

20 JULY 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Toni Yulo-Loyzaga takes oath as DENR secretary

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:45 PM July 19, 2022



Newly appointed Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga takes her oath before the office of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Beside her is her husband former Philippine Basketball Association player Chito Loyzaga. Photo from RTVM

MANILA, Philippines — Environment advocate Toni Yulo-Loyzaga took her oath Tuesday as new secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the administration of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

Marcos administered Yulo-Loyzaga’s oath at the Malacañang Palace.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles announced Yulo-Loyzaga’s nomination as environment secretary on July 12.

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

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

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1630588/fwd-toni-yulo-loyzaga-takes-oath-as-denr-secretary#ixzz7ZWO3nYuN>

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## Toni Yulo-Loyzaga takes oath as DENR chief

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

Published July 19, 2022 4:39pm



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. administers the oath of office to newly appointed Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga on Tuesday, July 19. Screenshot from RTVM video/Anna Felicia Bajo, GMA News

Climate advocate Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga took her oath as [secretary](#) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday.

The ceremony was held at the Study Room of Malacañang Palace.

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

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

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/838656/toni-yulo-loyzaga-takes-oath-as-denr-chief/story/?fbclid=IwARofxPw9sutQp3Ae3vExUfHH\\_NIqmF\\_olH76rkmtINool- oncdeVX54CgWo](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/838656/toni-yulo-loyzaga-takes-oath-as-denr-chief/story/?fbclid=IwARofxPw9sutQp3Ae3vExUfHH_NIqmF_olH76rkmtINool- oncdeVX54CgWo)



## Marcos swears in Yulo-Loyzaga as environment secretary

By [Alexis Romero](#)(The Philippine Star)

- July 20, 2022 - 12:00am



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

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday administered the oath of Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and expressed confidence that her experience in the Jesuit-run scientific research institution Manila Observatory would benefit the agency.

Loyzaga was sworn in as environment chief after the Marcos administration's third Cabinet meeting, which was also the official family's first meeting since the President recovered from COVID-19.

"I am sure that her experience as former chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory will be beneficial to the department she will lead," Marcos said in a Facebook post.

Loyzaga pushed for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience during her stint in the Manila Observatory's International Advisory Board.

She was involved in disaster risk reduction management efforts of various groups, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Science and Technology Advisory Group and its regional counterpart, the Asia Pacific Science and Technology Academia Advisory Group.



## Marcos swears in Yulo-Loyzaga as environment secretary

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

In a recent statement, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources welcomed the nomination of Loyzaga as its new secretary, saying it is looking forward to an effective and efficient implementation of its mandate under her leadership.

The agency has also expressed optimism that under Loyzaga, climate actions would be strengthened and that the Philippines' compliance with the Paris Agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions would be fulfilled.

The Paris Agreement, which was crafted by members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, aims to limit the increase in the global average temperature to "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It was signed by former president Rodrigo Duterte in 2017.

The Philippines has pledged a 75-percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.



## PBBM swears in Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 19, 2022, 5:11 pm



**DENR CHIEF.** President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. administers the oath of office to Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Malacañan Palace’s Study Room on Tuesday (July 19, 2022). Yulo-Loyzaga served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience. *(Screengrab from RTVM)*

**MANILA** – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday administered the oath of office to Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The oath-taking ceremony was held at Malacañan Palace’s Study Room, the Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) said in a Facebook post.

RTVM also released a short video clip of Yulo-Loyzaga’s oath-taking before Marcos.

Yulo-Loyzaga’s nomination as the DENR chief was first announced by Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on July 12.

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

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

She was also part of the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ Command and General Staff College.



## PBBM swears in Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

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

Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment came as the environment is still faced with several challenges, including disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss and forestry, DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto Adobo Jr. earlier said.

Adobo, nevertheless, assured Yulo-Loyzaga that the DENR personnel are ready to work with her for the "effective" implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the Marcos administration. *(PNA)*



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### Climate advocate Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, nanumpa na bilang bagong DENR chief

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Pormal nang nanumpa sa puwesto si Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga bilang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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## BAGONG KALIHIM NG DENR, OPISYAL NANG NANUMPA

by [Mara Valle](#) July 19, 2022



Pinangasiwaan ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos ang panunumpa bilang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Toni Yulo-Loyzaga.

Mababatid na kabilang sa mga naging trabaho ng kalihim ang pagiging Chairperson Ng International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory at Technical Adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Samantala, matatandaan na Hulyo 12 nang i-anunsyo ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles ang nominasyon ni Yulo-Loyzaga bilang Environment Secretary.



## Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination as DENR chief gains strong support from stakeholders



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

JULY 19, 2022



[Screengrab from RTVM](#)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. administers the oath of office to Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Malacañan Palace’s Study Room on Tuesday (July 19, 2022). Yulo-Loyzaga served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

AS Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga was taking her oath of office on Tuesday as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), more groups have expressed their strong support behind her designation.

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. administered the oath of office of Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR secretary in ceremony held at Malacañan Palace’s Study Room, the Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) said in a Facebook post. RTVM also released a short video clip of Yulo-Loyzaga’s oath-taking before Marcos.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Million Trees Foundation Inc. on Tuesday added their voice in supporting of Yulo-Loyzaga’s nomination by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr.

As DENR Secretary-nominate, Yulo-Loyzaga will have to pass through screening by the powerful Commission on Appointments.



## Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination as DENR chief gains strong support from stakeholders

### Who is she?

Prior to her nomination, Yulo-Loyzaga served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory. She also served as Executive Director of the Manila Observatory for nine years.

Loren Legarda, a former broadcast journalist and a newly reelected senator, said she was the one who convinced Yulo-Loyzaga to consider the nomination. Yulo-Loyzaga is also a former technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and former president of the National Resilience Council (NRC).

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation is the country's major private sector coordinator for disaster risk reduction and management.

On the other hand, NRC is a science and technology-based public-private partnership that supports government, communities, the academe, and the private sector in advancing the intersecting goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)'s Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

### A laudable step

IN a news release, MTFI, represented by its Chairman Emeritus retired Police Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco and President and Executive Director Mr. Melandrew T. Velasco, said the nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga to head the government agency mandated to manage the country's environment and natural resources is a laudable step by the new administration.

Maynilad President Ramoncito S. Fernandez, for his part, said: "We welcome the appointment of Secretary Yulo and she is an ally, especially in our common advocacy of reducing carbon emissions. We support her advocacies on climate change and disaster resilience."

Fernandez earlier declared a statement of support during the launching of Maynilad's Road to 1 Million Trees as part of its 15th-year celebration as a water concessionaire of the West Zone and for the Annual Million Trees Challenge of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Fernandez said that Maynilad is aiming for Climate Neutrality by the year 2037 which he described as an ambitious target.

"Carbon sequestration—through our reforestation and watershed rehabilitation initiatives—is going to be a major part of that effort and that's where Environment Secretary Yulo will lead us to," he added.



## Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination as DENR chief gains strong support from stakeholders

### Science, climate expert

"Her expertise notably her policy pronouncements on climate will surely fast track the attainment of DENR's vision of a clean and healthy environment as well as the sustainability of our natural resources," MTFI Chairman Velasco said.

"We at MTFI believe that development can be attained without sacrificing our environment," added Velasco who initiated the Annual Million Tree Challenge during his tenure as Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and continues to advocate reforestation to increase forest cover and to protect critical watersheds that supply potable water through the MTFI.

The DENR is an active partner of MTFI in its programs. Aside from providing planting materials and assisting in the validation of planted seedlings, it is also involved in tree-planting activities. **With PNA**



## DENR awarded Villar SIPAG for healthier and greener environmental initiatives



BYBMPLUS

JULY 19, 2022



Villar Sipag, the foundation built by the family of Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, was awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for its

dedication, continuous support and esteemed contributions towards a cleaner, healthier and greener environment.

The awarding ceremony was held during the agency's Environmental Summit and Exhibit 2022 on July 14, 2022 at the Manila Hotel.

In her keynote message, Villar thanked DENR for the award and vowed to continue cultivating awareness and encouraging the engagement of stakeholders to reduce and properly manage waste.

"We appreciate the recognition because it validates our commitment that we are doing something right for the environment and we are looking forward for other communities to follow our lead," said Villar during the summit with the theme, "Strengthening Waste Management for a Healthier Environment."



## DENR awarded Villar SIPAG for healthier and greener environmental initiatives

She also lauded the organizers for highlighting in this event the solid waste management best practices that may be replicated by LGUs, communities and private entities nationwide.

For the past several years, Villar related that she and Villar Sipag have established barangay-based livelihood enterprises that are models of proper waste management and good examples of how garbage can be turned into useful end-products.

“The raw materials we use in the livelihood projects are from wastes,” noted Villar, a staunch environmentalist known for her recycling efforts in her waste management drive.

She enumerated the materials use as water hyacinths for the waterlily handicraft-weaving enterprise and the handmade paper factory, waste coconut husks for the coconet-weaving enterprise and the charcoal-making factory, kitchen and garden wastes for the organic fertilizer composting facility, and plastic wastes for the waste plastic recycling factory that produces school chairs.

The senator extolled these livelihood projects, now numbering over 3,000 nationwide, have been replicated by other organizations.

In her message, the senator also highlighted composting, which she spearheaded in her homecity in Las Pinas.

Villar emphasized that composting which solves problems like pollution from garbage, soil degradation and food wastes, complies with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and RA 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act which she championed.

“We have 67 composters spread out in 20 barangays in the city, which are utilized by 70,000 households, and produce 70 tons of organic fertilizers monthly. In turn, these organic fertilizers are being distributed to towns so their farmers may no longer need to buy fertilizers,” she said.

As Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Villar authored and worked hard for the passage of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.

“The bill institutionalizes the extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging waste, amending “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”.

The EPR legislation, she asserted, is an answer to the clamor for us to do something with our overwhelming plastic wastes.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/19/denr-awarded-villar-sipag-for-healthier-and-greener-environmental-initiatives/>



## DENR awards Villar SIPAG for greener environmental initiatives

Published July 19, 2022, 1:47 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) awarded Villar Sipag, the foundation built by the family of Senator Cynthia A. Villar, for its dedication, continuous support and esteemed contributions towards a cleaner, healthier and greener environment.

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The lady lawmaker also lauded the organizers for highlighting in this event the solid waste management best practices that might be replicated by local government units (LGUs), communities and private entities nationwide.

For the past several years, Villar related that she and Villar Sipag have established barangay-based livelihood enterprises that are models of proper waste management and good examples of how garbage could be turned into useful end-products.

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## DENR reclassifies four caves in Luzon for conservation

[INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net) / 06:25 PM July 19, 2022



Cave. INQUIRER.net stock images

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reclassified four caves in the provinces of Abra, Quezon, and Albay under varying degrees of protection for management and conservation.

The DENR said in a statement Tuesday that it reclassified the following caves through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Regional and Provincial Offices:

- Ganway Cave in Brgy. Malamsit, Penarrubia town, Albay from Class I to Class II
- Quitinday Cave in Brgy. Quitinday, Jovellar town, Albay from Class I to Class II
- Sung Wan Cave in Brgy. Lawigue, Tayabas City, Quezon province from Class I to Class II
- Palale Cave in Brgy. Ibaba Palale in Tayabas City from Class II to I

Class I caves are those with “delicate and fragile geological formations, threatened species, and archeological and paleontological values.”

Under this class, only activities for mapping, photography, educational, and scientific purposes are allowed.

On the other hand, Class II caves are those with “areas or portions with hazardous conditions and sensitive geological, archeological, cultural, historical, and biological values or high-quality ecosystems.”

Caves under Class II can be used for educational tours but must be guided by experienced cavers.



## DENR reclassifies four caves in Luzon for conservation

According to DENR Officer-in-Charge Ernesto Adobo Jr., the classification of caves is contained in DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-29 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9072.

With the administrative order, the DENR is entrusted with the planning, developing, and implementation of a national program for the management, protection, and conservation of caves and cave resources in the country.

Adobo also said that being in a pandemic, the agency plays an important role in setting standards for the protection and sustainability of the country's natural resources, which the tourism industry relies upon.

"Finding the middle ground where the critical importance of caves to the country's biodiversity and the critical role they have to the nation's socio-cultural heritage meet demonstrates the distinct mandate of the DENR to secure the sustainability of the country's rich natural resources and their benefits to our people," Adobo said in the same statement.

"These initiatives set a road to more resilient and regenerative nature-based tourism practices that illustrate their natural resilience and, as a result, enable the public to enjoy these natural assets in perpetuity," he added.

For his part, DENR-BMB OIC-Director Natividad Bernardino said that before the caves undergo reclassification, concerned DENR offices assess caves for safety and supply of oxygen, high endemism and presence of threats and hazards, safety of its areas as potential ecotourism sites, and absence of hazardous conditions – to evaluate changes.

Bernardino further reminded the public to comply with safe caving protocols such as wearing proper caving attires and following proper cave decorum.

"Visit tourism centers and ask for Department of Tourism-accredited cave guides who will help in navigating caves safely," Bernardino said in the same statement. — **Nicole Faye Agcaoli**, *INQUIRER.net intern*

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1630683/denr-reclassifies-four-caves-in-luzon-for-conservation#ixzz7ZWLBuA>

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## [Significant improvements noted in water quality of Manila Bay](#)

JUL 19, 2022, 1:21 PM



Kaithe Santos  
Writer

*DENR notes progress on the rehabilitation project for Manila Bay.*

Significant improvements in the water quality of Manila were noted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau, which it attributed to the continuing rehabilitation efforts in river systems and tributaries.

The fecal coliform level at the Manila Bay beach nourishment station near to the US Embassy has dropped to 2,400 per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL), from 7,100 MPN/100mL in 2021, according to the June statistics of EMB-NCR.

Two water quality monitoring stations near the dolomite beach also registered lower fecal coliform levels – from 7,300 MPN/100mL to 1,700 MPN/100mL, and from 10,200 MPN/100mL to 2,100 MPN/100mL, respectively.



## Significant improvements noted in water quality of Manila Bay

In a press release on Saturday, Michael Drake Matias, regional director of EMB-NCR, stated: “We have seen remarkable gains in Manila Bay based on the water quality monitoring results. Rest assured that we will not stop here and will continue our work as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project,”

Though the measurements indicate that Manila Bay's water quality is still far from reaching the fecal coliform requirement of 100 MPN/100mL, Matias stated the objective is difficult to achieve but doable with the help of the people and local, national, and international governments.

“Reaching the 100 MPN/100mL standard is not impossible through our solid waste management strategies, geoengineering interventions, and with the establishment of our real-time online water quality monitoring system,” Matias said.

The EMB-NCR checks 412 monitoring sampling stations scattered in various water bodies of Metro Manila.

Twenty-three stations, which include stations near the dolomite beach, Rizal Park Hotel, and US Embassy, are being monitored three times a week.

It performs quarterly monitoring of 206 sites, including the Navotas River Shipyard and Manila Bay shoreline, along with the EMB 3 (Central Luzon) and EMB 4-A (Calabarzon), and semi-annual monitoring of 32 stations.

An online water quality monitoring system has been created and set up by the EMB-NCR for simple public access.

According to Matias, the data system would inform and educate the public on the state and trends of the water quality in Metro Manila's creeks and waterbodies.

It will also serve as the foundation for developing policies, programs, and laws to reduce water pollution in the various local government entities' spheres of responsibility.

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/pfbido2BEsC4dzukFP4ZAQ7JCizBNU-Mt6Bp9kkvdfNd9cFrudY45J35TLpQY4dgr5koH6xl/?app=fbl>



## DENR, PNP intercept 13,000 board feet of illegally cuts logs in Nueva Ecija

Published July 19, 2022, 9:45 AM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, together with other law enforcement agencies, intercepted over 13,000 board feet of illegally cut logs in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija over the weekend, a report said on Tuesday.



DENR/NEPPO

A composite team from the DENR, Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office (NEPPO), local police station of General Tinio, and the Philippine Army's 84th Infantry Battalion conducted an operation in Brgy. Pias and Rio Chico in General Tinio town.

Gerundio Fernandez, provincial chief of the DENR office in Nueva Ecija, said that the illegal loggers immediately escaped and abandoned the cut logs of Tanguile and Mayapis along the Sumacbao riverbank when they noticed the arriving authorities.

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

The woods that have a corresponding value of over P800,000 were brought to the municipal compound of General Tinio and NEPPO for temporary custody and safekeeping.



## DENR, PNP intercept 13,000 board feet of illegally cuts logs in Nueva Ecija

Both the DENR and NEPPO were in the process of filing criminal cases against the identified culprits for violation of Presidential Decree 705, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The DENR, on the other hand, is initiating administrative adjudication of the case.

For now, forest rangers and protection officers of the DENR are deployed in the area to strictly monitor potential movement of contrabands.

There is a possibility that illegal loggers may operate again to transport remaining logs through the Sumacbao River.

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

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

The DENR official appealed to the public to report these concerns to the nearest DENR office in their area or contact the DENR hotline at (0945) 368 5303.



## [DENR, PNP intercept illegally cuts logs in Nueva Ecija](#)

JUL 19, 2022, 4:04 PM



Kaithe Santos  
Writer

*Illegally cut logs from Nueva Ecija seized by DENR and PNP.*

Over 13,000 board feet of illegally cut logs were seized over the weekend in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other law enforcement organizations, according to a report on Tuesday.

A joint operation was carried out at Barangays Pias Chico and Rio in General Tinio town, by the DENR, the 84th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, the local police of General Tinio and the Nueva Ecija Police Provincial Office (NEPPO).

The illegal loggers fled as soon as they saw the authorities approaching and left the tanguile and mayapis logs beside the Sumacbao riverbed, according to Gerundio Fernandez, provincial chief of the DENR office in Nueva Ecija.



## [DENR, PNP intercept illegally cuts logs in Nueva Ecija](#)

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

The woods, which are worth over P800,000, were transferred to the General Tinio and NEPPO municipal facility for temporary custody and safekeeping.

The illegal loggers would be charged with violations of the Revised Forestry Code or Presidential Decree 705 and criminal charges.

To closely monitor any potential movement of contrabands forest rangers and protection officers from the DENR are now stationed in the region.

In addition to bolstering the Regional Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, the DENR has collaborated closely and maintained active partnerships with the Philippine National Police, LGUs, indigenous groups, and the 7th Infantry Division, 703rd Infantry Brigade, First Scout Ranger Regiment, and 3rd Regional Community Defense Group of the Army for wildlife protection and to save the remaining forests of Central Luzon.

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/pfbidodVup8GS2DiF4mwcanP9JUbmvLiFouRVQTDiaJkEjAvj3LWKLf2cPpj9wEbDxRhQI/?app=fbl>





## DENR 6, GWC ink MOA for Guimaras' sustainable future

Published on: July 19, 2022

By Lilibeth French



ILOILO CITY (PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 and Guimaras Wind Corporation (GWC) recently sealed a pact that would ensure a sustainable environment for the future generations of Guimarasnons.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing was attended by DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran, DENR Guimaras Provincial ENR Officer Edgardo M. Rostata and GWC officials led by Mr. Gabino Ramon E. Mejia, the President and Chief Executive Officer at the Amihan Learning and Training Center of GWC located at Barangay M. Chavez, San Lorenzo, Guimaras on July 14, 2022. Other GWC officials are Plant Operation Assistant Vice President Richardson C. de los Santos and Plant Manager Engr. Edwin L. Gallego.

Under the MOA, GWC shall adopt the 176 hectares within the existing Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) area in the Municipality of San Lorenzo, Guimaras for a term of three years.

During the period, they will develop the area to turn it into an arboretum where native trees and bamboos shall be grown.

“Guimaras is currently a developing province, attracting many foreigners and tourists with its beautiful resources and ecotourism destinations. The proposed Panay-Guimaras bridge will soon be constructed and we are looking at the onset of more investments and more assets for the Province that will help uplift

## DENR 6, GWC ink MOA for Guimaras' sustainable future



the economic status of Guimarasnons,” said Duran in his message.

DENR PENRO Guimaras was very grateful for the partnership and collaboration of GWC as they signified their willingness to contribute to the greening efforts of the Department through its Ridge to Reef Conservation Program, extending their financial support as part of their corporate social responsibility program. (JBG/DENR 6/laf-PIA-Iloilo/Photos courtesy of DENR6)



## Miners call on gov't to provide stable environment, spell out ESG best practices

July 19, 2022 | 8:01 pm



MINERS have asked the government to provide a stable environment and to specify how the industry can best comply with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

“We hope for nothing less than a stable business environment to allow mineral resource development to flourish, the harmonization of national and local laws to avoid conflicts, and the promotion as well as reporting of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) best practices for resource development,” Philex Mining Corp. said in a Viber message.

The listed miner said that “through responsible and sustainable means, mining has the potential to contribute to economic growth and national development.”

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno has said that the government is hoping to accelerate the revival of the mining industry, the operations of which were disrupted by the Duterte administration, which found large parts of the industry non-compliant with environmental rules. The government before that had declared a moratorium on new mining permits.

Last year, then President Rodrigo R. Duterte lifted the nine-year-old permit moratorium and lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

In 2021, the mining and quarrying industry posted output growth of 5.0%, accelerating from 2.6% in 2020, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

“It has always been our strong belief that responsible mineral development, when allowed to flourish, could substantially contribute to economic recovery, particularly in increasing government revenue, job generation, and poverty alleviation that are most needed in this time of



## Miners call on gov't to provide stable environment, spell out ESG best practices

pandemic and beyond,” Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Chairman Michael T. Toledo said in a statement.

On the opposite of the issue, Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), an advocacy group, said the environmental consequences of mining outweigh its economic benefits.

“A revitalization of the mining industry could only lead to food and water insecurity, land-use changes, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, air and water pollution and the displacement of communities,” ATM National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera said in a statement.

Mr. Garganera said that environmental concerns should be one of the government’s priorities in its economic recovery program.

“Ignoring the harmful environmental consequences of mining in the drive to revitalize the mining industry could only do more damage to the economy,” he said.

“It is imperative that alternatives to mining be pursued if the government truly wants to revive the economy. These include: agroforestry, eco-tourism and watershed development, agriculture and fisheries, and community-based enterprises,” he added.

ATM called for the full disclosure of all the mine audit reports and the immediate review of these mine audits.

“The new administration must immediately convene an environmental summit that will involve affected communities and environmental groups in order to assess and craft this administration’s environmental and climate program,” it added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## Brgy. Mintal to pioneer int'l solid waste mgmt project



Photo by Iona Mendoza

[IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA](#)

July 19, 2022

Barangay Mintal is the pioneering site in Davao City for the international Phinla program on solid waste management.

The Phinla project, which exists in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka (Phinla) seeks to assist local government units (LGU) to improving their waste management systems, provide livelihood opportunities, and raise awareness of the waste crisis in the country.

Evangeline Notarte, Phinla project coordinator, said on July 18 that the Barangay Mintal unit was willing and enthusiastic to take on the project.

“Sa proposal before, naa siya’y another site but naka-encounter mi og problema (The previous proposal chose another site but we encountered problems). Here comes Barangay Mintal na willing sa solid waste management improvement para sa ilang barangay (that is willing to improve the solid waste management in their barangay),” Notarte said during the Kapehan sa Dabaw forum.



## Brgy. Mintal to pioneer int'l solid waste mgmt project

Barangay Mintal captain Rey Amadaor Bargamento said they attempted to implement a proper waste management system before but it was not sustained due to lack in logistics, personnel, and knowledge.

“Nag campaign mi. Gipadagan namo ang segregation pero pag anha sa dump truck, isa ra labayan tanan so mag ipon gihapon unya i-adto sa landfill. Mabaw pa ang segregation understanding nato (We have a campaign. We launched the segregation system but everything was still dumped together in the dump trucks and to the landfill),” Bargamento said.

Through Phinla, the barangay captain said they were given 25 pedicabs and seven tricycle units used in the daily collection of all recyclable materials in the barangay.

At the same time, 30 Mintal residents, mostly from indigent communities and collectively known as the Mintal Resource Collectors Association (Mirca), were able to make a living through Phinla by working as resource collectors.

Randy Ilog, Mirca president, said they earned a living from the recyclables they have collected such as paper, glass and plastic bottles, cardboard, etc. by directing it to junk shops, recycling facilities, or huge corporations.

“Dako ang tabang sa kaugalingon sa among pamilya kay maka-income man mi (It really helped us and our families because we are able to make an income),” Ilog said.

Bargamento added they are planning to further the segregation system in the barangay by having separate collecting systems for recyclable wastes, residual wastes, vegetable wastes, and food wastes in the near future.

The Phinla project is spearheaded by organizations World Vision Development Foundation, EcoWaste Coalition, Kinaiyahan Foundation, and the Sustainable Davao Movement.

It is also funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Global Development. **ICM**



## Environmental groups raise plastic pollution awareness in PH

[July 19, 2022](#) 1 min read

In celebration of Plastic Free July, some environmentalists group launch a photo exhibit showcasing plastic pollution in the Philippines and a zero bazaar featuring viable alternatives to single-use plastic from various merchants which aims to heighten public awareness of single-use plastic production problems on Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Uptown Mall in Taguig City.



(Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BC/ai/mtvn)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064206931542/posts/pfbidohDPBqNATjTBgqds8dXcxHYQ55pMP2DiUg5Gf3PV50Tmr1yJacZsHTiv4pdteqQ2vl/?app=fbl>



## Angono, Rizal to implement plastic and styro ban starting Aug. 1

Published July 19, 2022, 10:01 AM

by [Nel Andrade](#)



Photo from ABAKA's Facebook page

Plastic and styrofoam materials for packaging of merchandise will soon be banned in the Art Capital of the Country starting August 1.

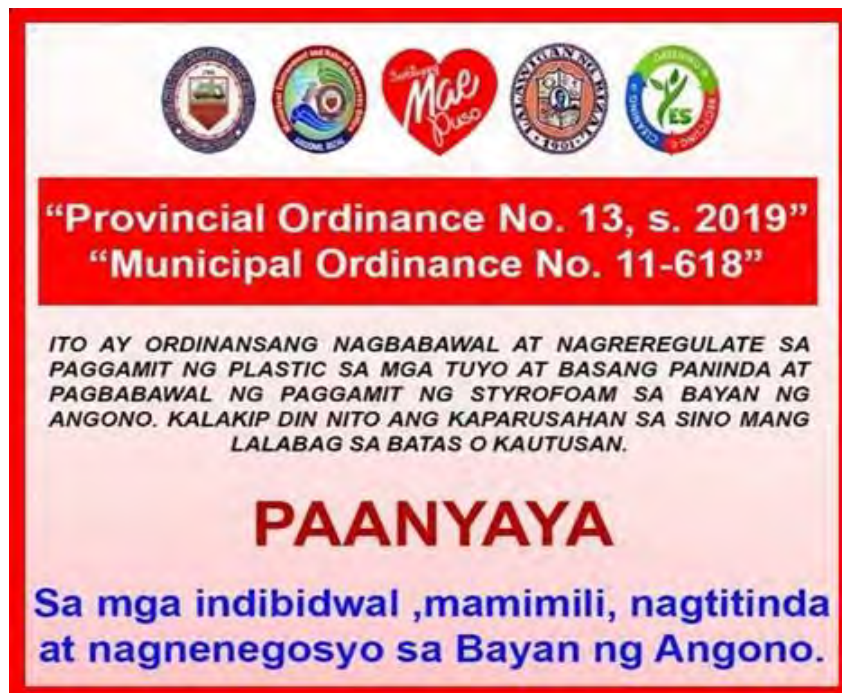
The office of Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon said Municipal Ordinance No. 11-618 which is scheduled to be implemented next month stipulates the prohibition on the use of styrofoam boxes, plastic bags and pouches as packaging of products including food items.

Calderon said the local issuance, which complements the town government's Zero Basura program that has been the advocacy of her father, Vice Mayor Gerardo Calderon even during his term as mayor of the municipality, has penalties ranging from P500 to P2,000 for the establishments and individuals, respectively, aside from the cancellation of business permit for repeat violations.





## Angono, Rizal to implement plastic and styro ban starting Aug. 1



There have been dozens of warnings in the form of notices of violation issued by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) against some establishments in the public market during the past weeks.

MENRO has also been reminding the public that the local plastic and styro ban is in conjunction with a similar issuance made by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, through Provincial Ordinance No. 13, Series of 2019, that regulates the use of non-biodegradable packaging in the entire province.

Mayor Calderon, in a Facebook post, said plastic and styro packagings have contributed a lot in clogging the waterways in the town that resulted in flooding in the past years.

MENRO's Facebook page, the Angono Bantay Kalikasan (ABAKA), revealed that authorities have found out that the compliance rate was high for both the establishments and the individuals with only a few violators defying the ordinance when MENRO personnel conducted an inspection at the Angono Public Market on July 17.



## Paradise reborn: Boracay named one of the World's Greatest Places of 2022

[Reuben Pio Martinez](#)

•Contributor

Mon, July 18, 2022 at 5:00 AM · 3 min read

A sand sculpture is seen along the beach, a day before the temporary closure of the holiday island Boracay, in the Philippines on April 25, 2018. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

[Boracay](#) earned another accolade after being named as one of TIME Magazine's [World's Greatest Places of 2022](#).

Boracay's inclusion [stems](#) from the international magazine "[soliciting] nominations of places from our international network of correspondents and contributors, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences."

Boracay's status as a popular vacation site is not without any merit. The island is popular for its white sandy beaches, as well as different resorts and tourist attractions. This [includes](#) the Sunken Forest (an environmentally ravaged forest patch at the south of Bulabog Beach), whose eerie allure captivates travelers.

However, the island's worsening environmental health led to the national government controversially [closing-off](#) Boracay from tourists for six months in 2018. A move that was [criticized](#) as being rushed and unnecessary, as rehabilitation efforts could have been done long before.

Despite this and [COVID-19 pandemic restrictions](#) limiting activities for tourists and local businesses, Charlie Campbell, in writing for TIME, was optimistic for Boracay's future, declaring it a "[paradise reborn](#)."

"As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence. Locals report the return of flora and fauna, like sea turtles, and hospitality has come back just as spectacularly," he concluded.

Even as the island opens for business, local and international tourists are [still not coming](#) in droves so as not to contract the COVID-19 virus. Boracay natives, some whose livelihoods were affected by the pandemic and some who only had government financial aid to latch onto, hope that more customers would come to keep their businesses afloat.



## Paradise reborn: Boracay named one of the World's Greatest Places of 2022

Greener on the other side



Tourists at White Beach amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Boracay Island, Aklan province, Philippines, November 30, 2021. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez

Speaking of the environmental situation in Boracay, Campbell said that “the once brilliant white sand and clear waters of Boracay Island were choking on the trash and traffic that comes from [two] million annual visitors. It reached a nadir in 2018, when Duterte closed down all tourism on the island for six months—an emergency Band-Aid for decades of ecological abuse.”



## Six-foot crocodile caught after taking bait in fish trap

By GMA News

Published July 19, 2022 10:42pm

A six-foot crocodile has been caught at a farm near a river in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

According to Joanne Ponsoy's report on "24 Oras", the crocodile took the bait in the trap meant for fish in Barangay Malis.

It took the residents an hour to control and tie up the crocodile.

The crocodile reportedly has been living in the river for a long time.

The local government unit tried but failed to capture it.

“Maraming nag-aalala gawa ng napakataas na tubig. Ngayon, marami talagang nag-aalala kaya lang eh siguro, inaaksyunan naman nila sabi ng taga munisipyo umaga at gabi raw pinapain naman nila para sinusubukang hulihin,” a resident said.

(Many are concerned about the deep water. Currently, a lot of people are really worried, but the municipality said they were taking action. Day and night, they were trying to catch it.)

The crocodile is now in the custody of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. -**Richa Noriega/NB, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/838708/six-foot-crocodile-caught-after-taking-bait-in-fish-trap/story/?fbclid=IwAR3XzzO9fs7moNsqMLhuXIBNYBPH46oDyzg9PRDrSKTDwZxMO3ZelzTMwqs>



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ONE News

11 hrs · 🌐

Sea turtle hatchlings released safely to sea 🌊

Around 53 sea turtle hatchlings were released safely to sea at Matina Aplaya in Davao City, in coordination with the Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. and the Philippine Coast Guard–Southeastern Mindanao.

The coastal area of Aboitiz Cleanergy Park has served as a nesting ground for the critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtles, where more than 7,000 hatchlings have been released since 2014.

📍 Davao Light and Power Co.



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/pfbid031XEPwSutzvPDzf5G5VimSagIL6UerSA7za2abcicZzTpTHkgeNw5kRRm3E2bTbbFI/?app=fbl>



## Full reversal in climate change

By [Malaya Business Insight](#)

-July 20, 2022

***‘These are nice policy statements but we have yet to see if the Marcos administration can transform them into concrete results.’***

IF the presentation of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno before the G20 is any indication, the Philippines will go all out in pursuing the world’s climate change policy, in cooperation with other nations in the Asian region.

Diokno affirmed that President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will continue pursuing a whole-of-nation approach in mitigating climate risks, as the country commits to be at the forefront of global climate action. The finance chief attended the G20 high-level breakfast discussion on climate change mitigation last July 16, during which he said 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,” Diokno said.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Twenty countries discussed climate-related policy levers to enable the transition towards greener economies. The G20 is composed of 19 countries plus the European Union which together comprises the world’s largest economies and around 60 percent of its population. The Philippines is not a member of G20 but it was invited by our neighbor Indonesia, which is this year’s chair and president of the group.

Diokno’s affirmation of the nation’s climate change policy is just a repeat of what President Marcos mentioned in his inaugural speech, when he identified plastic pollution and climate change as among critical issues his administration will address.

This is in stark contrast to — actually a full reversal of — the avowed policy for former President Rodrigo Duterte who had nothing but contempt for climate change because of his bias against the European Union and the United States. Under Marcos, the Philippines is expected to toe the line in connection with global warming, taking up the challenge along with most members of the international community.

To support the agenda of President Marcos, Diokno said the Department of Finance (DOF) is backing the passage of a bill that would either regulate or tax the use of single-use plastics. He said the DOF is also studying the imposition of a carbon tax in the country.

It is good to know, too, that the country is working with the Asian Development Bank to speed up our transition from coal to clean and renewable energy.

“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,” Diokno told the G20.

These are nice policy statements but we have yet to see if the Marcos administration can transform them into concrete results.



## Diokno to G20: PH will lead in climate action

[July 19, 2022](#) 3 min read

As part of joining efforts to implement climate action, the Philippines has been actively participating in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) which is being initiated at a critical juncture in our planet's history. (Photo: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)

By Tracy Cabrera

MANILA — With the Philippines committed to being at the forefront of global climate action, finance secretary Benjamin Diokno disclosed that President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. is decided on the government's objective of pursuing a whole-of-nation approach to mitigating climate risks.

In an official statement, the former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor pointed out to the Group of 20 that the country is one of the countries at highest risk for climate-related disasters and as such, it is determined to be a world leader in the fight against the crisis.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum that works to address global economic issues, including international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

It is composed of 19 countries plus the European Union, which, together, comprise the world's largest economies and account for around 60 percent of the world's population, 80 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP), and 75 to 80 percent of international trade.



## Diokno to G20: PH will lead in climate action

Last Saturday, July 16, finance ministers and central bank governors from the group's member countries discussed climate-related policy levers to enable the transition towards greener economies. The Philippines, though not a part of the G20, was invited to participate as a guest nation by the Indonesian government, which now leads the group, to share an overview of the country's climate policy agenda.

President Marcos, Jr., in his inaugural speech, identified plastic pollution and climate change as among the critical issues his administration will address, and on top of this, his predecessor President Rodrigo Duterte had previously set an ambitious commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030 despite contributing only 0.3 percent of the total global emissions.

To support the new chief executive's agenda on climate action, Secretary Diokno shared that the Department of Finance (DoF) is backing the passage of a bill that would either regulate or tax the use of single-use plastics.

Aside from this, he added that the DoF is also studying the imposition of a carbon tax in the country even as the government has already assembled a group of Filipino experts to help climate-vulnerable communities execute localized action plans.

"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," the finance chief concluded. (ai/mtvn)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064206931542/posts/pfbidowURypAmiGvs3mrMimgGFFexmSDYrQ5vFqvUC2meggRhX1mQc9sr9KpDjyic2yF9Kl/?app=fbl>





# Heatwaves currently roasting parts of Europe are a sign of climate change

Published July 19, 2022 4:08pm



Hotter, longer, more frequent. Heatwaves such as the one currently roasting much of Europe, or the record-shattering hot spell endured by India and Pakistan in March, are an unmistakable sign of climate change, experts said Monday.

## Humans to blame

"Every heatwave that we are experiencing today has been made hotter and more frequent because of human induced climate change," said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change.

"It's pure physics, we know how greenhouse gas molecules behave, we know there are more in the atmosphere, the atmosphere is getting warmer and that means we are expecting to see more frequent heatwaves and hotter heatwaves."

In recent years, advances in the discipline known as attribution science have allowed climatologists to calculate how much global heating contributes to individual extreme weather events.

The India-Pakistan heatwave, for example, was calculated to have been 30 times more likely with the more than 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming that human activity has caused since the mid-nineteenth century.

The heatwave that shattered records in North America in June 2021, leaving hundreds dead as temperatures soared to 50C in places, would have been virtually impossible without global heating.



## Heatwaves currently roasting parts of Europe are a sign of climate change

And the last major European heatwave, in 2019, was made 3C hotter by climate change.

"The increase in the frequency, duration, and intensity of these events over recent decades is clearly linked to the observed warming of the planet and can be attributed to human activity," the World Meteorological Organisation said in a Monday statement.

### Worse to come

However unbearable temperatures get this week, scientists are unanimous: There is worse to come.

At 1.5C of warming — the most ambitious Paris climate agreement goal — UN climate scientists calculate that heatwaves will be more than four times more likely than the pre-industrial baseline.

At 2C or warming, that figure reaches 5.6 times more likely, and at 4C heatwaves will be nearly 10 times more likely to occur.

Despite three decades of UN-led negotiations, countries' climate plans currently put Earth on course to warm a "catastrophic" 2.7C, according to the UN.

Matthieu Sorel, a climatologist at Meteo-France, said that climate change was already influencing the frequency and severity of heatwaves.

"We're on the way to hotter and hotter summers, where 35C becomes the norm and 40C will be reached regularly," he said.

### Danger of death

The heatwaves of the future depend largely on how rapidly the global economy can decarbonise.

The UN's climate science panel has calculated that 14 percent of humanity will be hit with dangerous heat every five years on average with 1.5C of warming, compared with 37 percent at 2C.

"In all of places in the world where we have data there is an increase in mortality risk when we are exposed to high temperatures," said Eunice Lo, a climate scientist at the University of Bristol's Cabot Institute for the Environment.

It's not only the most vulnerable people who are at risk of health impacts from heat, it's even the fit and healthy people who will be at risk."

There is a real risk in future of so-called "wet bulb" temperatures -- where heat combines with humidity to create conditions where the human body cannot cool itself via perspiration -- breaching lethal levels in many parts of the world.

As well as the imminent threat to human health, heatwaves compound drought and make larger areas vulnerable to wild fires, such as those now raging across parts of France, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Morocco.



## Heatwaves currently roasting parts of Europe are a sign of climate change

They also menace the food supply.

India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, chose to ban grain exports after the heatwave impacted harvests, worsening a shortage in some countries prompted by Russia's invasion of key exporter Ukraine. — **Agence France-Presse**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/838650/heatwaves-currently-roasting-parts-of-europe-are-a-sign-of-climate-change/story/?fbclid=IwAR2qgr3tcfkhc69ufkThvxy\\_jD4DCOeSlMwAV8VtgWenMVWcdvqDGzTSoX4](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/838650/heatwaves-currently-roasting-parts-of-europe-are-a-sign-of-climate-change/story/?fbclid=IwAR2qgr3tcfkhc69ufkThvxy_jD4DCOeSlMwAV8VtgWenMVWcdvqDGzTSoX4)



## Why we need more parks in Metro Manila

URBANISTA



By [Daphne Oseña-Paez](#)

July 20, 2022



Photo taken from an airplane window in 2015 shows the Pasig urban area, completely built up with no trees or green spaces. PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

JUST recently our residential community in Parañaque sprung ideas of building over our existing village park. It's a precious open green space in an approximately 500-meter perimeter spot surrounded by decades-old trees. It is the center of our neighborhood life. It has a multipurpose pergola that served as our community pop-up market during the pandemic and doubles up as a site for Zumba and community meetings. Now there are new ideas of building a swimming pool and an artificial turf for football. While I support the idea of promoting sports, I am concerned about converting an already rare gem, open green space, into a paved and built-up sports facility that can't be properly maintained anyway. I have become a vocal park advocate in my community.

In 2015, a photo I took out of the plane window as we took off from [Manila](#) went viral. I had posted it on my [Instagram](#) on June 12, 2015 while on a 90-minute layover in [Vancouver](#). By the time I landed in [Toronto](#), the post had gone viral. It was a random photo out of the Pasig-Taguig flight path showing an urban area completely built up with no trees or green spaces. Every news agency from CNN to GMA7 to TV5 carried the story. People were shocked at the density and lack of open



## Why we need more parks in Metro Manila

spaces. The [Red Cross](#) also used my photo as a start to discussions on preparing for the possibility of a big earthquake.

One of the most obvious lessons we collectively learned during the lockdowns the past two years is the need for parks. Outdoor recreational activities like walking, running and biking can heal a person's physical and mental health. Being around nature can heal not just one's breathing but also one's state of mind. Prior to the pandemic I had already come to the realization that [Metro](#) Manila was in dire need of parks. The memorial parks in Parañaque turn into jogging trails. The sidewalks near [Heritage Park](#) in Taguig used to be a meeting place for bikers, skaters and joggers. On weekends, the streets around the CCP complex are bustling with sports and recreation. [Rizal Park](#), our only accessible urban park, is widely used by a diverse demographic. One can still find families flying kites near the Quirino Grandstand on weekends.

A high-profile case of urban park preservation was the [Arroceros Park](#) in the city of Manila. Various local government administrations and departments kept eyeing to develop on that precious 2.2 hectare wooded park. In 2003, then Manila Mayor [Lito Atienza](#) approved an office building at the cost of killing some 200 trees. In 2018 Mayor [Joseph Estrada](#) planned on putting up a university gym on the site. Arroceros Park has very vocal and involved saviors and warriors. It is, after all, considered Manila's last lung with various mature trees creating a beautiful cool canopy.

In 2020 then Manila Mayor [Isko Moreno](#) signed Ordinance 8607 declaring Arroceros a permanent forest park, allocating P1 million for the park's maintenance. These lofty aspirations sounded good on paper but were met with resistance from environmentalist groups when cement walkways were built and rumors of cutting trees circulated. There were disagreements with how the park was being developed, but somehow all sides met halfway. The dialogue between concerned groups and the local government continues while the Arroceros [Urban Forest Park](#) was officially inaugurated in February of this year.

There are only a few remaining green spaces in the metropolis other than memorial parks, private golf courses and a polo field. We are just emerging out of the lockdown conditions of the past two years. There is not only a need to preserve the remaining green spaces in the city, but also a dire need to convert open spaces into green spaces. This means not paving over gardens and parks. There are many activities that can be enjoyed in a park without having to pave over it like organized sports, running, gardening, hiking.

Some of the benefits of a community park include:

- Parks help improve our physical and psychological health.
- They strengthen our communities when they become a shared stewardship.
- They generally make a place more attractive to live and work in.
- Trees help store run-off and groundwater by absorbing rain. This helps relieve pressure from our already congested city drains.
- Trees and green spaces protect communities from floods.



## Why we need more parks in Metro Manila

– Native tree varieties like narra, ylang-ylang, katmon, banaba and others not only protect the biodiversity of our area, they also give beautiful flowers seasonally. They are wonderful as landscaping greenery.

– Parks generally increase the property values of communities and lots nearby.

It is time we stop seeing parks as idle land. They are not idle and useless. They are just parks. And parks are a precious and valuable resource that enhance the quality of life of citizens, not just health-wise but also in terms of real estate value. There should be a move to more greening of vacant lots. Local governments should consider supporting community nurseries so people can plant more trees. Create safe walkways and trails. Provide eco-friendly low lighting mechanisms.

One doesn't need to always do anything at a park. This is why the picture of a park bench in a flowering garden surrounded by trees is still the quintessential poster image of a healthy quality of life in the city.



## CSC, HANDA NA TULUNGAN ANG MGA EMPEYADONG MAAPEKTUHAN NG RIGHTSIZING NG GOBYERNO

by [Judith Estrada-Larino](#) July 19, 2022



Handa ang CSC (Civil Service Commission) na tulungan ang mga empleyadong maaapektuhan ng rightsizing ng gobyerno.

Ipinabatid ni CSC Commissioner Aileen Lizada na bahala na silang ilipat ang mga maaapektuhang empleyado depende sa kuwalipikasyon at kakayahan.

Sinabi ni Lizada na makikipag ugnayan sila sa DBM para tulungan ang mga ahensyang nangangailangan ng organizational review.



## A department devoted to disaster management

Published July 20, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Rikki Mathay](#)

### THE RIGHT MOVE



It is frustrating when we see how the Philippines is oftentimes depicted in international media as impoverished, with some local movies released through international outlets highlighting the shanties, for instance. But as these issues may merely be sensationalized for ratings purposes, it is a fact that our country is one of the world's most disaster-prone areas in the world. Blame it on our natural geography as the Philippines is located along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt making our islands prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and droughts.

As the rainy season has made itself more pronounced with the daily thunderstorms we have been experiencing, the seemingly irresolvable problem of flooding rises up yet again, literally and figuratively speaking.

Just the past weekend, I was stuck in standstill traffic along Araneta Avenue as Metro Manila and other parts of the country were swamped with floods triggered by a thunderstorm. Chest-deep floodwater kept vehicles from moving forward. Fortunately, those lucky enough to be at the tail end of traffic agreed to reverse, and we were able to move out of the jam.

In a study made by the University of the Philippines Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH), the problem of urban flooding is not a matter which cannot be solved. Using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)-derived topography, flood simulations and anecdotal reports, UP NOAH detected the root of surface flood problems; the majority of flood-prone areas are along the intersection of creeks and streets located in topographic lows. So, when creeks, which we have an abundance of overflow, or when streets suddenly got flooded, intersecting roads get flooded too. Some of the most effective solutions include elevating roads. Designs of drainage structures leading to creeks must also be revisited.

For now, we have the National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Council (NDRRMC), responsible for ensuring the protection and welfare of the people during disasters or emergencies. This council is a working group of various government, non-government, civil sector and private sector organizations. But seeing the vexation caused by flooding and consequential traffic congestion, not to mention the billions of pesos lost daily due to congested Metro Manila roads, it is high time the national government establishes a separate department dedicated to addressing calamities and disasters even before they strike.

This brings me back to when I was working at the Philippine Senate and advocated for a bill passed by Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito. As a Philippine Red Cross disaster director, I was





## A department devoted to disaster management

excited to see the bill that seeks the creation of a permanent disaster management department. Sadly, however, this was not passed into law.

Now that Ejercito is back in the Senate, hopes are high that this bill can finally be legislated as it will solely focus on disaster management.

I remember Ejercito saying he will pursue the advocacy once re-elected in the same manner that he pursued the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development which is now a law.

As our nation faces the inevitable, disaster preparedness cannot be tabled much longer. While the Philippine government has been said to develop a certain resiliency through coping mechanisms whenever disaster strikes, a study by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative reveals the significant gaps in disaster management capacities across different regions of the Philippines. A separate department devoted to disaster management and preparedness can address preventive measures and solutions to these problems, and hopefully preventions and solutions can finally address.

20 JULY 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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# Manila Standard



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**NEW DENR CHIEF.** President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr. presided over the swearing-in of Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



## Incoming new DENR head welcomed

Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) and Maynilad Water Services Inc. welcomed the designation of Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, MTFI, represented by its Chairman Emeritus Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco and President and Executive Director Mr. Melandrew T. Velasco, said the nomination of Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga to head the government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources is a laudable step by the new administration.

Yulo-Loyzaga was to take her oath of office yesterday, 19 July.

For his part, Maynilad president Ramoncito S. Fernandez said "we welcome the appointment of Secretary Yulo and she is an ally, especially in our common advocacy of reducing carbon emissions. We support her advocacies on climate change and disaster resilience."

He made the statement of support at the launching of Maynilad's Road to 1 Million Trees planted in 15 years as part of its 15th year celebration as water concessionaire of the West Zone and for the Annual Million Trees Challenge of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Fernandez said that Maynilad is aiming for Climate Neutrality by year 2037 which he described as an ambitious target.



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## PBBM swears in Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

By RUTH ABBEY  
GITA-CARLOS

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

The oath-taking ceremony was held at Malacañan Palace's Study Room, the Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) said in a Facebook post.

RTVM also released a short video clip of Yulo-Loyzaga's oath-taking before Marcos.

Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination as the DENR chief was first announced by Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles on July 12.

Yulo-Loyzaga served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where

she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

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

She was also part of the Senior Advisory Board of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College.

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

Yulo-Loyzaga's appointment came as the environment is still faced with several challenges, including disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss and for-



**DENR CHIEF** — President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. administers the oath of office to Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Malacañan Palace's Study Room on Tuesday (July 19, 2022). Yulo-Loyzaga served as chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience. *Screengrab from RTVM*

estry, DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto Adobo Jr. earlier said.

Adobo, nevertheless, assured Yulo-Loyzaga that

the DENR personnel are ready to work with her for the "effective" implementation of environmental laws, programs, and projects under the Marcos administration. PNA



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## NEWS BRIEF

### Bagong DENR sec nanumpa kay Marcos

Pinanumpa na sa tungkulin ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. si Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga bilang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ginanap ang oath taking ni Loyzaga sa Study Room ng Malacañang kahapon.

Si Loyzaga ay dating Chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan isinulong nito ang scientific research sa climate change and di-

saster resilience.

Naging Executive Director si Loyzaga ng Manila Observatory at naging technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Naging miyembro rin ang DENR secretary ng Senior Advisory Board ng General Staff College ng Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Kasama ni Loyzaga ang kanyang asawang dating basketballista na si Chito Loyzaga at anak na babae nang manumpa. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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## Million Trees supports Yulo appointment

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## IN BRIEF

### DENR reclassifies 4 new caves for conservation

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has approved the reclassification of four caves in Abra, Quezon and Albay for proper management and conservation.

Its Biodiversity Management Bureau, and regional and provincial offices, reclassified from Class I to Class II the Ganway Cave in Barangay Malam-sit, Penarrubia town and the Quitinday Cave in Barangay Quitinday, Jovellar town, both in Albay.

Sung Wan Cave in Brgy. Lawigue, Tayabas City, Quezon was also reclassified from Class I to Class II.

**Rio N. Araja**



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## Villar foundation cops award for environmental advocacies

A FOUNDATION established by the business-political Villar family based in Las Pinas City has copped an award from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for “dedication, continuous support and esteemed contributions towards a cleaner, healthier and greener environment.”

The Villar Sipag, put up by the family of Sen. Cynthia Villar as a vehicle for

their environmental advocacies, was conferred the award in ceremony held July 14 at the Manila Hotel in conjunction with the DENR’s Environmental Summit and Exhibit 2022.

In her keynote address, Villar thanked DENR for the award and vowed to continue cultivating awareness and encouraging the engagement of stakeholders to reduce and properly manage waste.

“We appreciate the recognition because it validates our commitment that we are doing something right for the environment and we are looking forward for other communities to follow our lead,” said Villar during the summit with the theme, “Strengthening Waste Management for a Healthier Environment.”

She also lauded the organizers for highlighting during the event the solid waste

management best practices that may be replicated by local government units, communities, and private entities nationwide.

Over the past years, Villar related that she and Villar Sipag have established barangay-based livelihood enterprises that are models of proper waste management and good examples of how garbage can be turned into useful end-products.

**Macon Ramos-Araneta**



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## WATER SAMPLING.

Laguna Water's laboratory receives a certification from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to analyze water samples for chemical oxygen demand, fecal coliform, total coliform, true color, pH, settleable solids, temperature, total dissolved solids and suspended solids. The certificate allows Laguna Water to conduct tests and analyses on environmental samples for private companies and individuals, NGOs, and other government agencies and local government units.





## 412 MONITORING SAMPLING STATIONS MAY IBA'T IBANG ANYO NG TUBIG SA METRO MANILA

NAITALA ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) na bumaba ang fecal coliform levels sa Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros River System mula 3.7 billion MPN/100mL ay naging 4.8 million MPN/100mL. Gayun din ang tubig malapit sa Navotas Fishport, mula 920,000 MPN/100mL paba ng 9,200 MPN/100mL.

Kahit na ang readings ay

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

Ang Class SB ay klasipikasyon ng DENR para sa coastal areas at waters kung saan ang publiko ay ligtas



REMATE OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

na makaliligo, makalalangoy, skin diving, at iba pang katu-lad na recreational activities.

"Reaching the 100 MPN/100mL standard is not impos-sible through our solid waste management strategies, geoengineering interventions, and with the establish-ment of our real-time online water quality monitoring sys-tem," sabi ni EMB-NCR Re-gional Director Michael Drake P. Matias.

Binabantayan ng EMB-NCR ang 412 monitoring sampling stations na nasa iba't ibang anyong tubig sa Metro Manila.

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

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

Nagsasagawa rin ang EMB-NCR ng monitoring ka-da buwan ng 133 na ista-syon kabilang ang Manila Bay

river outfalls at Marikina River.

Katuwang ang EMB-Region III at EMB-Region IV-A, nagsasagawa din ng quar-terly monitoring ng 206 sta-tions kabilang ang Navotas River Shipyard at Manila Bay shoreline.

May 32 stations, kasama ang Estero de Marala, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Vi-tas, at Estero de Sunog Apog, ang binabantayan semi-annually.

Ang EMB-NCR ay naka-gawa na ng online water qual-ity monitoring system sa ka-nilang website upang mas madaling makita ng publiko.

Pinaliwanag ni Matias na ang data system ay maka-pagbibigay ng impormasyon at kaalaman sa publiko sa pamamagitan ng kasaluku-yang lagay at trend of water quality sa mga creeks at anyong tubig sa Metro Ma-nila.

Ito ay magsisilbing ba-sehan sa pagbuo ng mga polisiya, plano at regulasyon upang mapigilan ang polus-yon sa tubig sa loob ng na-sasakupan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.



TITLE:

SHANE MCLENDON-UNSPASH



## Miners call on gov't to provide stable environment, spell out ESG best practices

**MINERS** have asked the government to provide a stable environment and to specify how the industry can best comply with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

"We hope for nothing less than a stable business environment to allow mineral resource development to flourish, the harmonization of national and local laws to avoid conflicts, and the promotion as well as reporting of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) best practices for resource development," Philex Mining Corp. said in a Viber message.

The listed miner said that "through responsible and sustainable means, mining has the potential to contribute to economic growth and national development."

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno has said that the government is hoping to accelerate the revival of the mining industry, the operations of which were disrupted by the Duterte administration, which found large parts of the industry non-compliant with environmental rules. The government before that had declared a moratorium on new mining permits.

Last year, then President Rodrigo R. Duterte lifted the nine-year-old permit moratorium and lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

In 2021, the mining and quarrying industry posted output growth of 5.0%, accelerating from 2.6% in 2020, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

"It has always been our strong belief that responsible mineral development, when allowed to flourish, could substantially contribute to economic recovery, particularly in increasing government revenue, job generation,

and poverty alleviation that are most needed in this time of pandemic and beyond," Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Chairman Michael T. Toledo said in a statement.

On the opposite of the issue, Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), an advocacy group, said the environmental consequences of mining outweigh its economic benefits.

"A revitalization of the mining industry could only lead to food and water insecurity, land-use changes, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, air and water pollution and the displacement of communities," ATM National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera said in a statement.

Mr. Garganera said that environmental concerns should be one of the government's priorities in its economic recovery program.

"Ignoring the harmful environmental consequences of mining in the drive to revitalize the mining industry could only do more damage to the economy," he said.

"It is imperative that alternatives to mining be pursued if the government truly wants to revive the economy. These include: agroforestry, eco-tourism and watershed development, agriculture and fisheries, and community-based enterprises," he added.

ATM called for the full disclosure of all the mine audit reports and the immediate review of these mine audits.

"The new administration must immediately convene an environmental summit that will involve affected communities and environmental groups in order to assess and craft this administration's environmental and climate program," it added. —

**Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsón**



## USAid gives grant to waste collector in QC

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAid) awarded its "first" business expansion grant to a woman waste collector to help her start her own door-to-door waste collection livelihood.

The USAid provided about P50,000 or \$888 worth of waste collection equipment to Riza Santoyo, 34, from Quezon City, the US Embassy in the Philippines said on Tuesday.

The grant was made through its Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program and its Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment Activity, the embassy said in a statement.

The USAid extended the grant to Santoyo in partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Quezon City government, World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-Philippines) and EcoWaste Coalition.

"We recognize that women in the waste sector are talented, hard-working, critical members of our global communities and deserve equal access to opportunities to establish or grow their waste livelihoods or businesses," said USAid Philippines Deputy Mission Director Rebekah Eubanks.

The majority of women in the waste sector serve in informal positions as waste collectors, owners, or employees of small recycling centers, junk shops and upcycling enterprises, the embassy said.

These women are "often underpaid and undervalued despite their contributions to preventing plastic litter from reaching the ocean," it pointed out.

"We are very proud of Riza for the business grant she received and

for being an inspiration to us," said Quezon City Mayor Maria Josefina "Joy" Belmonte.

"We also thank USAid, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, WWF-Philippines, and EcoWaste Coalition for being our partners in empowering and uplifting the lives of women waste collectors in our city," she said in a statement.

The embassy said the USAid's Women in Waste's Economic Empowerment Activity aims to "level the playing field and empower women" to become leaders in the sector and in their communities.

Since 2021, USAid and its partners have supported 167 women in the waste sector by increasing access to training, mentoring, funding and business opportunities.

USAid launched its CCBO program in August 2019 to respond to the ocean plastics pollution crisis. The five-year program, amounting to P2.7 billion or \$48 million, targets "rapidly urbanizing countries" like the Philippines to address ocean plastics directly at their source.

By strengthening waste management systems and building circular economies, city by city, the program builds sustainable solutions that reduce ocean plastics while empowering vulnerable populations and mitigating pollution that affects human health and the climate, the embassy said.

"We are committed to helping Filipino women in the waste sector become successful entrepreneurs and improve their lives," said Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines President Ma. Cecilia Alcantara.

**BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO**



# Mayor Honey inaugurates new MRF

MANILA City Mayor Maria Sheilah "Honey" Lacuna-Pangan led the inauguration of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), a plant that would convert trash into usable by-products, on Monday at Manila Zoo in Adriatico St., Malate.

Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan was joined by Department of Public Services (DPS) Officer-in-Charge Kayle Nicole Amurao during the inauguration of the facility that will provide proper and sustainable solid waste management.

The material recovery facility, which was started to put up under the leadership of Lacuna and former Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso has a bioreactor, biocomposter, and two units of biodegradable waste shredder, all of which were donated by Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau of the National Capital Region (DENR-EMB-NCR) and the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI).

In her message, Mayor Lacuna expressed the importance of the recovery facility built inside the Manila Zoo.

"Ito pong material recovery facility ay isinasagawa natin para po sa patuloy na pagrerecycle natin at magawa po nating mas kapaki-pakinabang muli ang ilang bagay na sa tingin po natin ay wala ng silbi," Mayor Lacuna said.

The city chief executive said the MRF is capable of processing biodegradable waste, recyclable waste, and residual with potential into items which may be up-cycled into usable materials for livelihood or for reuse.

Byproducts made by the "Tarpaulin mo, Iresiklo ko" project are usable items such as eco bags, fans, pouches, and other household items which may be used at home or given as a gift.

Soil conditioner or fertilizer meanwhile is the byproduct of a combination of animal manure from Manila Zoo, dried leaves from those collected on the streets, and leftover vegetables collected in Divisoria.

DPS OIC Kayle Nicole Amurao on the other hand said the soil conditioners are distributed in various organizations and may also be bought by common consumers for 10 pesos per kilogram.

A total of 29,806 kilograms of biodegradable wastes have been processed by the bioreactor



Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan and DPS OIC Kayle Nicole Amurao during the ribbon cutting ceremony and inauguration of the Material Recovery Facility at the Manila Zoo.  
Photo by Jon-Jon Reyes

since January 24, while 15,384 kilograms in total for the biocomposter since

April 11 of this year.

Amurao said those who want to order in bulk

fertilizer may contact the DPS Operations Division at 5310-1261. Edd Reyes



## MRF pormal na binuksan nina Mayor Honey, DPS OIC

**PINANGUNAHAN** ni Manila Mayor Maria Shellah "Honey" Lacuna-Pangan ang seremonya ng pagputol ng laso sa pagbubukas ng Material Recovery Facility (MRF), isang planta na magagamt upang gawing kapaki-pakinabang ang mga itatapon ng basura.

Kasama ni Mayor Honey Lacuna sa inagurasyon ng bagong planta na itinayo sa loob ng Manila Zoo sa Adriatico St. Malate si Department of Public Service (DPS) officer-in-charge Kayle Nicole Amurao na magiging daan din upang mai-wasto at kapakipakinabang ang pamamahala sa basura.

Ang naturang pasilidad na inumpisahang itayo sa panahon nina dating Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso at Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna ay may mga kagamitan tulad ng bioreactor, biocomposer at dalawang unit ng biodegradable waste shredder na ipinagkaloob ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau of the National Capital Region (DENR-EMB-NCR) at ng Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI).

Sa kanyang mensahe ng pagsuporta, inihayag ni Mayor Honey ang kahalagahan ng naturang pasilidad sa loob ng Manila Zoo.

"Ito pong material recovery facility ay isinasagawa natin para po sa patuloy na pagrerecycle natin at magawa po nating mas kapaki-pakinabang muli ang ilang bagay na sa tingin po natin ay wala ng silbi," pahayag ng alkalde.

Idinugtong pa ng alkalde na kayang mag-proseso ng biodegradable waste, recyclable waste at iba pang nalalabing basura ang itinayong planta na puwedeng pakinabangan, magamit o maibebenta pa.

Ang mga produktong gawa sa proyektong "Tarpaulin mo, Iresesiklo ko" ay magiging kapaki-pakinabang na kagamitan tulad ng eco bags, pamaypay, lagayan ng barya at iba pang gamit pambahay na puwedeng gamitin o ipang-regalo.



**Pinangunahan** nina Manila Mayor Maria Shellah "Honey" Lacuna-Pangan at Department of Public Service (DPS) officer-in-charge Kayle Nicole Amurao ang pagbubukas ng Material Recovery Facility. Mga kuha ni JON-JON REYES

Makakalikha rin ang planta ng pataba sa pananim mula naman sa mga dumi ng hayop na nasa Manila Zoo, mga tuyong dahon na nakolekta sa mga lansangan at mga patapon at nabubulok na gulay na makukuha sa Divisoria.

Sinabi ni DPS-OIC Amurao na ang mga pataba sa pananim ay kanilang ibabahagi sa iba't-ibang mga organisasyon habang puwede rin silang magbenta sa mga nagnanais bumili sa halagang P10 kada kilo.

Mula noong Enero 24, 2022, may kabuuang 29,806 kilogram na biodegradable na basura ang na-proseso na ng bioreactor sa naturang planta habang 15,384 kilo naman ang kabuuang na-proseso ng biocomposer mula lamang nitong Abril 11.

Sinabi ni Amurao na sa mga nagnanais na bumili ng malaking bulto ng pataba sa pananim, mangyari lamang na makipag-ugnayan sa DPS Operation Division o tumawag sa numero 5310-1261.

Edd Reyes





## MRF sa Maynila pinasinayaan

**PINASINAYAAN** ni Manila Mayor Maria Sheilah "Honey" Lacuna-Pangan ang isang Material Recovery Facility na magagamit upang gawing kapaki-pakinabang ang mga itatapon ng basura.

Pinangunahan ni Mayor Honey Lacuna ang "ribbon cutting ceremony" sa bagong planta na itinayo sa loob ng Manila Zoo sa Adriatico St. Malate kasama si Department of Public Service officer-in-charge Kayle Nicole Amurao na magiging daan din upang maiwasto at maging kapaki-pakinabang ang pamamahala sa basura.

Ang naturang pasilidad na inumpisahang itayo sa panahon nina dating Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso at Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna ay may mga kagamitan tulad ng bioreactor, biocomposer at dalawang unit ng biodegradable waste shredder na ipinagkaloob ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Environmental Management Bureau of the National Capital Region at ng Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute.

Sa talumpati ni Lacuna, inihayag nito ang kahalagahan ng naturang pasilidad sa loob ng Manila Zoo.

"Ito pong material recovery facility ay isinasagawa natin para po sa patuloy na pagre-recycle natin at magawa po nating mas kapaki-pakinabang muli ang ilang bagay na sa tingin po natin ay wala ng silbi," pahayag ng alkalde.

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Ayon naman kay DPS-OIC Amurao, na ang mga pataba sa pananim ay kanilang ibabahagi sa iba't ibang mga organisasyon habang puwede rin silang magbenta sa mga nagnanais bumili sa halagang P10 kada kilo.

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JAY REYES



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## 'Managing risks key to climate resilience'

MANAGING climate risks is key to building climate resilience, thus urgent and drastic changes must be made to arrest the worsening climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said.

The climate body explained that climate-related risks are potential negative impacts that people may experience because of climate change — from extreme weather events like floods, typhoons and heatwaves — to slow-onset events like rising sea levels, ocean acidification, desertification and the loss of biodiversity.

"We have to make it clear that resilience is not just about withstanding disasters again and again. It's about being able to anticipate and adapt. It's about preparing, not just about responding," CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said in a webinar organized by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) during the Philippine Sustainability Month recently.

"As a developing country, there are risks for the Philippines because we are more vulnerable to hazards, the greater majority of our people also have less means to cope and to bounce back in the event of disasters. With climate change accelerating, these risks will only multiply and worsen," she added.

CCC Secretary Robert E.A. Borje earlier said that in order to build the resilience capacities of communities, climate policies, programs and projects and promotions must be anchored on the principle of "Building Right At First Sight" to ensure the optimal use of limited resources to science- and evidence-based priority climate change programs.

Herrera explained that there are four broad approaches in managing climate risks.

First is through mitigation, which means cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions, by using renewable energy or biking and walking instead of using cars, as well as refusing single-use plastics.

Second is through adaptation, which means improving the capacity to prepare, respond and recover from climate impacts by establishing multi-hazard early warning systems, rainwater harvesting, starting seed banks, reforesting mangroves, cultivating rooftop gardens, building roadside ditches and sea walls, and having practice drills for disaster response and preparedness.

She also mentioned geo-engineering or climate engineering, which is the large-scale modification of climate through solar radiation management and carbon sequestration.

Lastly, expanding one's knowledge base to learn and understand more about the country's climate by integrating science in the policymaking tables and to the communities will strengthen resilience efforts better.

Herrera also cited the Department of Science and Technology's (DoST) Hazard-HunterPH, the country's one-stop shop for seismic, volcanic or hydrometeorologic hazards, as one of the best examples of how the country can improve the way it addresses the risks.

"The challenge now is to bring this kind of awareness, this kind of proactive action on addressing climate risk, to a wider scale, reaching especially our last mile communities," the official said.

"We face immense challenges; the hazards ahead threaten our lives and our livelihoods, our families and our futures; but we are not helpless. We in the CCC are hopeful that we can ramp up our capacity to manage climate risks wherever we are. In doing so, we can chart a path towards a safer and truly more resilient future for all Filipinos," she added.

**KRISTINA MARALIT**



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# PH to be a world leader in climate action

**FINANCE** Sec. Benjamin Diokno said that President Marcos, would continue pursuing a whole-of-nation approach in mitigating climate risks, as the country commits to be at the forefront of global climate action.

"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," Diokno said at a G20 high-level breakfast discussion on climate change mitigation held last Saturday.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum that works to address global economic issues, including international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

It is composed of 19 countries plus the European Union, which, together, comprises the world's largest economies, accounting for around 60 percent of the world's population, 80 percent of global gross domestic product, and 75 to 80 percent of international trade.

Last Saturday, finance ministers and central bank governors from the group's member countries discussed climate-related policy levers to enable the transition towards greener economies.

The Philippines is not part of the

G20 but was invited to participate as a guest nation by the Indonesian government to share an overview of the country's climate policy agenda. Indonesia is the current chair and president of the group.

Marcos, in his inaugural speech, identified plastic pollution and climate change as among critical issues his administration will address.

On top of this, the government previously set an ambitious commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030 despite contributing only 0.3 percent of the total global emissions.

To support the agenda of the President, the Finance chief said the department is backing the passage of a bill that would either regulate or tax the use of single-use plastics.

He said that the DoF is also studying the imposition of a carbon tax in the country.

He added that the government has assembled a group of Filipino experts to help climate-vulnerable communities execute localized action plans.

Diokno told the G20 that the government is working together with the international community, such as its ongoing partnership with the Asian Development Bank, to quicken the country's transition from coal to clean energy.



Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno

"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," he added.

The ADB has partnered with the Philippines and Indonesia in rolling out the Energy Transition Mechanism project, which aims to accelerate the transition of countries in Southeast Asia from coal to green energy.

The ETM facility was announced and launched at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties in October of last year.

Diokno told the G20 that, considering the country's vulnerability in climate-related disasters, the government had made climate finance a strategic policy priority.

"Our climate finance initiatives will

promote a sustainable orchestration of grants, investments, and subsidies," he said.

Currently, the government is mobilizing climate finance through the Green Force, an interagency task force co-led by the DoF and the Bangko Sentral.

The task force is in charge of implementing the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap, with the goal of bridging policy and regulatory gaps in promoting sustainable investments.

The Finance chief said the country has drawn in strong support from multilateral partners and investors for its climate finance initiatives.

He said it is one of the pioneers in climate policy development financing with the signing of the \$250 million policy-based loan for the Climate Change Action Program, Subprogram 1 with the Asian Development Bank last June. CCAP1 was the ADB's first-ever climate change policy-based loan.

He said the country recently issued its first-ever sustainability global bonds and sustainability samurai bonds, which were all met with strong demand despite volatility in the global markets.

In March 2022, it 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

country's first triple tranche US dollar offering.

The 25-year Global Bonds worth \$1 billion were issued under the government's Sustainable Finance Framework and marks the country's debut Environmental, Social, and Governance Global Bonds offering.

This was followed in April 2022 by the country's successful return to the Samurai market with its JPY 70.1 billion (\$600 million) offering of multi-tranche five-year, seven-year, 10-year, and 20-year Sustainability bonds with an ESG label across all four tranches. This is the first-ever ASEAN Sustainability bond transaction issued by the country in the Samurai bond market.

Proceeds from the sustainability bonds would help fund the government's general budget and finance/refinance assets in line with the Philippines' Sustainable Finance Framework.

Diokno, however, recognized that while there is a shift to more sustainable activities domestically, the country cannot solve climate change alone and without conscientious and orchestrated actions by all nations.

"The Philippines, therefore, commits to be at the forefront of the global movement for climate justice. We stand in solidarity with all nations in calling for concrete and equitable climate action," he said.



## 'Inventory of gov't staff, posts needed before rightsizing'

By SHEILA CRISOSTOMO

A rigorous inventory of the staff and positions in the government must be undertaken before implementing the rightsizing of the bureaucracy, according to Marikina 2nd District Rep. Stella Quimbo.

In an interview with "The Chiefs" aired on *One News* last Monday night, Quimbo said a thorough assessment of every government office must be done to get a clear picture of the bureaucracy.

"It will require getting a list of the positions to determine if there is a need to have additional position or abolish a certain position. If we shift to digital technology, for instance, most likely we have to create new staff positions that require new skill sets," she added.

The lawmaker noted that at present, there is no data on "baseline situation" in the government, which is needed to jumpstart the rightsizing.

Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman earlier announced that the DBM is supporting a proposal to rightsize the government to have a lean, efficient and responsive workforce.

Pangandaman claimed that this is intended to achieve a smaller but "agile and responsive" bureaucracy that is responsive to the modern times.

Quimbo said the goal of rightsizing is to have an "optimal size of the bureaucracy" to utilize the least number of resources, but without compromising the

mandate of a certain government agency.

The lawmaker, however, acknowledged that the situations in different agencies could differ, with one agency overstaffed while another is not.

"Rightsizing means we really have to study it thoroughly. There should be no more, no less, no outdated positions, no redundant positions. Positions that can be consolidated but are being done by two or three persons, why not consolidate them so we can have savings?" she said.

She added that to prevent the displacement of employees, two mechanisms could be employed: retirement or early retirement and "retooling."

Quimbo maintained that employees holding positions that have been identified for abolition could be offered to retire.

On the other hand, "retooling" could be an option for those holding positions that will be affected by digitalization.

"There are certain positions that are manual that may have to be abolished if the agency makes the determination that they can better fulfill their mandate if they go digital... If we go digital and assert that some positions may have to be abolished, most likely, new positions will have to be created," the lawmaker said.

She added that what is important is to get the "right mix" that will be beneficial to taxpayers who are not satisfied with the services of the government.



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Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU Regional Office No. XIII Km. 2 National Highway, Surigao City Tel. No. (+6384) 826-5234; Fax No. (+6384) 826-1058 E-mail: info@mgbr13.ph

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF ORIENTAL PETROLEUM AND MINERALS CORPORATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given to ORIENTAL PETROLEUM AND MINERALS CORPORATION with office address in 34th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines and who has filed an application for Exploration Permit for the exploration of nickel and other associated minerals pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21 in re: "Providing for a Consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order for the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995"; and DAO No. 2012-07 in re: "Rules and Regulation to Implement Executive Order No. 79, Entitled: Institutionalizing and Implementing Reforms in the Philippine Mining Sector, Providing Policies and Guidelines to Ensure Environmental Protection and Responsible Exploration of Mineral Resources", particularly described as follows:

- I. Application Number: EXPA-000248-XIII
II. Date of Filing: 30 September 2021
III. Location: Brgy. Bayanihan, Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands
IV. Technical Description: See attached Location Map
V. Size of the Area: 358.00 hectares
VI. Duration of Exploration Permit: Two (2) years, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of eight (8) years, subject to annual review and approval by the Director: Provided, That in cases where further exploration is warranted and on the condition that the Permittee has substantially implemented the Exploration and Environmental Work Program as verified by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Central Office/Regional Office (RO) No. XIII, the Secretary may further grant the renewal of the Exploration Permit.

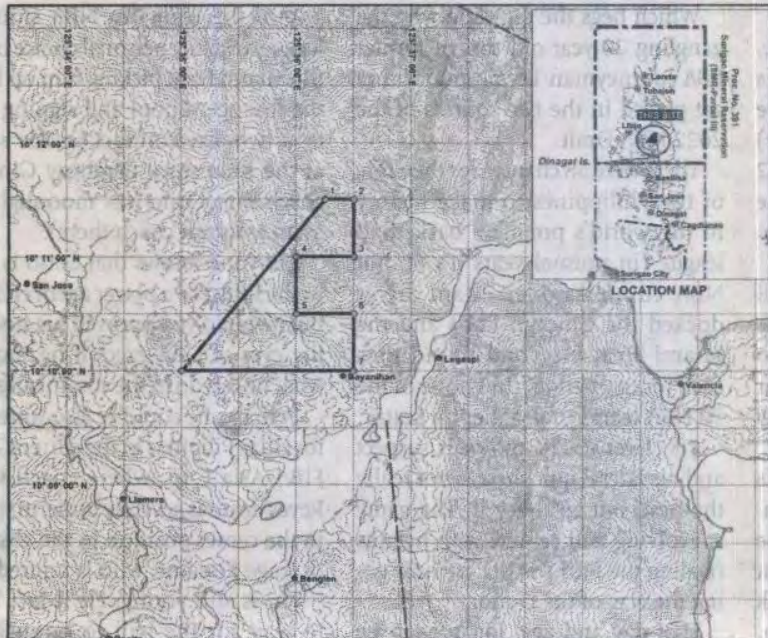
Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or oppositions to the subject application are hereby notified that such adverse claims, protest, and/or oppositions should be filed for purposes of resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators concerned pursuant to Section 21 of DAO No. 2010-21 within ten (10) days from the last date of posting hereof, directly with MGB RO No. XIII or through DENR RO No. XIII and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Dinagat Islands.

For further particulars, course your inquiries to the Regional Director of MGB RO No. XIII located in Km. 2 National Highway, Surigao City or call at (086) 826-1058 or email us at region13@mgb.gov.ph.

Issued this 19th day of May, 2022 in Surigao City, Philippines.



LARRY M. VERADEZ Regional Director



Map showing the EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICATION of ORIENTAL PETROLEUM AND MINERALS CORP. EXPA No. 000248-XIII. Includes a legend for boundaries and features, and a technical description table with columns for COR, DEC, MIN, SEC, DEG, MIN, SEC.

20 JULY 2022, Wednesday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## OCTA cites rising infections in Luzon

July 19, 2022 | 7:46 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ WALTER BOLLOZOS

CORONAVIRUS infections in some parts of the Philippines including the main island of Luzon have increased, though still not at an alarming level, according to the OCTA Research Group.

The infection rates in Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Pangasinan and La Union have had increased, Fredegusto P. David, a fellow from the OCTA Research Group, told a news briefing on Tuesday.

Infections in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Iloilo, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac have also spiked, he said.

“We have monitored rising cases in most of Calabarzon except Quezon, but this is not alarming,” Mr. David said in Filipino. “We just want the public to be aware that cases in these areas have increased and we need to be safe.”

He said health authorities are looking at the country’s healthcare use rate to ensure it doesn’t get bogged down by rising infections.

The Philippines posted 14,640 coronavirus infections in the past week, with a daily average of 2,091 cases, the Department of Health (DoH) said on Monday.



## OCTA cites rising infections in Luzon

The daily average from July 11 to 17 rose by 44% from a week earlier, according to a DoH bulletin. Of the new patients, 35 were severe and critical, it added.

One death was confirmed in the past week, but there were no deaths from July 4 to 17, the agency said.

It added that 481 of 2,630 intensive care unit (ICU) beds had been used as of July 18, while 5,189 of 21,809 non-ICU beds were occupied. There were 589 severe and critical admissions.

The coronavirus infection rate in the Philippines has increased in recent weeks, sparking discussions on whether it is safe to enforce face-to-face classes by November.

Mr. David expects about 2,000 daily coronavirus infections in the next few days, though it seemed to have peaked in Metro Manila.

He traced rising infections to more contagious Omicron subvariants and people's failure to observe minimum health standards.

More than 70 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, with more than 15 million having received a booster shot.

Meanwhile, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has decided to keep the country's five-tier COVID-19 alert system, as he awaits a new classification scheme by next month, according to the presidential palace.

"To avoid confusion, we will retain the alert level system for now," Mr. Marcos told DoH officer-in-charge Maria Rosario S. Vergeire at a recent meeting, based on a press release sent by Malacañang.

"We are studying very closely, and we'll come to a decision very soon as to decoupling the restrictions from the alert levels," the president said.

Mr. Marcos met with Ms. Vergeire and other Health officials on Monday to discuss the government's pandemic plan.

Ms. Vergeire said DoH might release new classifications by the second week of August, when more restrictions will have been eased.

Mr. Marcos, who has vowed to ditch lockdowns, wants the new restrictions to be compatible with the milder variants of the coronavirus, the palace said.

It noted that among the factors being considered for easing of restrictions is the country's low booster uptake

Mr. Marcos at the weekend said his government would start a campaign to encourage more Filipinos to get booster shots against the coronavirus.

The program is part of the preparations for face-to-face classes and full economic reopening, he said in his latest video blog.





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## OCTA cites rising infections in Luzon

The Health, the Interior and Local Government, and Education departments would lead the campaign to increase the country's booster uptake, he said.

Mr. Marcos, 64, recently finished his seven-day isolation on Friday after he tested positive for the coronavirus.

Most areas in the Philippines including the capital region are under the lowest virus alert, allowing businesses to operate at full capacity. — **Norman P. Aquino and Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/07/19/462115/octa-cites-rising-infections-in-luzon/>

20 JULY 2022, Wednesday



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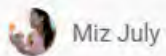


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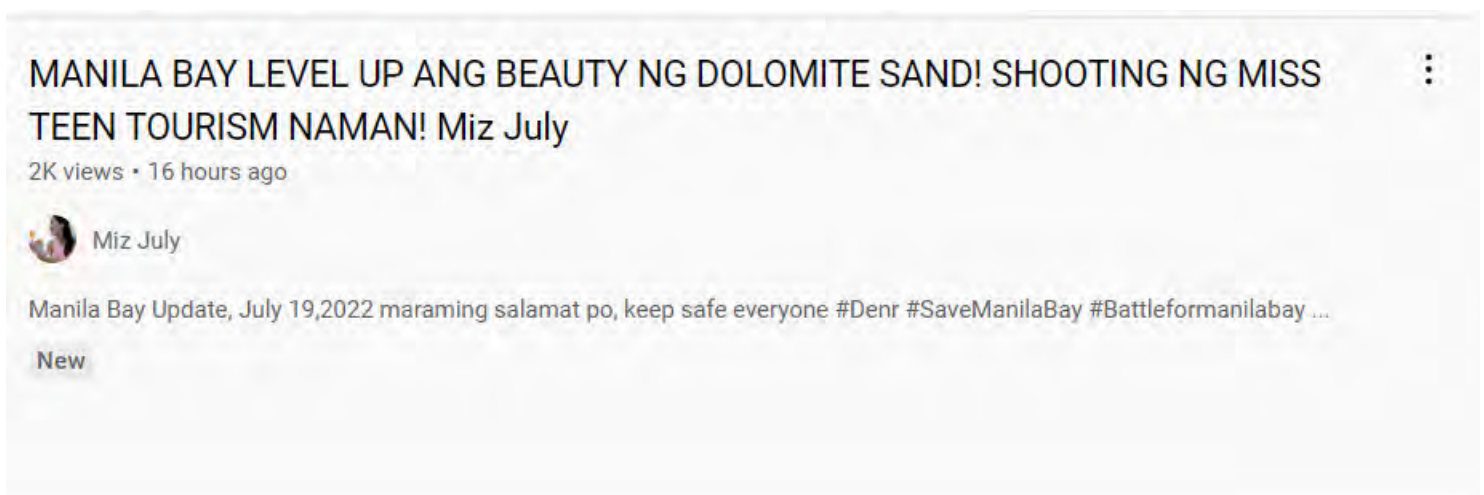
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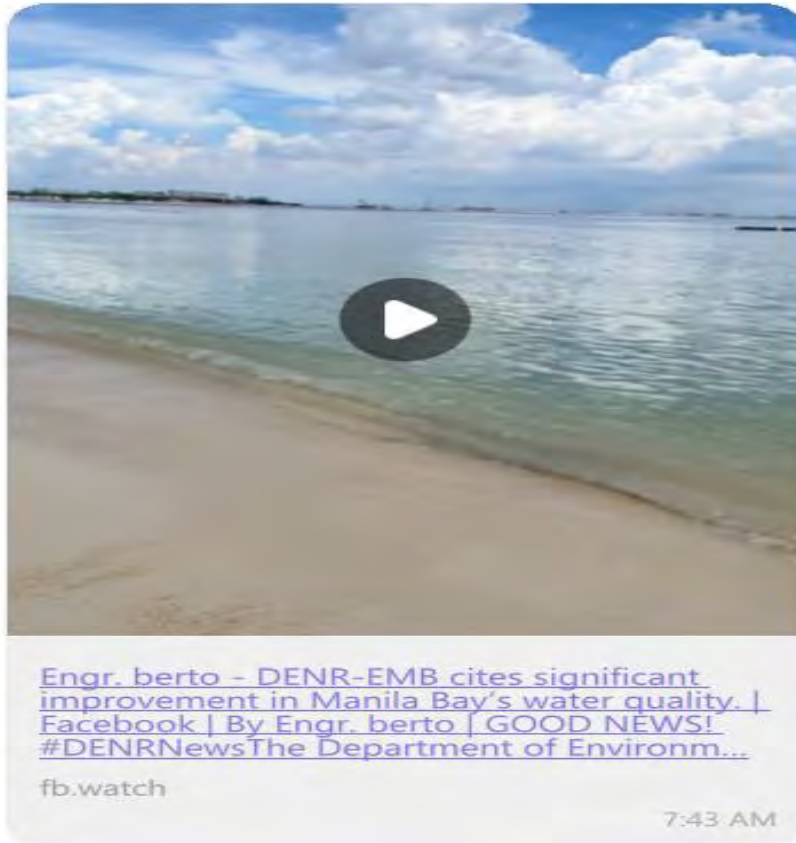
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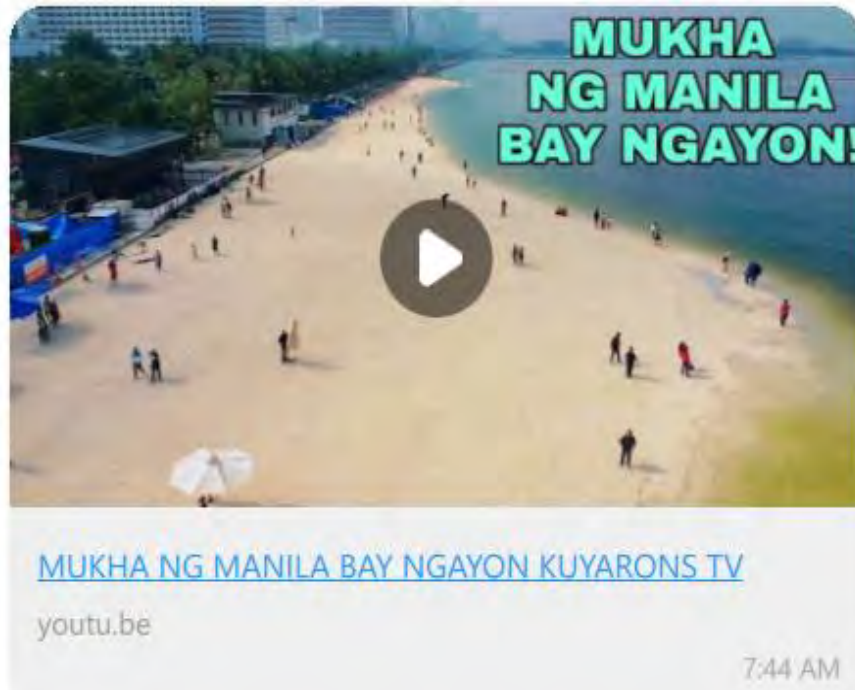
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