

22 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# New DENR chief vows to fight climate emergency, protect PH's indigenous species

Published July 21, 2022, 2:28 PM

by [Jel Santos](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga on Thursday, July 21, vowed to protect indigenous species and respond to climate emergency.



DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga (DENR PHOTO)

"[W]e need to combat the climate emergency through practical climate change adaptation measures, the use of science to approach national scale as well as local scale impacts of climate change," she said in her speech during a turn-over ceremony at the DENR main office in Quezon City.

Loyzaga noted that people are currently living in a multi-hazard environment.

"Not just from natural hazards but from industrial as well as what we call natural technological hazards. The compounding of these hazards has led to the development of systemic risks and threats to our entire economic and social system," she added.

Loyzaga stressed that it is important to continuously "protect our indigenous species as part of our natural heritage and at the same time harness these resources for the benefit of our country."

"On that note, I wish to enjoin all of you to please join us on this new course and mission. And I hope for your collaboration. Please my office is open, please feel free to come in and share your thoughts and possibly concerns as well," said Loyzaga.

Emphasizing the crucial role of the DENR in accounting for the natural resources of the country, she said "accounting will need, in fact, to take place very, very soon as we make plans for the new administration's agenda moving forward."

She noted that the accounting of natural resources under her administration will involve the use of science and technology, as well as the use of financial management and economics.

"And that means we will have to work across the different departments to achieve that foundation."

## **Building resilient communities**

Loyzaga said she wants to build resilient communities along with other government agencies through risk-sensitive and balanced development of resources "along what we call the natural rural urban transect."



“These resources are part of our patrimony; we need to treasure them, and need to measure what we value,” she said.

According to her, she also wants to work with local governments of cities, saying they are the engines of growth but they depend largely on the ecosystems that support them.

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

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

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

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

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



# DENR chief Yulo-Loyzaga stresses need for democratic leadership, science-based governance

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 21, 2022 | 12:44pm



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. meets with the new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss topics concerning the environment.

Office of the President

MANILA, Philippines — Climate and disaster resilience expert Toni Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized Thursday the need for science-based governance, and for consultation and collaboration with stakeholders as she assumed the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the department's mission should represent an ethical stewardship to serve with brilliance and virtue, and uphold shared environmental values as well as scientific and technical excellence.

"We want a stewardship that is democratic: where stakeholders can participate, where there is transparency in the department's plans and decisions," the new DENR chief said, adding the agency's officials and employees should "work across silos" and not be limited to their specific domains.

The DENR has often been criticized in recent years for a perceived lack of proper consultations on policies and on projects like the Dolomite Beach along the Manila Baywalk.

Groups earlier welcomed the appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga to the DENR, given her background in science and in working in civil society. But Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment also challenged her to stand with indigenous peoples and environmental defenders who are at risk.

Yulo-Loyzaga also stressed the need to protect indigenous species, to ensure the capabilities of different bureaus support each other, to invest in a scientific risk-based approach, and to make sure that environmental legislations are evidence-informed.

"We strive for efficiency, but also technical excellence in the conduct of our work especially in government transactions, efficient use of our resources, digitization hopefully and modernization of our information management systems," she added.

Yulo-Loyzaga likewise said the accounting of the country's natural resources needs to "take place very, very soon."



“This will in fact involve the use of science and technology as well as the use of financial management or economics. That means we will need to work across different departments to achieve that foundation,” she said.

### **Climate change adaptation**

A disaster resilience expert and climate change advocate, Yulo-Loyzaga said the country needs to combat the climate crisis through practical climate change adaptation measures, and the use of science to approach impacts of climate change on the national scale as well as locally.

She is the president of the National Resilience Council and former executive director of research institute Manila Observatory.

“We would like to build resilient communities along with our other government agencies through risk sensitive and balanced development of resources along what we call natural-rural-urban transect,” the DENR secretary said.

“[We need to] work with our cities. They’re our engines of growth, but they depend largely on the ecosystems that support them,” she added.

As she ended her speech, Yulo-Loyzaga called for collaboration.

“My office is open. Please feel free to come in and share your thoughts and possibly concerns as well.”

# DENR's Loyzaga promises priority action on climate change measures

July 21, 2022 | 8:47 pm



DENR FACEBOOK PAGE

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Maria Antonia Y. Loyzaga said action to address the climate crisis will be one of the department's areas of focus during her term.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) needs to act on the climate emergency "through science to approach national and local-scale impacts of climate change. We live in a multi-hazard environment, from industrial and what we call natural-technological hazards," she said during the department's turnover ceremony on Thursday.

"We need to continuously protect our indigenous species as part of our heritage and harness these resources for the benefit of our country," she added.

The new DENR Secretary said that she is aiming to "emphasize the crucial role in the accounting of natural resources of the country."

"We need to harness our expertise and make sure the capabilities of the different sectors and bureaus are in line and support each other. We want to invest in a scientific and risk-based approach," she said.

"The role of the DENR cannot be minimized in terms of trying to support the economy of our country and the social and inclusive development of our nation," she added.

In a separate statement, the DENR announced that it is collaborating with the Korean National Assembly to explore the use of a communications satellite to monitor and protect the environment.

"Korean technology will strengthen Philippines' capabilities in the use of data generated through orbital satellites, which provide high resolution images of the terrain," the DENR said in a statement.

DENR Director Al O. Orloff said that satellite technology and high resolution images play a significant role in managing and protecting natural resources and the environment.

Apart from the satellite, there are two ongoing projects between the DENR and the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

These include the establishment of an Integrated Water Resources Management and Information System for the Pampanga River Basin Phase 2 and the enhancement of marine litter management in Manila Bay.



There are also potential collaborations with the Philippine Space Agency and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, according to the DENR.

— **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

# DENR welcomes Sec. Toni Yulo-Loyzaga

July 21, 2022



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources welcomed the new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga on Thursday, July 21. (Photo courtesy of DENR Facebook page)

**By Katrina Gracia Consebido**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officials and employees welcomed and congratulated Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga on Thursday, July 21, as the new chief of the department.

Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo led the turnover ceremony by handing over the flag to the newly installed secretary.







Loyzaga urged her fellow public servants to “serve with excellence and virtue” while upholding the values of the department.

“We want a stewardship that is democratic where stakeholders can participate, where there is transparency in the Department’s plans and decisions,” Yulo-Loyzaga said.



The ceremony was attended by other officials from regional offices, bureaus, and attached agencies. **-ag**



## Get to know the mission of new DENR chief

Published on: July 21, 2022

By Elaine Allanigue

**QUEZON CITY, (PIA)** -- New Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga wanted the department to work across silos and encouraged different bureaus and sectors to support each other.

During the DENR turnover ceremony this morning, Sec. Loyzaga, in her speech, pointed out the silos disciplinary in the organization.

*"We work in silos disciplinary especially in organizations such as this. We need to harness our expertise and make sure that the capabilities of the different sectors and the different bureaus, actually are inline and support each other,"* Sec. Loyzaga stated.

Moreover, Sec. Loyzaga would like to invest in a "scientific risk based approach" with "some quantified impact metrics."

*"Hopefully with the department's projects and performance we can set the example for the economic, social and environmental gains that are part of the mandate of the DENR,"* Sec. Loyzaga stated.

The new secretary also emphasized on the importance of digitization and modernization of its information management systems to enhance the department's delivery of service.

*"We strive for efficiency but also technical excellence in the conduct of our work especially in government transactions, the efficient use of our resources, and the digitization, hopefully, and modernization of our information management systems. This will enhance the delivery of our service to our stakeholders and ensure the level of excellence in terms of performance and the impacts that we would like to achieve,"* Sec. Loyzaga stated.

### Five Key Items of the New DENR Secretary's Mission

1 - To emphasize the DENR'S crucial role in the accounting of the country's natural resources. This involves the use of science and technology as well as the use of financial management and economics.

2 - To build resilient communities along with other government agencies through risk sensitive and balanced development of resources.

3 - To work with the cities. Sec. Loyzaga stated that they are "the engines of growth but they depend largely on the ecosystems that support them." The Secretary added that "the role of the DENR cannot be minimized in terms of trying to support the economy of our country at the same time the social and inclusive development of our nation."



4 - To combat the climate emergency through practical climate change adaptation measures, the use of science to approach national scale as well as local scale impacts of climate change.

5 - To continuously protect the country's indigenous species as part of natural heritage and at the same time harness these resources for the benefit of our country.

The Secretary ended her speech by encouraging everyone's collaboration in this new course and mission.







Photo source: DENR



DENR Sec. Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, binigyang-diin ang paglaban sa climate change;

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## DENR to include database digitization in environmental preservation initiatives

JUL 21, 2022, 2:47 PM

Kaithe Santos  
Writer

***The President and DENR Secretary tackled initiatives aimed at protecting the environment.***

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. met with newly-appointed Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to discuss environmental issues including the department's database digitization efforts and how to develop, improve, restore, and regenerate our natural resources.

Marcos and Yulo-Loyzaga touched on environmental protection efforts that would help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources fulfill its mandate to protect and conserve the environment.

The meeting was held after Marcos swore in Yulo-Loyzaga as the new DENR secretary.

Yulo-Loyzaga has the responsibility as DENR head to protect, manage, develop sustainable use of the nation's ecosystems and natural resources.

Yulo-Loyzaga, who had been involved in disaster resilience efforts before DENR, is best suited to face environmental challenges brought on by climate change, environmental pollution, illegal wildlife activity, and different problems with land, mining, biodiversity loss, and forestry.

Marcos expressed his trust and confidence in Yulo-Loyzaga citing her stint as the chair of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, which is vital in envisioning the agenda of the government to address climate change and other environmental issues," the Office of Press Secretary said.

Marcos guaranteed the public on his official Facebook page that he would thoroughly evaluate the plans and strategies of the DENR and other offices and agencies that fall under the Executive Branch.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/denr-to-include-database-digitization-in-environmental-preservation-initiatives?fbclid=IwAR2qX6-FmOzBoKxWwIVVf0hzscZmx9uCfzA\\_nYd6PHiAuNHBo749a9v8YR4](https://opinyon.net/national/denr-to-include-database-digitization-in-environmental-preservation-initiatives?fbclid=IwAR2qX6-FmOzBoKxWwIVVf0hzscZmx9uCfzA_nYd6PHiAuNHBo749a9v8YR4)



# DENR chief says climate change, species protection among priorities

Jervis Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 21 2022 08:53 PM



Employees walk past a sign welcoming newly appointed Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) headquarters in Quezon City on July 18, 2022. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga said on Thursday her priority programs would include fighting climate emergency and protecting indigenous species.

"We need to combat climate emergency, through practical climate adaptation measures, the use of science to approach national or local scale impacts of climate change," Yulo-Loyzaga said in a hybrid welcome ceremony.

"We also need to strive to continuously protect our indigenous species as part of our natural heritage and at the same time, harness these resources for the benefit of the country," she told around a thousand in-person and virtual attendees.

Climate change is among the biggest global challenges. Former President Duterte himself had said he hoped the Marcos administration would do better in addressing the issue.

Prior to being DENR secretary, Yulo-Loyzaga worked at the Manila Observatory where she advanced research on climate and disaster resilience.

The secretary emphasized the need to listen to stakeholders in crafting policies in the department.

"We want a stewardship that is democratic, where stakeholders can participate, where there is transparency in the department's plans and decisions," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

"We strive to make sure that legislation is evidence informed and policies and programs involve consultation with our stakeholders," she added.

She also said she wanted to ensure decisions would be based on science.

"We want to invest on a scientific, risk based approach. We want to some quantified impact metrics, and hopefully with the departments projects and performance, we can set the example for the economic, social, and environmental gains that are part of the mandate of the DENR," she said.





Yulo-Loyzaga said she would work with other agencies to ensure efficiency on the implementation of their programs.

"We would like to build resilient communities along with other government agencies," she said.

Yulo-Loyzaga took her oath at the Malacañang Palace on Tuesday.



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Opisyal nang sinimulan ni Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga ang kanyang trabaho bilang bagong kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

See Translation



YOUTUBE.COM

PBBM at DENR Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga, nagpulong ukol sa environmental protection policies

👍 48

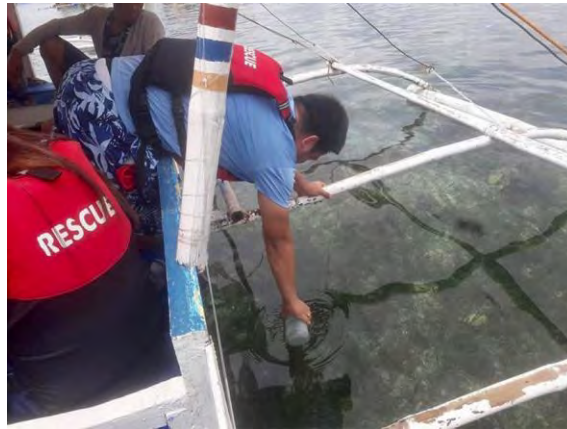
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## DENR 7 set to release result of water check on Cordova’s coastal villages where floating cottages operate



WATER QUALITY. Personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas collect a sample of seawater off Cordova town’s coastal barangays where floating cottages are located on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. The test results of the water samples would determine if the presence of the floating cottages in the coastal barangays has an effect on the quality of the seawater. / Cordova Igu FB page

MAE FHEL K. GOM-OS

July 21, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas will release next week the result of the beach water quality check conducted within the vicinity of floating and fixed cottages in Cordova town.

This was what Engr. Cindylyn Cabrera-Pepito, information officer of the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB 7), told SunStar Cebu on Thursday, July 21, 2022, a day after DENR inspected the vicinity to also determine if such cottages are compliant with their guidelines.

Based on a report from the municipal’s official Facebook page, DENR 7 collected seven water samples for testing. Results of the test will be used as the baseline data to determine the water quality.

“Ang resulta mahimong baseline data tungod kay walay previous o prior data ug adto na mahibaw-an ang kalimpyo o gihugawon sa dagat kung diin nahimutang ang mga floating ug fixed cottages,” it said.

The beach water test was conducted “to test water samples for levels of E. coli (Escherichia coli) bacteria,” apart from the requirement for the cottages to be equipped with portable toilets.

“Ang sobra nga level sa E. coli sa kadagatan makadaot sa panglawas ug ang presensya niini nagpasabot nga adunay nagkatag nga hugaw sa tawo,” it added.

The inspection was conducted by Jesspaz Salamanes, DENR 7 senior environment management specialist, who was accompanied by personnel from the Marine Watch and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) on Wednesday.

During the flag-raising ceremony on Monday, July 18, Cordova Mayor Cesar “Didoy” Suan threatened to close floating cottages in the town should owners fail to equip these with comfort rooms or portable toilets within this week.



But the local executive assured the owners that their operations in the town's seawaters would be allowed to continue provided they followed his directive.

Suan said his office will create a committee that will handle the floating and fixed cottages, and lay down guidelines that owners should follow.

Suan issued his first executive order last July 5, prohibiting the construction of illegal structures, such as floating cottages along legal easements and within the town's coastal areas.

He issued the order after he received a letter from the DENR concerning the floating cottages that have been operating in Barangays Poblacion and Catarman, which have been considered no-build zones.

Aside from being illegally constructed along easements, Suan said majority of the floating and fixed cottages were constructed without any permit or clearance from the Municipal Government.

The mayor also ordered the barangay chiefs of the town and other concerned offices to cease issuing any permit or clearance for individuals operating floating cottages within their jurisdiction.

The DENR's Administrative Order 2021-07 states that legal easements are "determined to be applied, such that, a three-meter easement zone and a 20-meter easement zone shall be adopted for urban and rural areas, respectively."

Suan did not state in his July 18 flag ceremony's speech whether the floating cottages had violated the legal easement or had been constructed legally. **(MKG)**

## DENR-7 checks water quality of Cordova beaches, test results out next week

By: Futch Anthony Inso - Multimedia Correspondent - CDN Digital|July 21,2022 - 02:15 PM



Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) have taken water samples in the beaches of Cordova town to make sure that seawater where the floating cottages and fixed cottages are situated are safe and clean. | Courtesy of Cordova PIO

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines — Results of tests on seawater samples collected during the beach water quality check on Cordova town's beaches on Wednesday, July 20, 2020, conducted by the Department of Environment in Central Visayas (DENR-7), is expected to be released next week.

DENR-7 Senior Environment Management Specialist Jesspaz Salamanes said this after the team took seven samples of seawater in different parts of Cordova town where the floating and fixed cottages were situated.

Salamanes said the seawater inspection would ensure the safety and cleanliness of the seawater where these floating and fixed cottages were located.

The team extracts water samples to determine the levels of E.Coli Bacteria. They also inspect their compliance with establishing comfort rooms or portable toilets.

E.Coli bacteria is a type of bacterium that normally lives in the intestines of people and animals. It can also be found in human waste.

It can cause illness in humans, including diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, and sometimes vomiting.



Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Visayas (DENR-7) have taken water samples in the beaches of Cordova town to make sure that seawater where the floating cottages and fixed cottages are situated are safe and clean. | Photo courtesy of Cordova PIO



DENR-7 collected seven water samples that would undergo laboratory tests and these would be expected to be available next week.

The DENR-7 also coordinated with the Marine Watch and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) of Cordova town for the seawater testing activity.

Earlier, Mayor Cesar “Didoy” Suan said that they were doing this to ensure the safety of beachgoers and to determine the continued operation of floating and fixed cottages.

Suan also earlier signed an executive order banning of the building of floating and fixed cottages within the no-build zone of the town.

/dbs



# DENR urged to protect Verde Island Passage from gas projects

Philstar.com July 21, 2022 | 5:35pm



A researcher assesses coral reefs in the waters of Batangas City, Philippines.  
Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development

MANILA, Philippines — Environmentalists called on the new leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to protect the marine sanctuary Verde Island Passage and its surrounding areas from fossil gas projects.

"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 which threaten its fragile ecology," said Gerry Arances, executive director of sustainability think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development.

Verde Island Passage, the strait that separates mainland Luzon and Mindoro island, is considered by scientists as the center of the center of marine shorefish biodiversity. It is also the site of eight planned gas power plants and seven liquefied natural gas terminals.

"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," said Fr. Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of the Protect VIP campaign network.

On Tuesday, groups led by CEED filed motion to resolve their requests for action from the DENR for alleged tree-cutting activities by the Linseed Field Corp. and Excellent Energy Resources, Inc. CEED said such activities were done without permits.

Linseed is building an LNG terminal in Barangay Ilijan, while EERI is constructing a 1,750 megawatt LNG-fueled combined cycle power plant in an area covering both Brgy. Ilijan and Brgy. Dela Paz.

According to CEED, it had requested the Forest Management Bureau to issue certified true copies of permit for the tree-cutting activities on April 7, to which the agency replied no such permits were issued.

CEED filed a motion before DENR Calabarzon on May 20 and sought speedy action on the part of the department as Linseed is scheduled to begin operations on August 1. It also filed a similar motion before the Philippine Coconut Authority for coconut trees that were cut by the same projects.



"These projects are endangering the livelihood of fisherfolk in Batangas, Mindoro, and other islands that surround the passage in addition to the environmental damage. The DENR should act and act swiftly to prevent this from happening," Gariguez said.

The Philippines is scaling up the development of infrastructure to support the import of LNG in anticipation of the depletion of Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project. Climate and clean energy campaigners, however, argue that increasing the share of LNG projects will block the transition to clean renewable energy sources.





# Philippines' 1st solar-powered 'Circular Explorer' launched to clean up Manila Bay

By Regina Adolfo - July 21, 2022 - 5:39 PM



This composite shows Holcim's Circular Explorer. (Holcim/Released)

Cement manufacturing company **Holcim**, together with environment organization **One Earth One Ocean**, early this month launched **Circular Explorer**, the first solar-powered catamaran designed to preserve marine ecosystems.

The vessel will be used for the first time to clean up and recycle plastic wastes recovered from the coastal areas of Manila Bay.

In partnership with the **University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute** (UP MSI), the project launched on July 7 also aims to educate and empower students and communities to practice environmental sustainability through a more science-driven approach to ocean research.

With its built-in sensors and micro-plastic collectors on board, the Circular Explorer can clear up to four tons of plastic materials per day.

Over the past 15 years, Holcim has recycled more than 20 million tons of materials into alternative fuels, according to its president and CEO, Horia Adrian.

"The Circular Explorer is a symbol of Holcim's commitment to sustainability. [...] By 2024 we will become the first company in our sector in the Philippines to operate solar panels in our plants," said Adrian.

In line with its goal to collaborate with like-minded organizations, Holcim has partnered with companies like **ECOPlanet**, a green cement company, in order to forward their calls for more sustainable and greener building solutions.

According to **Deo Onda**, UP MSI deputy director for research, scientific innovations such as Circular Explorer are essential contributions to solving environmental concerns.

"Now more than ever, we need science to help us understand the environmental challenges we are facing and to guide us with equitable and sustainable solutions," said Onda.

Onda also added that providing the public and the government with science-based research can help educate them to take action for sustainability.



### **Building more by using less**

Magali Anderson, Holcim Chief Sustainability and Innovation, emphasized the company's advocacy of building more infrastructure using less material.

“With today’s population and urbanization on the rise, Holcim is committed to improving living standards for all by building more with less. That’s why we are driving circular construction as a global leader in material recycling to build a net-zero future that works for people and the planet,” she said.

The cement company engages with communities around the world to advocate for circular living — a sustainable way to address climate change by reducing consumption and waste of resources.

In line with its commitment to circular construction, the firm engages with cities around the world to accelerate the shift toward a circular economy.

In April 2022, Holcim Group and Bloomberg Media launched the [Circular Cities Barometer](#) to showcase the top 25 cities around the world leading the shift to circular living. Quezon City was included in this global ranking for its circular systems and leadership.

Quezon City pioneered the implementation of waste-to-energy power plants and has banned the use of single-use plastics since 2019. Residents from the city can also pay their utility bills with credits or “environmental points” from turning over recycled materials.

With the help of experts from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Build Change, Holcim lead the discussion on how to shift from a linear “take-make-waste” economy to a circular “reduce-reuse-recycle” one.



## Trash is cash with MRF

JUL 20, 2022, 4:51 PM

Kaithe Santos  
Writer

***The programs involve exchanging recyclable waste materials for money, which are then sent to the material recovery facility of the Manila Zoo (MRF).***

To encourage recycling and lower trash, the nation's capital city, Manila, teamed up with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau - National Capital Region (DENR-EMB-NCR).

The programs entail trading recyclable waste items for cash, including single-use plastics and product wrappers, which are then sent to the Manila Zoo's material recovery facility (MRF).

Additionally, they enhance the management of plastic trash, raise awareness of correct and responsible disposal, provide incentives to female-owned sari-sari (retail) establishments, and recycle PET bottles, which are made of polyethylene terephthalate, a type of polyester.

Monday saw the MRF go live. "Ito pong material recovery facility ay isinasagawa natin para po sa patuloy na pagre-recycle natin at magawa po nating mas kapaki-pakinabang muli ang ilang bagay na sa tingin po natin ay wala nang silbi"

The MRF provided a bioreactor created by the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), a bio-composter, and two units of shredders for biodegradable trash that were provided by the DENR-EMB-NCR and DOST-NCR.

Kayle Nicole Amurao of the Manila Department of Public Services said that the bioreactor had processed 15,384 kg and 29,806 kg of biodegradable garbage since January 24. total since April 11 for the biocomposter.

Through the "Oplan Baklas (Dismantle)" and the "Tarpaulin mo, Ileresiklo ko (Tarpaulins for Recycling)" program started by former mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, 26 vehicles gathered 52.6 tons of tarpaulins after the May 9 elections.

The MRF can handle recyclable, biodegradable, and residual wastes that can be recycled or made into new products.



A consequence of combining dry leaves gathered from the streets, leftover vegetables from the Divisoria commercial district, and animal dung from the Manila Zoo is the soil conditioner or fertilizer created by the MRF.

Some of the soil conditioners are provided to organizations, while others are used for the city's greening efforts.



# 'Conservation heroes': Masungi rangers honored at International Ranger Awards

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 21, 2022 | 3:24pm



Monica Inonog, John Paul Magana, and Kuhkan Maas lead a team of forest rangers, tasked with protecting critical areas plagued by illegal activities inside the Masungi Geopark Project and the Upper Marikina Watershed

MANILA, Philippines — Rangers of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation who protect the Upper Marikina Watershed from illegal encroachment and destruction were among the winners of the second International Ranger Awards.

Kuhkan Maas, John Paul Magana, and Monica Inonog of the Bayog Ranger Station were lauded for their courage and determination to protect the essential watershed from illegal activities.

Maas was one of the forest rangers who were shot in July 2021 while guarding the reforestation initiative of Masungi Georeserve Foundation in Sitio San Roque, Barangay Pinugay in Baras, Rizal.

The award presented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and World Commission on Protected Areas aims to recognize the work of rangers globally and improve their abilities, and raise awareness of the vital role they play in taking care of protected landscapes.

Seven individual rangers and three ranger teams from ten countries in Asia, Africa, Australasia, and Latin America were recognized.

“The world’s rangers are the unsung heroes and heroines of conservation. We rely on their perseverance and dedication to maintain a healthy planet for wildlife and for people,” said Madhu Rao, chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Masungi Georeserve Foundation is restoring 2,700 hectares of severely degraded watershed areas around the Masungi limestones.

## Protection from danger

Inonog is hoping the recognition will raise awareness of the plight of environment defenders not only in Masungi but also in the Philippines.

“We ask the new DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia ‘Toni’ Yulo-Loyzaga to help protect us from continuing danger and finally remove the destructive quarry interests and illegal structures in the watershed,” she said.



In May, the DENR suspended mineral sharing production agreements within the Upper Marikina Watershed that had been granted to three quarry firms. Environment groups, however, asked authorities to cancel, not merely suspend, quarrying agreements within the 26,126-hectare protected area.

Establishments such as resorts were also built in the area.

Inoog also asked the police and the local government to support Masungi in “defeating organized crimes inside the Masungi landscape and the surrounding watershed.”

In mid-February, Masungi’s forest rangers, including Inonog and Maganda, were mauled by people suspected to be working for resorts inside the watershed.

The Philippines has been consistently identified as one of the most dangerous places in the world for land and environment defenders.

“Because of the lack of enforcement, negligence, or even connivance of certain officials, we are always put in the line of danger. Many times we feel alone. Instead of helping us, some of those in positions of authority are in effect helping incompatible interests like quarries and illegal structures prosper,” Inonog said.

The health of the Upper Marikina Watershed is critical to the disaster resilience of many communities, including cities in Metro Manila. But its integrity has been degraded by decades of illegal logging, quarrying and mining activities, and construction of establishments such as resorts.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/07/21/2197016/conservation-heroes-masungi-rangers-honored-international-ranger-awards?fbclid=IwAR18JIC5te8abmDDni2QQJcl-QvyJDMtPZklzNLedtEjVeyMON9NuO4-OkM>



# Masungi Georeserve team among winners in International Ranger Awards

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 21, 2022 12:22:28 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 21)** — Filipino forest rangers from the Masungi Georeserve received recognition and cash prizes for being among the 12 winners in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) 2022 International Ranger Awards.

Kuhkan Maas, John Paul Magana, and Monica Inonog of the Bayog Ranger Station were lauded on Wednesday for their resilience in the face of serious risks in performing their duties amid violence and harassment from environmental offenders and organized criminals in the past few years.

Maas was among those who were shot in July 2021 while guarding the reforestation site in Sitio San Roque in Baras, Rizal.

IUCN announced that the Masungi team and 11 other winners will receive US\$10,000 (roughly P563,000) to support the protected and conserved areas where they work.

The Masungi Georeserve was created in 1996 to restore the sanctuary's forest spaces. In 2015, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation was formed to sustain these conservation efforts.

Source: [https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/21/Masungi-Georeserve-winner-International-Ranger-Awards.html?%3F&fbclid=IwAR3sQL2jCpzdqTNx452EInNIIQVfyXjHTKvMyj0SC\\_fH01Bn6zgi6zpoVk](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/21/Masungi-Georeserve-winner-International-Ranger-Awards.html?%3F&fbclid=IwAR3sQL2jCpzdqTNx452EInNIIQVfyXjHTKvMyj0SC_fH01Bn6zgi6zpoVk)



# Solar vehicle named best idea for climate change initiative

By **Edison Joseph Gonzales** -July 22, 2022



*Virtual awards at the Grand Finals of the Net Zero IdeaNation, a partnership between Nestlé Philippines and the University of the Philippines Los Baños.*

SINAG, a modified electric tricycle designed specifically for delivery services, has emerged as the first Nestlé Philippines Net Zero IdeaNation grand winner.

The environment-friendly vehicles use solar-powered batteries, are cheaper compared to motorcycles and feature longer maximum distance than e-tricycles. It was pitched by the ACENV team composed of Neel Angeles, Arianne de Goma, Eljon Gerolo, Veronica Parreno, and Carmila Villaseran.

Nestlé and the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) recently signed an agreement to implement the project which seeks ideas from the youth to contribute to achieving net zero carbon emission by 2050.

At the awarding ceremony, the Trailblazer garnered second place and P10,000 for their 'Bayan BioGas' idea. The team was composed of Crizza Rodolfo, John Jayme, Justine Zamora, Ashley Anyayahan, and Roque Banzon.

Cris's Angels, on the other hand, bagged third place and P5,000 for their 'Coffee Cubes' idea. The team was composed of Aneka Abarrientos, Mahonri Alquisalas, Justine Deverla, Angel Vi Manong, and Jhoanna Zapico.

The Nestlé's Choice Award went to AB6R: Hijo Hija Enerhiya (Step Energy). The team was composed of Abbey Jimenez, Mariellen Silab, and Leara Varquez.

Joey Uy, Nestlé senior vice president and head of corporate affairs, said that more than just winning and coming up with solutions is the next step, which is "the course of action in the activities or ideas that you have brought, bringing it into fruition and to life," Uy added.

The concepts were judged based on the big idea, net zero impact, delivery and presentation, and effectiveness by Patrick "Kip" Aguirre from Nestlé Corporate Communications – Digital; Olaf Miguel Bautista, Nestlé sustainability manager; Dr. Emil John Cabrera, UPLB Technology Transfer and Business Development Office director; and Dr. Ronilo Jose Flores, UPLB assistant professor of biology and planetary health advocate.





Uy added the company's partnership with the university has served as an avenue to mold future entrepreneurs who prioritize social responsibility, critical thinking and innovations, among others.

Jose Camacho, UPLB chancellor, urges individuals to nurture and nourish the collaboration, operation, and communication as they work together toward sustainability of the environment in various communities.

Christine Ponce-Garcia, Nestlé assistant vice president for sustainability and public affairs, said the project was born out of a shared goal, purpose, and vision by the company and the university and of harnessing the youth's potential toward climate action.

In her message on youth empowerment, Miss Earth 2017 Karen Ibasco said that the youth play an important role and that they have an impact.

"That is why young minds as those in your generation are worth investing in so they can create sustainable and innovative solutions that will benefit the planet and the future generation," Ibasco said.

With the guidance of well-rounded, knowledgeable and competent professionals in their fields of studies like professors, and companies that share the same value as Nestle Philippines does, "you are on the right path and in great hands," she stressed.

The results may not be immediately felt but making solutions now and taking action afterwards and continuing what has been started are essential to having a worthwhile impact, Ibasco pointed out.

Asked about the biggest enemy of the earth, Ibasco, without hesitation, said: "The real problem in the world is not climate change; it is people's ignorance and apathy."

"People's minds need to be recalibrated and steps have to be redirected and taken because only together can we make a difference in the world," she noted.



# Parañaque government starts planting trees

The Philippine Star July 22, 2022 | 12:00am



Rep. Eric Olivarez.  
STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Parañaque government has started its green and sustainable urban development program by planting trees along the center islands of major roads in the city.

Mayor Eric Olivarez reminded residents of their responsibility to protect the environment and make their surroundings clean.

“At this early stage of my administration, greening has started along major thoroughfares in the city,” Olivarez said.

He said acacia trees and bougainvillea were planted along Dr. A. Santos Avenue, formerly Sucat Road.

More environment-friendly projects will be launched soon under Olivarez’s administration such as the use of idle lands for livelihood and adopt-a-tree program.

The mayor said the city’s Environmental and Natural Resources Office continues its upcycling programs to provide livelihood to citizens and to minimize waste.

City hall also implements a “zero plastic” project, which aims to reduce the usage of single-use plastics to prevent these waste from clogging waterways.



# ‘Revoke non-objection to LNG power plant,’ bishop, environment groups ask NegOcc board



NEGROS. Diocese of San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza maintains that the resolution of non-objection from the Provincial Board for the proposed 300-megawatt LNG power plant project in the northern Negros Occidental city is premature and invalid. (Contributed photo)

ERWIN P. NICAVERA

July 21, 2022

VARIOUS groups led by San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza have submitted a statement of opposition to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of Negros Occidental with the demand to urgently revoke the Resolution of Non-Objection (Rono) it enacted for the proposed construction of a 300-megawatt (MW) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Combined Cycle Power Plant in San Carlos City.

Aliminaza, in a press statement Thursday, July 21, 2022, said they maintained that the resolution of non-objection from the Provincial Board is premature, invalid, and is not representative of the multiple stakeholders from San Carlos who openly objected against the LNG project during the public scoping.

The LNG power plant is being proposed by the San Miguel Corporation-owned Reliance Energy Development Inc.(Redi), the statement said.

Alminaza explained that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project is “still under preparation” by the proponent, and that Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular 22-018 states that local government units cannot issue a letter of no objection without an EIA, therefore deeming the non-objection invalid.

“We appeal to the Board Members of the SP to adhere to their duty in protecting the interests of our people and the health of our environment,” the bishop said, adding that “this is being echoed by our fisherfolk communities in San Carlos who stood up against the project during the public scoping.”

Environmental groups also urged leaders, both from the city and the province, to stand in solidarity with the residents of San Carlos and all stakeholders in protecting Tañon Strait, promoting healthy and sustainable fishing communities, and maintaining the city fossil-free.

“Negros Occidental is known for being the Renewable Energy (RE) Hub of the Philippines, and the continued lack of RE development is becoming questionable. It’s ironic that the vast RE potential of the province remains untapped, while Negrosanons continue to suffer with high electricity prices,” Griderick Alila of Konsyumer-Negros said.



In an earlier statement, various youth-led environmental groups in the province also warned that the project would generate increased shipping traffic that will affect the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, which has been declared as an Important Marine Mammal Area.

They said the project will also destroy marine habitats, mangroves, and wetlands along the shoreline, generate pollution, expose local communities to various hazards, and would impact the livelihood of coastal communities in the long-term.

For Bianca Montilla, co-convenor of Youth for Climate Hope, Redi's LNG plant is a great threat to the communities dependent on the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Montilla said noise pollution from shipping activities heavily affects the capacity of dolphins and whales to detect prey, since they use echolocation to navigate the waters.

"Disrupting already fragile ecosystems is nothing but a death blow to our climate-impacted communities and the livelihood of our fisherfolk," she added.

Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development Deputy Executive Director Av De Torres pointed out that "it is high time our leaders invest in supporting the development of RE infrastructures that have the potential to lower electricity prices, instead of building new power plants dependent on imported fuel, which is highly vulnerable to price shocks from the international market."

Environment groups stressed that like coal, natural gas and its liquid form LNG is a fossil fuel that creates pollution and greenhouse gasses, which trigger worse climate change.

Falsely touted as a clean alternative to coal, natural gas has also seen much pushback globally as it is primarily composed of a greenhouse gas that can trap heat in the atmosphere 80 times more effectively than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, contributing to rising global temperatures, they said.

Alminaza claimed that San Miguel Corporation pulled out its coal plants in San Carlos but simply replaced it with another fossil fuel that is no less dangerous.

"We already know that while it is true gas would produce less carbon dioxide than coal, it will instead release large amounts of methane in the atmosphere which can trap heat at a much greater capacity for a period of time," he said.

The bishop added that "it makes not sense for Negros Occidental to turn to fossil gas when we have overflowing renewables that are more than enough to meet our power needs." **(With PR)**



# Baha at basura!

[RESPONDE](#) - [Gus Abelgas](#) - Pang-masa July 22, 2022 | 12:00am

MATINDING pagbaha ang nararanasan sa malaking bahagi ng bansa partikular sa Metro Manila nitong nakalipas na mga araw.

Ito ay sa kabila ng hindi namang kalakasang pag-ulan.

Maraming lugar na dati eh hindi naman binabaha ngayon eh madalas na hindi madaanan dahil sa biglaang pagtaas ng tubig.

Nakikitang dahilan dito ay ang mga baradong daluyang tubig.

Nagbabara dahil sa matinding basura.

Ga-bundok na basura ang siyang sanhi kaya konting pag-ulan lamang nalulubog ang maraming lugar sa Metro Manila.

Matindi talaga ang naglulutangang basura na siyang bumabara sa mga daluyang tubig kaya mabilis ang pagtaas.

Isama pa dyan ang hindi kahandaan ng mga kinauukulan partikular ng mga local government units na malinis ang kani-kanilang drainage system.

Naaalala lamang ito kapag nandyan na ang matitinding pagbaha.

Ang mga estero ni hindi nalilinis kahit hindi na nadadaluyan ng tubig dahil sa tambak ng basura .

Pagdating sa pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang lugar dyan maraming Pinoy ang nagiging pasaway.

Talaga naman, lalu na ang mga nakatira malapit sa mga ilog at estero. Ginagawang tapunan ng basura ang daluyan ng tubig, makikita naman ang ebidensya talagang walang disilpina.

Sana ito ang natututukan ng mga opisyal sa lokal na pamahalaan bago pa mahuli ang lahat.

Baka hindi pa lang napapansin, palala nang palala ang nagiging problema sa pagbaha. Hindi dahil sa walang tigil at malalakas na pag-ulan kundi talagang nahaharangan o nababarahan na talaga ang mga daluyang tubig.

Dapat na magkaroon nang malawakang kampanya ukol sa paglilinis ng drainage system, mga kanal at estero ang mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Dapat siguro magkaroon ng ngipin ang mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan para masampolan ang mga nagtatapon ng basura sa hindi tamang mga lugar.



# Biden seeks to revive climate agenda as heat waves slam US, Europe

Agence France-Presse July 21, 2022 | 7:50am



US President Joe Biden walks to the Oval Office as he arrives on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, on July 20, 2022. Biden is returning to Washington, DC, following a trip to Somerset, Massachusetts, where he announced new actions on climate change.

AFP/Oliver Contreras

SOMERSET, United States — President Joe Biden, thwarted by lawmakers and the Supreme Court, sought Wednesday to revive his ambitions to tackle climate change as heat waves batter the United States and Europe.

Rocketing summer temperatures have highlighted the growing threat, with 100 million people in the United States currently under excessive heat alerts and devastatingly hot conditions causing misery across Europe.

"Climate change... is literally, not figuratively, a clear and present danger," Biden said, announcing executive actions including \$2.3 billion in investments to help build US infrastructure to withstand climate disasters.

"The health of our citizens and our communities is literally at stake... Our national security is at stake as well... And our economy is at risk. So we have to act."

Biden, delivering a speech at a former coal-fired electricity plant in Massachusetts, said his administration would do whatever necessary, with or without lawmakers on board.

"Congress is not acting as it should... This is an emergency and I will look at it that way. As president, I'll use my executive powers to combat the climate crisis," he said.

But he stopped short of declaring a formal emergency, which would grant him additional policy powers.

## Repeated setbacks

Biden began his term last year promising to fulfill campaign pledges to tackle the global climate crisis, but his agenda has faced blow after blow.

His first day in office, Biden signed an executive order to bring the United States back into the Paris climate agreement, followed later by an ambitious announcement that he was targeting a 50-52 percent reduction from 2005 levels in US net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030.

But his signature Build Back Better legislation, which would have included \$550 billion for clean energy and other climate initiatives, is all but dead after failing to receive the necessary backing in Congress as fellow Democrat Joe Manchin said he would not support the bill in an evenly divided Senate.



And last month, the conservative-leaning Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot issue broad greenhouse gas regulations without congressional approval.

"When it comes to fighting climate change, I will not take 'no' for an answer," Biden said.

"I will do everything in my power to clean our air and water, protect our people's health, to win the clean energy future... Our children and grandchildren are counting on us. Not a joke."

Among the new executive orders was funding to promote efficient air conditioning, and an order to advance wind energy development off the Atlantic Coast and Florida's Gulf Coast.

The Biden administration has framed climate policies as a job creation project -- and as a national security issue, made more urgent by soaring fuel prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The White House said in a statement that Biden was seeking "to turn the climate crisis into an opportunity, by creating good-paying jobs in clean energy and lowering costs for families."

His speech on Wednesday was at a shuttered coal-fired power plant that will be used for a cable manufacturing factory to supply offshore wind facilities.

State Department spokesman Ned Price this week pointed to the extreme heat wave tormenting Europe this week -- with Britain recording a temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) -- as more proof that climate action cannot wait.

"We are committed to taking advantage of this moment and doing everything we can, including on the world stage," Price told reporters, "to ensure that this decisive decade does not go by without us taking appropriate action."



# 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 is 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"*



# Explainer: How climate change drives heatwaves and wildfires

By: Reuters - Inquirer.net|July 21,2022 - 04:52 PM



A firefighter works to extinguish a forest fire, during a heatwave, near Thiendorf, north of Dresden, Germany, July 19, 2022. REUTERS

Brutal heatwaves are gripping both Europe and the United States this week and are forecast to dump searing heat on much of China into late August.

In addition to record temperatures, wildfires are raging across southern Europe with evacuations in towns in Italy and Greece.

The searing heat is part of a global pattern of rising temperatures, widely attributed by scientists and climatologists to human activity.

## 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.

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/454024/explainer-how-climate-change-drives-heatwaves-and-wildfires?fbclid=IwAR1E97ybMotLMjkb1xQ5bgBR1StNr8QNMwSpBfaE6mN1xNM18rH35pky9gM#ixzz7ZfCw5SaT>



# Polar bears scavenge on garbage to cope with climate change

By [Gloria Dickie via Reuters](#) - July 21, 2022 - 6:37 PM



A mother polar bear huddles with her two cubs near Churchill, Canada, in this undated handout photo. (Dick Beck/Polar Bears International/Handout via Reuters)

LONDON— Hungry polar bears are turning to garbage dumps to fill their stomachs as their icy habitat disappears.

On Wednesday, a team of Canadian and U.S. scientists warned that trash poses an emerging threat to already-vulnerable polar bear populations as the animals become more reliant on landfills near northern communities. This is leading to deadly conflicts with people, the [report](#) published in the journal *Oryx* said.

“Bears and garbage are a bad association,” said co-author Andrew Derocher, a biologist at the University of Alberta. “We know that very well from a brown bear and black bear perspective, and now it’s an issue developing with polar bears.”

Polar bears rely on sea ice to hunt seals. But with the Arctic warming four times faster than the rest of the world, sea ice is melting out earlier in the summer and freezing up later in the fall. This forces bears to spend more time ashore, away from their natural prey.

To fatten up, the report said polar bears are now gathering en masse around open dumps in places in the Arctic and sub-Arctic such as Russia’s Belushya Guba, and whale bone piles left over from Inuit hunts near Kaktovik, Alaska.

Such behavior is risky. Local wildlife managers may kill bears out of concern for public safety. And consuming garbage can make bears sick.

Wrappers are often frozen into food scraps so polar bears end up eating plastic and other non-edible materials. This can cause fatal blockages.

“Bears don’t know all the negatives that come with plastic ingestion and the diseases and toxins they’re likely exposed to in a (landfill) setting,” said co-author Geoff York, senior director of conservation at Polar Bears International, an advocacy group.

The situation, scientists said, is likely to get worse. Human populations are increasing in the Arctic. Nunavut, Canada, — where thousands of polar bears live — is projected to grow nearly 40% by 2043.



Improving waste management remains a challenge for remote communities. The ground is often frozen, making it hard to bury garbage. And trucking it out is expensive. Federal funding will be required to fix the problem, scientists said.

“Already we’ve had a couple human fatalities in the eastern Canadian Arctic,” said Derocher. “It’s surprising just how many places that never had polar bear problems are now having emerging issues.”

—Reporting by Gloria Dickie; Editing by Alison Williams



# Choosing the right trees for a changing climate

**Climate change is killing trees in cities, forcing changes in urban planning.**



Tree selection is crucial in climate change adaptation. Image: Robin Hicks/Eco-Business

By Manuel Esperon-Rodriguez, Sally Power, Mark Tjoelker  
July 21, 2022

Just as climate change has damaged over [10 million hectares of forests in the Canadian province of British Columbia](#), it is killing trees in cities too.

In urban environments, trees are threatened by heatwaves and lack of rain, both predicted to increase in coming decades. Towns and cities are often home to a great diversity of trees, including those with a high tolerance of climate extremes, but species' selection criteria and climate-risk assessments are poorly documented. Tree selection and planning are important.

Urban forests are made up of trees, shrubs and other plants grown in streetscapes, parks and greenways, as well as already existing native vegetation. They benefit humans by reducing heat, absorbing air pollution, providing homes for wildlife, and improving health. These forests surround built environments, such as concrete structures, streets, pedestrian walkways and bike paths, all of which amplify the effects of climate warming. People also enjoy looking at trees, which is important. Access to these green spaces enhances our connections with nature and improves mental health, particularly [during pandemic](#) lockdowns.

Although urban forests are affected by climate change, they are also critical in making our cities liveable and resilient to climate change. For example, planting and preserving trees, particularly large ones, can help reduce urban heat by shading buildings and pavements, providing natural cooling and reducing energy use. Urban trees also help via [transpiration](#) — the evaporation of water that is released to the air through plant leaves — resulting in localised cooling.

Many cities around the world are now building resilience through urban greening, as governments and communities gain a better understanding of the changing climate. However, climate projections have not been readily accessible or widely used in urban landscape planning. Increases in tree canopy cover need to be planned decades in advance due to their slow growth. But so far, local government decisions are more often based on what's been historically planted, which may no longer suit — [contributing to the failures of urban species in extreme climate conditions today](#). For example, more than half ([53 per cent](#)) of [1,342 tree species currently growing in 22 Australian cities are vulnerable to high temperatures and low rainfall](#) in at least one city where they are planted.

The [lack of data on the environmental tolerance of urban plants exacerbates uncertainties around decision-making](#). Councils and municipalities do not keep consistent records of failure rates of new or established trees. Anecdotal knowledge is instead shared by staff, contractors and community members, but [has limited applicability to areas outside the specific municipality and is not publicly available](#).





Urban forests are typically closely stewarded and managed — including by watering through periods of drought — combatting some of the negative effects of climate change. This can help [some tree species to survive in regions where they would not naturally occur](#). However, irrigation is not a sustainable solution in many places due to globally increasing water shortages.

We need to choose the right trees for the right location. Identifying and quantifying what leads to poor growth or death can optimise resources and minimise financial losses for local governments and residents. To maintain sustainable urban forests in a changing climate, it will be necessary to improve our knowledge of urban plants' heat and drought tolerance, along with efficient maintenance of urban plantings and detailed monitoring through time.

The trees left to protect the hotter cities of the future will depend on the planning actions we make today.

*Dr Manuel Esperon-Rodriguez is a postdoctoral fellow at Western Sydney University. His current areas of research mainly focus on urban ecology, landscape ecology, vulnerability and climate change.*

*Professor Sally Power is an ecosystems ecologist t Western Sydney University. She studies the direct and indirect effects of climate change on plants and ecosystems, including urban ecosystems.*

*Professor Mark Tjoelker is the Associate Director of the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at Western Sydney University. He an internationally recognised expert on the physiology and ecology of forest trees and climate change biology, particularly the role of climate effects on tree physiology and growth.*

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# China endures summer of extreme weather as record rainfall and scorching heat wave cause havoc

By Nectar Gan, CNN

Published Jul 21, 2022 12:19:19 PM



**Hong Kong (CNN)** — Towns and farmlands inundated by floods, homes and roads buried by landslides, crops withering under scorching heat, hazmat-suited Covid workers collapsing from heatstroke.

Since summer began, scenes of devastation and misery have been playing out across China as the world's most populous nation grapples with an unrelenting torrent of extreme weather emergencies.

Scientists have been warning for years that the climate crisis would amplify extreme weather, making it deadlier and more frequent. Now, like much of the world, China is reeling from its impact.

Since the country's rainy season started in May, heavy rainstorms have brought severe flooding and landslides to large swathes of southern China, killing dozens of people, displacing millions and causing economic losses running into billions of yuan.

In June, extreme rainfall broke "historical records" in coastal Fujian province, and parts of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. At the same time, a heat wave began to envelop northern China, pushing temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

That heat wave has now engulfed half the country, affecting more than 900 million people -- or about 64% of the population. All but two northeastern provinces in China have issued high-temperature warnings, with 84 cities issuing their highest-level red alerts last Wednesday.

In recent weeks, a total of 71 national weather stations across China have logged temperatures that smashed records. Four cities -- three in the central province of Hebei and one in Yunnan in the southwest -- saw temperatures reaching 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit), according to the National Climate Center.

The stifling heat has coincided with a surge in Covid cases, making government mandated mass testing all the more excruciating for residents -- including the elderly -- who must wait in long lines under the sun. It has also become a dangerous task for health workers who, as part of the government's zero-Covid policy, are required to spend long hours outdoors covered head to toe in airtight PPE equipment as they administer the tests.



Several videos of Covid workers collapsing on the ground from heatstroke have gone viral on social media.

The heat wave has also caused power shortages in some regions and hit the country's crop production, threatening to further push up food prices.

And the worst might be still to come, according to Yao Wenguang, a Ministry of Water Resources official overseeing flood and drought prevention.

"It is predicted that from July to August, there will be more extreme weather events in China, and regional flood conditions and drought conditions will be heavier than usual," Yao told state-run Xinhua news agency last month.

### **Counting the costs**

China is a "sensitive area" that has been significantly affected by climate change, with temperatures rising faster than the global average, according to the country's latest Blue Book on Climate Change, published by the China Meteorological Administration last August.

Between 1951 and 2020, China's annual average surface temperature was rising at a pace of 0.26 degrees Celsius per decade, the report said. Sea levels around China's coastlines rose faster than the global average from 1980 to 2020, according to the report.

The changing climate can make extreme weather events -- such as summer floods, which China has grappled with for centuries -- more frequent and intense, said Johnny Chan, an emeritus professor of atmospheric science at the City University of Hong Kong.

A warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor, potentially leading to heavier rainstorms, while global warming can alter atmospheric circulation, which can contribute to extreme weather such as heat waves, Chan said.

"We should be really concerned, because these extreme weather events actually affect the most underprivileged, disadvantaged and vulnerable parts of the population -- those in the rural areas, or those who don't have air conditioning or live in very crowded conditions," Chan said.

For China, the sheer size of its population and economy means the scale of damage caused by extreme weather events is often massive.

Tropical cyclones, floods and droughts are estimated to cost China about \$238 billion annually -- the highest in the Asia Pacific region and nearly three times the estimated loss suffered by India or Japan, according to a report released last year by the World Meteorological Organization.

Heat wave-related mortality in China rose by a factor of four from 1990 to 2019, reaching 26,800 deaths in 2019, according to a Lancet study published in 2020.

### **New reality**

Meanwhile, many Chinese are only just beginning to realize that climate change will affect them personally.

In 2019, researchers found that compared to other countries, public concerns over global warming and climate change in China were "relatively low."

The Chinese government has promised to bring greenhouse gases to a peak before 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.



For many Chinese, the dangers of extreme weather fueled by climate change hit home last summer, when devastating floods killed 380 people in the central city of Zhengzhou, the provincial capital of Henan province.

Last July, the city of 12 million was pelted with what its water station called a "once in a thousand years" downpour, but local authorities were ill-prepared and failed to heed the five consecutive red alerts for torrential rain -- which should have prompted authorities to halt gatherings and suspend classes and businesses. Flood water gushed into the tunnels of the city's subway system, trapping hundreds of passengers and killing 12 of them in a tragedy that gripped the nation.

Liu Junyan, climate and energy project leader for Greenpeace East Asia, said the Zhengzhou flooding was a wake-up call for the Chinese government and public.

"The central government and local governments started to be aware that climate change is such an enormous threat to society and its sustainable development," she said, adding that she has noticed more discussions about climate change and extreme weather in China's traditional and social media.

Since last summer, many Chinese cities have improved their emergency response systems for extreme rainfall. In May, authorities in the southern metropolis of Guangzhou suspended schools, advised residents to work from home, closed construction sites and suspended public transportation in parts of the city following alerts for torrential rains.

This June, the Chinese government released a new policy document to improve its response to climate change, which it said was not only creating long-term challenges but also made the country more vulnerable to "sudden and extreme" events.

"Climate change has already brought serious adverse impacts to China's natural ecological system, and has continued to spread and penetrate into economy and society," the government said in its national climate change adaptation strategy.

It vowed to make China a "climate-resilient society" by 2035, by building a nationwide system to monitor and assess climate risks, and by boosting early warning capabilities.

Liu said the policy document is a "very big and ambitious" piece of guidance for local governments, but it lacks details on implementation.

"The impact of climate change can be very localized and its threat to vulnerable communities can be very different from place to place," she said. "Local governments still need to develop more detailed and tangible plans to implement this grand strategy."

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[China endures summer of extreme weather as record rainfall and scorching heat wave cause havoc](#)"

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# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## DENR vows science-based policies



LOYZAGA

NEWLY designated Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga yesterday said she will ensure all actions taken and policies implemented by the agency are evidence-based and science-backed.

In her first speech as DENR chief, Loyzaga also assured these programs will undergo consultations among stakeholders.

Loyzaga also ordered the "accounting" of the country's natural resources, which will become the basis for the new administration's plans moving forward.

"This will involve the use of science and technology as well as

.....  
See DENR > Page A2

## DENR

financial management and economics and that means we need to work across different departments to achieve that foundation," Loyzaga said.

She added said she will push for the digitization and modernization of the DENR's information management systems to enhance the delivery of services to stakeholders and ensure the level of excellence in terms of performance and impacts.

She said under her leadership, DENR plans to build resilient

communities through risk sensitive and balanced development of resources; fight the climate emergency through practical climate change adaptation measures with the use of science on a national scale; and the protection of indigenous species as part of natural heritage while also harnessing resources for the benefit of the country, among others.

Prior to her designation as DENR secretary, Loyzaga was the executive director of the Manila Observatory for nine years where

she advocated and implemented scientific research in climate and disaster resilience.

She holds a Master of Arts in Government degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director, in a statement, said

Loyzaga's long leadership over the Manila Observatory bodes well for the bureaucracy in the DENR, given her background in science and her valuation of evidence and

partnerships.

The Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED), challenged Loyzaga to live up to the task of addressing urgent environmental issues of the country.

"Loyzaga's science-based background can bring us an environment secretary who listens to science and works to avert worse ecological crises and irreversible damage from climate change," said Avril De Torres, CEED deputy executive director, in a statement.

- Jed Macapagal



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## NEW DENR CHIEF VOWS 'ETHICAL STEWARDSHIP'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

SECRETARY Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga vowed to implement ethical stewardship of the country's environment and natural resources, not only to survive but to thrive, in the face of shocks and uncertainties.

Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. on Thursday led the ceremonial turnover by handing over the symbolic key of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to Loyzaga, the agency's third woman secretary.

In his welcome remark, Adobo Jr. described Yulo-Loyzaga as a climate change and disaster resilience expert, adding that her nomination to the top DENR post is timely as the world struggles to limit climate change below the 1.5 degrees Celsius level.

Speaking at the turnover at the DENR offices, Yulo-Loyzaga said shocks and uncertainties are now the norms because of the impact of climate change.

"At the National Resilience Council, the definition we often use of resilience is the capacity not only to survive but to thrive in the face of shocks and uncertainties. And our environment today is typical of this type of re-

gime. Shocks and uncertainties are in fact the norm," she said.

Yulo-Loyzaga proposed a mission that represents ethical stewardship to serve with excellence and virtue, and uphold shared environmental values, and scientific and technical excellence.

"We want a stewardship that is democratic, where stakeholders can participate; where there is transparency in the Department's plans and decisions," she said.

According to Yulo-Loyzaga, the DENR needs to work in silos and harness its expertise and make sure that the capabilities of the different sectors, the different bureaus, actually are in line and in support of each other.

### Scientific risk-based approach

YULO-LOYZAGA said as the chief steward of the country's natural resources and environment, she wants to invest in a scientific risk-based approach.

"We want some quantified impact metrics and hopefully, with the Department's projects and performance, we can set the example for the economic, social, and environmental gains that are part of the mandate of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," she said.

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By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

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## New DENR chief calls for 'ethical stewardship'

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**NEWLY**-installed Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga enjoined all the agency's officials and employees to support the missions she wanted to achieve during her term.

Yulo-Loyzaga made the appeal during the turnover ceremonies at the DENR main office in Quezon City, wherein she emphasized the importance of the involvement of not only the DENR officials and employees in the pursuit of a safe and cleaner environment but also the participation of all stakeholders as well.

In her speech, Yulo-Loyzaga presented the missions she wanted to achieve, which include ethical stewardship to serve

with excellence and virtue and uphold shared environmental values and scientific and technical excellence.

"We want a stewardship that is democratic where stakeholders can participate and where there is transparency in the department's plan and decisions," she stressed.

Aside from this mission, the new DENR secretary also disclosed that her administration will invest in a scientific-risks-based approach to fight the effects of climate change and a multi-hazard environment.

"We want some quantified impact metrics, and hopefully, with the department's projects and performance, we can set an example for the economic, social, and environmental gains that are part of the mandate of the DENR," Yulo-Loyzaga added.

She further urged officials and employees to

strive for efficiency in their work, especially in government transactions, the efficient use of their resources, and the digitization and modernization of their information management system.

"These will enhance the delivery of our service to our stakeholders and ensure the level of excellence in terms of performance and the impacts that we would like to achieve. I hope you can be part of our shared vision," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

She also disclosed that the department will work with the cities as they are the engine of growth but depend largely on the ecosystem that supports them.

"...And the role of the DENR cannot be minimized in terms of scientists' support, the economy of our country, at the same time, the social and inclusive development of our nation," she explained.

"With your kind cooperation and collaboration, we need to combat the climate emergency, to practical climate change adaptation measures, the use of science, to approach national scale as well as local scale impacts of climate change," Yulo-Loyzaga added.

She noted that people live in a multi-hazard environment not just from natural hazards but from industrial and natural-technological hazards.

"The compounding of these hazards has led to the development of systematic risks and threats to our entire economic and social system. We need to strive to continuously protect our indigenous species as part of our natural heritage and, at the same time, harness seas' resources for the benefit of our country. I wish to enjoin all of you to please join us in this new course and mission," she ended.



## DENR, Korea explore tie up on satellite monitoring of Philippine environment

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Republic of Korea are exploring collaboration on the use of communication satellites to monitor and protect the environment in the Philippines similar to the model being used in Korea.

Korea is already using two systems for real-time monitoring of the environmental and weather conditions through satellite imagery and meteorological stations, according to Korean National Assembly Representative JO Myung-hee during her recent visit to the Philippines.

The visit to the DENR last July 13 was a pivotal meeting to intro-

duce state-of-the-art technologies for the collection of data to monitor the environmental conditions on the ground.

In a news release, DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Services (FASPS) Director Dr. Al O. Orolfo acknowledged satellite technologies and high-resolution images significant role in the management and protection of natural resources and the environment.

Orolfo and other DENR senior officials, namely, Lawyer Ernesto D. Adobo Jr., former Officer-in-Charge (OIC), DENR, and Maria Elena A. Morallo-Manila, Director of the Knowledge and Information Systems

Service (KISS) during her visit, welcomed JO Myung-hee.

Present also in the meeting is Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Philippines Office Assistant Country Director Kim Younlee.

There are two ongoing KOICA-funded projects with the DENR.

One is the Establishment of an Integrated Water Resources Management and Information System for the Pampanga River Basin Phase 2 (IWRMIS II) implemented by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

The other project is the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management

in Manila Bay (EMLM) to be spearheaded by the Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO).

Representative JO Myung-hee is looking forward to this collaboration as well with other Philippine government agencies such as the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and Pagasa.

At present, the Philippines's capability to monitor ground and surface conditions are through local weather stations of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the Geographic Information System (GIS) which generates analyses dependent on a particular location or coordinates on the ground.



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DENR ASSESSMENT

# ROADWORKS, LACK OF DRAINAGE BLAMED FOR IFUGAO FLASH FLOODS

By Vincent Cabreza  
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—The flash floods that struck a large area of the tourist town of Banaue in Ifugao province early this month were caused by unusually high volumes of runoff rainwater, which natural waterways and mountain road drainage systems were unable to contain, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

At a press briefing here, Ralph Pablo, DENR Cordillera director, said the volume of rainwater at 3 p.m. on July 7 was 4.8 millimeters, but increased to 19.8 mm an hour later based on the rainfall measurements released by the National Irrigation Administration.

### Slope failure

Heavy and prolonged rainfall "oversaturated" the mountains, causing landslides that blocked three roads, said geologist Fay Apil, Cordillera director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), at the same briefing.

Slope failure occurs when the soil could no longer shoulder the full weight of rainwater, Apil said.

But she said insufficient drainage caused runoff water to roll down the pavement because of constricted canals and waterways due to houses built by the roadsides. These roads relied on street gutters,

which were not designed for high volumes of water.

Worse, construction materials and debris from ongoing road projects and slope protection activities were dragged by floods, causing far more damage, Apil said.

Pablo, a civil engineer, said he saw a pattern linking road-widening projects to Cordillera calamities.

"Government contractors start breaking up mountainsides and widening mountain roads during the rainy season," he said.

"When you break the foot of the mountain, of course, it will topple," he said.

According to him, project contractors and workers continue pouring concrete even during torrential rains to beat deadlines.

Such practice, he said, only creates voids in the pavement because "the concrete is not properly compacted and becomes fragile."

Public and private construction schedules would have to change given the extreme weather brought about by climate change, Pablo said.

Apil said the MGB and local governments would review the natural and man-made drainage networks serving all Cordillera towns following the recent flash floods in Banaue.

"Whenever we travel [through the region during the rains], we observe the roads turning into rivers ... so let us go back and review all the drainage systems," she said. INQ



REOPENED Policemen in Banaue, Ifugao province, on Tuesday assist motorists through a reopened section of the Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet boundary road. A landslide blocked the road during heavy rain on July 7. —PHOTO COURTESY OF IFUGAO POLICE



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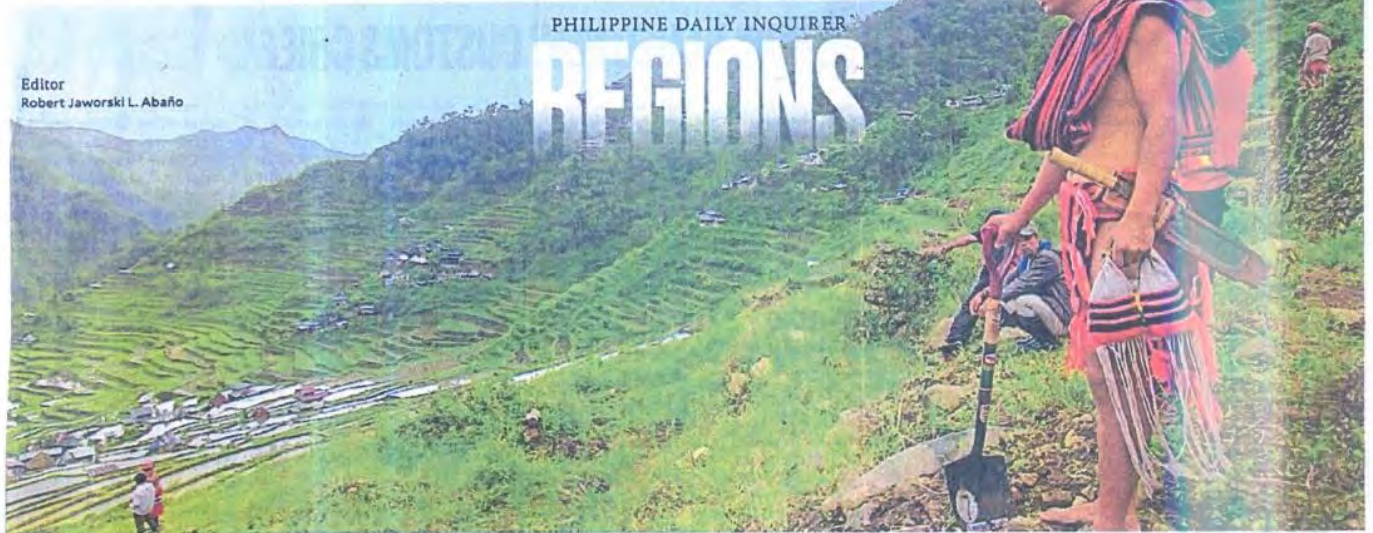
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Editor  
Robert Jaworski L. Abaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
**REGIONS**

**COMMUNITY EFFORT** Sections of the rice terraces in Ifugao have been damaged by erosion through the years, prompting locals to join hands in repairing ancient terrace walls. The last major community effort to repair the terraces was done in 2012, as shown in this photo. Ifugao and the rest of the Cordillera have been dealing with landslides and occasional flash floods during the rainy season. —RICHARD BALONGSI



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## Pharma, industrial prospects of bamboo explored

THE Philippines is exploring bamboo varieties that grow in rivers and volcanic areas of Cagayan Valley that may have huge economic potential for pharmaceutical-industrial products given a phytochemical screening under a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) project.

In a partnership with Cagayan State University (CSU)-Gonzaga, DENR is carrying out a phytochemical screening and DNA barcoding of economically important bamboo species in Cagayan Valley, a first of such study.

It will be carried out as part of aims to conserve and propagate the species in typhoon-affected Cagayan Valley as earlier mandated by DENR.

The Bamboo Characterization Project of CSU-Gonzaga

through its project leader Jeff Opeña was presented at DENR Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in Sta. Ana.

“Cagayan is rich natural systems, not only agro-ecosystems but grasslands, and others like water falls and volcanic areas where sulfur-rich soil is found. For example, we will study if the Bayog bamboo species carries different morphological and phytochemical characteristics when they are grown in sulfur-rich volcanic areas,” said Opeña.

Target for the study are bamboo species that grow in two of Cagayan Valley’s volcanoes—the Smith Volcano, also called Mount Babuyan, which is politically located in Calayan Island and Mount Cagua in Gonzaga.

“Bamboo has numerous industrial, pharmaceutical, phytochemical, medical, nu-

tritional, and food advantages. Characterization of bamboo germplasm is an important connection between conservation of diversity and utilization of germplasms (seeds or living tissues that carry genetic resources useful in plant breeding and conservation),” said Alvin Jose Reyes and Eddie B. Abugan Jr of the Project Management Division (PMD).

PMD is one of the units of the DENR’s Foreign Assisted and Special Projects.

The bamboo project costs P1.601 million consisting of P1.261 million from DENR and P340,000 from CSU. Aside from involving DENR’s local offices in Cagayan, implementor includes Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices of Cagayan, and the Central Analytical Laboratory of CSU.



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# Nothing wrong with rightsizing

**“  
In the  
private  
sector,  
improper  
rightsizing  
leads to  
labor  
cases  
filed by  
retrenched  
employees.**

Efficiency is key in running institutions. President Bongbong Marcos Jr. hit it right on the nail in his decision to abolish certain officers held to be crucial and important in previous administrations. The usual trend is for government to get bigger to accommodate more personnel.

What happens are several redundancies, giving you the unsavory sight of government employees sleeping on the job in the middle of the day at certain offices. The lead directive done in Malacañang, hopefully, should also be done in other offices, but it would not be a walk in the park, and it would be costly.

The fear of being retrenched should not be an issue. You would be surprised how many people in government are willing to be retired early for the right price. For some officers, the thought of being free from work and being able to enjoy their savings without anything to hold them back, is priceless, as compared to working yourself off until the day of your retirement.

Implemented correctly, this will free up billions of pesos in government funds. But if done incorrectly, we can anticipate disgruntled employees who may not receive what was promised, or, worse, a dysfunctional government office. In the private sector, improper rightsizing leads to labor cases filed by retrenched



**QUO VADIS**  
DARREN M. DE JESUS

employees. The labor arbiter would be more open to hearing out the employee, who has all the reasons to complain just by citing the pandemic.

Signs point to “rightsizing” being mentioned in the President’s first State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on Monday. There is indeed a need for the government to retool its own workforce to determine whether the entire gamut of offices is properly equipped to quickly answer the needs of the people. Instead of forming new departments, it must instead evaluate the existing ones, and to either abolish or merge them with other offices.

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), for instance, is an office that was established to answer the needs of our migrant workers. Now led by Secretary Susan “Toots” Ople, it is the main office for our migrant workers for all their needs, efficiently separating the relevant offices from the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Yesterday, I was able to visit DMW

and see first-hand how it responds to our OFW and their families. As an insurer of OFW, our company, Cocogen Insurance, together with partner life insurance company, Cocolife, and our OFW insurance agent, PAMICO, handed a check to the family of an OFW who passed away while working abroad in Riyadh. I saw how Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Administrator Bernard Olalia was able to speak with the bereaved’s spouse and family. The DMW is indeed working for our OFW.

Unresolved from the previous administration is the creation of two other departments—the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) - subjected to extensive legislative discussions in both houses of Congress. As a country often hit by calamities, the DDR will be the first responder and coordinator of all government offices in case one hits. The DWR, on the other hand, would be the counterpart of the Department of Energy (DOE) in administrating the distribution, cleanliness and availability of our basic need – water.

With the policy to rightsize, we will see if this administration has the will to “upsized” and continue the efforts for the creation of these agencies, whose existence can be succinctly justified.

**“  
You  
would be  
surprised  
how many  
people in  
government  
are willing  
to be  
retired  
early for  
the right  
price.”**

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



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COMMITTS TO BUY ALL GLASS TO BE COLLECTED

# SAN MIGUEL BOOSTS QC GOV'T RECYCLING PROGRAM

**By Miguel R. Camus**  
@miguelrcamusINQ

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is partnering with the local government of Quezon City to boost the latter's "trash-to-cashback" recycling program.

Through packaging arm San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. (SMYPC), the conglomerate has committed to purchase all glass and cullet, or broken glass, to be collected.

These will then be recycled to make new glass products.

"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," SMC president and CEO Ramon Ang said in the statement.

"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.

The Quezon City government's trash-to-cashback program gives users of the "My Basurero" app financial re-

wards for recycling.

Participants earn so-called environmental points, which they can use to pay for utility bills and internet services through the Bayad App, avail grocery items through the Trash to Cashback Mart, and order food deliveries from the partner merchants.

The program is also being implemented in partnership with waste management solutions firm Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies Inc. and technology partner EXTRA Philippines.

Meanwhile, SMC said recycled glass is widely used in its manufacturing line.

"Glass will not decompose if left in landfills, but it is high-

ly recyclable and can actually be reused endlessly without any adverse effects on quality or safety," Ang said.

"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," he added.

SMC earlier discontinued its plastic bottled water business in 2017. SMYPC has also implemented its "Balik Bote" program for more than a decade at its facilities, host communities, and in public schools near their areas of operation. INQ





## Asean countries, including PHL, urged anew to ditch coal, switch to renewables

BY LENIE LECTURA [@llectura](#)

**A**N environmental non-profit think tank has reported that the Philippines has emerged as the only country in the region that has registered a 42 percent jump in CO2 emission from coal power generation since the signing of the 2016 Paris Agreement.

In its July 6 report, Ember said that among the 10 Asean member-states, five countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam—or the “Asean 5,” make up 89 percent of the region’s total electricity generation. Their combined numbers make their contribution crucial to achieving clean energy transition in the region.

Further, solar and wind only make up 4 percent of Asean 5 electricity, compared to 10 percent globally. By 2030, Ember said the five countries’ share would go up to only 11 percent of the total generation.

By 2030 Vietnam is expected to generate 18 percent solar and wind in total, the Philippines 16.5 percent, and Thailand 9.6 percent. Malaysia and Indonesia would reach 3.4 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

The numbers, Ember said do not align with the International Energy Agency (IEA) net-zero pathway. It added that recent trends show that if clean energy cannot keep up with the rising demand, fossil fuels will take over.

“This is not enough to meet the rapidly rising demand for power and to put the region on the IEA’s 1.5 degree pathway. In fact, the report shows that clean power is not keeping pace with electricity demand. The Asean 5 saw their electricity demand

rise by 22 percent from 2015 to 2021. Less than half of that [39 percent] was met with clean electricity. Half [48 percent] was met with fossil fuels. This led to a 21 percent rise in power sector CO2 emissions,” it said.

Ember cited the Philippines’s solar and wind power installations represent only 2.6 percent of total generation in 2021, compared to 4 percent Asean-wide and 10 percent globally. Based on the power sector development plan, the Philippines’s solar and wind share in the region will only increase to 16.5 percent by 2030.

From 2015 to 2021, Ember said electricity demand in the country rose wherein only 12 percent has been met with clean electricity, while electricity from coal generation met 88 percent of the demand. The remaining 3 percent was met with gas generation.

“The rise in clean electricity generation was driven by growth in solar and wind which saw a near-double increase in generation. On the other hand, coal power generation increased by 75 percent. Accordingly, its share jumped from 27 percent to 47 percent. It was the only country among Asean 5 to see a rise in coal generation every year since the Paris Agreement,” it said.

Under current government policies, solar and wind are projected to supply only one tenth of total electricity generation in 2030. Ember Asia electricity data analyst Uni Lee said this is not nearly enough to meet the rapidly growing demand. “Rapid scaling-up of solar and wind and grid modernization is going to be a crucial piece of the puzzle to solve the climate crisis in this region.”



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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte (fourth from left) and Vice Mayor Gian Sotto (third from left) lead the inspection of the collection kiosk at Quezon City Hall, along with executives of Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies Inc., bXTRA Philippines Inc. and San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. The Quezon City local government, with the help of SMYPC, added glass to the list of recyclables it collects via its trash-to-cashback initiative. SMYPC is represented by vice president and business manager for glass Jonathan Aquino.

## SMC packaging unit supports QC 'trash-to-cashback' program

SAN Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp., a unit of San Miguel Corp., signed on to boost Quezon City's trash-to-cashback program to help divert garbage away from landfills and, along with waste solutions and technology partners, plans to expand the program to Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

SMC president and chief executive Ramon Ang said SMYPC is joining the program to lend its expertise on 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 Quezon City government in partnership with waste management solutions firm Basic En-

vironmental 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.

Quezon City 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," 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 said.



## Parañaque gov't starts planting trees

The Parañaque government has started its green and sustainable urban development program by planting trees along the center islands of major roads in the city.

Mayor Eric Olivarez reminded residents of their responsibility to protect the environment and make their surroundings clean.

"At this early stage of my

administration, greening has started along major thoroughfares in the city," Olivarez said.

He said acacia trees and bougainvillea were planted along Dr. A. Santos Avenue, formerly Sucat Road.

More environment-friendly projects will be launched soon under Olivarez's administration such as the use of idle lands for livelihood and adopt-a-tree

program.

The mayor said the city's Environmental and Natural Resources Office continues its upcycling programs to provide livelihood to citizens and to minimize waste.

City hall also implements a "zero plastic" project, which aims to reduce the usage of single-use plastics to prevent these waste from clogging waterways.



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## RESPONDE



GUS ABELGAS

## Baha at basura!

MATINDING pagbaha ang nararanasan sa malaking bahagi ng bansa partikular sa Metro Manila nitong nakalipas na mga araw.

Ito ay sa kabila ng hindi namang kalakasang pag-ulan.

Maraming lugar na dati eh hindi naman binabaha ngayon eh madalas na hindi madaanan dahil sa biglaang pagtaas ng tubig. Nakikitang dahilan dito ay ang mga baradong daluyang tubig.

Nagbabara dahil sa matinding basura.

Ga-bundok na basura ang siyang sanhi kaya konting pag-ulan lamang nalulubog ang maraming lugar sa Metro Manila.

Matindi talaga ang naglulutangang basura na siyang bumabara sa mga daluyang tubig kaya mabilis ang pagtaas.

Isama pa dyan ang hindi kahandaan ng mga kinaaukulan partikular ng mga local government units na malinis ang kani-kanilang drainage system.

Naaalala lamang ito kapag nandyan na ang matitinding pagbaha.

Ang mga estero ni hindi nalilinis kahit hindi na nadadaluyan ng tubig dahil sa tambak ng basura.

Pagdating sa pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang lugar dyan maraming Pinoy ang nagiging pasaway.

Talaga naman, lalu na ang mga nakatira malapit sa mga ilog at estero. Ginagawang tapunan ng basura ang daluyan ng tubig, makikita naman ang ebidensya talagang walang disilpina.

Sana ito ang natututukan ng mga opisyal sa lokal na pamahalaan bago pa mahuli ang lahat.

Baka hindi pa lang napapansin, palala nang palala ang nagiging problema sa pagbaha. Hindi dahil sa walang tigil at malalakas na pag-ulan kundi talagang nahaharangan o nababarahan na talaga ang mga daluyang tubig.

Dapat na magkaroon nang malawakang kampanya ukol sa paglilinis ng drainage system, mga kanal at estero ang mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Dapat siguro magkaroon ng ngipin ang mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan para masampolan ang mga nagtatapon ng basura sa hindi tamang mga lugar.



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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE  
Bangkal, Davao City Philippines, 8000  
Telephone No. (082) 267-2695

### LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Bangkal, Davao City, will accept sealed or written bid not later than ten o'clock (10:00) AM on **18 AUG 2022**, for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Sasa, Davao City
Description	: Lot 1 & 2 FLA-V-8, AMD
Area	: 39,206 square meters
Appraised Value of Land	: Php3,750.00 per square meter or Php 147,022,500.00 for the whole tract
Existing Improvements	: Php13,422,000.00
Applicant	: INSULAR OIL CORPORATION Represented by: NIMFA B. MABANGLO Under F.L.A. NO. 112402 (E) 32

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) month's rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed Special Power of Attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised to complete the three (3) month's rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of auction and the survey of the land  
Davao City, Philippines, **30 JUN 2022**

**JUVY C. HOFILEÑA**  
OIC, CENR Officer



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**  
Bangkal, Davao City Philippines, 8000  
Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

### PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Bangkal, Lungsod ng Dabaw ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika-18 ng umaga ngayong ika-18 ng **AUG 2022** para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang put inilalarawan sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	: Sasa, Davao City
Deskripsiyon	: Lot 1 & 2 FLA-V-8, AMD
Sukat	: 39,206 Metro Kwadrado
Tasahan ng Lupa	: Php3,750.00 kada metro kwadrado o kabuuang Php 147,022,500.00
Halaga ng nakatayang proyekto	: Php13,422,000.00
Aplikante	: INSULAR OIL CORPORATION Represented by: NIMFA B. MABANGLO F.L.A. NO. 112402 (E) 32

Ang karapatan na upahan ang nasabing lupa ay ibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng nakatayang estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makapagbibigay sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang magsumula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upang magdeposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lalutang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sasali sa subasta na nagrepresenta ng ibang tao ay makapagbibigay lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkakaragdagan na deposito kapag ang kanyang alok ay itinataas para makumpleto ang kabuuang buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng palaging nakalaan para sa pamahalaan.

Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tutumbas ng kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapasukat ng lupa. Lungsod ng Dabaw, Pilipinas, ika-30 ng **JUN 2022**.

  
**JUVY C. HOFLEÑA**  
 OIC, CENR Officer

22 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## More 2nd booster shots for COVID-19 pushed

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:46 AM July 21, 2022



BOOSTER TO BOOSTER File photo shows an elderly man receiving his first booster shot in Manila. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — The [Department of Health](#) (DOH) has asked the [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) to consider expanding the groups allowed to get second booster shots, particularly those with comorbidities or are between the ages of 50 and 59 years old.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, DOH officer in charge and spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said they had asked the FDA to study the matter.

Vergeire bared the plan as she announced that the DOH has appointed Health Assistant Secretary Nestor Santiago as the new incident manager of the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC).

Vergeire, however, clarified that Santiago will still report directly to her.

Before being appointed DOH officer in charge, Vergeire was appointed to lead the NVOC by former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, replacing former chair Myrna Cabotaje.

Representatives of business groups and the private sector have been urging the government to also include economic front-liners, citing the high acceptance rate among the group.

Vergeire earlier met with President Marcos whom she described as being “very keen on booster doses” to help the country fight COVID-19.

“We have discussed with the President regarding the [Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases] and we also talked about alert level systems,” Vergeire said.

She said the DOH made recommendations and explained to the President the current alert level system, what has to be improved in our alert level systems, what are the implications, and the current state of the COVID situation.

### Different situation now

She added that Mr. Marcos raised “rational points” about the alert level system and “but now we have a different situation where we have other things we need to consider.”





Mr. Marcos just asked the DOH to continue whatever it had been doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Vergeire.

“We need to study the alert level system carefully and also study what is most appropriate for us today based on how we compare our situation today compared to last year and compared to 2020,” she added. “That was the basis for the different directives that were given.”

As to second boosters, the Health Technology Assessment Council, an independent advisory body to the DOH, has so far approved second boosters only for health workers, senior citizens, and immunocompromised individuals.

The last group refers to those in an immunodeficiency state or with an active cancer or malignancy, transplant patients, and those undergoing immunosuppressive treatments or were diagnosed as human immunodeficiency virus-positive.

Vergeire, however, pointed out that the DOH was not keen to recommend second boosters for the general population because the primary doses and first boosters still provided “enough protection” against severe and critical COVID-19.

—KATHLEEN DE VILLA AND ZACARIAN SARAO

22 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



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




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