam, Manila Bay Aerocity, New Clark City, large-scale mines such as the Oceanagold, Tampakan Copper-Gold, Sibuyan Nickel mining projects, and the Pasig River Expressway, among others.

The legislature under Marcos was also challenged to prioritize the People's Green New Deal, a proposed economic stimulus plan for a just and green recovery that reflects the people's agenda.





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According to the group, Marcos, who has made big promises on pursuing renewable energy and combatting climate change, must recognize the need for urgent action to address these proposals for environmental and climate justice.



**Masungi Georeserve**  
13h · 🌐

A higher forest cover can lower possible floodwater volume by 27% to 47% versus a 'No Forest' cover simulation by the World Bank in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Despite being a protected area, it faces rapid depletion of forest cover from 19.4% in 2006 (Abino et al., 2015) to 11.7% in 2017 (Dumaguit et al., 2021, ongoing study). The causes of this destruction are "unsustainable developments and human activities" in the watershed such as quarrying and land-use conversion which are accelerating deforestation in the reserve (Peralta et al., 2019).

There should be no other recourse but to conserve what's left of the watershed, restore the forest, and remove all incompatible activities within it. #SaveMasungi

Source: World Bank's "Understanding the Role of Forests in Supporting Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Case Studies in the Philippines"

👍👎👤 FRep Malou Acosta-Alba and 245 others · 4 Comments · 35 Shares



## Group pushes 'ecolabelling' to cut plastic litter in oceans

At present, the Philippines had been ranked as the world's third largest plastics polluter next only to China and Indonesia.



BY RIZAL RAOUL REYES · JULY 18, 2022



John Jerome Ganzon | Dreamstime.com

A scavenger in Baseco Compound collects recyclable waste materials from the sea of garbage that makes up a portion of the polluted bayside in Manila.

AN environmental protection group has warned on the disastrous impact of plastic sachets in the environment, notably in the country's marine resources.

June Alvarez, Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Inc. (PCEPSDI), told the BusinessMirror that discarded sachets widely used in the packaging of consumer products in a "sachet economy" like the Philippines have found their way into oceans.

A recent study, Alvarez said, have even indicated that some species of fish had microplastics in their bodies.

At present, the Philippines had been ranked as the world's third largest plastics polluter next only to China and Indonesia

Moreover, sachets and plastics have also been one of the major causes of flooding in urban centers, such as Metro Manila.



“If these small packaging items are not all disposed of or recycled properly, it becomes mismanaged waste and it also contributes to marine litter. Another aspect is that plastic packaging is fairly convenient and easy to use. The majority of the consumers still prefer plastics over paper bags,” Alvarez pointed out.

Alvarez also deplored the low acceptance of sustainable alternatives in the country, citing the fact that majority of the population does not have access to environment-friendly packaging such as cassava bags and other recyclable materials.

Alvarez stressed that the government, in partnership with the private sector, should introduce programs and measures to make sustainable packaging products accessible and more affordable to the market, especially to the marginalized sectors.

Nevertheless, Alvarez sees a silver lining as his group is seeing strong support from the government, especially with the Department of Trade and Industry, in promoting ecolabelling.

He added government and the private sector must also make a strong push against the practice of greenwashing by some other brands by unscrupulously labeling their products as eco-friendly and sustainable.

Based on the market readiness survey conducted by the PCEPSDI for the Sustainable Packaging Project, Alvarez said the respondents showed a positive attitude towards sustainability and majority of them are willing to switch from single-use packaging to sustainable alternative packaging.

“Generally, demand for environmentally-preferable packaging products in the country is growing over the years, especially that more brands and companies offering sustainably produced products. The products that National Ecolabelling Programme-Green Choice Philippines [NELP-GCP] has ecolabelled are priced competitively so consumers don’t have to worry about the price difference. Although, there is still a gap with the knowledge of the consumers on ecolabelling and how it relates to the environmental performance of a product,” he explained.

Currently, the PCEPSDI has 42 ecolabelling categories ranging from consumer products, and restaurants to construction materials. So far, the NELP-GCP has awarded a total of 57 Green Choice Seal of Approval (licenses).

He said ecolabelling recognizes the company’s environmental performance dedicated to protecting the environment. The NELP-GCP Seal of Approval offers enterprises reinforced corporate imaging, brand recognition, and product excellence. The product brand immediately gains a preferential position in the market, as the GCP ecolabel is synonymous with eco-friendly quality based on internationally recognized standards.

Image credits: John Jerome Ganzon | Dreamstime.com



## Eco groups launch photo exhibit, zero waste bazaar for #PlasticFreeJuly



Contributed photo

July 18, 2022

- A A +

TO CELEBRATE #PlasticFreeJuly, Plastic-Free Pilipinas collaborators: EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace Philippines, Mother Earth Foundation, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Health Care Without Harm together with Break Free from Plastic, Oceana Philippines International, and Megaworld Lifestyle Malls, launched on Monday, July 18, a photo exhibit and bazaar featuring art and eco-friendly stores to make plastic-free Pilipinas a reality.

“Plastic Free July is being celebrated to demonstrate to people that a life free from unnecessary plastic and disposable material is still possible and to continue pushing some simple actions that can be done to reduce our personal plastic footprint. This is a reminder that the Philippines without Plastics, is within our reach only if we go zero waste,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition.

A photo exhibit showcasing plastic pollution in the Philippines from EcoWaste Coalition, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Greenpeace Philippines, and Oceana Philippines International, highlighted the impacts of single-use disposable plastic in communities and the environment as a major source of pollution in the Philippines.

These disposable plastic products come in various forms such as, but not limited to, sachet packs, bags, cutleries, cups, and PET bottles which are meant to be used only once, before being thrown away.



“The event not only features reusable alternatives to single-use plastics that we can use in our everyday lives, but also provides viable solutions for corporations to reduce their plastic production. A number of micro, small, and medium enterprises are already pioneering reuse and refill models and we firmly believe that bigger companies can follow their lead on plastic free solutions,” said Marian Ledesma, zero waste campaigner of Greenpeace Philippines.

The zero waste bazaar also featured viable alternatives to single-use plastic from the following merchants -- Candles by Ilka, The Bamboo Company, Armari Organics, and Sabon Express.

Greenpeace Philippines and Oceana Philippines International will also have booths at the bazaar to heighten public awareness on single-use plastic production problems and showcase eco-friendly enterprises.

“Access to refillable, reusable and sustainable options in our communities is gaining ground and getting easy; aspiring entrepreneurs understand the need and are paving the way for adapting zero waste as a driving force for their businesses,” said Archie Abellar, PH Zero Waste coordinator of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

“Sustainability remains our main thrust at Megaworld Lifestyle Malls and we are honored to be part of this significant advocacy to preserve and protect Mother Earth. Through our Zero Waste Lifestyle initiative, we have enjoined our employees, retail partners and communities across our properties through a comprehensive waste collection and management program with the goal of minimizing carbon footprint and supporting recycling efforts for the benefit of communities and our partner organizations,” said Graham Coates, head of Megaworld Lifestyle Malls.

The photo exhibit and zero waste bazaar will run from July 18 to 20 at Uptown Mall, Bonifacio Global City. (PR)



# Andi Eigenmann calls out Siargao tourists to clean after themselves after 'a fun night of inuman at the beach'

By HERMES JOY TUNAC, GMA News

Published July 18, 2022 5:53pm



Andi Eigenmann wants Siargao travelers to be responsible tourists.

Andi, who's been living in Siargao with her fiancé Philmar Alipayao and their daughters Lilo and Koa, took to Instagram to call out Siargao travelers to pick up their trash after they have their fun on the island.

"The least you could do is be mindful enough to take [your] leftover alak and kalat with you after you enjoy fun night of inuman at the beach," the former actress turned lifestyle vlogger wrote on Instagram Stories, where she posted a photo of a tree stump littered with a bottle of alcohol, and a plastic bag filled with soda cans, water bottles, alcohol cans and more.

Unable to keep her irritation and annoyance at such an irresponsible act, Andi posted the same ugly photo in her next IG Story and asked, "or did you expect our Sea Patrol kids to be the [ones] to pick up after your trash?"

Ever since Andi relocated to Siargao, she has advocated keeping the island clean and tourist-friendly.

After Typhoon Odette devastated Siargao in December 2021, Andi even donated her YouTube earnings to help rehabilitate the province.



Here's a reminder for everyone to please take better care of the environment. It starts with throwing your trash in garbage cans. — LA, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/838542/andi-eigenmann-calls-out-siargao-tourists-to-clean-after-themselves-after-a-fun-night-of-inuman-at-the-b/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1Q6ycFPniIZolN5KU6JwDkRuh7e5mK2ARepC2IIDPqy1vFNwflF0sZyw8](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/838542/andi-eigenmann-calls-out-siargao-tourists-to-clean-after-themselves-after-a-fun-night-of-inuman-at-the-b/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1Q6ycFPniIZolN5KU6JwDkRuh7e5mK2ARepC2IIDPqy1vFNwflF0sZyw8)





## Mangrove restaurant: 'A home away from home'



NEGROS. It would be nice to have your coffee overlooking the sea and surrounded by lush mangrove forest. (Contributed photo)

ADRIAN P. NEMES III  
July 18, 2022

- A A +

HAVE you imagined yourself enjoying your favorite food amid the lush mangrove plantation? It is possible when you visit the Mangrove Restaurant in Barangay Old Sagay, Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

What started as a passion to share his skills in cooking and innovative menus, Junine Vistar's restaurant served more than its purpose, as it helped create job opportunities for the residents of Purok Santan 2 where it is located.

Vistar said it also helps people to be aware of the importance of protecting and conserving mangroves since it plays a vital role in marine ecology.

The restaurant has been there since 2017 but was only opened to the public in June 2021 right after the restrictions brought by the ongoing coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic started to ease, he said.

Vistar added that what makes the restaurant unique from the others is that their guests' dining experience is within the lush mangrove plantation, its delectable homegrown cuisine, and the love of the local community, making you feel "a home away from home."

"We are also offering overnight stay for tourists to stay longer at restaurants sleeping under cottages within the Mangrove Forest overlooking the sea," the restaurant owner noted.



More than just the food that they offer, guests can also buy Sagay-made products and others that promote health and nutrition such as vegetable pasta and others to help local producer's products and farmers to sustain their existing business amid the pandemic.

"We are planning to expand its operation to make it a resort in order to cater more tourists and to create more jobs to the nearby communities," Vistar shared.

From the highly urbanized city of Bacolod, it would take an hour and a half bus trip to reach the Mangrove Restaurant, which is now becoming a venue for photoshoots and vlogs.



# West's climate policy debacle, Dutch farmers in revolt, and the war against meat

OBSERVER



By Yen Makabenta

July 19, 2022

140



## First word

IT is revealing of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s thinking on national problems that he has chosen for priority and personal attention: 1) the taming of the scourge of inflation typified by soaring food and energy prices, which is an illness threatening the whole world; and 2) the revival and modernization of Philippine agriculture, which has been down in the dumps for as long as the Marcoses have been out of power.

The two issues — inflation and agriculture — and the global energy crisis will predictably take front seats in the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, July 25. They will be addressed in his legislative agenda, and the executive orders that will soon follow.

The high-sounding state-of-the-nation monicker tempts our presidents into delivering an insular kind of SONA, focusing only on a Filipino perspective on problems and challenges. This amounts to contemplating our own navel, without regard for the concerns of others in the world

The global dimensions of the problems today, however, does not afford President Marcos the luxury of contemplating problems only from our keyhole. He must take stock of the bigger world.

The world today is living through a tough stress test on food and energy supply. Some countries are collapsing under the strain. Others are staring at the prospect of rationing and industrial decline.

One economist academic says inflation threatens the stability of our close neighbor, Indonesia.

Even the richest countries are groaning under the weight of inflation and energy shortage. These include the United States, and nearly all of Europe.

Compounding the crisis is the way the delusions of the West about climate and green energy have misled and misguided policymakers and entire governments.

## Climate policy debacle

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (July 18, 2022) called Western climate policy a "debacle."



According to the WSJ, it is the West's utopian fantasy of shifting to a world fueled solely by renewable energy that has resulted in the problems confronting it today: high oil and natural gas prices, electricity grids in near collapse, energy shortages in Europe — and the world's vulnerability to Vladimir Putin and other dictators.

"It's time for political leaders to recognize this manifest debacle and admit that, short of a technological breakthrough, the world will need an ample supply of carbon fuel for decades to remain prosperous and free," it said.

It said the misguided climate regulation, subsidies and mandates have had costly consequences:

– "People even in affluent countries are learning they can no longer take reliable electric power for granted.

"The North American Electric Reliability Corp. recently warned that two-thirds of the US could experience blackouts this summer. Blame shrinking baseload power generation, which has been replaced by unreliable renewable energy...

– "The rushed green transition is driving up energy prices across the board.... In desperation, manufacturers are urging the Biden administration to limit liquefied natural gas exports to Europe to lower energy prices, though Europe needs the LNG to avoid freezing this winter.

– "Supply shortages. When European power prices soared last summer as wind power slowed, Putin took advantage by slowing gas pipeline deliveries. That pushed up prices even more, causing some European manufacturers to suspend production. Now Mr. Putin seems ready to cut off all gas supplies.

– "Empowering dictators. Europe's climate obsession made itself vulnerable to the Kremlin, but Mr. Putin isn't the only dictator smiling at the West's energy woes. President Biden had to beg the Saudis for more oil production, and his administration may ease sanctions on Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro for more barrels of production. Iran may be liberated to export oil next.

"Do Western leaders recognize or care that their climate monomania is endangering living standards in democracies and empowering authoritarians? Historian Arnold Toynbee argued that civilizations die from suicide, not murder. The West's climate self-destruction may prove him right."

### **Dutch farmers revolt**

Agriculture news has been rating high on the foreign news lately. Apart from the organic farming catastrophe in Sri Lanka, newspaper front pages have also been reporting on the revolt of Dutch farmers against government environmental policies in the Netherlands.

As in Sri Lanka, whose economy collapsed after a government ban of chemical fertilizer and the forced adoption of organic farming across the country, fertilizer is similarly the trigger of the revolt by Dutch farmers.



In a series of columns in the National Review, Andrew Stuttaford wrote on the Dutch situation, collating reports and information from multiple media sources.

I quote key passages from his article "The Dutch farmers revolt: a sign of turmoil to come" (National Review, July 16, 2022).

"Dutch farmers are pushing back against rules designed to limit emissions of nitrogen oxide, 'rules so drastic and so rapidly imposed that they may push many out of business.'

"On June 9, the Dutch government unveiled plans to drastically reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides to protect the environment, a plan that threatens to disrupt the Netherlands' multibillion dollar agriculture industry, leaving many farmers fuming.

"The government mandated reductions in emissions of up to 70 percent in many places close to protected nature areas and as high as 95 percent in other places.

"The ruling coalition earmarked an extra 24.3 billion euros (\$25.6 billion) to finance changes that will likely make many farmers drastically reduce their number of livestock or to get rid of them altogether.

"Provincial governments across the Netherlands now have a year to draw up concrete plans to achieve the reductions.

"LTO, an organization that represents 35,000 farmers, called the targets 'unrealistic.'

"Farming is a key sector in the Dutch economy, with exports worth nearly 105 billion euros last year. But it comes at the cost of producing polluting gases, despite farmers taking steps to reduce emissions...

"Around 40 percent of the country's nitrogen emissions come from the agricultural sector.

"The government is demanding a cut in nitrogen pollution of 50 percent by 2030. That amount would require a livestock reduction of one-third or more and thus bankrupt many farmers.

"The Netherlands has had a nitrogen-pollution permitting system in place since 2015, but that hasn't satisfied green groups, which want to see significant declines in meat production. A left-wing green-like party, D66, joined the governing coalition in January on the condition that the government reduce the number of animals by half.

## War against meat

"The war against meat has been going on for a very, very long time, and its climate front was opened up quite a while ago. If climate policy continues in its current direction, meat is going to become more expensive (some types more than other, however) adding yet another twist to the greenflation that (again, as things currently stand) is likely to be with us for years.



"There are many ways to look at the Dutch farmers' revolt, some tipping over into the conspiratorial fringe, others with a class-based perspective which, if an overly reductive approach can be avoided, is worth thinking about. But what matters for now, is that, even if this conflict is either patched over or peters out, the angry Dutch farmers will have been another early indication of the political and economic turmoil that may be on its way as climate (and certain other environmentalist) policies start to bite."

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## Fires scorch Spain and France, where flames reach the beach

Firefighters battled wildfires raging out of control in Spain and France, including one whose flames reached two popular Atlantic beaches on Sunday, as Europe wilted under an unusually extreme heat wave.



BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS · JULY 18, 2022



@SDIS.33 via AP

This photo provided by the fire brigade of the Gironde region (SDIS 33) shows a wildfire near Landiras, southwestern France, Saturday July 16, 2022. Firefighters are struggling to contain wildfires in France and Spain as Europe wilts under an unusually extreme heat wave that authorities link to a rise in excess mortality.

In Spain, firefighters supported by military brigades tried to stamp out over 30 fires consuming forests spread across the country. Spain's National Defense Department said that "the majority" of its fire-fighting aircraft have been deployed to reach the blazes, many of which are in rugged, hilly terrain that is difficult for ground crews to access.

Fire season has hit parts of Europe earlier than usual this year after a dry, hot spring that the European Union has attributed to climate change. Some countries are also experiencing extended droughts, while many are sweltering in heat waves.

In Spain's second heat wave of the summer, many areas have repeatedly seen peaks of 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit). According to Spain's Carlos III Institute, which records temperature-related fatalities daily, 360 deaths were attributed to high temperatures from July 10 to 15. That was compared with 27 temperature-related deaths the previous six days.



Almost all of Spain was under alert for high temperatures for another day Sunday, while there were heat wave warnings for about half of France, where scorching temperatures were expected to climb higher on Monday. The French government has stepped up efforts to protect people in nursing homes, the homeless and other vulnerable populations after a vicious heat wave and poor planning led to nearly 15,000 deaths in 2003, especially among the elderly.

The fire in La Teste-de-Buch has forced more than 10,000 people to flee at a time when many typically flock to the nearby Atlantic coast area for vacation. French authorities have closed several spots to the public along that coast because of the fire, including La Lagune and Petit Nice beaches that the fire reached on Sunday, and Europe's tallest sand dune, the Dune du Pilat.

The Gironde regional government said Sunday afternoon that "the situation remains very unfavorable" due to gusting winds that helped fan more flare-ups overnight.

A second fire near the town of Landiras has forced authorities to evacuate 4,100 people this week. Authorities said that one flank has been brought under control by the dumping of white sand along a two-kilometer (1.2-mile) stretch. Another flank, however, remains unchecked.

People who were forced to flee shared worries about their abandoned homes with local media, and local officials organized special trips for some to fetch pets they had left behind in the rush to get to safety.

Overall, more than 100 square kilometers (40 square miles) of land have burned in the two fires.

Emergency officials warned that high temperatures and winds Sunday and Monday would complicate efforts to stop the fires from spreading further.

"We have to stay very prudent and very humble, because the day will be very hot. We have no favorable weather window," regional fire official Eric Florensan said Sunday on radio France-Bleu.

Some of the most worrisome blazes in Spain are concentrated in the western regions of Extremadura and Castilla y León. Images of plumes of dark smoke rising above wooded hills that have been baked under the sun have become common in several scarcely populated rural areas.

Drought conditions in the Iberian Peninsula have made it particularly susceptible to wildfires. Since last October, Spain has accumulated 25% less rainfall than is considered normal — and some areas have received as much as 75% less than normal, the National Security Department said.

While some fires have been caused by lightning strikes and others the result of human negligence, a blaze that broke out in a nature reserve in Extremadura called La Garganta de los Infiernos, or "The Throat of Hell," was suspected to be the result of arson, regional authorities said.





Firefighters have been unable to stop the advance of a fire that broke out near the city of Cáceres that is threatening the Monfragüe National Park and has kept 200 people from returning to their homes. Another fire in southern Spain near the city of Malaga has forced the evacuation of a further 2,500 people.

The office of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced that he will travel to Extremadura to visit some of the hardest-hit areas on Monday.

Hungary, Croatia and the Greek island of Crete have also fought wildfires this week, as have Morocco and California. Italy is in the midst of an early summer heat wave, coupled with the worst drought in its north in 70 years — conditions linked to a recent disaster, when a huge chunk of the Marmolada glacier broke loose, killing several hikers.

Scorching temperatures have even reached northern Europe. An annual four-day walking event in the Dutch city of Nijmegen announced Sunday that it would cancel the first day, scheduled for Tuesday, when temperatures are expected to peak at around 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit).

Britain's weather agency has issued its first-ever "red warning" of extreme heat for Monday and Tuesday, when temperatures in southern England may reach 40 C (104 F) for the first time.

College of Paramedics Chief Executive Tracy Nicholls warned Sunday that the "ferocious heat" could "ultimately, end in people's deaths."

Image credits: SDIS 33 via AP



## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

# 'Water police' patrol drought-hit Los Angeles streets

Paula Ramon - Agence France-Presse

July 18, 2022 | 10:01am

LOS ANGELES — Damon Ayala patrols the streets of drought-stricken Los Angeles every day, inspecting the sidewalks. Each time he sees a puddle, he stops.

He is part of the city's Department of Water and Power team, which looks into hundreds of community complaints filed by neighbors each week about water waste.

"It's not extreme, but it's something that we want them to take a look at," he says of one pool of water.

"Looks like they have drip irrigation on this side. So there might be just a broken connector."

Ayala's patrol comes as California and the western United States are in the grip of a severe, years-long drought.

Scientists say global warming driven by human activity, including the unchecked burning of fossil fuels, is creating a greater number of extreme events.

With reservoirs and rivers at historic lows, Los Angeles authorities have brought in water restrictions, such as limiting lawn irrigation to as little as eight minutes, twice per week.

Ayala notes down the addresses of properties where he finds evidence of infringement. The first violation prompts a warning.

"A lot of times they don't know about the ordinance, and that's our job to educate them," he said.

Repeat offenders are fined between \$200 and \$600.

"We're not looking really for their money — that doesn't get us more water. We're trying to get behavioral change," he said.

"So that way we can capture the water savings from making those changes."

After a fifth infraction, a device is installed which physically restricts a household's supply, although Ayala says that step has rarely been necessary.

"We've been in serious drought situations in the past in the city of Los Angeles, and its citizens responded," he said.

"And we expect them to respond this time around too."

### 'Obvious choice'

The water department says it is beginning to see results.

Officials noted a reduction in residential water demand in June, compared to the same month last year.



But as the drought worsens, more permanent changes to the city's landscape could become necessary.

Famous for its rows of palm trees, Los Angeles has also traditionally been known for its lush, green lawns, maintained with automatic sprinklers. Residents are increasingly replacing their thirsty lawns with plants native to this desert region. "When we think of how much water gets used in a residential setting, over 50% is actually used outdoors," said Pamela Berstler, executive director of urban landscaping firm G3 Garden Group.

She and her colleague Marianne Simon teach classes as part of a city program to encourage Angelenos to trade in their lawns for alternatives.

South Los Angeles residents Gabriel Golden and Danielle Koplinskase, joined the program a few years ago.

"The environmental impact of watering a lawn, not only in the midst of a draught but also living in a very dry climate, made this an obvious choice," they said.

"We also sought to inspire our neighbors and community by going to a drought tolerant and native garden."

Native plants such as California oak, and flowers that only require a few drops of water each week to thrive, now adorn the couple's garden.

"There are parts of southern California where they have cut the water down to one day of watering per week," said Simon.

"And the reality is that these kinds of gardens would be fine on that amount of water — in fact, could do with less — but our traditional lawns can't survive on that."

'Short-sighted'

Other popular alternatives include artificial lawns or gravel, although Simon stresses the environmental benefits of maintaining some form of vegetation.

"The problem is that we are so short-sighted and so narrow in our vision that all we can see is saving the water," she said.

A planted area can be cooler by "easily 20 degrees" Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) than a gravel replacement, and "there's the ability to hold on to rain when we do get it so that we can replenish aquifers."

As she speaks, a nearby sprinkler turns on under the blazing California sun, spraying a lawn during prohibited hours.

With the thermometer hovering around 97 degrees F, water falling on the wilted, uneven grass and trickling down the sidewalk evaporates within minutes.



"It's heartbreaking to see, but it's also a lesson," she said, pointing to the withered garden.

"That should be our past and this should be our future," Simon added, looking back at the native plants.



## Berlin hosts envoys for heart-to-heart talks on climate

Developing countries are still waiting for rich nations to provide \$100 billion in climate aid each year, a target they were meant to reach by 2020. Big polluters, however, have also long resisted the idea that they should pay for the destruction their greenhouse gas emissions are causing around the world.



BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS · JULY 18, 2022



AP/Michael Sohn

[FILE] Activists place thousands of protest placards in front of the Reichstag building, home of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, during a protest rally of the 'Fridays for Future' movement in Berlin, Germany, Friday, April 24, 2020.

BERLIN — With the world reeling from the economic fallout of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, senior officials from 40 countries met Monday in Berlin for heart-to-heart talks on how to stay focused on fighting climate change and addressing its impact.

Organizers have billed the two-day gathering as an opportunity to rebuild trust between rich and poor nations ahead of this year's UN climate summit in Egypt, after technical talks last month achieved little progress on key issues such as climate aid for developing countries.

"Many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world are experiencing severe climate impacts now," Germany climate envoy Jennifer Morgan told The Associated Press. "The question is how to support them in both adapting to those impacts and when they experience real losses and damages. We must also show more solidarity."

Developing countries are still waiting for rich nations to provide \$100 billion in climate aid each year, a target they were meant to reach by 2020.

Big polluters, however, have also long resisted the idea that they should pay for the destruction their greenhouse gas emissions are causing around the world.



The closed-doors talks in Berlin kicks off with experts delivering a presentation on the issue of “loss and damage ” to ministers, who will then break into small groups to discuss and listen to each other in the hope of building trust ahead of November’s UN summit in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The meeting in Berlin comes as scientists say the extreme heat slamming large parts of the northern hemisphere in the past few weeks could become the new normal in summer if global warming continues.

“As this meeting is taking place, parts of Europe are baking, indeed they’re burning; and sadly, it’s an experience that is all too familiar to many millions across the globe already,” said Alok Sharma, the British official who led last year’s climate talks in Glasgow. He told delegates as the meeting opened: “My plea to you all is, please, let’s speed up our work.”

“It is incumbent upon us in these uncertain times to act swiftly to ensure that climate action remains at the top of the international agenda, and that the current state of affairs is not taken as a pretext to backtrack or renege on previous commitments — especially those related to supporting developing countries,” said Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, who will chair the Sharm el-Sheikh summit.

China was taking part in the Berlin meeting. Russia was not invited.

The question of energy sources endangered by Russia’s war in Ukraine looms over the talks.

Environmental activists warn that recent efforts by countries such as Germany to tap new sources of fossil fuels could undermine countries’ already fragile climate actions. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is expected to discuss buying liquefied natural gas from Egypt with the country’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Berlin on Monday, just a few miles from where the climate talks are being held.

“The Russian war of aggression is forcing us to take short-term decisions we don’t like, including the increased use of coal for a very limited period of time,” said Morgan, who was previously the head of Greenpeace International.

“But we are not only sticking rock-solidly to our climate goals — we are accelerating the energy transition and will phase-out the use of fossil energy even faster,” she added, citing a newly approved plan to ramp up solar and wind power generation in Germany.

US climate envoy John Kerry, likewise, comes to the talks following setbacks suffered in the US by President Joe Biden in his efforts to regulate pollution and boost renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

Image credits: AP/Michael Sohn



#Eleksyon2022 #Nakatutok24Oras

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# Damaged pumps in Manila, garbage in QC blamed for weekend floods

Published July 18, 2022 9:32pm

Damaged pumping stations and garbage aggravated the flooding problems in Metro Manila amid the heavy rain over the weekend.

According to Oscar Oida's report on "24 Oras" on Monday, residents of Barangay 202 in Tondo, Manila experienced thigh-high flooding after a canal overflowed and two pumping stations failed to work.

"Tinamaan po ang elisi niya at pumupulupot ang basura. Noong sabado na malakas ang pag-ulan isa na lang po ang bombang gumana," said Abucay Pumping Station plant engineer Engr. Juan Carlo Garcia.

(Something hit the pumps' propeller, and trash was wrapped around it. During the heavy rain on Saturday, only one pump was working.)

"May mga nakakalusot, may mga nakukuha kaming basura, gulong, kahoy, mga sako at lubid kaya yun ang cause ng pagkasira ng bomba namin," he added.

According to Garcia, each pump could absorb and shift two cubic meters per second. But because of the damaged pumping station, he said the flooding lasted 4 hours.

MMDA personnel have started repairing the pumping stations.

Meanwhile, main roads around the metropolis experienced gutter-deep floods.

"Talagang malakas ang ulan. In one hour, na-monitor na registered na ulan ay 79 millimeters so talagang malakas po iyon, yung ganung kalaking quantity ng ulan," said MMDA officer-in-charge Baltazar Melgar.

(The rain was heavy. In just one hour, we monitored 79 millimeters of rain. That's a lot.)

Meanwhile, the heavy rain left Barangay Tatalon in Quezon City under chest-deep floodwaters.

The MMDA said it did not have pumping stations in QC because flood waters usually flow continuously out to the Pasig River. However, tons of garbage blocked waterways in the city.

MMDA workers collected about 14 cubic meters of trash from the Talayan bridge on Quezon Avenue on Monday.

Given the amount of garbage in Metro Manila, Baltazar said he was not surprised by the flooding after the heavy downpour.





“Ang DPWH pala ay may gagawing project pala along San Juan River sa Araneta na mag-construct sila ng wall na mataas. And then mag-construct sila ng pumping station para yung tubig sa San Juan River ay ma-contain tapos ang tubig ulan sa land side area ay i-pump out papunta doon sa ilog para at least maibsan ang pagbaha sa Araneta avenue,” he said.

(The DPWH has a project along the San Juan River in Araneta that would see the construction of a high wall. They would also construct a pumping station that would contain the water from the San Juan River. Then rainwater in the land-side area would be pumped into the river, easing the flooding on Araneta avenue.) — Mel Matthew Doctor/DVM, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/metro/838569/damaged-pumps-in-manila-garbage-in-qc-blamed-for-weekend-floods/story/?utm\\_source=GMAnews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0-cOnuEEe6ECm89Yn7Zm0GWbAmJibUsw4Qxsh1yjTUT84dc-60dkKf-mg](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/metro/838569/damaged-pumps-in-manila-garbage-in-qc-blamed-for-weekend-floods/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0-cOnuEEe6ECm89Yn7Zm0GWbAmJibUsw4Qxsh1yjTUT84dc-60dkKf-mg)



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# Guiguinto River crocodile captured

BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

**A CROCODILE** roaming free in Guiguinto River was captured by residents on Sunday afternoon.

Guiguinto Mayor Paula Agatha "Agay" Cruz confirmed that the crocodile was captured around 2 p.m. along the riverbank in

Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis in this town.

She said the crocodile, which is more than four feet in length, was

turned over to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Cruz said that residents in the area worked together to capture the reptile which has sowed fear among local folk in the past few weeks. She commended Joseph Herera, Richard Molido, Leonardo Arizapa, Ken Molido, Elizalde

Esusan, Marion Esusan, Obet Chavez, Darel Jamboy, Joshua Gaspar and Christian Esusan for their initiative to capture the crocodile after it was spotted along the river in Sitio Tabon. It can be recalled that the sightings of the crocodile was coordinated with the BMB-DENR in the latter part of June this year and sowed terror among residents living

near the Guiguinto River.

However, Donie Glico, who lives in Barangay Sta. Cruz near the Guiguinto River, said that the captured croc was not the one they sighted last month.

"Parang maliit yun nahuli compare sa namataan namin nakalutang sa ilog (The one they caught looks smaller than the one we sighted lurking in the river),"

Glico said.

Some of the residents also believed that there are more crocodiles wandering in Guiguinto River.

Meanwhile, Emelita Lingat, provincial environment and natural resources officer in Bulacan, said that she is still waiting for the official report on the captured crocodile.



# Buwaya nahuli habang gumagala sa Bulacan

NI RAMON  
EFREN LAZARO

## GUIGUINTO, Bulacan

– Matapos maispitan na malayang gumagala sa Guiguinto River, sa wakas nahuli na rin ng mga residente ang isang buwaya sa may riverbank ng Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis ng bavang ito, kamakalawa.

Kinumpirma ni Guiguinto Mayor Paula Agatha "Agay" Cruz ang pagkakahuli sa malaking buwaya bandang alas-2:00 ng hapon nitong Linggo.

Ayon kay Cruz, ang buwaya ay naiturn-over na sa Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sinabi naman ni Emelita Lingat, provincial environment and natural resources officer ng Bulacan na hinihintay pa niya ang opisyal na ulat sa pagkakahuli ng nasabing buwaya.

Ipinagmalaki at inangnunsyo ni Cruz sa kanyang Facebook account ang mga residente na sina Joseph Herera, Richard Molido, Leonardo Arizapa, Ken Molido, Elizalde Esusan, Marion Esusan, Obet Chavez, Darel Jamboy, Joshua Gaspar, at Chris-

tian Esusan na siyang mga nagtulong-tulong upang masukol ang buwaya matapos maispitan ito sa nasabing ilog, sakop ng Sitio Tabon.

"Mataas na pagkilala ang iginagawad natin sa maituturing na mga makabagong bayani ng bayan at matatayang na mga kabataan na nakahuli sa buwaya," ayon kay Cruz. "Nagbigay rin po tayo ng pabuya para sa kanilang ipinakitang katapangan," dagdag nito.

Ayon sa residenteng si Zalde, namataan ang buwaya ng kanyang kapatid habang gumagala ito sa palayan malapit sa ilog sa Sitio Tabon.

Dahil dito, mabilis na nagtulong-tulong ang may 10 na tao na mahuli ang buwaya gamit ang lambat, kahoy at tuwalya.

Nauna rito, namataan ng mga residente ang buwaya at agad nilang ipinagbigay alam sa BMB-DENR nitong Hunyo, 2022 na nagbigay ng matinding takot sa mga taong naninirahan malapit sa nasabing ilog.

Agad binuo ng Guiguinto mayor ang "Oplan Buwaya Rescue and Recovery Team" na binubuo ng Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Municipal Agriculture Office, at Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office sa koordinasyon ng mga opisyal ng Barangays Malis at Sta. Cruz upang mahuli ang buwaya.



*Viral ngayon sa social media ang pagkakahuli ng mga residente sa isang buwaya na unang naispitan na malayang gumagala sa Guiguinto River sa Guiguinto, Bulacan, nitong Lunes. (Courtesy: Zalde Montayre)*



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## Crocodile captured in Bulacan river

By **FREDDIE VELEZ**

Rescue and Recovery Team  
and residents on Sunday in  
Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis,  
Guiguinto, Bulacan.

A crocodile that was  
spotted three weeks ago in  
the Bulacan river was finally  
caught by the Oplan Buwaya

(Turn to Page 2)

### Crocodile ...

(From Page 1)

Based on the report of the  
Biodiversity Management  
Bureau (BMB) of the Department  
of Environment and Natural  
Resources (DENR), the crocodile  
is alive and safe.

Guiguinto Mayor Agay  
Cruz thanked the Municipal  
Environment and Natural  
Resources Office (MENRO),  
Municipal Agriculture Office

(MAO), Municipal Disaster Risk  
Reduction and Management  
Office, and village chiefs Diosdado  
Camua and Manny Josen of  
Barangays Malis and Sta Cruz,  
respectively, for their help in  
capturing the crocodile that  
has been sowing fear among  
residents.

Those who helped capture the  
crocodile were Josep Herera,  
Richard Molido, Leonardo Arizapa,  
Kent Molido, Zaldy Esusan,  
Marion Esusan, Obet Chavezm  
Darel Jamboy, Joshua Gaspar, and  
Christian Esusan, all of Tabon.



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## Wanted na buwaya, huli sa Bulacan

NAGWAKAS na ang takot sa naispatang buwaya sa ilog ng Bulacan matapos itong pagtulungang hulihin ng Oplan Buwaya and Recovery Team at mga residente sa bayan ng Guiguinto nitong Linggo.

Huling linggo ng nakaraang buwan nang maispatan ang ulo ng buwaya sa tumpok ng mga waterlily sa bahagi ng Sitio Tabon, Barangay Malis, sa nasabing bayan.

Sa report ng Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) buhay at ligtas ang buwaya na tinatayang may anim na talampakan ang haba.

Samantala, pinasalamatan ni Guiguinto Mayor Agay Cruz ang Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Municipal Disaster Risks Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) at sina Punongbayan Diosdado Camua ng Barangay Malis at Manny Josen ng Barangay Sta. Cruz dahil sa pagtulong sa paghuli sa buwaya.

Hindi pa matukoy kung saan nanggaling ang nasabing buwaya na kalimitang matatagpuan sa malalalim na bahagi ng tubig. (Jun Borlongan)



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**LETTERS**

**EDUCATE THE POOR ON RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL OF 'TINGI,' PLASTICS**

I READ Ceres Doyo's article "Tingi'/sachet nation" (Human Face, 7/15/22) with great interest as I believe this is a critical issue for the Philippines on many levels, (declaration of interest: I'm a foreigner living here).

Tax/legislation/pricing can change behavior, such as in plastic bag use in supermarkets. However, sometimes real need means citizens just have to suck it up, such as the case with rising prices of gas and diesel. I also believe the tax on single-use plastics falls into the latter, and it is the poor who will pay the most, thus, worsening poverty, and will do nothing to reduce environmental impact.

The wealthy and the elite suffer the least from the environmental deprivation of the Philippines and so I feel it is often the case of "out of sight, out of mind." It is the poor who bear the brunt.

Whilst I agree manufacturers must strive to innovate to provide eco-friendly packaging, we should understand that they are meeting a poverty economy market demand. In my home country of the United Kingdom, these small sachets are hardly seen but are ubiqui-

tous in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, consumers must be made to take responsibility. I was in a tricycle with a young Filipino in the provinces who tossed her empty soft drink can out. When I remonstrated with her about disposing of her trash responsibly, she said it didn't matter as corruption was the problem and nothing would change for the poor neighborhoods. I responded that this was an easy get-out excuse and that if every citizen disposed of their trash responsibly it would make a massive difference.

Near my house, there is a beach and it is regularly full of trash. We spend hours each week collecting the trash, easily filling six large bags, but within days, it is there again. This trash is not dropped by the few visitors to the beach but washed up by the ocean from places far away.

A local fisherman saw me collecting trash on the beach after the typhoon last December and congratulated me. He was collecting bamboo poles that had been washed up. I, then, saw him cut the nylon cord from the poles and throw it

into the sea. I went up to him and pointedly asked if he would like me to take it to which he affirmed, totally oblivious!

I gave some young children some candies and was despairing when they simply dropped the wrappers on the ground.

The point is, I believe, education, education, education. Educating the poor that responsible disposal better their own environment, which better their lives, health, and local economy. If they live in the right area for tourism, ultimately it will massively improve their lives as foreign tourists will pay well to stay in nice, clean places.

I have been to some areas where the locals understand this and have taken positive action; but they are very much in the minority.

One of the biggest turn-offs for Western tourists is trash on the beach or in the water.

I could go on. Another very relevant factor is population growth—contentious, I know.

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### Editoryal

## Basura, dahilan ng baha sa Metro Manila

**M**ATAGAL nang problema ang baha sa Metro Manila at hanggang ngayon hindi pa nararesolba at lumalala pa. Matindi ang pagbaha ngayon ang nararanasan sapagkat sa kaunting pag-ulan lang, apaw na ang mga kalsada at matagal bago humupa. Walang madaanan ang tubig baha kaya nalistak nang matagal. Basura ang dahilan kaya mabagal bumaba ang tubig. Nakabara sa mga daanan ng tubig. Umaapaw sa basura ang mga kanal, estero at sapa.

Noong Sabado ng gabi, dumanas na naman ng baha ang maraming lugar sa Metro Manila. Bumaha sa España Boulevard, Rizal, U.N., Qurino at Taft Avenues, Padre Faura Street sa Maynila; Araneta Avenue at Mother Ignacia sa Quezon City; Rizal Avenue at Monumento sa Caloocan City; Pasong Tamo Street at Buendia Avenue sa Makati City at ilang kalsada sa Pasay City.

Pawang plastic na basura ang inanod sa Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Mga single-use plastics, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, shampoo, catsup, shopping bags, cup ng noodles at marami pang iba. Apat na trak ng basurang plastic ang nakuha sa Araneta Avenue, sabi ng barangay chairman ng lugar.

Basura rin ang dahilan kaya laging bumabaha sa España Blvd. Pagkatapos ng baha makikita ang mga nakakalat na single-use plastic na posibleng galing sa isang palengke sa Vicente G. Cruz St. Matagal nang problema ang baha sa España subalit hindi masolusyunan. Tinaasan na ang kalsada pero nananatili pa rin ang problema.

Inamin na noon ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na mga basura ang dahilan nang pagbaha na karamihan ay pawang plastic. Hindi raw kaya ng pumping stations na pabilisin ang pagliit ng baha dahil sa mga basurang plastic. Ayon sa MMDA, 66 pumping stations ang nag-ooperate sa Metro Manila pero kapag nabarahan ng plastic, nasisira ang operasyon. Kadalasang informal settlers na nasa pampang ng estero ang nagtatapon ng mga basurang plastic.

Malaking hamon kay DENR secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga ang plastic na basura. Nangako si President Marcos Jr. na lilinis ang kalat ng plastic. Hamon din sa Metro Manila Development Authority ang basura. Regular na paglilinis o declogging sa drainages ang nararapat. Ipag-utos naman ng Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) sa mga kapitan ng barangay na paigtingin ang pagbantay sa mga magtatapon ng basura sa mga kanal, estero, sapa at imburnal. Kastiguhin ang mga ito sa pag-apaw ng mga plastic na basura.



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### Editorial

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## Olivarez sets green agenda for Parañaque

The need for modernization is equally as important to make a city green and sustainable, Parañaque Mayor Eric Olivarez said yesterday.

"What's the use of living in a city that has no spaces for nature? Or is easily flooded even in the slightest rain?" Olivarez said.

"Balancing progress and sustainability is a challenge that city leaders must face in these times when climate change is affecting the way all of us live," he added.

Olivarez said he recognized the importance of creating a green city anchored on the principles of sustainability, zero-waste and cleanliness.

"Climate change is a crucial issue now. As a progressive city of more than 700,000 people and home to various businesses, we must ensure that all steps are taken to take care of the environment and keep waste off our lands and waterways," he said.

The mayor's "green" mission is institutionalized in his ERIC agenda: "E" for education for all; "R" for reformation of the youth through sports and culture; "I" for improvement of lives through health promotion, livelihood and housing, and "C" is care for the elderly, environment and businesses.

As representative of the city's first district for nine years, Olivarez has filed various bills for the environment, including House Bill 371, a measure requiring parents to plant two trees for every child born to them.



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## PERSPECTIVE

# Achieving the SDGs in extraordinary times

BY ARMIDA ALISJAHBANA,  
KANNI WIGNARAJA  
AND WOCHONG UM

**BANGKOK:** The start of the "Decade of Action" to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has also marked the start of an unprecedented period of overlapping crises.

The Covid-19 pandemic and crises of conflict, hunger, climate change and environmental degradation are mutually compounding, pushing millions into acute poverty, health and food insecurity. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has further disrupted supply chains and brought spikes in food and fuel prices.

### A region at risk

The devastation caused by efforts to control the spread of Covid-19 across the Asia-Pacific region is now well documented. At least 90 million people have likely fallen into extreme poverty, and more than 150 million and 170 million people are under the poverty lines of \$3.20 and \$5.50 a day, respectively.

The pandemic drove home the consequences of uneven progress on the SDGs and exposed glaring gaps in social protection and health care systems. The dynamics of recovery in Asia and the Pacific have been shaped by access to vaccination and diagnostics, as well as by the structure and efficacy of national economies and public health systems.

Yet for all the economic contraction, greenhouse gas emissions in the Asia-Pacific region continued largely unabated, and the long-burning climate crisis continues to rage.

The positive effects of producing less waste and air pollution, for example, have been short-lived. Action lags, even as many countries in Asia and the Pacific have committed to scale up the ambition of their climate action and pursue a just energy transition. The political and economic drive to move away from fossil fuels remains weak, even with soaring prices of oil and gas across the region.

As the Ukraine conflict drives greater uncertainty and exacerbates food and fuel shortages, leading to surging prices, security is increasingly at the center of economic and political priorities.

This confluence of issues is adding to the shocks already dealt with by the pandemic and triggering crises of governance in some parts of our region. Again, the poorest and most vulnerable groups are the most affected.

Price pressures on everyday necessities like food and fuel are straining house-

hold budgets, yet governments will find it more difficult to step in this time. Government responses to the previous succession of shocks have reduced fiscal space while leaving heightened national debt burdens in their wake.

It has never been more important to ensure that the integrated aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability are built into our approaches to recovery.

As our joint Escap-ADB-UNDP 2022 report on "Building Forward Together" for the SDGs highlighted, despite important pockets of good practice, countries of Asia and the Pacific need to act much more decisively — and faster and at scale — on this imperative. This redefines what progress means and how it is measured, as development that promotes the well-being of the whole — people and planet.

### Extraordinary agenda

All this is a sobering backdrop for achieving the ambitious agenda of the SDGs. But these interlocking shocks are also a result of a failure to advance on the SDGs as an integrated agenda.

We need unconventional responses and investments that fundamentally change what determines sustainable development outcomes. Rather than treating our current looming crises of energy, food and human security as distinct, we must address their interlinkages.

To illustrate, a determined focus on fiscal reforms that deliver environmental and social benefits can generate big wins. Asia and the Pacific can lead with action on longstanding commitments to eliminate costly environmentally harmful subsidies, including for fossil fuels.

Some countries took advantage of reduced fossil-fuel consumption during the Covid-19 lockdowns and mobility restrictions to increase taxes on fuel to raise funds for recovery programs and provide health insurance and social protection for those least protected.

There are also opportunities to repurpose the estimated \$540 billion spent each year on global agricultural



■ Street children dive and swim in a portion of the Pasig River in Del Pan, Tondo, Manila. If the Sustainable Development Goals are met, many people around the world would benefit, including these children.  
PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BALDEMOR

subsidies to promote more inclusive agriculture, and healthier and more sustainable systems of food production.

Better targeting smallholder farmers and rewarding good practices such as promoting shifts to regenerative agriculture can help transform food systems, restore ecosystems and protect biodiversity.

### Just transitions

For our part, as UN agencies and multilateral organizations, we are committed to supporting countries to pursue just transitions to rapid de-carbonization and climate resilience. Scaling up the deployment of greener renewables will be key to meeting energy security needs.

Similarly, the current food crisis must be a catalyst for an urgent transition to more sustainable, locally secure food production and markets. Agricultural practices that foster local resilience, adopt nature-based solutions while increasing efficiencies, and support climate mitigation practices can strengthen long-term food security.

The SDGs test resolves and requires us to address the difficult trade-offs of recovery. To emerge from interlinked crises of energy, food and fiscal space, we must accelerate the transformations needed to end poverty and protect the planet.

We must ensure that by 2030 all people, not just a few, enjoy a greater level of peace and prosperity. **IPS**

*Armida Alisjhabana is undersecretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap). Kanni Wignaraja is assistant administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Wochong Um is managing director general of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).*



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## The best energy-environment tandem in our history



I WELCOME the Marcos appointments of Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla (we call him Popo) and Ma. Antonia, Toni to us in Manila Observatory, Yulo-Loyzaga as Energy and Environment Secretaries.

Because I have worked with both persons for decades, I am not just cautiously optimistic but downright hopeful that our islands, our mountains, seas, rivers, lakes, and, yes, cities, will be in a better place in the years to come.

Lotilla and Yulo-Loyzaga, who understand the challenge of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, are both business friendly and pro-poor, emphasize the importance of climate and environmental justice, and are sustainability advocates.

They will rely on the best science for their decisions.

I told them in text exchanges, when their nominations for the Department of Energy and Department of Environment and Natural Resources posts were announced, that I will help in whatever way they need me, short of joining government myself.

But I actually feel I can retire now as this is the best environment-energy tandem we have ever had in our history.

Popo Lotilla is a friend and colleague of 35 plus years. He was my first mentor in the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, when Dean Pacifico Agabin recruited me to its faculty, and as the founding director of the Institute of International Legal Studies (IILS) of the UP Law Center.

We partnered to put IILS in a position of great influence in academe and government. That work got noticed and we both ended up appointed into the Cabinet of Fidel V. Ramos as undersecretaries, in my case in the DENR while Popo was designated Deputy Director General at the National Economic and Development Authority.

Nobody else can do this job better than Popo. He knows the DOE well, having served as Secretary during the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Before that, he served as President of the Power

Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and did an excellent job with that agency.

In NEDA, serving with the visionary Ciel Habito as Director General, Popo was exposed to the challenge of addressing sustainable development dilemmas.

In the case of energy, we are faced with a trilemma of access and security, affordability, as well as environmental sustainability in the context of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

*Lotilla and Yulo-Loyzaga, who understand the challenge of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, are both business friendly and pro-poor, emphasize the importance of climate and environmental justice, and are sustainability advocates*

Just last week, he called me up to discuss energy policy. We ended up talking for two hours as I shared my thinking around the energy transition in the context of the global climate emergency. I am sure the incoming Secretary can find a consensus on how we can move forward on these issues.

As Energy Secretary, Lotilla will have to decide how we can transition away from fossil fuels, complete the reduction and eventual phaseout of coal in our energy mix, make sure that natural gas is as advertised as a bridge and transition fuel given its climate and biodiversity footprint, and come up with renewable energy policies and investment packages that will help us achieve our Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

In the case of incoming DENR Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga, I have known her since the late 1970s in college at Ateneo de Manila but we reconnected in 2001 when Toni joined as a business person and

observer the Philippine delegation to the Bonn climate change negotiations that year.

Fr Jett Villarin SJ, then the climate division chief of Manila Observatory, was also in the delegation while I was a lead negotiator for developing countries.

The three of us hit it off and liked working together and Toni became affiliated with Manila Observatory, eventually becoming its head a few years later.

To continue the story, Toni stayed nine years as Executive Director of Manila Observatory before moving on to head the National Resilience Council. I succeeded her in that role in 2016 following my 10 year deanship of the Ateneo School of Government and today Fr. Villarin is back at the helm of MO.

But Toni stayed with us all these years as a member of our Board and head of our International Advisory Board.

I have said that Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga is the perfect and best choice for the position because of her experience and background.

This has been echoed by many environmental organizations (Greenpeace International, Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Alyansa Tigil Muna, WWF Philippines, etc) as well as business and industry associations such as the Chamber of Mines.

Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga combines a strong grounding in the natural and social sciences with an understanding of the business sector, poor communities in urban and rural areas, and sustainable development challenges.

I won't second-guess Loyzaga's policies on mining and the plastics industry but am certain her decisions will be science-based and balanced.

I expect her certainly to be supportive of conservation efforts like the Masungi Georeserve as well as the great work done by groups like the Save Zambales Movement.

Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga would be sensitive to the business sector while also prioritizing the poor. Among others, in MO, she was a big supporter of poverty mapping to understand how we sacrifice the poor in development decisions.

The big picture for our country, especially in the context of the global crisis, is still challenging. But for the two critical areas of energy and environment, the future looks good.

Website: [tonylavina.com](http://tonylavina.com)

Facebook page: [deantonylavs](https://www.facebook.com/deantonylavs) Twitter: [tonylavs](https://twitter.com/tonylavs)



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## Lacuna orders barangay execs to keep environment clean

**MANILA** Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan yesterday signed an Executive Order enjoining all barangay officials to adopt a conduct of cleanliness and orderliness reflective of their service to the Manilenos.

Under Executive Order No. 9, all barangay chairman, kagawad, and other officials, officers and employees were directed to adopt a policy of cleanliness in their respective barangays and encourage all their constituents to do



**LACUNA**

the same.

They were also directed to remove all unnecessary posters, tarpaulins,

decals and eyesores in and around their barangay halls and maintain cleanliness in their offices and facilities.

Lacuna said that since Friday is designated as the clean-up day in all other departments, bureaus and offices of the City of Manila, barangay officials and employees shall also ensure that their barangay halls and facilities are neat and free from clutter before the close of business hours for the day.

Edd Reyes



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## Group pushes 'ecolabelling' to cut plastic litter in oceans

By RIZAL RAOUL S. REYES  
@brownindio

**A**N environmental protection group has warned on the disastrous impact of plastic sachets in the environment, notably in the country's marine resources.

June Alvarez, Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) told the BUSINESSMIRROR that discarded sachets widely used in the packaging of consumer products in a "sachet economy" like the Philippines have found their way into oceans.

A recent study, Alvarez said, have even indicated that some species of fish had microplastics in their bodies.

At present, the Philippines had been ranked as the world's third largest plastics polluter next only to China and Indonesia.

Moreover, sachets and plastics have also been one of the major causes of flooding in urban centers, such as Metro Manila.

"If these small packaging items are not all disposed of or recycled properly, it becomes mismanaged wastes and it also contributes to marine litter. Another aspect is that plastic packaging is fairly convenient and easy to use. The majority of the consumers still prefer plastics over paper bags," Alvarez pointed out.

Alvarez also deplored the low acceptance of sustainable alternatives in the country, citing the fact that majority of the population does not have access to environmentally-friendly packaging such as cassava bags and other recyclable materials.

Alvarez stressed that the government, in partnership with the private sector, should introduce programs and measures to make sustainable packaging products accessible and more affordable to the market, especially to the marginalized sectors.

Nevertheless, Alvarez sees a silver lining as his group is seeing strong support from the govern-

ment, especially with the Department of Trade and Industry, in promoting ecolabelling.

Headed government and the private sector must also make a strong push against the practice of greenwashing by some other brands by unscrupulously labeling their products as eco-friendly and sustainable.

Based on the market readiness survey conducted by the PCEPSDI for the Sustainable Packaging Project, Alvarez said the respondents showed a positive attitude towards sustainability and majority of them are willing to switch from single-use packaging to sustainable alternative packaging.

"Generally, demand for environmentally-preferable packaging products in the country is growing over the years, especially that more brands and companies offering sustainably produced products. The products that National Ecolabelling Programme-Green Choice Philippines [NELP-GCP] has ecolabelled are priced competitively so consumers don't have to worry about the price difference. Although, there is still a gap with the knowledge of the consumers on ecolabelling and how it relates to the environmental performance of a product," he explained.

Currently, the PCEPSDI has 42 ecolabelling categories ranging from consumer products, and restaurants to construction materials. So far, the NELP-GCP has awarded a total of 57 Green Choice Seal of Approval (licenses).

He said ecolabelling recognizes the company's environmental performance dedicated to protecting the environment. The NELP-GCP Seal of Approval offers enterprises reinforced corporate imaging, brand recognition, and product excellence. The product brand immediately gains a preferential position in the market, as the GCP ecolabel is synonymous with eco-friendly quality based on internationally recognized standards.



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**FILL 'ER UP** Soap bottles are refilled at a booth in a bazaar put up by Plastic-Free Pilipinas collaborators Ecowaste Coalition, Greenpeace Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation to celebrate #PlasticFreeJuly, as they demonstrate simple actions that can be done to reduce one's personal plastic footprint. ROY DOMINGO





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# URC sets 'ambitious' goals to reduce carbon footprint

By VG CABUAG [@villygc](#)

**U**NIVERSAL Robina Corp. (URC), the food group of the Gokongwei family, said it has set "ambitious" goals for its human resources, operations, products and processes.

The company said it is targeting to reduce the amount of energy and water it uses to manufacture its products by 30 percent by 2030 as against its 2020 baseline. URC said it will also promote the responsible sourcing of key ingredients like palm oil, potatoes and coffee beans.

"Through efficient management of resources, and a consistent commitment to always give back, we aim to make lasting concrete changes on an institutional level, in a way that affects all operations, and demonstrates our resolve as a world-class manufacturer," said URC President

and CEO Irwin Lee.

Lee said URC has been able to polish its plans and refresh its targets ever since it released its first sustainability report in 2018.

URC said it is aiming to achieve plastic neutrality through plastic waste collection, recovery and diversion initiatives, as well as collaborative projects on waste management that include community engagement and linking with local recyclers.

The company said it plans multi-stakeholder partnerships to tackle this plastics challenge. It has recently been named as regional co-chair

for the Alliance to End the Plastics Waste, an industry-founded non-profit organization, which promotes solutions that reduce and avoid environmental pollution from plastic waste.

URC is an investor and strategic partner of Planet First, a European growth investment platform dedicated to developing solutions to address sustainability challenges.

The company also said it is committed to bring down to zero its lost-time injury frequency rate, providing at least 24 training hours for each employee every year, and raising by 10 percent annually the number of its volunteers and beneficiaries leading the community.

"In many ways, 2021 presented a rehash of 2020's challenges, with various crises putting our economy and the world climate on the ropes," Lee said.

"The difference now, aside from an increased sense of urgency, is a greater amount of experience with which URC can face the odds—and



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# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*

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URC Sets...

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we are now setting our sights on greater ambitions towards more sustainable futures.”

URC has been pivoting towards making renewable energy take up a bigger share in its power use.

It has been installing solar panels at several of its facilities in the Philippines, and in its manufacturing hubs in Thailand and Vietnam.

URC said it continues to use manure, agricultural and food waste, and other organic materials as a renewable energy source.

The company has also ramped up its community support specifically in the areas of livelihood, sustainable farming, food availability, and security.

“In the coming years, we will continue to build upon our heritage of sustainable success through the programs and targets laid out in this sustainability report: from reducing our environmental impact all the way to achieving 100 percent quality and food safety certifications for our products,” Lee said.



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## PHL touts capital markets route to finance greening of economy

FINANCE SECRETARY Benjamin E. Diokno said that the government intends to make its economy greener in part using resources raised by its sustainable financing program.

Speaking to the Group of Twenty (G20) gathering as a guest of host country Indonesia, Mr. Diokno said that apart from climate bonds, it hopes to fund its efforts with new taxes and aid from the international community.

"In this regard, we have assembled a group of Filipino experts to engage climate-vulnerable communities and prepare them to execute localized action plans," Mr. Diokno told G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Saturday.

The G20 accounts for 80% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

Philippine officials, including Mr. Diokno's predecessor and President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. himself, have taken the position that the Philippines bears a disproportionate burden from climate change, while the industrialized countries responsible for much of it have not, putting them on the hook at least morally for funding climate mitigation.

Mr. Diokno told the forum that the government is seeking to mobilize climate finance through the so-called Green Force, which is led by the Department of Finance (DoF) along with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

"This interagency task force was established to synergize public and private investment in green projects and mainstream climate change through the financial sector," Mr. Diokno said.

Under the Philippines' Sustainable Finance Framework, the government "recently issued its first-ever sustainability global bonds worth \$1 billion, and sustainability samurai bonds worth \$600 million. Both transactions were met with strong demand despite volatility in the global markets," Mr. Diokno told the G20.

The Philippines also debuted Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Global Bonds in March, with 25-year Global Bonds offered at P1 billion.

Overall, "the Philippines successfully tapped the international capital markets with the country's offering of \$2.25-billion triple tranche 5-year, 10.5-year, and 25-year Global Bonds. The transaction was the first triple tranche USD offering from the Philippines," a press release from the DoF said.

In April, the Philippines also issued its first Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Sustainability bond transaction in the Samurai bond market.

The Philippines successfully returned to the Samurai market with its 70.1-billion-yen (\$600 million) offering of five-year, seven-year, 10-year, and 20-year sustainability bonds, the proceeds of which will support Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) projects, the DoF said.

At the G20 forum, Mr. Diokno reiterated his intention to tax activities which impact the environment.

"We are supporting the passage of a bill that would either regulate or tax the use of single-use plastics to cut pollution and adopt more sustainable practices. We are also considering the imposition of a carbon tax," he said.

A P20 excise tax per kilogram of single-use plastics was part of the previous government's fiscal consolidation plan, although it had been targeted for rollout in 2023.

Meanwhile, a tax on carbon emissions was also contemplated in the third package of the same fiscal consolidation plan.

"The Philippines is one of the countries at highest risk for climate-related disasters. We are thus determined to be a world leader in this fight against the crisis," Mr. Diokno said.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH ADB

Mr. Diokno also expressed the Philippines'

willingness to work with the international community on climate-related matters, citing an ongoing partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"We will deal with the impact of climate change while bringing down energy costs through developing clean and renewable energy sources, such as hydro, geothermal, wind, and solar power. We will work together with the international community, such as our ongoing partnership with the ADB, to quicken our transition from coal to clean energy," Mr. Diokno told the G20.

Aside from the Philippines, the ADB has also partnered with Indonesia in implementing the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) project, which was launched in October.

It aims to accelerate the transition of Southeast Asia from coal to green energy.

In addition, "the ADB just extended to the Philippines its first-ever climate change policy-based financing worth \$250 million, making the country one of the pioneers in climate policy development financing," Mr. Diokno said, referring to the Climate Change Action Program, Subprogram 1 (CCAPI).

"It will support the Philippines in implementing its national climate policies, including its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which aims to peak greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, and scale up climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster resilience," the ADB said.

"It focuses on sectors that are of national priority for climate action, targeting adaptation in highly vulnerable sectors (agriculture, natural resources, and environment), and mitigation in emissions-intensive sectors (energy and transport)," it added.

In April 2021, the government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 when then President Rodrigo R. Duterte approved the Philippines' first NDC.

— **Diego Gabriel C. Robles**



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# Department secretaries as 'spark plugs'

And there they go!

It is like a horse race, and the secretaries in charge of the critical departments of government are off. They need to quickly show leadership and initiative, if not in the whole Cabinet, at least in the field of their department. This is a critical moment. Secretaries inherit departments with people, resources, strategies, systems, relationships, and shared values, and how to harness all of that quickly in the political arena is critical. Almost always, the department—any department—performs way below the expectations of the people. Often, there are tactical "wins," but in the long view of our nation's journey, these are only reductions in our losses.

The immediate tactical contest is about getting enough ideas and acknowledgment of a secretary's team in key portions of the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 25. The President is the battlefield, and who gets featured in the Sona is an indication of how the Cabinet race is going. This is a preview of the running battle throughout the term of a Cabinet.

Secretaries must turn in sparkling performances. They should know their field enough to recognize challenges and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses, and formulate sound strategies through appropriate combinations of organizational and environmental elements.

What can secretaries do in six years, assuming they stay throughout the term of the President? A lot if they are the right appointees. They will hit the road running, their minds racing through all the ideas and proposals they have heard and discussed with relevant specialists and practitioners over the past 20 or so years. They will know the cutting-edge strategies that have worked for their



## ON THE MOVE

SEGUNDO ECLAR ROMERO

counterparts in other nations. They know the magical systems in information and communication technology to enable solutions to wicked problems in their field of performance. They will be aware of the unsavory practices by which public funds are diverted or wasted on schemes that are poorly conceived, or well-conceived to serve private rather than public purposes. They will already be alerted to the various booby traps along the way.

The appointment of secretaries not suited for their departments can reduce the effectiveness of that department by half. That reduction will come from the incomplete presence of mind—secretaries take too much time appreciating the decision options and making the best or optimal choices. This task requires proficiency. Without practice, there will be fatal mistakes that will take time, energy, and resources to reverse.

Secretaries must learn to speak the language of their organizations. Departments are highly specialized technical organizations, and they work through quaint symbols and shortcuts to get the work done.

Secretaries should take time to learn about their complex gargantuan departments. The physical layout of a department is key to understanding how the organization works, so the secretary must practice "management by walking about." There is always some "secret" room or operation or portion of that whole infrastructure complex that they are not familiar with.

Department secretaries must understand existing systems and routines of work before they try to change all of that with the flick of a finger. Organizations get terribly disoriented and unproductive by sudden changes.

It is so easy to stay in the executive offices and never really know what happens throughout the department. Secretaries should get grounded and connected with the career people in the department. They should not interact only with the cordon sanitaire that they bring in. The staff will quickly size them up. Secretaries should come away from this process as leaders who listen and think strategically, not tactically. Show sincere appreciation of the strengths and challenges of the staff.

The public is watching closely. They would like to know how departments are improving their lives. Secretaries must beam their performance to the wider public, providing them with ideas and hopes. Inspire insiders as well as outsiders.

Finally, be realistic. Secretaries must not be wide-eyed and open-ended. They must have an idea of what success is like for them. One must navigate using the lived example of some successful secretaries in the past, like my personal favorites: Onofre D. Corpuz, Jose P. de Jesus, Emilia Boncodin, Horacio Morales, and Rogelio Singson.

doyromero@gmail.com



## NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

### CSC assures gov't workers of consultations in rightsizing plan

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s plan to deflate the bureaucracy will undergo multi-sectoral consultations, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) assured on Monday.

"There must be a consultation with different agencies, associations, and rank-and-file workers," Civil Service Commissioner Lourdes A. Lizada told a televised news briefing.

Ms. Lizada said the independent commission would ensure that the "rights and welfare" of government personnel are upheld and protected in any plan to rightsize the bureaucracy.

The CSC would also ensure that rank-and-file employees and other concerned sectors would be able to present their counter proposals, she added.

"We will have an open dialogue."

In a statement released earlier this week, the commission vowed that it will "thoroughly study any proposed legislation on rightsizing the bureaucracy,"

The agency said it will provide inputs "with the welfare of civil servants and the effective delivery of service to the public as its primordial considerations."

Ms. Lizada said at the same briefing that the government must consider the law that protects the security of tenure of state workers "in the implementation of government reorganization."

Public sector labor unions have expressed opposition to the plan. These include the Kawani Laban sa Kontraktwalisasyon, Confederation for Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), and Tanggol Trabaho, National President of Social Welfare Employees of the Philippines (SWEAP).

— Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116  
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Website: www.emb.gov.ph E-mail: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the 60 MW GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT PROJECT of BELGROVE POWER CORPORATION located in BARANGAY MALAYA, PILILLA, RIZAL.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the PROPOSED 60 MW GAS TURBINE POWER PLANT PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
03 August 2022 (Wednesday)	09:00 AM (Registration starts at 08:00 AM)	Covered Court Barangay Malaya, Pililla, Rizal

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	60 MW Gas Turbine Power Plant Project
Project Location	Barangay Malaya, Pililla, Rizal
Project Capacity	60 MW
Project Type	Power Plant
Project Rationale	The proposed 60 MW gas turbine power plant will provide ancillary services to the national grid specifically as dispatchable reserve (DR). This type of ancillary service is generating capacity that is not scheduled for regular energy supply, regulating reserve or contingency reserve, or interruptible loads not scheduled for contingency reserve. DR services should be readily available for dispatch in order to replenish the Contingency Reserve Service whenever a generating unit trips or a loss of a single transmission interconnection occurs. This type of ancillary service can be provided by qualified generators that are not connected to the grid but have fast start capabilities and can ramp up their output up the offered DR within thirty minutes.
Project Components	<p><b>Major Components:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two (2) units of 30-MW Modular Gas Turbine Engines</li> </ul> <p><b>Auxiliary Facilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 230 kV substation</li> <li>• 4 units of 2,000m<sup>3</sup> cylindrical tanks</li> <li>• Demineralized water Storage Tanks</li> <li>• Wastewater storage tank</li> </ul> <p><b>Shared Facilities with existing 650-MW MTPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater treatment plant</li> <li>• Wharf Facility</li> <li>• Water treatment plant</li> <li>• Administration Building</li> </ul>
Proponent	Belgrove Power Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through e-mail at [eia@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eia@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB Region IV-A  
6th Floor 1515 DENR By the Bay Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
- Municipal Environment & Natural Resources Office-Pililla  
Pililla Municipal Hall, Pililla, Rizal

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers Engr. Dexter Tabada and Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra.

(PDI – July 19, 2022)

*K*

19 JULY 2022, TUESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Philippines logs 14,640 COVID cases from July 11 to 17

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 18, 2022 | 5:35pm



Commuters wait in long queues for a "Libreng Sakay" by the Department of Transportation at the EDSA Carousel Bus Station along Main Avenue on Monday morning, July 18, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines recorded 14,640 new COVID-19 cases—or an average of 2,091 infections a day—from July 11 to 17, the Department of Health said Monday.

Infections in the Philippines rose by 44% in the last seven days, according to the agency's latest COVID-9 bulletin.

Of the new cases, 35 had severe and critical illness.

A total of 589 severe and critical patients are currently getting treatment for the respiratory disease in hospitals, representing 8.7% of the nation's COVID-19 admissions.

According to the DOH, 18.3% of 2,630 beds in intensive care units are occupied, and 23.8% of 21,809 non-ICU beds are used.

The department added it verified one COVID-related fatality. The death occurred in October 2021.

The Philippines has confirmed 3.7 million COVID-19 infections, with 60,641 deaths, since the pandemic started in 2020.

The country is battling a renewed increase in cases, fueled by the presence of fast-spreading variants, increased mobility of the public, and waning vaccine immunity.

More than 71.3 million people have completed vaccination against COVID-19. However, only around 15.6 million have gotten booster shots.

Last week, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. designated Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire as the officer-in-charge of the DOH.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/18/2196310/philippines-logs-14640-covid-cases-july-11-17>



# OCTA: COVID-19 positivity rate in 5 provinces 'very high'

July 18, 2022



Colorful face masks are sold along a sidewalk in Baclaran, Parañaque City (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

**By Lynroe Francisco**

Five provinces in the country recorded a “very high” COVID-19 positivity rate, OCTA Research Group reported Monday, July 18.

In a tweet, OCTA Research Fellow and University of the Philippines Professor Dr. Guido David showed data that Aklan’s positivity rate climbed to 35% on July 16 from 10.9% on July 9.

**Dr. Guido David**  
@iamguidodavid · Follow

Positivity rates in select areas in the PH. NCR positivity rate as of July 16 was 12.6%, up from 10.9% as of July 9. Especially In provinces where positivity rates are very high (above 20%), the public is strongly advised to practice necessary caution to prevent Covid infection.

Positivity Rate	July 9, 2022	July 16, 2022
NCR	10.9%	12.6%
Aklan	28.9%	35.0%
Antique	17.8%	17.8%
Bataan	9.4%	9.8%
Batangas	11.3%	15.7%
Benguet	8.1%	9.6%
Bulacan	7.7%	11.4%
Cagayan	5.0%	9.1%
Capiz	18.8%	15.8%
Cavite	15.9%	19.8%
Cebu	5.1%	6.7%
Davao del Sur	4.7%	5.5%
Iloilo	11.2%	14.2%
Isabela	10.3%	14.1%
Laguna	18.1%	22.6%
Nueva Ecija	14.0%	21.0%
Pampanga	16.4%	23.1%
Pangasinan	9.6%	15.5%
Rizal	16.6%	18.5%
Tarlac	16.7%	27.6%

10:50 AM · Jul 18, 2022

82 ⚡ See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

[Read 13 replies](#)



Meanwhile, other provinces that also surpassed the 20% positivity benchmark were Tarlac (27.6%), Pampanga (23.1%), Laguna (22.6%), and Nueva Ecija (21%).

“[The] public is strongly advised to practice necessary caution to prevent Covid infection,” David wrote. – **gb**



# PH daily average of Covid-19 cases from July 11-17 up by 44%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 18, 2022, 4:26 pm



**MANILA** – The country's daily average of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases went up by 44 percent from July 11 to 17, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Monday.

From 1,467 per day from July 4 to 10, the number of Covid-19 cases reached 2,091 daily from July 11 to 17.

The latest case bulletin showed that there were 14,640 new cases and one verified death in the recent week.

For the same period, 35 cases were added to the tally of severe and critical infections, which went up to 589 from the previous week's 555.

Only 18.3 percent or 481 out of the 2,630 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are in use, while 23.8 percent or 5,189 of 21,809 non-ICU beds are utilized.

To date, about 71,322,848 or 91.32 percent of the country's target population (78,100,578) are vaccinated against Covid-19, including 77.81 percent of 8,721,357 senior citizens.

As of July 17, a total of 15,592,533 have received booster shots out of the total 71,322,848 who are fully vaccinated.

In a tweet Monday, OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said the positivity rate or the number of people who test positive for Covid-19 in an area is 12.6 percent as of July 16 -- 1.7 points higher than its 10.9 percent rate on July 9.

David added that positivity rates are very high in select areas nationwide especially in provinces which log above 20 percent positivity rate.

These provinces include Aklan with 35 percent positivity rate; Laguna, 22.6 percent; Nueva Ecija, 21 percent; Pampanga, 23.1 percent; and Tarlac 27.6 percent. **(PNA)**

19 JULY 2022, TUESDAY



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