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**DENR**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Marcos tackles environmental protection efforts with DENR chief

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos July 20, 2022, 6:17 pm



**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.** President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. meets with Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials led by Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday (July 20, 2022). Marcos discussed with the new Environment chief the initiatives aimed at protecting the environment. *(Photo courtesy of the Office of the President)*

**MANILA** — President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. on Wednesday met with Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss initiatives aimed at protecting the environment.

The Office of the President (OP), in its official Facebook page, released the photos of Marcos' meeting with Yulo-Loyzaga at Malacañan Palace in Manila.

Marcos and Yulo-Loyzaga touched on environmental protection efforts that would help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) fulfill its mandate to protect and conserve the environment, the OP said in its Facebook post.

“President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. met with the new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss topics concerning our environment such as development, enhancement, up to restoration and regeneration of our natural resources, and digitizing databases and systems of the department,” it said.

The meeting was held a day after Marcos administered the oath of office to Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief.

As the new DENR Secretary, Yulo-Loyzaga is mandated 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 amid pressing environmental issues, which include disasters caused by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activities, and various issues on land, mining, biodiversity loss and forestry.

In a statement posted on the Presidential Communications' Facebook page, the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) said Marcos is confident that Yulo-Loyzaga is best fit for the job.

“The Chief Executive expressed his trust and confidence in the DENR chief, citing her stint as the chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory will be vital in envisioning the agenda of the government to address climate change and other environmental issues,” the OPS said.



Marcos, in his official Facebook page, assured the public that he would conduct a thorough assessment of the programs and policies of departments and offices under the Executive Branch, including the DENR.

*“Susuriin natin ng mabuti ang bawat plano, programa, at polisiya upang masigurado na nararapat at naakma ang mga ito sa pangangailangan ng bawat Pilipino (We will thoroughly review each plan, program, and policy to ensure that it is appropriate and fit for the needs of each Filipino),”* he said. **(PNA)**



# Marcos tackles 'restoration' of natural resources in meeting with DENR chief

ABS-CBN News

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*Photo from the Office of the President.*

MANILA — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday met with new Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga in Malacañang, the Palace said.

The topics they discussed included the "development, enhancement, up to restoration and regeneration of our natural resources, and digitizing databases and systems of the department," the Office of the President said on Twitter.

The Palace has yet to release other details of the meeting, which came a day after Yulo-Loyzaga was sworn into office by Marcos.

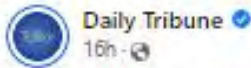
Prior to her appointment as the head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Yulo-Loyzaga served as chair of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience, Malacañang said.

Yulo-Loyzaga was also an executive director of the Manila Observatory, a technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, and a member of the Senior Advisory Board of the military's Command and General Staff College.

"Batid ko na ang kanyang karanasan bilang dating chairperson ng International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory ay maginging kapaki-pakinabang sa departamentong kanyang pamumunuan," Marcos said in a tweet on Tuesday.

(I know that her experience as a chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory will be useful under the agency she will be heading.)

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/20/22/marcos-denr-chief-tackle-restoration-of-natural-resources?fbclid=IwAR2KcOtZ277jcjnaffsjFF8i\\_zRUDihelj79Pb8NaXE-diMAMvAjtSut\\_aY](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/20/22/marcos-denr-chief-tackle-restoration-of-natural-resources?fbclid=IwAR2KcOtZ277jcjnaffsjFF8i_zRUDihelj79Pb8NaXE-diMAMvAjtSut_aY)



PBBM DISCUSSES ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNS WITH DENR CHIEF

President [Bongbong Marcos](#) on Wednesday, 20 July, sits down with new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss topics concerning the development, enhancement, restoration, and regeneration of our natural resources, and digitizing databases and systems of the department. | 🇵🇭 Office of the President

#BBM  
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97

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Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, opisyal nang itinalaga ni PBBM bilang DENR Sec.

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Opisyal nang inanunsyo ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. ang pagkakatalaga kay Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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



July 20, 2022 @ 6:45 PM 13 hours ago

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

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

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

“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,” sabi ni EMB-NCR Regional 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 din ang EMB-NCR ng monitoring kada buwan ng 133 na istasyon kabilang ang Manila Bay river outfalls at Marikina River.

Katuwang ang EMB-Region III at EMB-Region IV-A, nagsasagawa din ng quarterly monitoring ng 206 stations kabilang ang Navotas River Shipyard at Manila Bay shoreline.

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



Ang EMB-NCR ay nakagawa na ng online water quality monitoring system sa kanilang website upang mas madaling makita ng publiko.

Pinaliwanag ni Matias na ang data system ay makapagbibigay ng impormasyon at kaalaman sa publiko sa pamamagitan ng kasalukuyang lagay at trend of water quality sa mga creeks at anyong tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ito ay magsisilbing basehan sa pagbuo ng mga polisiya, plano at regulasyon upang mapigilan ang polusyon sa tubig sa loob ng nasasakupan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.





## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES NG VILLAR SIPAG FOUNDATION KINILALA NG DENR

July 19, 2022 jake



***Senator Cynthia A. Villar receives the Award for Villar SIPAG from DENR-OIC Atty. Ernesto Adobo. Also in photos are; DENR-NCR Regional Director Jacqueline A. Caancan; Regional Director, EMB-NCR- Atty. Michael Drake P. Matias and DENR Usec. for Finance, Information, Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza R. Teh.***

PINARANGALAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Villar SIPAG, foundation na itinayo ng pamilya ni Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, dahil sa dedikasyon nito at patuloy na suporta at kontribusyon para sa mas malinis, malusog at luntiang kapaligiran.

Ginanap ang awarding ceremonies sa pagdiriwang ng ahensya ng Environmental Summit and Exhibit 2022 noong July 14, 2022 sa Manila Hotel.

Sa kanyang keynote message, pinasalamatan ni Villar ang DENR sa parangal at nangakong patuloy ang kanilang paglinang ng kaalaman at paghikayat sa lahat upang mabawasan ang basura.

“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,” sinabi ni Villar sa summit na may temang “Strengthening Waste Management for a Healthier Environment.”

Pinuri rin niya ang organizers sa pagbibigay diin sa solid waste management best practices na maaaring tularan ng LGUs, mga komunidad at pribadong samahan sa buong bansa.

Noong mga nakaraang taon, ipinahayag ni Villar na kaakibat ang Villar Sipag, itinatag nila ang barangay-based livelihood enterprises na modelo ng tamang waste management at magandang halimbawa kung paano pakikinbangan ang mga basura.

“The raw materials we use in the livelihood projects are from wastes,” giit ni Villar, isang masugid na environmentalist na kilala sa recycling efforts sa kanyang waste management drive.

Inilahad niya na ang mga ito na water hyacinths sa water lily handicraft-weaving enterprise at handmade paper factory, waste coconut husks sa coconet-weaving enterprise at charcoal-making factory, kitchen at garden wastes para sa organic fertilizer composting facility at plastic wastes sa waste plastic recycling factory na gumagawa rin ng school chairs.



Ipinagmalaki ng senador na umabot na sa mahigit 3,000 sa buong bansa nang mga proyektong ginagaya ng maraming samahan.

Sa kanya ring mensahe, tinukoy din ng senador ang composting na pinangunahan niya sa kanyang bayan sa Las Piñas. Iginiit ni Villar na alinsunod din sa RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act at RA 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act ang composting na nasolusyunan ang mga problema gaya ng basura, pagkasira ng lupa at basura mula sa pagkain.

“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, ” sabi pa ni Villar.

Bilang Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, inakda at pinagsumikapan ni Villar na maisabatas ang 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”. ” Aniya, ang EPR legislation ang tugon sa mga panawagan tungkol sa dumaraming plastic wastes. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: <https://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/environmental-initiatives-ng-villar-sipag-foundation-kinilala-ng-dendr/?fbclid=IwAR3xaD7pr4hyIAMsOvgLGm0BHEMPwLbHdfTXMVlxcOBCK-1ONJiPhL4BuX8>



# Youth prodded to practice 'responsible' consumption

BY **ANDREA E. SAN JUAN** JULY 20, 2022

The Department of Trade and Industry-Consumer Protection Group (DTI-CPG) highlighted the importance of the youth's active involvement in changing consumption habits to promote sustainable practices and alternatives.

Anchored on UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 12-Responsible Consumption and Production, the DTI-CPG, with the National Youth Commission (NYC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led the 6th Consumer Youth e-Forum last week with the theme #YoungGreenConsumer.

DTI-CPG Assistant Secretary Ann Claire C. Cabochan reminded young consumers to act on environmental issues, to be aware of the need to minimize the adverse impact of their consumption on the environment, and to influence others to also be environmentally aware consumers.

For her part, DTI-CPG Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo recognized the respective roles of the government, private sector and various consumer youth groups for responding to the call to promote sustainability.

"I would like to stress the significance of our individual efforts, such as changing our consumption habits and reducing our use of single-plastic," said Castelo.

"I urge all of you, the youth of our future, to be sustainable champions and help us save the planet," Castelo said.

Representing the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), Director Nieva T. Natural, presented the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP).

The PAP4SCP serves as a guiding framework to influence and steer unsustainable behavior and practices across sectors and levels of government by implementing policy reforms and a set of actions.

Dr. Natural also underscored the importance of adapting sustainable practices and lifestyles by encouraging the participants to consume and produce green goods.

Moreover, the trade department said in a news statement on Wednesday that the DTI-Consumer Policy and Advocacy Bureau (CPAB) enjoined youth groups that drive sustainable solutions through their initiatives to speak at the e-Forum to provide them the opportunity to collaborate with other youth groups, the industry and professional sectors, and the government offices with consumer protection programs.

For his part, Jian Pierre Arguelles, owner of Fulfill Zero Waste gave an overview of their goal to fulfill consumers' basic needs while preserving and protecting the planet.

Fulfill Zero Waste promotes sustainable living by utilizing recyclable materials and eliminating single-use plastics. They created a store where consumers can buy their basic needs by bringing their own containers.

The youth group also partnered with other local manufacturers that focus on household products such as condiments, soap, dishwashing liquids, and more.



Meanwhile, in terms of sustainable fashion, Prince Jimdel Ventura, owner and CEO of Wear Forward discussed eliminating textile wastes, increasing clothing lifespans and utilization, and promoting collaborative consumption of fashion items through clothing as a service.

Ventura also stressed the value of environmental awareness in fashion—awareness, responsibility, and transformation. Wear Forward conducts fashion lectures and workshops on upcycling, sewing, weaving and other fashion-related activities.

After the forum, DTI said, DENR Policy and Planning Service Officer-in-Charge Director Melinda C. Capistrano expressed her support and highlighted the integral role of the youth in leading the way to achieve SDG 12.

Moreover, Capistrano also called on the youth to actively participate particularly on environmental consciousness in waste disposal, use of energy and water resources, among others.

CPAB Director Atty. M. Marcus N. Valdez II echoed Capistrano, as he urged youth groups to be actively involved in preserving and protecting the environment.



# DENR urged to resolve complaint vs Batangas LNG firms

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 20, 2022

Environmentalists under the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) are calling on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to resolve its request for action against two Batangas firms for alleged massive tree-cutting activities.

CEED, a sustainability think tank said the tree-cutting activities of Linseed Field Corporation (Linseed) and Excellent Energy Resources Inc. (EERI) as part of an ongoing liquefied natural gas project in Batangas City were done without a permit.

Linseed is building an LNG facility in Barangay Ilijan, while EERI is building a 1,750 megawatt (MW) LNG-fueled combined cycle power plant in an area covering both Barangay Ilijan and Barangay dela Paz.

CEED said it had previously requested the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the DENR to issue certified true copies of permits for the tree-cutting activities on April 7, 2022, to which the agency replied no such permits were issued.

“We are asking the DENR and its incoming Secretary, Ma. Antonia ‘Toni’ Yulo-Loyzaga, to protect the Verde Island Passage and its surrounding areas, considered as the center of the center of biodiversity, from activities that threaten its fragile ecology. Linseed and EERI have denuded the forests of Batangas without the permit required by the Revised Forestry Code, as said by the FMB itself, and yet this agency under the DENR has yet to act as required by the same law against these companies,” they said.

“Three other similar requests on other possible violations by the same companies remain pending,” said Gerry Arances, Executive Director of CEED, for his part, said.

The motion was filed before DENR-Calabarzon on May 20 and sought speedy action on the part of the department as Linseed is scheduled to commence operations on August 1. CEED, the Bukluran ng mga Mangingisda ng Batangas, and Protect VIP (Verde Island Passage) have documented the tree cutting and requested action from the FMB.

“These LNG projects threaten the rich maritime biodiversity of the Verde Island Passage with the pollution to be brought by the LNG tankers and power plants. Now they have exacerbated the threat by removing the few remaining forests in the area. These projects are endangering the livelihood of fisherfolk in Batangas, Mindoro, and the other islands that surround the passage in addition to the environmental damage. The DENR should act and act swiftly to prevent this from happening,” said Fr. Edwin Gariguez of Protect VIP.

A similar motion was filed before the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) on the same day for coconut trees that were cut by the same projects, as the agency has yet to show CTCs and the permit to cut coconut trees or to act against Linseed and EERI as required by the Coconut Preservation Act of 1995.

Environmentalists and consumer groups have long opposed the government’s switch to LNG, as fossil fuel continues to exacerbate the climate emergency and its high prices would drive electricity to remain expensive.

“There is no reason to expand LNG use in the Philippines, or anywhere else. As a fossil fuel, it will continue to cause climate change, and its high prices burden our electricity consumers. We ask the DENR and its incoming secretary to put its foot down and help pressure the government to move to renewable energy,” said Arances.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/20/denr-urged-to-resolve-complaint-vs-batangas-lng-firms/>

# DENR-7 set to inspect Cordova's floating, fixed cottages

By: Futch Anthony Inso July 20, 2022 - 01:31 PM



Cordova Mayor Cesar Suan (center) meets with DENR representatives ahead of the scheduled inspection of floating and fix cottages in their town. | Contributed photo

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines- A senior official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) is set to inspect the floating and fixed cottages that are now found on the waters of Cordova town.

The inspection will determine if these are compliant with DENR guidelines.

Jesspaz Salamanes, senior environment management specialist of DENR-7, will be accompanied by personnel of the town's Marine Watch, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO), Rural Health Unit (RHU), and the Cordova Police Station during the inspection that is scheduled later today, Wednesday, after a meeting with Cordova Mayor Cesar "Didoy" Suan.

"Akong ipahibalo sa mga Cordovanhons nga ato kining gibuhad dili sa paglisod-lisod sa mga tag-iya sa floating ug fixed cottages kun dili pag protektar sa ilang negosyo ug pag protektar sa kadagatan," Suan said.

Earlier, Suan signed an [Executive Order](#) that seeks to prohibit the operation of floating and fixed cottages in non-build zones along the town's coastal areas.



Cordova's floating cottages. | Futch Anthony Inso



During his meeting with DENR-7 representatives that was scheduled at noontime on Wednesday, Suan again raised his concerns on the operation of floating and fixed cottages in no-build zones and his plan to inspect these.

Suan, who won his first term in office in the May 9 election, said the inspection will give him an idea as to what needs to be done in order to maintain the cleanliness of their waters, especially the areas now occupied by the floating and fixed cottages.

He also gave orders for the operators to equip their cottages with comfort rooms or portable toilets.

The operation of floating and fixed cottages in Cordova town is now gaining attention especially from local tourists.



# CAR pushes for a ridge-to-reef law to protect watersheds

By Liza Agoot July 20, 2022, 7:49 pm



**RIDGE TO REEF.** The Magat Dam reservoir in Ramon, Isabela, shown in this 2021 photo, is supported by the forest management and preservation effort of the Cordillera Administrative Region in Ifugao province. The Cordillera Regional Development Council Committee on Watershed and Environmental Management on Wednesday (July 7, 2022) expressed hope that a law will be passed adopting the concept of a "ridge to reef" approach, where provinces that reap the benefits of the forest conservation effort at the upland areas like Cordillera will also help fund efforts to protect forests in the north. *(PNA file photo by Liza T. Agoot)*

**BAGUIO CITY** – The Regional Development Council (RDC) in the Cordillera on Wednesday asked that a law requiring lowland provinces to help in the preservation of the watersheds in the Cordillera be passed as a contribution to environmental preservation efforts of upland provinces.

“This is the ridge-to-reef law concept where we all give a share to the conservation effort at the upland because the benefits of the effort are also reaped by those in the lowland,” said Ralph Pablo, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the chairman of the Cordillera RDC Committee on Watershed and Environmental Management (CWEM), in a press conference.

He reiterated the importance of preserving the forests in the Cordillera, which is the watershed cradle of the north.

“If they will give financial support to our forest management efforts, the budget that we have will be used for other purposes to widen the scope of the programs and to even improve the national greening implementation and the hiring of forest protection guards to prevent poaching,” Pablo said.

The director said that the CWEM of the Cordillera RDC is a unique body that RDCs of the other regions do not have.

“This alone will show how important the environment is to us because we have to protect it not just for us but the provinces that also benefit from the environmental protection and preservation efforts in the Cordillera,” the director said.

Pablo said efforts to preserve Ifugao's forests have led to the revival of some 300 hectares of forest cover that benefitted the rice production industry of Isabela, the rice granary of the north. Preservation efforts have also led to electricity production at the Magat hydroelectric power plant in Ramon, Isabela for the Luzon grid.





In an earlier interview, Pablo said water from Cordillera flows down to Ilocos, Cagayan, Pangasinan, La Union, and even as far as Tarlac through 13 rivers and is used for domestic, irrigation and hydroelectricity production.

Based on the Cordillera water accounts study of the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2018, at least 88 percent of the water in the Cordillera is used for irrigation, followed by 11 percent for electricity generation, and percent for aquaculture, not just for the Cordillera, but also for lowland provinces in Regions 1, 2, and 3.

In an interview on the sidelines of the launching of the Cordillera month celebration in Sagada on July 1, Pablo said that the RDCs of Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR will come up with a scheme to paym for environmental services to protect and preserve the watershed in Cordillera.

He cited as an example the efforts of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Cagayan Valley to allocate funds for the management of forests in Ifugao, which sustain the rice production of Isabela.

“If we have more funds that will come from other regions more areas of the watershed will be rehabilitated, restored and that will lead to a bigger water yield that will eventually benefit the also the other regions,” Pablo said.

He said the PSA study showed that the water utilized in the lowlands could help ensure food sustainability and higher food production yield. **(PNA)**



# DENR turns over shredder-composter to 26 Bohol municipalities

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 06:43 PM July 20, 2022



The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources turned over shredder-composter machines to 26 municipalities in Bohol province on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. (Leo Udtohan/Inquirer Visayas)

TAGBILARAN CITY — At least 26 municipalities received units of shredder-composter machines which were turned over on Wednesday to help them comply with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Regional Director Maribel Munsayac said the equipment would help the local governments to manage their waste well.

“To comprehensively implement RA 9003 has been an uphill battle not just from the national government agency but most especially from the LGUs. However, the EMB has strengthened our partnerships with all LGUs to achieve the primary objective of the aforementioned law. We will continue to provide assistance,” Munsayac said in her speech.

Munsayac reiterated the importance of the shredder-composter equipment as it will reduce the amount of waste that ends up in sanitary landfills and transform the diverted wastes into assets as organic fertilizer and soil enhancers.

The organic fertilizer and soil enhancers, she said, are valuable to agriculture and horticulture.

She also appealed to the local governments to correctly use these machines, which cost around P1 million each.

The ceremonial turnover of the solid waste management equipment was attended by Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado, former Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr., Munsayac, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Regional Director Charlie Fabre, and officials from the LGU beneficiaries.

The recipients were the municipalities of Alicia, Balilihan, Batuan, Bien Unido, Bilar, Calape, Catigbian, Clarin, Cortes, Dagohoy, Daus, Dimiao, Garcia Hernandez, Trinidad, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Mabini, Maribojoc, Pilar, Sagbayan, San Isidro, San Miguel, Sevilla, Sierra Bullones and Sikatuna.



The equipment should be installed near the materials recovery facilities operated by the host local government and supplied with an independent electrical source fitted with an emergency shutdown device as a safety measure.

JMS/abc



## Trash to cash: Recycling facility binuksan sa Maynila



July 20, 2022 @ 8:35 AM 23 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Pinasinayaan ni Manila Mayor Maria Sheilah “Honey” Lacuna-Pangan ang pagbubukas ng Material Recovery Facility (MRF), isang planta 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 (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 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 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, Iresiklo 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.

Makalikha 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.

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.



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. JAY Reyes



# Marcos urged to safeguard marine protected areas from plastic pollution

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 19, 2022 | 11:16am



This photo taken on May 18, 2018 shows egrets along a garbage-filled beach on the Freedom island critical habitat and ecotourism area near Manila.

AFP/Noel Celis

MANILA, Philippines — An ocean advocacy organization called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address plastic pollution and prevent the country's marine ecosystems from becoming rubbish dumps.

In a release Tuesday, Oceana urged the Marcos administration to “do what previous administrations failed to do”—implement Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and ban single-use plastics.

Marcos, in his inaugural speech, said the Philippines has to play its part in tackling the plastic problem. How he plans to do that remains unclear.

“Our marine ecosystems hold immense potential in the efforts to curb the impact of the global food crisis, but the threat of destruction and losses is becoming more pronounced as plastic wastes make its way to marine protected areas in different parts of the country,” said Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines.

A 2021 study by the Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center of the environment department's Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau found the presence of microplastics in at least 20 marine study sites in the country. The highest concentration of microplastics was found in the largest marine protected area in the archipelago: the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Oceana's Ramos also said their team found coral reefs in Southern Leyte's Panaon Island wrapped in plastics.

“Though marine pollution in Panaon is less prevalent than in other parts of the Philippines, it serves as a stark reminder that even seemingly pristine and remote habitats cannot escape the scourge of plastics,” Ramos said.

“Make no mistake, the scourge of plastic affects us all. Right now, it is slowly but surely creeping into our marine protected areas and in no time, it will suffocate not only our environment but our very own bodies,” she added.



The United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, which ended on July 1, called on governments to scale up action to prevent, reduce, and eliminate marine plastic litter.

Last week, groups called for a plastic-free Philippines urged Marcos to veto the proposed measure on extended producer responsibility in waste management, saying it will not fully address the plastic pollution problem in the Philippines.



## 3 Pampanga villages get brand new garbage trucks



**GARBAGE TRUCKS.** Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda hands over the symbolic key to barangay officials during the ceremonial turn-over of garbage trucks. In the photo, Pineda is joined by Board Members Winwin Garbo and Benny Jocson, and PDRRMO chief Angie Blanco. (Pampanga Provincial Information Office)

JOVI DE LEON

July 20, 2022

TO intensify the campaign on Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) in Pampanga, three villages on Monday, July 18, each received a brand new garbage truck worth P1,450,000 from the provincial government.

In simple turnover rites at Capitol, Governor Dennis Pineda awarded the ceremonial keys to officials of Barangay San Isidro in Magalang, Barangay Pandaguirig in Floridablanca and Barangay Atlu-bola in Mabalacat City.

According to Governor Pineda, the garbage trucks will be vital in implementing and enforcing the collection and hauling of barangay wastes in compliance with the ESWM.

Ferdinand Garcia, barangay councilor, said the trucks will be of great help to their barangay, especially in terms of improving their solid waste management.

"Thank you very much Governor Pineda and Vice Governor Lilia Pineda for addressing and hearing our requests in the barangays. We promise to use this in our solid waste management and other projects," he said.





# Solid waste management permit now required for Zambo businesses

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. July 20, 2022, 8:45 pm



**CLEAN-UP DRIVE.** Mayor John Dalipe (in white polo) supervises the clean-up drive in the surroundings of the city hall after office hours as part of his campaign to keep Zamboanga City clean. The mayor penned a directive on Tuesday (July 19, 2022), mandating all business establishments to secure solid waste management certificates to be able to continue operating in the city. *(Photo lifted from Dalipe's Facebook account)*

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** – A solid waste management (SWM) certificate is now part of the requirements that business owners must comply in order to operate or continue operating in the city.

Mayor John Dalipe said Wednesday he issued Executive Order (EO) No. JD 2022-008 that requires all establishments to annually secure an SWM certificate from the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR).

“Attendance to a solid waste management orientation seminar as well as the payment of the prescribed PHP300 certificate fee are likewise mandatory,” the mayor said.

The EO, signed by the mayor Tuesday, also required establishments to submit a solid waste management plan and program prepared under the guidelines provided under the city’s own 10-year SWM plan.

The city government said the E.O. is complementary to the existing broad-based and comprehensive approach policy of the national government on solid waste management that includes City Ordinance No. 2016-176, which created the Integrated Solid Waste Management System here.

Dalipe has tapped the city information office, the city administrator’s office, and the OCENR to conduct information and education campaigns to disseminate his order. **(PNA)**



# SMC unit to help boost QC's trash-to-cashback program

July 20, 2022, 8:35 pm



*File photo*

**MANILA** – San Miguel Corporation’s (SMC) packaging unit San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. has signed on to boost Quezon City’s trash-to-cashback program to help divert garbage away from landfills and together with waste solutions and technology partners, is eyeing to expand the program to Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

In a statement Wednesday, SMC president and chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang said SMYPC is joining the program to lend its expertise on the circular economy –in particular, recycling of glass, which had been the missing component of the ongoing initiative.

The “Trash-to-Cashback” program, implemented by the QC government in partnership with waste management solutions firm Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies, Inc. (BEST, Inc.) and technology partner BXTRA Philippines (bXTRA), utilizes the firms’ “My Basurero” app which accepts requests for waste collection, including recyclables.

It encourages citizens to be more conscientious about waste segregation.

Through the program, they are able to exchange their recyclables and single-use plastics for “environmental points” which they can use to pay for utility bills such as electricity, water, and internet services through the Bayad App; avail grocery items through the Trash to Cashback Mart, and order food deliveries from the partner merchants.

QC Mayor Joy Belmonte and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, along with QC Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department head Andrea Villaroman, welcomed the addition of SMYPC as a partner to the program.

“We are honored to be welcomed by the QC local government as a partner in this important and truly innovative project that teaches and incentivizes citizens to minimize their impact on the environment, and segregating their household wastes,” Ang said.

“I’m more than confident that SMYPC’s world-class expertise and long experience in zero-waste or circular economy practices will contribute significantly to the realization of our shared goal of addressing solid waste pollution, and promoting sustainability in our communities,” he added.

While the program had been making headway in the recovery of recyclables and single-use plastics, it had not been able to include glass wastes in its collection as there was previously no partner that could process the materials properly and sustainably.



SMYPC is now on board and has committed to purchase all glass and cullet to be collected, which it will then recycle and make into new glass products.

SMYPC's glass business uses a significant percentage of recycled glass in its manufacturing line.

"Glass will not decompose if left in landfills, but it is highly recyclable and can actually be reused endlessly without any adverse effects on quality or safety. Producing glass products using recycled material also uses up significantly less energy. It's a system that benefits all, and the only challenge is making sure we are able to collect as many used glass materials as we can," Ang added.

Glass produced from recycled material also reduces related air pollution by 20 percent and related water pollution by as much as 50 percent, according to the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

Ang said SMYPC, BEST, Inc. and bXTRA are in talks with several Metro Manila LGUs to implement the trash-for-cash and glass collection program in other cities "very soon."

"We are grateful to SMYPC for partnering with us on this major expansion for our organization. Glass is among the most common packaging material(s) out there, and with their help, we will be able to recycle a larger volume of it," said Jan-Vincent Mercado, senior vice president for Business Development of BEST, Inc. **(PR)**



# SMC unit joins QC government's trash-to-cash program

BYVG CABUAG JULY 20, 2022



[Contributed photo](#)

Quezon City residents are able to drop off their recyclables through the My Basurero App or the eight drop off points the city has set up since launching Trash-to-Cashback in 2021.

San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) packaging unit San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. (SMYPC) on Wednesday said it will support Quezon City's trash-to-cash back program to help divert garbage away from landfills.

The company said it will partner with other waste solutions and technology groups to expand the program to Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Ramon S. Ang, San Miguel president and CEO, said the company joined the program to lend its expertise on circular economy—in particular, the recycling of glass, which had been the missing component of the ongoing initiative.

The trash-to-cash back program, implemented by the Quezon City government in partnership with waste management solutions firm Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies Inc. and technology partner BXTRA Philippines, utilizes the firms' My Basurero app which accepts requests for waste collection, including recyclables.

It encourages citizens to be more conscientious about waste segregation. Through the program, they are able to exchange their recyclables and single-use plastics for environmental points which they can use to pay for utility bills such as electricity, water, and internet services through the Bayad App; avail grocery items through the Trash to Cashback Mart, and order food deliveries from the partner merchants.

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With the company now on board, SMYPC has committed to purchase all glass and cullet to be collected, which it will then recycle and make into new glass products. San Miguel's glass business uses a significant percentage of recycled glass in its manufacturing line.



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Glass produced from recycled material also reduces related air pollution by 20 percent and related water pollution by as much as 50 percent, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

“This also aligns with our larger sustainability goals focused on, among other things, water sustainability, solid waste management. By helping encourage waste segregation and proper disposal, we will also minimize the garbage that ends up in our critical water sources and other bodies of water,” Ang said.

Image credits: [Contributed photo](#)



## SMC packaging unit to help boost QC LGU's trash-to-cashback program, eyes NCR implementation

July 20, 2022 6 min read

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation's (SMC) packaging unit San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. has signed on to boost Quezon City's trash-to-cashback program to help divert garbage away from landfills and, together with waste solutions and technology partners, is eyeing to expand the program to Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

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QC Mayor Joy Belmonte and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto, along with QC Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department Head Andrea Villaroman, welcomed the addition of SMYPC as a partner to the program.



Through San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp., the Quezon City local government has added glass to the list of recyclables it collects via its Trash-to-Cashback initiative. QC Mayor Joy Belmonte (4th from left) and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto (3rd from left) led a recent inspection of the collection kiosk at QC Hall, together with project partners Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies, Inc. (BEST) and bXTRA Philippines, Inc. represented by Atty. Dwight Ramos, SVP for External Affairs (2nd from left); Jan-Vincent P. Mercado, SVP for Business Development of BEST and President and Managing Director of bXTRA (5th from left), and Jesse Tanchanco, VP for Business Development (left). SMYPC was represented by Jonathan Aquino, VP & Business Manager for glass. Also in the photo are SMYPC's AVP & Management Services Manager Ronaldo Gorospe; Communications & Community Relations Manager Lexy Gregorio, and Glass Business Planning Manager, Rommel A. Diño. QC's Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department Head Andrea Valentine Villaroman were also present.



“We are honored to be welcomed by the QC local government as a partner in this important and truly innovative project that teaches and incentivizes citizens to minimize their impact on the environment, and segregate their household wastes,” said Ang.

“I’m more than confident that SMYPC’s world-class expertise and long experience in zero-waste or circular economy practices will contribute significantly to the realization of our shared goal of addressing solid waste pollution, and promoting sustainability in our communities,” he added.

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Glass produced from recycled material also reduces related air pollution by 20% and related water pollution by as much as 50%, according to the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

Ang said that already, SMYPC, BEST, Inc., and bXTRA are in talks with several Metro Manila LGUs to implement the trash-for-cash and glass collection program in other cities “very soon.”

“We are grateful to SMYPC for partnering with us on this major expansion for our organization. Glass is among the most common packaging material out there, and with their help, we will be able to recycle a larger volume of it,” said Jan-Vincent Mercado, Senior Vice President for Business Development of BEST, Inc.

“The circular economy is here and now, and we are glad to be working with a company like SMYPC which is not just a large player in the industry but is among the first movers in sustainable practices for packaging,” Mercado added.

Ang continued: “Recycling and reusing materials have been ingrained in SMYPC from the very beginning. Through the years, we’ve been an active partner in materials recovery—from setting up our own collection hubs and working with many LGUs and like-minded organizations to divert as much recyclable material as we can from landfills.”

“This also aligns with our larger sustainability goals focused on, among other things, water sustainability, and solid waste management. By helping encourage waste segregation and proper disposal, we will also minimize the garbage that ends up in our critical water sources and other bodies of water,” Ang said.

In 2017, Ang announced the discontinuation of SMC’s plastic bottled water business to demonstrate its commitment to help reduce the world’s ocean plastics. Today, SMC is spending some P3 billion to dredge and clean up the Pasig River and Tullahan River system to mitigate flooding and help boost biodiversity. It is also eyeing to implement wide-scale river cleanups for the flood-prone province of Bulacan.



For its part, SMYPC has been implementing its “Balik Bote” program for more than a decade at its facilities, host communities, and in public schools near their areas of operation. The program will enable it to significantly widen its area of coverage, particularly with the planned expansion to other cities and provinces.

SMYPC added that its joining the program is also timely as 2022 is the International Year of Glass (IYOG 2022) and that the United Nations has declared to “promote glass as an important, inspirational and versatile platform to address some of the greatest challenges the world faces in ensuring sustainable development and life quality improvement everywhere, especially in the developing world”.

The company said it has taken the lead in observing IYOG 2022 in the Philippines. (ai/mtvn)

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2022/07/20/smc-packaging-unit-to-help-boost-qc-lgus-trash-to-cashback-program-eyes-ncr-implementation/?fbclid=IwAR0E7RGkaNrUnDjzxJgYUR26ng2QDHOMC-qZl6ETTVokzginuxQGLp-\\_XG0](https://maharlika.tv/2022/07/20/smc-packaging-unit-to-help-boost-qc-lgus-trash-to-cashback-program-eyes-ncr-implementation/?fbclid=IwAR0E7RGkaNrUnDjzxJgYUR26ng2QDHOMC-qZl6ETTVokzginuxQGLp-_XG0)





# Group behind report citing Philippines among top ocean plastic polluters retracted 2015 findings

[Jan Cuyco](#) - Philstar.com July 19, 2022 | 6:20pm



Plastic waste and other rubbish is pictured after washing up on a beach in Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand on January 19, 2021.

AFP/Mladen Antonov

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly seven years after publication, Ocean Conservancy retracted its ocean plastic pollution report on July 10 for propagating a “misguided and harmful narrative around ocean plastic pollution,” with environmental groups calling it a long-overdue apology.

The “Stemming the Tide” report was behind the oft-cited finding that the Philippines was the world’s third largest source of plastic leaking into the ocean. The report also claimed that five Asian countries, namely China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, contribute over half of the plastics that end up in the seas.

“The [Ocean Conservancy] report not only harmed the five countries wrongfully blamed for plastic pollution but misled for years governments and the public into thinking that burning plastic waste was a solution to the problem,” [said](#) Froilan Grate, regional director of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) - Asia Pacific.

While environmentalists agreed with the global deluge of plastic waste, they said the report “completely disregarded” the overproduction of plastic and plastic waste exports from Global North countries that even the United States-based organization Ocean Conservancy now agreed with.

“We created a narrative about who is responsible for the ocean plastic pollution crisis – one that failed to acknowledge the outsized role that developed countries, especially the United States, have played and continue to play in generating and exporting plastic waste to this very region,” Ocean Conservancy [said](#).

According to Break Free From Plastic’s 2021 [global brand audit report](#), multinational companies Coca-Cola and PepsiCo were ranked as the world’s top plastic polluters for the fourth consecutive year.

Ocean Conservancy said that their report erred in focusing “solely on minimizing the amount of plastics entering the ocean.”

The nonprofit group also apologized for its report’s framing and “unequivocally rescind” any direct or indirect endorsement of incineration as a solution to ocean plastic pollution.



## Impact on waste-to-energy bills

As Ocean Conservancy rescinded its report, which provided strong backing for proposed measures on waste-to-energy incineration, environmental groups are urging lawmakers to reconsider their stances.

“We ask our government officials and lawmakers to rethink their own positions and undo measures that have terribly weakened the ban on waste incineration,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition.

Since 2020, bills have been lobbied in Congress to institutionalize waste-to-energy (WTE) technologies and to remove the country-wide ban on incineration.

The House of Representatives approved on the third and final reading [House Bill 7829](#), or the “Waste Treatment Technology Act” in November 2020. The bill greenlights the use of WTE technology – including incineration – provided that it does not generate poisonous gases.

If signed into law, the bill would repeal Section 20 of the Clean Air Act that bans large-scale incineration in the Philippines.

[Senate Bill 1789](#) or the “Waste-to-Energy Act”, also allows incineration with the same caveat that these technologies would not emit toxic fumes. The Senate bill is pending second reading.

But environment and health advocates have since cautioned about the effect of waste-to-energy incinerators on increased carbon emissions and the likelihood of health problems.

For every ton of waste incinerated, an average of around 1 ton of carbon dioxide is released, [said](#) Lee Bell, mercury policy advisor for the International Pollution Elimination Network.

Citing scientific studies, healthcare waste management expert Jorge Emmanuel also [said](#) that people living within at most a 10-kilometer radius of incinerators were linked with health problems such as leukemia, sarcoma and lymphoma.

To illustrate, if a waste incinerator were placed in the Payatas dumpsite, affected areas would reach parts of Rizal, Caloocan, Quezon City and Antipolo, added Emmanuel.

GAIA and other members of the #BreakFreeFromPlastic movement are currently in talks with Ocean Conservancy in identifying ways “to mitigate the harm caused” by the almost seven-year-old report.

“This apology is an invitation to hear the voices and concerns of communities and groups in the Asia Pacific region who have been disproportionately impacted by this framing, and for whom this issue is very personal,” Grate said.

Ocean Conservancy’s 2015 report has since been taken down online.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/07/19/2196536/group-behind-report-citing-philippines-among-top-ocean-plastic-polluters-retracted-2015-findings>



## EDITORIAL - Bahasura

(Pang-Masa) - July 21, 2022 - 12:00am



BAHA at basura ang matagal nang problema sa Metro Manila at tila wala nang solusyon ang mga namumuno sapagkat paulit-ulit na lamang ang baha at basura.

Matindi ang nararanasang pagbaha ngayon sapagkat kaunting ulan lang, apaw na ang mga kalsada. Walang madaanan ang tubig baha kaya naiistak nang matagal. Basura ang dahilan kaya mabagal bumaba ang tubig. Nakabara sa mga daanan ng tubig. Umaapaw sa basura ang mga kanal, estero at sapa.

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

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

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

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



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



## Maynilad program gears up for its 1 millionth tree this year

Published on: July 20, 2022

By Jerome Carlo Paunan

***A 2021 photo shows Maynilad and other stakeholders planting around 20,000 native trees in over 50 hectares of the Ipo and La Mesa watersheds (Contributed photo).***

**MANILA, (PIA) --** The Maynilad Water Services Inc. and other MVP Group of Companies recently launched the Maynilad program gears up for its 1 millionth tree this year with 90,000 trees committed for 2022 at the Million Tree Nursery and Eco-Learning Center at La Mesa Watershed, Quezon City.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### **Climate neutrality by 2037**

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

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

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



# Ilocos Norte restores mangrove areas to protect environment

By Leilanie Adriano July 20, 2022, 7:21 pm



**MANGROVE REHAB.** Various government organizations flock to Davila village in Pasuquin town, Ilocos Norte to help rehabilitate its existing mangrove forest. On Tuesday (July 20, 2022), almost 2,000 mangrove propagules were planted in time for the celebration of National Disaster Resilience Month. *(Photo courtesy of the Ilocos Norte PDRRMC)*

**LAOAG CITY** – The Ilocos Norte government on Wednesday urged coastal communities to take good care of their existing mangrove forests to protect marine life and safeguard it from the impacts of climate change.

In time for the month-long observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month this July, Michael Pe Benito, representative of the Provincial Resiliency Office, said almost 2,000 mangrove propagules were planted on Tuesday in the coastal village of Davila in Pasuquin town, in an effort to save the remaining naturally-grown mangrove forests that continue to decline in number over the years.

“This was made possible through the support of various government agencies such as members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Army as well as the Barangay Ranger Officers (BROs) and the local government unit of Davila and Pasuquin,” he said, adding that the newly-planted mangrove area covers approximately one hectare.

To ensure the growth of the propagules, Pe Benito said they have sought the assistance of the BROs deployed in the village to monitor the mangroves and help reduce mortality rate.

To date, there are more than 23 hectares of new mangrove plantations being rehabilitated in various coastal municipalities of Ilocos Norte. Davila village has the biggest area covering around 200 hectares.

Public and private organizations traveled to Davila taking turns to plant more mangrove propagules to help inspire others to do their part.

According to environment experts, mangroves act as a life support system to about 75 percent of fish species, crustaceans, and wildlife. If left undisturbed, mangroves can live up to 100 years. And the more they mature, the more they help the marine ecological system. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179369>



# Vloggers help promote hidden resorts in Baras, Rizal

Published July 20, 2022, 12:06 AM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

An upland community in Baras, Rizal is now being discovered as a place to unwind and relax from the hassles of city life thanks to the vlogs or video blogs of netizens who were the first ones to discover the beauty of the places that they are documenting on videos.

A place in Barangay Pinugay located in the upland portion of Baras, Rizal only has a few resorts but these offer a relaxing mountain feel with the sound of the water flowing from the stream, birds and insects chirping, and the free flowing fresh and cold water that fills the man-made pools that are found inside the resorts.

A group of four motor bikers from Caloocan City told Manila Bulletin that they discovered a place called Danumbaker Resort located in the secluded Sitio San Roque in Barangay Pinugay, an upland village in Baras, from the video blogs of netizens on YouTube.

Maricon, caretaker of the hidden resort said several video bloggers have been helping in promoting the secluded community that is surrounded by tall trees of different species in Barangay Pinugay.

Other resorts in the same village that offer amenities like swimming pools with fresh water coming from the spring and cottages and nipa hut accommodations remain closed upon the order of the municipal government.

The upland portion of Baras, Rizal is included in the areas declared by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as protected.

Sitio San Roque can be reached by commuters by tricycle from Paenaan in Antipolo City which can be accessed by riding a jeepney or a modern e-bus at Cogeo Market in Antipolo City.





# Coal is still big business for PH banks

By [Ben Kritz](#) July 21, 2022

WHEN it comes to climate action on a large scale, most media and public attention is focused on the government level, but public policy is not really where things actually happen. This is particularly true of countries like the Philippines that champion privatization of key sectors to a fault; what the government says about aligning climate objectives with energy, transportation and infrastructure matters little compared to what the private sector is actually doing in those areas.

For example, during the previous administration, much was made of the decision of the Department of Energy (DoE) to impose a moratorium on the development of new coal power plants. A somewhat less well-publicized complement to that policy move was the selection of the Philippines as one of two countries (Indonesia is the other one) to pilot the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) created by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is intended to provide resources for the government to retire existing coal plants in favor of more sustainable energy sources.



DMCI Power Corp. coal plant under construction in Masbate in 2019. This should have been the last coal plant built in the Philippines, but it won't be. Photo by the author

That's all well and good, but makes no difference if the policy is not reflected in the activity of the developers in the power sector, and more specifically, the banks that fund the investments.

At the time of the announcement of DoE's moratorium, it was widely noted that the specification that it applied to new coal projects still left a considerable number of not yet built coal plants in the project pipeline — between 13 and 19 of them, depending on how one decides to count them. That is an ambiguity that has not at all been cleared up by the DoE's reported refusal so far to disclose a full accounting of planned and ongoing projects, and which ones might be affected by the moratorium.

In May, the Withdraw From Coal campaign (WFC) published its annual "Coal Divestment Scorecard," which I believe is the second installment of this interesting overview of the banking sector's exposure to coal investment; the actual heavy lifting in preparing it was done by a team from the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED). Overall, the conclusions of the report are less than encouraging: Philippine banks, despite moving slowly in the direction of divestment from coal, are still doing quite a bit of business in the sector, and thus ensuring that coal power will remain a big part of the country's energy mix for years to come.



The score for each bank is based on its respective share of the total value of coal-related investment activities, or in other words, the total identifiable among the 16 banks in the study; the bank's current coal divestment policies; and the bank's current climate action policies. For the latter two factors, to minimize subjectivity as much as possible, the scores are based on a number of "yes or no" questions about each set of policies. The overall scores are on a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 being the worst.

The top three banks with the biggest involvement in coal financing are Ayala-owned Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the Lucio Tan group's Philippine National Bank (PNB), and the Sy conglomerate's Banco de Oro (BDO), respectively; BPI leads with a considerable margin over second-place PNB. At the bottom of the list are Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom) and Filinvest Group's EastWest Bank, both of which have virtually no exposure to the coal sector; the government-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is just a bit more involved in coal investment than these two.

Interestingly, the other government bank, LandBank, which is accredited by the Global Climate Fund (GCF) and was figured separately from its recent acquisition United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), is tied with UnionBank at fourth from the bottom of the list, and scored a big fat 0 for its essentially nonexistent coal divestment policy.

There are a couple of mitigating factors that should be noted. First, none of the bank exposure in the past year since the previous report is in the form of direct loans for coal-related activity. Instead, the investment is more indirect in the form of underwriting of corporate bonds; the report goes into some detail about four bond issues last year by Aboitiz Power that were used to refinance or redeem earlier bonds for the financing of the GNPowder Dinginin and GNPowder Mariveles coal plant projects. The exposure of the banks here is considerable; about P16 billion altogether in underwriting commitments (not including oversubscription options of up to P9 billion), with BDO Capital and Investment, China Bank Capital, and First Metro Investment (Metrobank) accounting for a bit more than P3.36 billion each.

Second, the overall picture is marginally better than in the previous iteration of the scorecard; the divestment from coal is moving in the right direction, if slowly, and several banks were noted for making other positive steps, most particularly BPI, BDO, RCBC and PNB. RCBC, in fact, is the first Philippine bank to put together an Energy Transition Finance (ETF) deal under the guidelines of the aforementioned ETM, financing the decommissioning of AC Energy Corp.'s South Luzon Thermal Energy Corp. (SLTEC) 2×135 MW coal power plant in Calaca, Batangas, which should go a long way toward blunting some of the obstructionist and largely unfounded criticisms leveled at the ETM program by various civil-society and environmental groups.

Nevertheless, there is a clear sense that divestment is not progressing nearly fast enough to do any real good, given that the timeline for doing something to combat climate change effectively enough to make living on this planet merely highly uncomfortable rather than completely impossible is now measured in years and not decades. Certainly, some allowance has to be made for banks to unwind their investments in coal in a controlled fashion — a bankrupt bank wouldn't do anyone any good — but they can and should pick up the pace.



# Biden holds off—for now –on climate emergency declaration

 BY JULY 20, 2022

WASHINGTON—President Joe Biden will travel to Massachusetts on Wednesday to promote new efforts to combat climate change, although he will not declare an emergency that would unlock federal resources to deal with the issue despite increasing pressure from climate activists and Democratic lawmakers.

The White House said Tuesday it has not ruled out issuing such a declaration later, which would allow the president to reroute funds to climate efforts without congressional approval. On Wednesday, Biden will announce other new climate actions when he visits a former coal-fired power plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, which shuttered in 2017 but has since been reborn as an offshore wind power facility.

But since Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., hit pause on negotiations over climate spending and taxes last week, the public attention has shifted to a presidential emergency declaration and what the Biden administration could do with the newfound powers.

“It’s not on the table for this week,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said of a climate emergency declaration. “We are still considering it. I don’t have the upsides or the downsides of it.”

The president has been trying to signal to Democratic voters that he’s aggressively tackling global warming at a time when some of his supporters have despaired about the lack of progress. He has pledged to push forward on his own in the absence of congressional action.

Declaration of a climate emergency would be similar to one issued by former President Donald Trump boosting construction of a southern border wall. It would allow Biden to redirect spending to accelerate renewable energy such as wind and solar power and speed the nation’s transition away from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. The declaration also could be used as a legal basis to block oil and gas drilling or other projects, although such actions would likely be challenged in court by energy companies or Republican-led states.

The focus on climate action comes amid a heat wave that has seared swaths of Europe, with Britain reaching the highest temperature ever registered in a country ill-prepared for such weather extremes.

The typically temperate nation was just the latest to be walloped by unusually hot, dry weather that has triggered wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans and led to hundreds of heat-related deaths. Images of flames racing toward a French beach and Britons sweltering — even at the seaside—have driven home concerns about climate change.

The president vowed late last week to take robust executive action on climate after Manchin — who has wielded outsized influence on Biden’s legislative agenda because of Democrats’ razor-thin majority in the Senate — hit the brakes on negotiations over proposals for new environmental programs and higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

One of the biggest backers of fossil fuels within the Democratic caucus, Manchin has blamed persistently high inflation for his hesitation to go along with another spending package. His resistance has enraged other congressional Democrats who have ramped up pressure on Biden to act on his own on climate.



“I think given the global crisis that we’re facing, given the inability of Congress to address this existential threat, I think the White House has got to use all of the resources and tools that they can,” said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. On a climate emergency, “that’s something that I’ve called for, a long time ago.”

Biden, who served in the Senate for more than three decades, “has been chained to the legislative process, thinking about his past as a senator,” Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said at a news conference Monday night. “Now he’s unchained, and he has to go.”

John Podesta, board chairman of the liberal Center for American Progress, said environmental leaders met with senior White House officials on Friday to discuss policy ideas. Some proposals included ramping up regulations on vehicle emissions and power plants, reinstating a ban on crude oil exports and suspending new leases for oil drilling on federal lands and waters.

“If he’s going to make good on his commitments to do everything he can to bring emissions down, he’s got to pay attention to those critical regulatory issues that are facing him,” said Podesta, a former climate counselor for President Barack Obama.

Ben King, an associate director at the Rhodium Group, an independent research firm, said the United States is “nowhere close” to meeting ambitious goals set by Biden for reducing emissions.

Biden escalated the country’s emissions reduction target to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Under current policies in place at the federal and state level, the US is on track to reach a reduction of 24 percent to 35 percent, according to the Rhodium Group’s latest analysis.

“Absent meaningful policy action, we’re far off track from meeting the goals that the US is committed to under the Paris accord,” King said, referring to a 2015 global conference on addressing climate change.

Even as Democrats and environmental groups pushed Biden to act on his own, some legal scholars questioned whether an emergency declaration on climate change is justified.

“Emergency powers are designed for events such as terrorist attacks, epidemics and natural disasters,” said Elizabeth Goitein, co-director of the liberty and national security program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

Such powers “aren’t intended to address persistent problems, no matter how dire. And they aren’t meant to be an end-run around Congress,” Goitein wrote in an op-ed for *The Washington Post* last year.

# Biden calls climate change a 'clear and present danger' as he tries to find ways to take action

By Kevin Liptak, CNN

Published Jul 21, 2022 3:45:25 AM



*Photo courtesy: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP via Getty Images*

(CNN) -- President Joe Biden escalated his warnings about climate change Wednesday, calling it a "clear and present danger" as he previewed a slate of executive actions meant to combat a crisis whose effects are bearing down on a wide swath of the country.

Speaking under a beating sun at a defunct coal power plant in Massachusetts, Biden announced \$2.3 billion in new funding for communities facing extreme heat and new steps to boost the offshore wind industry.

And while he stopped short of declaring an official national climate emergency, he strongly hinted he could take that step soon as Democrats and activists encourage him to elevate the crisis and unlock new federal resources to combat it.

"Climate change in an emergency, and in the coming weeks I'm going to use the power I have as president to turn these words into formal, official, government actions through the appropriate proclamations, executive orders and regulatory power that a president possesses," Biden said.

He used language rooted in national security and threat assessments to describe a crisis whose effects could be felt across the nation Wednesday as tens of millions of Americans suffered through extreme heat.

"As President, I have a responsibility to act with urgency and resolve when our nation faces clear and present danger, and that's what climate change is," Biden said, promising new steps to curtail what he called an "existential threat to our nation and to the world."

The moves amounted to what White House officials describe as the first steps of a major raft of executive actions Biden is planning after legislative attempts at combating climate change stalled.

Biden has told his team he wants to take decisive and speedy action on climate after efforts to pass robust new laws collapsed last week. Without action from Congress and hemmed in by a recent Supreme Court ruling, the President's overall goal of sharply reducing US carbon output appears further from reach.

Work toward a legislative climate package fell apart last week when Sen. Joe Manchin, the moderate West Virginia Democrat, said he was halting negotiations amid concerns over inflation. Yet Wednesday, Biden made no mention of Manchin, choosing to lambast Republicans who oppose his plan instead.



"Not a single Republican in Congress stepped up to support my climate plan, not one," he said.

Biden, who was traveling in Saudi Arabia when the legislative efforts collapsed, said immediately he planned to use executive action to advance his climate agenda. Since then, White House officials have been working to finalize options for the President to sign that could address the issue through reducing emissions, providing incentives for using clean energy and other areas.

Yet while the President is eager to demonstrate his commitment to climate, he did not declare a national climate emergency on Wednesday, a step that would unlock new federal resources to address the issue and allow him to limit federal oil drilling.

Instead, he unveiled a handful of lesser steps while promising further action soon.

"The announcement today is going to be about making the case that climate change is an emergency, outlining actions that we're going to be moving forward over the coming weeks," national climate adviser Gina McCarthy said earlier during an appearance on CNN's New Day. "And the President will make very clear again, that this is an emergency and we are going to act. But the President is going to outline that at his pace."

She indicated additional actions, beyond what Biden announces in Massachusetts, would be unveiled this summer.

"The President has a number of authorities he can use and he's going to work through those and make those announcements," she said, later adding, "You'll see them rolling out over the next few weeks."

Congressional action "would be helpful," McCarthy said, but Biden is "no longer sitting around waiting for that."

That includes the potential of declaring a national climate emergency, a move several Senate Democrats have said is necessary as it becomes clearer Congress won't act. And while Biden at one point appeared on track to declare a national emergency this week, by Tuesday a decision had been made to hold off.

"Everything is on the table. It's just not going to be this week on that decision," press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday afternoon.

Biden delivered his speech Wednesday from a shuttered coal power plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, that is being transformed into a factory producing cables for offshore wind farms.

The new funding for heat-affected communities comes amid record-setting heat waves impacting tens of millions of Americans across a wide swath of the country. Extreme heat is also crippling parts of Europe and has sparked wildfires in France, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Upon taking office, Biden pledged to world leaders the US would cut emissions in half by 2030, part of an effort to rally international support behind ambitious carbon reduction targets. While the White House has said it had multiple pathways to achieving that goal, the failure by Congress to act has limited Biden's ability to meet the target.

The Supreme Court's ruling in June that limited the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants further restricted the administration's capacities.



McCarthy said in the CNN interview she believed it was still possible to achieve the carbon reduction target without congressional action on climate.

"That's part of the challenge that the President is opening up for us and the opportunity. We have to look over the next weeks at what is the best strategy to use absent congressional action and still hope that Congress continues to take up that mantle, but the President isn't waiting," she said.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, ["Biden calls climate change a 'clear and present danger' as he tries to find ways to take action"](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2022/7/21/Biden-climate-change-clear-and-present-danger.html)*



# Explainer: How climate change drives heatwaves and wildfires in Europe

By [Kate Abnett via Reuters](#) - July 20, 2022 - 4:52 PM



A firefighter operates as a wildfire burns in Ntrafi, Athens, Greece, July 19, 2022. (Reuters/Costas Baltas)

BRUSSELS — Europe is in the grip of a record-breaking heatwave and wildfires are raging across the Mediterranean. Here's how climate change drives these events.

## Hotter, more frequent heatwaves

Climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. This is the case for most land regions, and has been confirmed by the U.N.'s global panel of climate scientists (IPCC).

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have heated the planet by about 1.2 Celsius since pre-industrial times. That warmer baseline means higher temperatures can be reached during extreme heat events.

“Every heatwave that what we are experiencing today has been made hotter and more frequent because of climate change,” said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London who also co-leads the World Weather Attribution research collaboration.

But other conditions affect heatwaves too. In Europe, atmospheric circulation is an important factor.

A study in the journal *Nature* this month found that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitudes such as the United States. The authors linked this to changes in the jet stream – a fast west-to-east air current in the northern hemisphere.

## Fingerprints of climate change

To find out exactly how much climate change affected a specific heatwave, scientists conduct “attribution studies”. Since 2004, more than 400 such studies have been done for extreme weather events, including heat, floods and drought – calculating how much of a role climate change played in each.

This involves simulating the modern climate hundreds of times and comparing it to simulations of a climate without human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, scientists with World Weather Attribution determined that a record-breaking heatwave in western Europe in June 2019 was 100 times more likely to occur now in France and the Netherlands than if humans had not changed the climate.





## Heatwaves will still get worse

The global average temperature is around 1.2C warmer than in pre-industrial times. That is already driving extreme heat events.

“On average on land, heat extremes that would have happened once every 10 years without human influence on the climate are now three times more frequent,” said ETH Zurich climate scientist Sonia Seneviratne.

Temperatures will only cease rising if humans stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Until then, heatwaves are set to worsen. A failure to tackle climate change would see heat extremes escalate even more dangerously.

Countries agreed under the global 2015 Paris Agreement to cut emissions fast enough to limit global warming to 2°C and aim for 1.5°C, to avoid its most dangerous impacts. Current policies would not cut emissions fast enough to meet either goal.

A heatwave that occurred once per decade in the pre-industrial era would happen 4.1 times a decade at 1.5°C of warming, and 5.6 times at 2°C, the IPCC says.

Letting warming pass 1.5°C means that most years “will be affected by hot extremes in the future,” Seneviratne said.

## Climate change drives wildfires

Climate change increases hot and dry conditions that help fires spread faster, burn longer and rage more intensely.

In the Mediterranean, that has contributed to the fire season starting earlier and burning more land. Last year more than half a million hectares burned in the European Union, making it the bloc’s second-worst forest fire season on record after 2017.

Hotter weather also saps moisture from vegetation, turning it into dry fuel that helps fires to spread.

“The hotter, drier conditions right now, it just makes [fires] far more dangerous,” Copernicus senior scientist Mark Parrington said.

Countries such as Portugal and Greece experience fires most summers, and have infrastructure to try to manage them – though both have received emergency EU help this summer. But hotter temperatures are also pushing wildfires into regions not used to them, and thus less prepared to cope.

## Climate change isn’t the only factor in fires

Forest management and ignition sources are also important factors. In Europe, more than nine out of 10 fires are ignited by human activities, like arson, disposable barbecues, electricity lines, or littered glass, according to EU data.

Countries, including Spain, face the challenge of shrinking populations in rural areas, as people move to cities, leaving smaller workforces to clear vegetation and avoid “fuel” for forest fires building up.

Some actions can help to limit severe blazes, such as setting controlled fires that mimic the low-intensity fires in natural ecosystem cycles, or introducing gaps within forests to stop blazes rapidly spreading over large areas.

But scientists concur that without steep cuts to the greenhouse gases causing climate change, heatwaves, wildfires, flooding and drought will significantly worsen.



“When we look back on the current fire season in one or two decades’ time, it will probably seem mild by comparison,” said Victor Resco de Dios, professor of forest engineering at Spain’s Lleida University.

—Reporting by Kate Abnett; additional reporting by Gloria Dickie; editing by Katy Daigle and Barbara Lewis



# Scientists warn of ‘very high ozone pollution’ for Europe

July 20, 2022, 3:24 pm



**ANKARA** -- Scientists with the European Union's climate monitoring service warned Tuesday of “very high ozone pollution” for a large region of Europe stemming from the current heatwave.

“Very high levels of ozone pollution in southern Europe caused by the heatwave could now affect northwestern regions in the coming week,” said a statement by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (CAMS).

Scientists anticipate that after “extremely high surface ozone pollution” was observed across western and southern Europe, ozone pollution might affect the “northwestern regions.”

“In mid-July, daily maximum values of surface ozone, which peak during the middle of the day, reached unhealthy levels in Portugal, Spain and Italy with some locations measuring in excess of 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ,” it said.

Ozone pollution is expected to reach its highest in Europe on July 18 - 20, according to CAMS scientists.

While the heatwave in Spain and Portugal killed more than 330 people last week, the UK recorded its hottest temperature ever Tuesday.

In southwestern France, wildfires have devoured thousands of hectares of forests and lands. **(Anadolu)**



# UK breaches 40C for first time, heat records tumble in France

[Joe Jackson](#) - Agence France-Presse July 20, 2022 | 8:10am



In this aerial view taken with a drone on July 19, 2022 smoke columns rise from Dartford, Kent, where a fire erupted earlier in the day as part of the consequences of an important heat wave touching Britain. London Fire Brigade and fire services around the country were tackling hundreds of wildfires caused by the extreme temperatures turning fields tinderbox dry. A fierce heatwave sweeping western Europe has pushed temperatures up to record levels in parts of south, southeast and eastern England. At least 34 locations in Britain beat the previous record of 38.7C set in Cambridge, eastern England, in 2019. Experts blamed climate change for the soaring temperatures -- and warned that worse is yet to come.

AFP / William Edwards

LONDON, United Kingdom — A punishing heatwave fuelling ferocious wildfires in western Europe pushed temperatures in Britain over 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time on Tuesday and regional heat records tumbled elsewhere.

Grassland fires erupted on the edge of London, with one forcing the evacuation of 14 people as farm buildings, houses and garages were consumed by the flames.

"I was sunbathing in my garden and then a massive black cloud came across," said Ciar Meadows, a 30-year-old housewife who had to leave her home in the town of Wennington.

"Within an hour it spreads all the way to our house... All of our cars have gone."

After the UK's warmest night on record, the Met Office said a new high of 40.3C had been recorded at Coningsby in eastern England.

At least 34 locations in Britain beat the previous record of 38.7C set in Cambridge, eastern England, in 2019.

Experts blamed climate change for the soaring temperatures -- and warned that worse is yet to come.

Heatwaves "are becoming more frequent and this negative trend will continue... at least until the 2060s, independent of our success in climate mitigation efforts," UN World Meteorological Organization chief Petteri Taalas told reporters in Geneva.

"In the future these kinds of heatwaves are going to be normal, and we will see even stronger extremes."

## Runways melting

The high temperatures have triggered an unprecedented red alert in much of England, where some rail lines were closed as a precaution and schools shuttered in some areas.



All trains were cancelled from London's usually busy Kings Cross station, leaving many travellers stranded.

"It's a little frustrating," said US tourist Deborah Byrne, trying to reach Scotland.

But with road surfaces and runways melting and fears of rails buckling, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps conceded much of Britain's infrastructure "is just not built for this temperature".

In France, 64 different areas registered record high temperatures on Monday, the national weather service confirmed, most of them along the western Atlantic coast where temperatures also soared above 40C.

But the all-time high for mainland France, set in 2019 near Montpellier, of 46C did not appear under threat this week.

The heatwave -- the second to engulf parts of Europe in recent weeks -- has contributed to deadly wildfires in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain, destroying vast tracts of land.

Firefighters in France's southwest were still struggling to contain two massive fires that have caused widespread destruction and forced tens of thousands of people to leave their homes.

"The firemen rang the doorbell to tell us we had to evacuate right away," a pensioner told AFP in La Teste-de-Buch, as he left with his partner and pets in a car.

Nearly 1,700 firefighters from all over the country are battling the two blazes that have so far burned more than 19,000 hectares (42,000 acres) of forest near the Dune du Pilat, Europe's biggest sand dune.

"It's heartbreaking," said Patrick Davet, mayor of La Teste-de-Buch.

"Economically, it's going to be very difficult... because we are a tourist town."

Smoke from the fire-hit region of Gironde late Tuesday reached Paris almost 700 kilometres (400 miles) away, an air quality monitor said.

President Emmanuel Macron was to visit Wednesday, the presidency said.

### **'Climate emergency'**

Greek authorities evacuated eight villages north of Athens, reporting 39 fire outbreaks across the country in just 24 hours.

In Spain -- nearly 10 days into the latest heatwave -- more than a dozen fires continued to rage Tuesday, including in the northwest province of Zamora, which already experienced a huge fire last month.

Known as one of the largest wolf reserves in Europe, it saw nearly 30,000 hectares of land reduced to ashes during the June blaze.

Nearly 6,000 people had to be evacuated from there this week after flames destroyed several thousand hectares of meadows and forests, regional authorities said.

"The climate emergency is lethal," said Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, after visiting a badly hit area.

Rail traffic between Madrid and Galicia, in the northwest, remained suspended after fires on either side of the tracks.

Several people have died in recent days due to the blazes while separately, an office worker in his 50s died from heatstroke in Madrid.



In Portugal, nearly 2,000 firefighters were tackling fires in the centre and north of the country.

A forest fire in the Vila Real region in the far north of Portugal caused three villages to be evacuated.

Murca mayor Mario Artur Lopes said the fire, which began on Sunday, had devastated between 10,000 and 12,000 hectares of forest.



# UK temperature hits 40 C as heat records fall

By [Agence France-Presse](#) July 21, 2022



TOO HOT TO HANDLE Members of the Australian cabaret and circus troupe Briefs cool down in a fountain on the Southbank in London on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. AP PHOTO

LONDON: A punishing heat wave fueling ferocious wildfires in Western Europe pushed temperatures in the United Kingdom to more than 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time on Tuesday as regional heat records tumbled elsewhere.

Grassland fires erupted on the edge of London, with one forcing the evacuation of 14 people as farm buildings, houses and garages were consumed by the flames.

After lodging the UK's warmest night on record, the Met Office said a new high of 40.3 C had been recorded at Coningsby in eastern England.

At least 34 locations in the country beat the previous record of 38.7 C set in Cambridge, also in eastern England, in 2019.

Experts blamed climate change for the soaring temperatures — and warned that worse is yet to come.

Heat waves "are becoming more frequent and this negative trend will continue...at least until the 2060s, independent of our success in climate mitigation efforts," United Nations World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas told reporters in Geneva.

"In the future, these kinds of heat waves are going to be normal, and we will see even stronger extremes," he said.

The high temperatures have triggered an unprecedented red alert in much of England, where some rail lines were closed as a precaution and schools closed in some areas.

All trains were canceled from London's usually busy Kings Cross station, leaving many commuters stranded.

But with road surfaces and runways melting and fears of rails buckling, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps conceded that much of Britain's infrastructure "is just not built for this temperature."

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But the all-time high for mainland France, set in 2019 near the city of Montpellier — 46 C — did not appear under threat this week.



The ongoing heat wave — the second to engulf parts of Europe in recent weeks — has contributed to deadly wildfires in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain, destroying vast tracts of land.

Firefighters in France's southwest were still struggling to contain two massive fires that have caused widespread destruction and forced tens of thousands of people to leave their homes.

Nearly 1,700 firefighters from all over the country are battling the two blazes that have so far burned more than 19,000 hectares (42,000 acres) of forest near the Dune du Pilat, Europe's biggest sand dune.

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Several people have died in recent days due to the blazes while separately, an office worker in his 50s, died from heatstroke in the capital Madrid.

In Portugal, nearly 2,000 firefighters were battling fires in the country's center and north.

A forest fire in the Vila Real region in Portugal's far north forced residents in three villages to evacuate.

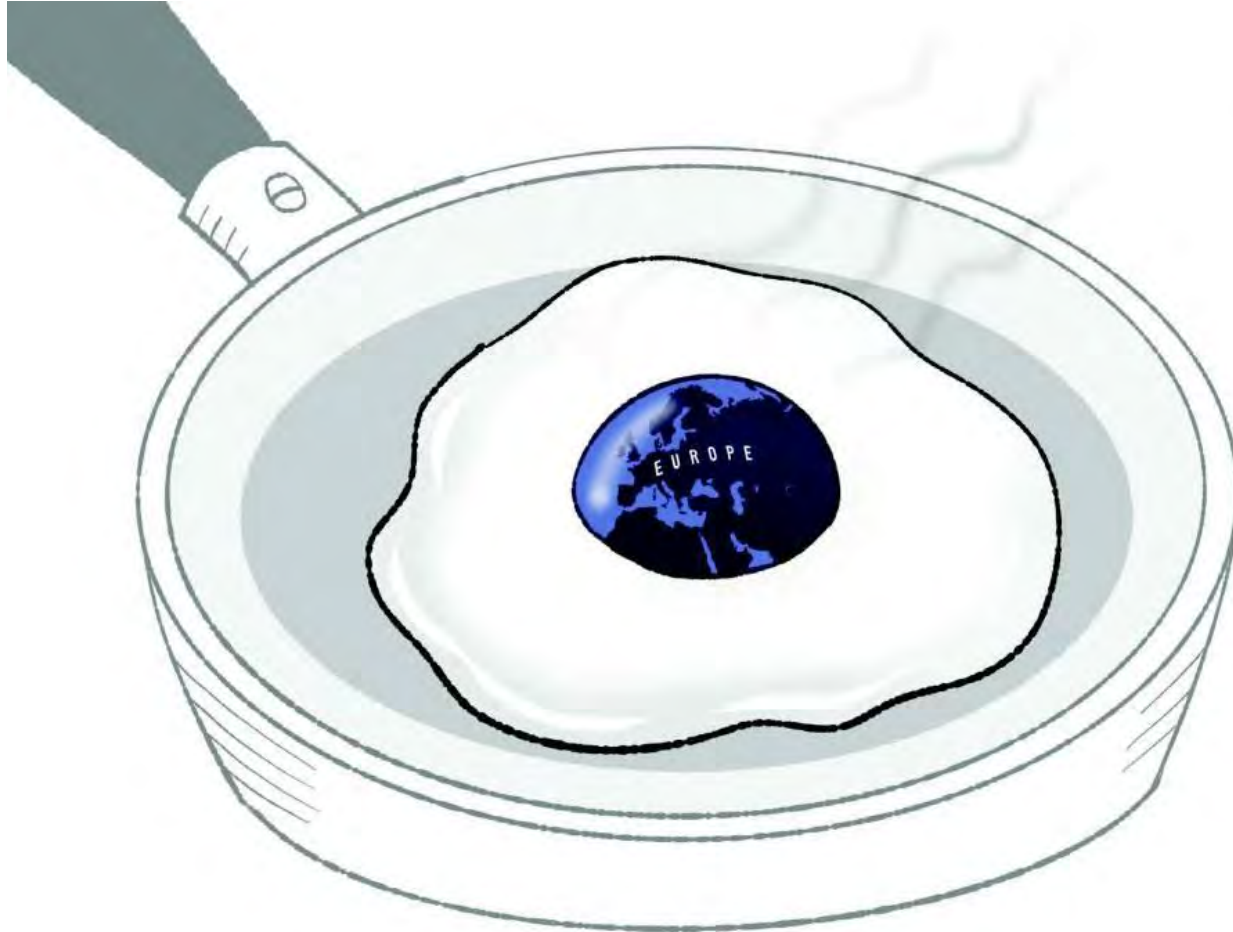
Wildfires in the country already killed two other people and injured about 60.





# HEAT WAVE

July 21, 2022



**40 to 43 C (104 to 110 F)**

21 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

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**SHE'S IN** President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. administers the oath-taking of Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. PHOTO FROM PRESIDENT BONGBONG MARCOS FACEBOOK PAGE



STRATEGIC  
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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. met with the new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss topics concerning our environment such as development, enhancement, up to restoration and regeneration of our natural resources and digitizing databases and systems of the department Wednesday.



## Solon proposes transfer of DA, DENR to Mindanao to hasten region's dev't

By ELLSON A. QUISMORIO

Cagayan de Oro 2nd district Rep. Rufus Rodriguez has proposed a radical way to hasten the development of Mindanao, his home region.

He said Mindanao's development could be sped up by transferring the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the region.

In a statement on Tuesday, July 19, Rodriguez said President Bongbong Marcos should also appoint "qualified Mindanao professionals" as secretaries of the two departments.

"The heads of these agencies will have their hands full in growing and exploring the farming and natural resources sectors, including minerals, in our island. However, the President should ban the highly destructive open-pit mining," he said.

Marcos is personally overseeing the DA, in a temporary capacity, out of his desire to better prepare the country for an anticipated food crisis in the first few months of his administration.

On the other hand, the DENR is currently headed by Georgetown University graduate and disaster resilience expert Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga. She took her oath as DENR in Malacañang also on Tuesday.

Rodriguez, a deputy speaker in the previous 18th Congress, said government should vigorously implement programs to help farmers and fisherfolks recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, high fuel prices and fertilizer costs.

He also emphasized the need to increase food production, extend credit and farm input assistance to farmers, and construct more irrigation systems.



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# Lawmaker: Urban farms can help cut poverty

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

[@joveemarie](#)

**T**O increase food production, a lawmaker is pushing for the passage of the proposed Integrated Urban Agriculture Act, which seeks to maximize available spaces and utilize emerging agricultural technologies and methods.

In House Bill 72, Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Francisco Benitez said the promotion of household-, community- and school-based urban agriculture will contribute to food security and poverty reduction, strengthen community-building and support the National Greening Program.

"Urban agriculture also puts value in otherwise idle urban spaces, maximizing limited land resources that are increasingly shrinking due to rapid urbanization and unsustainable urban development," he added.

Citing the First Quarter 2022 Survey of the Social Weather Station, Benitez said hunger has worsened from 11.8 percent in December 2021 to 12.2 percent. This translates to 3.1 million families experiencing involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months prior to the survey.

The bill covers idle or abandoned government or private lands, buildings, shipping containers, subdivisions or villages, public housing, open spaces in all urban, peri-urban and urbanizable areas in the country; and all available land resources

and buildings in schools, state or private universities and colleges, military camps suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock and aquaculture.

However, the bill said the utilization of idle lands for urban agriculture purposes will not be used as grounds for the eviction of informal settler families occupying the lands.

Also, the measure said the raising of poultry and livestock will be limited to "urbanizable" areas and all livestock raising shall be subject to health and safety standards and regulations issued by the Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and other relevant government agencies.

Under the bill, local government units (LGUs) will identify and develop idle government and private lands and buildings, without prejudice to the rights of owners of private lands, buildings and open spaces, within their jurisdiction, for full or partial conversion solely to community gardens, food forest gardens, indoor farms and/or vertical farms to support food security and community nutrition.

It indicated that food forest gardens and urban farms adopting agro-ecological principles will be the priority form of urban agriculture wherever applicable and feasible.

The bill said all LGUs, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Coopera-



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PHOTO shows an urban garden in Barangay San Antonio in Pasig City. FROM WWW.SANTONIO.PASIGCITY.GOV.PH

tive Development Authority (CDA), will capacitate neighborhood associations and people's organizations, and facilitate the organization and registration of community-based cooperatives, to undertake community gardening and establish community farmers' markets.

### Role of LGUs

IT said the DHSUD and DA will promote sustainable, smart and organic food production systems that harness the benefits of new technologies and methods in soil, nutrient, water and energy man-

agement, such as composting, rainwater harvesting and utilization of renewable energy.

The DHSUD will also ensure the rational use of land resources in urban planning to promote sustainable peri-urban interface, as well as for the spatial requirements of supply chain management and logistics to strengthen urban-rural foodshed linkages.

Towards these ends, the DHSUD will promulgate guidelines for the harmonization of the comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances of LGUs with urban agriculture policies,

frameworks, strategies and standards.

The bill mandates all LGUs to incorporate urban agricultural development in their respective Annual Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans, Physical Framework Plans, and Development Master Plans including the hiring of agriculturists and agricultural and biosystems engineers to carry out urban agriculture programs.

It said LGUs, with the assistance of the DA, Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Information and Communications Technology, will establish



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and maintain a digital information system. This information system will facilitate the efficient collection, management and analysis of urban food systems, agriculture and nutrition data, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of LGU performance vis-à-vis the food system agriculture and nutrition targets.

The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, with the technical assistance of the DA, will integrate urban agriculture in the academic curriculum for elementary, secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and other subjects related to agriculture.

Compliance by subdivision and condominium developers and owners may qualify them for incentives provided for under Republic Act (RA) 10771, otherwise known as the "Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016," subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and the DHSUD.

Loans extended by government and private banks to participating individuals, corporations and partnerships will be treated as compliance with RA 10000 or "The Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009."

The measure also creates a National Convergence Program on Urban Agriculture and Aquaculture, which will be headed by the DA, to develop and sustain concerted action to promote urban agriculture.





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## Program gears up for its 1 millionth tree this year

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

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

The Plant for Life 2022 kickoff was led by Maynilad president and chief executive officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez, MWSS Administrator Leonor "Bobby" Cleofas, MWSS chief regulator Lester Patrick Ty, and Department

### Envirowatch

of Environment and Natural Resources Assistant Director, Million Trees Foundation president Melandrew Velasco capped by actual planting of 2,000 trees at the La Mesa Watershed and ceremonial handprints for their commitment to climate neutrality.

"Since we started this program in 2007, we have already covered around 570 hectares of land with more than 923,000 indigenous trees and mangroves. Planting a tree may seem simple enough. However, its impact can be tremendous as far as watershed protection is concerned. The more denuded forestlands we can recover, the better our chances of improving water

security, and providing a sustainable environment for future generations," Fernandez said in his welcome remarks.

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

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



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# Energy balance

**“**  
*Exploration of indigenous resources like gas and oil in the West Philippine Sea also continues to augment indigenous energy sources.*

The economy depends on imported fuel, making the nation vulnerable to price fluctuations that are ultimately reflected in the high inflation level.

Based on Department of Energy data, an additional 7,712 megawatts (MW) of power supply are needed from 2021 to 2027 to keep up with the projected growth breakout.

Between 2016 and 2020, installed capacity grew from 21,424 MW to 26,287 MW, or an increase by 4,863 MW.

A key consideration is the anticipated depletion of the Malampaya natural gas field, which the industry has prepared for through new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities, while indigenous power sources are explored.

Two LNG projects, those of AG&P and Osaka Gas and that of First Gen and Tokyo Gas, are expected in the third quarter.

Exploration of indigenous resources like gas and oil in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) also continues to augment indigenous energy sources. Last year, five service contracts were awarded after the government lifted the ban on exploration activities in the WPS.

Clean energy is the way to go after the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference or COP26 in which nations set a world free of carbon emissions by 2030.



TYPEWRITER  
FIEND  
CHITO LOZADA

The Philippines had sought concessions from the UN in which it committed to a less stringent path of a more gradual shift from traditional fuel sources, such as coal.

More renewable energy (RE) contracts, such as from large solar farms, are in store to allow the country to meet its international commitment and wean away from a dependence on imported oil or coal and global commodity price fluctuations. First Gen and AC Energy Corporation (ACEN) are RE industry leaders.

Several power operators are taking the bold step of pioneering the setting up of projects to the point of sacrificing part of their profits to cover the still expensive electricity generation from renewable sources, precluding increases in the monthly power bills.

The companies have no hesitation in investing heavily

following the guidance that President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr has put a priority to RE under his term.

Marcos had said that RE offers the best solution to avert an impending power crisis and address an ever-increasing energy demand.

Marcos, a staunch advocate of renewable energy, takes pride of the Bangui Wind Farm in Ilocos Norte that he said he helped make possible.

“There is something to be said for economies of scale. And yet the country invites investments in fast-rising industries with quick returns — and inflicts irreparable damage for future generations,” he said.

“We have yet to see large-scale practical solutions to pollution, though some are beginning to emerge. But there are tried and proven new ways of mitigation. Blades have been turning over the sand dunes of Ilocos Norte,

harnessing a power all around but unseen, long before this day. I built them,” Marcos indicated in his inaugural address.

Support from the highest level opens up a lot of possibilities for investors.

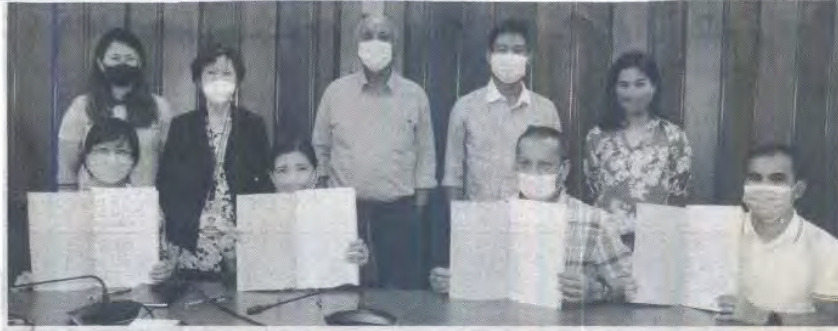
**“**  
*More renewable energy contracts such as from large solar farms are in store to allow the country to meet its international commitment.*



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**ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION ACCORD** – Filminera Resources Corporation (FRC) signs a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB) to enhance the company's capability restore and progressively rehabilitate disturbed and mined-out areas. DENR-ERDB will also extend help establishing the clonal nursery in Brgy. Puro, Aroroy, Masbate, aside from giving technical assistance in conducting Landform Function Analysis (LFA) for the rehabilitated areas, as well as for the mangrove and bamboo plantations. In photo are MOA signatories and witnesses (front from left): Florita E. Siapno, OIC-Chief, Forest Ecosystems Research Division (FERD); Ma. Lourdes G. Ferrer, director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau; Geronimo C. Badulis, Jr., FRC resident manager; and Audie M. Altiche, FRC environmental manager. (From left, standing): Ma. Kristina P. Orpia, FERD technical staff; Mayumi Quintos-Natividad, ERDB assistant director, Gregorio E. Santos, Jr., Urban and Biodiversity Research Development and Extension Center head; and Greg Perez and Maureen Bien of the FRC Environmental Department.



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## Palawan lagoon pasok na best beach sa mundo

PANALO sa ganda ang Secret Lagoon ng Pilipinas sa El Nido, Palawan lalo't kinilala ito bilang top 6 sa 50 Best Beaches sa buong mundo.

Inilabas ng Big 7 Travel, isang worldwide journey website, ang nasabing listahan kung saan bumida ang angking ganda ng Palawan.



(Big 7 Travel)

Ang nakatagong Secret Lagoon na napupuntahan sa pamamagitan ng isang maliit na kuweba ay muling napasama sa listahan makaraang makapasok din ito noong noong 2021, sa ikalimang ranggo.

"El Nido is a cluster of 45 islands just off the tip of Palawan, which is famous for its Secret Lagoon. Swim through a hole in the limestone rocks to enter a hidden bay with crystal clear water, white sandy beaches and tropical jungle," paglalarawan ng Big 7 Travel sa Secret Lagoon.

Sa taong ito, nanguna sa 50 Best Beaches sa buong mundo ang Playa Conchal sa Costa Rica. Pasok din bilang top 2 ang Turquoise Bay sa Exmouth, Australia, sunod ang: Grace Bay sa Turks and Caicos Islands, Siesta Beach sa Florida, United States, at Punta Mosquito sa Holbox, Mexico.

Ayon sa Best 7 Travel, "We've released our annual "50 Best Beaches in the World" rankings using aggregated stores from previous media results, official Blue Flag locations and contributions from the Big 7 Travel editorial team." (Gel Manalo w/intern Rosalie Labrador)



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## Reclamation for whom?



SO  
I SEE  
LITO  
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"The natural flow of bay waters will have been altered by these many reclamation islands that the waters kissing the dolomite beach will likely be fetid and stagnant, trapped by the man-made monstrosities constructed for the wealthy"

There are several reclamation projects, big and small, that will soon dot Manila Bay with their man-made islands, assuming they are not stopped.

There is already one project that has been started, supposedly owned by a Davao construction magnate, visible from the air if you are aboard a helicopter.

Down at the Mall of Asia pedestrian esplanade, you can see barges scooping sand from around 20 meters offshore, apparently to fill up the reclamation project farther offshore. The project is within the municipal waters of both Pasay and Manila.

There is an even bigger reclamation project, this time by the wealthiest family in the land, that spans Parañaque and Pasay.

There is a small one which has been languishing for the last 20 years without being allowed to start mobilization, approved by the late Manila Mayor Fred Lim, that borders the Folk Arts Theater area beside the Philippine Naval reservation.

There are two conflicting reclamation projects, both fronting Roxas Boulevard in Manila, approved by Mayor-President Erap Estrada, whose metes and bounds overlap. And another also within Manila's municipal waters, approved as well during Estrada's time.

Then there is a reclamation project in tiny Navotas, a city whose income and population dwarf its land area, and seeks now to increase the same as there is no more room for expansion.

Once all of these are completed, visitors to that dolomite beach the "Mandamus Agencies" are so proud of will be devoid of the view of the Manila Bay sunset, and ordinary mortals who pass by our famed Roxas Boulevard will just see condominiums from a distance hiding the sunset from us.

Worse, the natural flow of bay waters will have been altered by these many reclamation islands that the waters kissing the dolomite beach will likely be fetid and stagnant, trapped by the man-made monstrosities constructed for the wealthy.

But why are there so many reclamation projects, not only in Manila Bay, but likewise in Cebu, in Coron, and God knows where else?

It is because with the high prices of real estate in the country, it is cheaper to construct islands offshore than to purchase inland. Why the prices of Philippine real estate are way too high compared to say Thailand or Indonesia and Vietnam is likewise a puzzlement.

So, when Harry Stonehill, the American carpetbagger who controlled US Tobacco once upon a time started reclaiming what is now the CCP-PICC area beside the Philippine Navy HQ, people wondered whatever for.

A subsequent corruption scandal that had almost everybody in politics listed in the American's uncovered "blue book" sent him scurrying out of the country. And the reclamation project became government property, upon which Imelda Marcos built her monuments.

In Cebu City, which is a narrow strip of land hemmed in by mountains to its west, the late Mayor, then Senator Sergio Osmena Jr. hired a Hawaiian corporation to reclaim what is now the useful Port of Cebu extension covering parts of the city as well as Mandaue.



As our population mushroomed with unabated baby production, the urban centers of Manila and environs became overcrowded, especially since we never did in-city urban planning, not until Mayor Isko Moreno came to the scene with his Tcondominiums and Binondominiums, affordable and decent housing for the poor and common folks.

Elsewhere, when the Ayala gated villages with their stately mansions were all filled up, builders started building pricey high-rise condominiums along Ayala Avenue, in Buendia and Rockwell, later the BGC and Ortigas.

Prices of real estate have gone haywire, with BGC lots, if you can find any for sale, going for a million per square meter. Thus, the reclamation option, and with our condominiums available for foreign purchase, bingo for the developers.

Government functionaries and politicians keep talking about dispersing growth towards the provinces, but little has been done about the same.

Everybody crowds NCR, Metro Cebu, Iloilo, and other urban centers where work opportunities are better than the languishing countryside.

But will the reclamation projects off Manila Bay solve the problem of over-crowding?

Not by any chance. These projects are not for you and I. And as the American fictionist Francis Scott Fitzgerald once quipped, "the rich, my dear, are different from you and I."

They will be for the can-afford wealthy, the uber-billionaires and the foreigners, mostly Chinese, who want another high-value asset in our country.

And the proponents of these mega-projects have also lined up partnerships with uber-wealthy Chinese, and Chinese contractors who more likely than not, will hire workers from the mainland.

Since they cannot hire en masse from China, they will get helpers from the provinces, who will never leave the metropolis, having found work here.

Instead they will migrate to the capital region, along with their extended families. You think they will live in those reclaimed islands after the ritzy condominiums are completed?

They will crowd their way into every fetid slum in the capital region where they can put shack and a makeshift roof. Such is how economics works.

We never plan long-term in this country. We cannot see anything beyond the tip of our noses.

But since many of these projects are not likely to proceed quickly enough due to the world-wide recession, maybe the new president can still put a stop to these absurdities.

Enough is enough.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*

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**'NO EXPENSE?'** A massive dredging operation continues near the mouth of a river facing the West Philippine Sea in Cabangan, Zambales, to help mitigate flooding by removing sediments and debris. But after over six years of operations, it has raised concern among residents. Although the operation is "at no expense" to government, precious earth materials are being exported "raw" by influential mining companies, depriving the country of much-needed income from processed minerals. Environment groups, meanwhile, have raised an alarm over reports that materials from dredging in the province, which could eventually lead to habitat degradation, were being used in China's West Philippine Sea reclamation and military infrastructure. JOEL C. PAREDES





**DUTY CALLS**  
**FLORENCIO**  
**FIANZA**

## Rightsizing or downsizing

EVER since I can remember, every new administration comes up with the idea of reviewing

the staffing patterns of the government bureaucracy for the purpose of downsizing it to save money.

In the end, however, the effort oftentimes failed with the bureaucracy even growing bigger than before.

This administration is no different.

It has, however, come out with the term rightsizing. The stated intention is to eliminate redundant

positions and reposition government workers to posts where they are best qualified and needed.

This gives the impression that the government intention is not really to downsize as some critics are saying but repositioning.

If this is the real intention, the government is of course right.

There are indeed so many redundant positions that should be eliminated.

Unfortunately, some government executives gave themselves away by saying the repositioning alone or

whatever it is called will eventually save about P14.8 billion which means that positions will be eliminated.

The savings can then be used for "social welfare programs, infrastructure, health and agriculture."

Unsurprisingly, an organization of government workers immediately punched on this revelation, saying

this clearly shows the insincerity of the government.

What the government really wants to do, according to them, is to downsize and not right size the bureaucracy.

Lost in all the debate is the issue of what exactly should be the right size of the government bureaucracy.

We keep hearing the government bureaucracy is so overstuffed that it needs to be trimmed.

The right number normally depends on the staffing pattern determined by the agency with the approval of the Civil Service

*There must also be other programs where the government can save without having to target the bureaucracy which, as it is, should be strengthened and not weakened*

Commission.

The rule of thumb in many countries is that there should be one million bureaucrats in government for every 40 million population.

This is the number believed to be ideal in providing an efficient service to the population. Since we already number about 110 million people, we should therefore, have at least about 2.750 million civilian bureaucrats in government.

Since CSC figures show that we have 1.7 million, there is in fact a need to create more positions.

This number includes regular, contractual and job order employees.

Unfortunately, there are some government planners who believe that the government should peg the number of bureaucrats to about 1 million.

This is faulty because this number is clearly not enough.

Given that the population continues to increase, the government has no choice but to also increase the size of the bureaucracy in proportion to population increase notwithstanding the benefits of computerization.

The government may have the best of intentions but the way it is looking, the end result

will almost be some kind of downsizing.

And given the prevailing economic

situation, this may not be a wise move because the amount to be saved which is P14.8 billion is quite small in the overall scheme of things.

As budget experts will tell us, a lot more savings can be generated elsewhere such as lessening pork barrel allocations, unspent programs, and other savings.

There must also be other programs where the government can save without having to target the bureaucracy which, as it is, should be strengthened and not weakened.

Another question that needs answering is: why does the government have so many contractual

and job order employees but seem unable to fill up 177,000 vacant government plantilla positions?

This indicates that there is something that needs fixing in the way plantilla positions are determined and filled. It could also mean that the entire staffing pattern of the government is the one that is in need of a thorough review.

In the military and police organizations, there is the so-called Table of Organization and Equipment.

This means that appointments, promotions must not go beyond those identified in the TO and E.

But, in actual practice, the police is not always following TO and E guidelines and this is why we often see too many Generals and Colonels being promoted.

This is also happening in the civil service.

Hopefully, this will also be addressed by those who will implement the rightsizing plan of the administration.

If this is done the way it should, my educated guess is that the administration will find itself increasing the number of employees in government needed to provide the needed services to the people who as we know are underserved.

Part of the problem is that whatever the government does, the issue of corruption is always not far away.

The other is wasteful spending. If the two can be reduced significantly, then perhaps we can see better services being provided by a well-motivated government bureaucracy.

I do not doubt the sincerity of this administration to want to reform the bureaucracy.

But the timing is bad. Now is not the time to do it.



### **1 lugar sa Taguig, idineklarang danger zone dahil sa landslide**

Idineklara ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Taguig na 'danger zone' ang isang lugar sa Cuasay Road, Brgy. Central Signal, sa Taguig City, kung saan naganap ang isang minor landslide, Martes ng hapon (Hulyo 19).

Ito'y matapos inspeksyunin kahapon ang nasabing lugar na ipinasara matapos maganap ang pagguho ng lupa na tumabon sa isang sari-sari store alas-2:00 ng hapon.

Ang kaligtasan at kapakanan ng mga Taguigeño ang prayoridad ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Taguig kaya pinapaalalahanan ang lahat na magsagawa ng routine check ng mga sira sa kanilang mga bahay o lugar ng trabaho lalo na ngayong tag-ulan.

Nagbabala rin ang lokal na pamahalaan sa mga nagtatayo, nagpapaayos o nais magpatayo ng istruktura na kumuha ng building permit para masiguro ang kaligtasan ng lahat.

Ayon sa Taguig LGUs, mabilis naman ang ginawang pagsaklolo ng kanilang quick response team, engineers, at social workers upang masuri ang pinsala at tiyakin ang kaligtasan ng mga residente sa lugar.

Ang pagbilis na soil erosion dahil sa mga pag-huhukay na ginawa ng mga nakatira sa lugar at mga naipong tubig dulot ng pag-ulan ang tinitingnang sanhi ng pagguho ng lupa. (Ludy Bermudo)

21 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# PH detects 816 new cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [July 20, 2022, 4:46 pm](#)



**MANILA** – The country has detected 816 additional cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Wednesday.

In a media forum, DOH officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said all regions, except the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), have detected the BA.5 subvariant and 12 returning overseas Filipinos tested positive for it.

"Three hundred nine from Region 6 (Western Visayas); 145 from National Capital Region; 106 from Calabarzon; 69 from Region 11 (Davao); 56 from Region 2 (Cagayan Valley); 41 from Cordillera Administrative Region; 14 from Region 3 (Central Luzon); 13 from Region 5 (Bicol); 13 from Region 4-B (Mimaropa); 12 from Region 7 (Central Visayas); eight from Region 12 (Soccsksargen) and five from Region 1 (Ilocos)," she added.

Of the total BA.5 tally, 560 cases are fully vaccinated while the vaccination statuses of the remaining 256 are still being verified.

The exposure of the cases are still unknown and their travel histories are still being verified.

Three individuals presented moderate symptoms while the disease severity of each of the remaining 813 is still being verified.

About 686 of the total cases are now tagged as recovered while 78 are still undergoing isolation.

The DOH is still verifying the outcomes of the remaining 52 individuals.

There were also 42 additional BA.4 cases -- 10 were from Soccsksargen; nine from the Davao Region; seven from Western Visayas; four each from the NCR and Bicol Region; three from Calabarzon; one each from the Cordillera and BARMM; and three returning overseas Filipinos.

Thirty-one of them are fully vaccinated while the vaccination status of the remaining 11 cases are still being verified. The DOH is also verifying their exposures and travel histories.

Thirty-six out of the 42 cases are tagged as recovered, five are still undergoing isolation and the outcome of the other case is being verified.

Meantime, about 52 additional BA.2.12.1 cases were also detected.



At least one individual from Central Luzon, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, Soccsksargen, CAR, Caraga and the NCR tested positive for the BA.2.12.1 subvariant.

Their exposures, travel histories, and health status are still being verified.

Twenty-six are fully vaccinated and five are partially vaccinated.

The vaccination statuses of the remaining 21 are still being verified.

About 49 of the cases are now tagged as recovered while the outcomes of the remaining three are still being verified. **(PNA)**



# Over 1.1M Pinoys receive 2nd booster shot vs. Covid-19

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor July 20, 2022, 5:37 pm



(PNA file photo by Avito Dalan)

**MANILA** – More than 1.1 million healthcare workers, senior citizens, immunocompromised and persons with comorbidities have received their second booster of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccine.

Department of Health (DOH) officer-in-charge Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said Wednesday about 71.4 million Filipinos are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as of July 19. Of the tally, more than 9.6 million are adolescents and 3.9 million are children.

About 15.7 million have received their first booster shot.

"Sa darating po na July 26, kasama po ang ating Pangulong Marcos, atin pong opisyal na ilulunsad ang PinasLakas katuwang ang ating LGUs [local government units] at ibang stakeholders (On July 26, together with our President Marcos, we will officially launch PinasLakas with the help of our LGUs and other stakeholders)," Vergeire said in a media briefing.

She noted the DOH aims to vaccinate 90 percent of the target elderly population and to boost 50 percent of the target population during the first 100 days of the Marcos administration.

She added the DOH will make vaccines more accessible and available in markets, places of worship, malls, transport terminals, offices, factories, plazas or schools.

As for the senior citizens who are unable to drop by the vaccination sites, the DOH will conduct home visits for their vaccination and booster shots.

To date, the country and all its regions remain under the low risk classification for Covid-19 despite the continued increase in Covid-19 cases.

Vergeire noted the National Capital Region showed the steepest increase with 900 new cases per day.

Meantime, a continued slow trend of case increase is observed in Mindanao. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179383>

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