

25 JULY 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cooperation on environment through satellite development eyed by ROK legislator

July 25, 2022



Korean Rep Jo Myung-hee introduces to DENR state-of-the-art technology that monitors and protects environment using satellite images. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A KOREAN National Assembly (KNA) representative and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are exploring a collaboration on the use of communications satellite (Comsat) to monitor and protect the environment.

KNA member congresswoman Jo Myung-hee paid a courtesy visit to the DENR on July 13 in a pivotal meeting to introduce state-the-art technologies on the collection of data to monitor the environmental conditions on the ground.

In her visit, she was officially welcomed by DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Services (FASPS) director Dr. Al Orolfo who acknowledged satellite technologies and high resolution images' significant role in the management and protection of natural resources and environment.

Other senior officials present during the courtesy visit were DENR OIC lawyer Ernesto Adobo Jr. and Maria Elena Morillos-Manila, director of the Knowledge and Information Systems Service (KISS).

Present also in the meeting was Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Philippines Office assistant country director Kim Younlee.

Jo explained that in Korea, they already use two systems for real-time monitoring of the environmental and weather conditions through satellite imagery and meteorological stations.

Adobo expressed DENR's gratitude to the support and assistance extended by the Korean government in the environment sector of the country, reported FASPS's John Darren Chua.

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

One of these is the Establishment of Integrated Water Resources Management and Information System for the Pampanga River Basin Phase 2 implemented with the National Water Resources Board.

The other is the Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay to be spearheaded by the Manila Bay Coordinating Office.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/25/public-square/cooperation-on-environment-through-satellite-development-eyed-by-rok-legislator/1852113>



DENR Bataan backs WTE project

Published 4 hours ago on July 25, 2022 03:40 AM

By **Mar T. Supnad**



BATAAN — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here assured its support to the establishment of a 100-MW waste-to-energy (WTE) project in the province in line with the thrust of gradually phasing out of coal-fired power plants.

Bataan DENR head Raul Mamac said that clean energy projects are now being pushed by the government and world leaders to contain the worsening air pollution.

This comes after top officials of Grun Architekten — a Tokyo-Quezon city based firm — sought the DENR executive's assistance in securing various permits such as Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), among others.

"The ECC is required before any firm, such as Grun, sets up power plant not only to ensure the public's safety and the company/proponent itself but also in ensuring for the safety of the environment," Mamac said.

The DENR official also said that he was supporting their putting up of a power plant, provided they will comply with the government's requirement and follow the normal processing of documents.

Grun Architekten is bent on establishing 100MW waste-to-energy in Bataan which he described as the most state-of-the-art power plant project in the world.



Environmental advocates to join SONA 2022 protests

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 24 2022 03:03 PM

MANILA — The Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment on Sunday rushed to finish leaf-shaped placards that they would use during protests on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday.

Using foams, the group crafted tea leaf-shaped placards, which they plan to carry as shields as they join other groups that would hold a protest near the Batasang Pambansa, the venue of Marcos’ SONA.

“The climate crisis is one campaign na mahirap i-communicate and we have to be more creative para ipakita yung connection natin talaga sa nature and how we are affected if we destroy the environment, or if we let people who are in power destroy the environment and nature,” said Mathias Dans, Program Manager at Kalikasan PNE.

“Yung pag gamit natin ng leaves, it shows na if we defend nature, nature will also come to defend us,” he told ABS-CBN News when asked about the theme of their protest for this year’s SONA.

Among Marcos’ programs Kalikasan is flagging is the revival of the multi-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Marcos earlier said that he wants the government to study if the country can still use the mothballed nuclear power facility, established during the presidency of his father and namesake.

“Hindi nuclear ang kailangan natin para ma-solve ang energy crisis natin. Ang kailangan natin ay mas decentralized at mas community-based power generation,” Dans said.

“Isa sa mga panukala namin doon ay microgrids, solar, katulad ng ginagawa sa Bangladesh, rather than yung mga big projects na makakasira sa kapaligiran,” he said.

Kalikasan has been using artwork and creative materials to highlight their advocacies during protests to make it easier for them to grab the public’s attention, he said.

“In the time of social media, importante talaga yung spotlighting,” he said.

“Bilang environmental defenders, we are constantly under attack. So we have to spotlight ourselves and show people are here, there are people who are defending the environment and that we are stronger if we defend together,” he said.

Around 20 Kalikasan members will join the SONA protests, along with about 7,000 other protesters from other sectoral groups.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/24/22/environmental-advocates-to-join-sona-2022-protests?fbclid=IwAR0TGJhbkt7ZwB-W3fYDEqP2WvcoFnyDxk1Yas8_Aih8xhKaCUKIM7oXc8M



Asean states lose \$80B-\$120B yearly due to plastic waste

BYCAI U. ORDINARIO JULY 25, 2022

SOUTHEAST Asian countries, including the Philippines, are throwing away billions to the ocean by continuing to use single-use plastics, according to the World Bank and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

In a Blog, World Bank Managing Director for Operations Axel van Trotsenburg and Asean Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi said as much as \$80 billion to \$120 billion a year due to the failure to recycle plastics. This represented 95 percent of the packaging value of plastic products.

In Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, more than 75 percent or \$6 billion of the material value of recyclable plastic is lost every year when single-use plastic is thrown away rather than recovered or recycled, they said.

“Southeast Asia has emerged as a hotspot for plastic pollution, with its rapid urbanization, rising middle class and inadequate infrastructure for waste management. Half of the top 10 countries contributing to plastic leakage to rivers and seas are located here,” they said.

“And Covid-19 has been a pandemic of plastic, triggering huge increases in the consumption of masks, sanitizer bottles, online delivery packaging and other single-use items. The plastics economy is generally a cycle of take, make and waste,” the authors added.

Efforts to address these, the authors said, include the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Plastics in 2019 and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the Asean Member States (2021-2025).

The regional action plan, specifically, includes 14 Regional Actions across four pillars of Policy Support and Planning; Research, Innovation and Capacity Building; Public Awareness, Education and Outreach; and Private Sector Engagement.

More recently, in June 2022, the World Bank also extended a \$20-million grant for the Southeast Asia Regional Program on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP).

The project aims to reduce plastic consumption, increase recycling, and minimize leakages to prevent land and sea-based marine plastic pollution. It will also support coastal and blue economies, which are particularly affected by marine litter and its effects on several key sectors—fisheries, tourism, and shipping.

Conservation and tourism

In a recent study by US-based luggage storage company Bounce, plastic waste has damaged coral reefs and wildlife, which are the main attraction of the world’s top snorkeling destinations.

Bounce said the volume of plastics in oceans has steadily grown at 5.14 percent annually. It added that as of 2020, the total volume of plastic in oceans stood at 1.73 million tonnes.

“Snorkeling is made possible by having clean, clear, and healthy surface oceans which provide habitats for coral reefs and all sorts of fish and plant species,” Bounce said.



In terms of square kilometer (km²) of coral reef area, Bounce ranked the Philippines as having the third largest coral reef area out of the world's 50 top snorkeling destinations.

However, the Philippines has the highest percent of global plastic waste emission, at 36.38 percent, among these 50 countries.



Palamigin ang siyudad, bawas global warming

[SAPOL](#) - [Jarius Bondoc](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon July 25, 2022 | 12:00am

Animnapu't anim na porsiyento ng emissions na nagpapainit sa mundo ay galing sa mga siyudad. Kung gan'un, 66 percent din ng solusyon sa global warming ay manggagaling sa mga siyudad, anang mga eksperto.

Pinakagrabeng makarumi ng hangin ang mga sasakyan. Bukod sa climate change, dulot nito ay sakit sa baga. Sa London sinisingil ng mahal na toll ang mga sasakyang pumapasok sa matrapik na financial district. Sa Paris binawal ang mausok na sasakyang diesel. Sa California inuuso ang mga low-emission electric cars. Sa China 600 siyudad ang may paupahan ng bisikleta; gumagaya na ang Scandinavia.

Kailangan pa rin baguhin ang disenyo ng mga kalye para bawas traffic. Dagdagan ang tren. Pagkabit-kabitin ng elevated sidewalks na may bubong ang second floors ng mga gusali, para maglakad ang mga tao. Sa Pilipinas, gawin ng de-kuryente lahat ng tricycles at jeepneys. Ibawal ang mausok na two-stroke motorcycles. Ibalik ang car-less days sa Intramuros, Manila; Session Road, Baguio; at iba pang urban centers.

Ikalawang nagpapainit ang air-conditioning ng mga gusali. Baguhin dapat ang disenyo para mas maginhawa sa loob maski walang cooling system. Obligahin ang malls at malalapad na buildings na magtanim ng puno sa mga tuktok. Gawing ipunan ng tubig-ulan ang ilalim ng parking lots—I-filter para pang-flush ng mga kubeta at pandilig ng halaman, at pamatay-sunog.

Dati nang hinigpitan ang emissions ng mga pabrika. Ngayon naman pagtanimin sila ng mga puno sa paligid ng compounds. Magtatag din ng tree parks ang mga city hall. Pagtanimin ang mga estudyante.

Targetin sana ng mga gobyerno na palamigin ang temperatura sa mga siyudad. Magbabago ang lifestyles ng mga mamamayan. Mas maglalakad, sisigla, at mamumulat sa paglilinis ng kapaligiran.

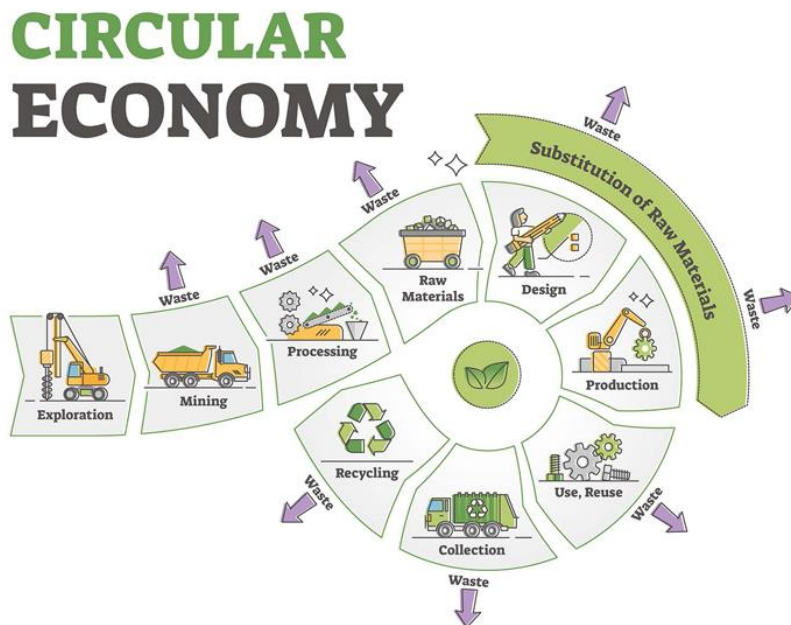
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Makinig sa Sapol, Sabado, 8-10 ng umaga, DWIZ (882-AM).



How sustainable manufacturing could help reduce the environmental impact of industry

BY JULY 24, 2022



[VectorMine/Dreamstime.com](https://www.vectormine.com/stock-illustration/38069167-circular-economy)

By Nabil Nasr, Rochester Institute of Technology / The Conversation

NABIL NASR is the associate provost and director of the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology.

He is also the CEO of the Remade Institute, which was established by the US government to conduct early-stage R&D to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, which is a sustainable industrial model for improved resource efficiency and decreased systemic energy, emissions and waste generation. Below are highlights from an interview with The Conversation. Here, Nasr explains some of the ideas behind sustainable manufacturing and why they matter. Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

How would you explain sustainable manufacturing? What does the average person not know or understand about sustainable manufacturing?

When we talk about sustainable manufacturing, we mean cleaner and more efficient systems with less resource consumption, less waste and emissions. It is to simply minimize any negative impact on the environment while we are still meeting demand, but in much more efficient and sustainable ways. One example of sustainable manufacturing is an automotive factory carrying out its production capacity with 10% of its typical emission due to advanced and efficient processing technology, reducing its production waste to near zero by figuring out how to switch its shipping containers of supplied parts from single use to reusable ones, accept more recycled materials in production, and through innovation make their products more efficient and last longer.

Sustainability is about the proper balance in a system. In our industrial system, it means we are taking into account the impact of what we do and also making sure we understand the impact on the supply side of natural resources that we use. It is understanding environmental impacts and making sure we're not causing negative impacts unnecessarily. It's being able to ensure that we are able to satisfy our demands now and in the future without facing any environmental challenges.



Early on at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, emissions, waste and natural resource consumption were low. A lot of the manufacturing impacts on the environment were not taken into account because the volumes that we were generating were much, much lower than we have today. The methods and approaches in manufacturing we use today are really built on a lot of those approaches that we developed back then.

The reality is that the situation today has drastically changed, but our approaches have not. There is plenty of industrialization going on around the globe. And, there is plenty of pollution and waste generated. In addition, a lot of materials we use in manufacturing are nonrenewable resources.

So it sounds like countries that are industrialized now picked up a lot of bad habits. And we know that growth is coming from these developing nations and we don't want them to repeat those bad habits. But we want to raise their standard of living just without the consequences that we brought to the environment.

Yeah, absolutely. So there was an article I read a long time ago that said China and India either will destroy the world or save it. And I think the rationale was that if China and India copy the model and technologies used in the West to build its industrial system, the world will see drastic negative impact on the environment. The key factor here is the significantly high scale of activities needed to support their very large populations. However, if they are much more innovative and come up with much more efficient and cleaner methods better than used in the West to build up industrial enterprises, they would save the world because the scale of what they do is significant.

In talking about how these two countries could either ruin or save the world, do you remain an optimist?

Absolutely. I serve on the United Nations Environment Program's International Resource Panel. One of the IRP's roles is to inform policy through validated independent scientific studies. One of the panel's reports is called the Global Resources Outlook. The last report was published in 2019.

The experts are saying that if business as usual continues, we're probably going to increase greenhouse gas emission by 43% by 2060. However, if we employ effective sustainability measures across the globe, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a significant percentage, even by as much as 90%. A 2018 study I led for the IRP found that applying remanufacturing alongside other resource recovery methods like comprehensive refurbishment, repair and reuse could cut greenhouse gas emissions of those products by 79% to 99% across manufacturing supply chains.

So there is optimism if we employ many sustainability measures. However, I've been around long enough to know that it's always disappointing to see that the indicators are there; the approaches to address some of those issues are identified, but the will to actually employ them isn't. Despite this, I'm still optimistic because we know enough about the right path forward and it is still not too late to move in the right direction.

Were there any lessons we've learned during the Covid-19 pandemic that we can apply to challenges we're facing?

We learned a lot from the Covid crisis. When the risk became known, even though not all agreed, people around the globe took significant measures and actions to address the challenge. We accepted changes to the way we live and interact, we marshaled all of our resources to develop vaccines and address the medical supply shortages. The bottom line is that we rose to the occasion and we, in most part, took actions to deal with the risk in a significant way.



The environmental challenges we face today, like climate change, are serious global challenges as well. However, they have been occurring over a long time and, unfortunately, mostly have not been taken as seriously as they should have been. We certainly have learned that when we have the will to address serious challenges, we can meet them.

Final question. Give me the elevator pitch on remanufacturing.

Remanufacturing is a process by which we bring a product that has been used back to a like-new-or-better condition. Through a rigorous industrial process, we disassemble the product to the component level. We clean, inspect and restore it, qualifying every part. We then reassemble the product similar to what happened when it was built the first time. The reality is that by doing so, you're using anywhere from 70% to 90% of the materials recovered from the use phase. This has significantly far lower impacts on the environment when compared to making new products from raw materials.

You don't mine virgin material for that. You're saving the energy that made those parts; you're saving the capital equipment that made those parts; you're saving the labor cost. So the savings are significant. The overall savings are about 50%. For example, a remanufactured vehicle part in the United States requires less than 10% of the energy needed to make a new one, and less than 5% of new materials. That means lower costs for the producer while providing the consumer with a very high-quality product. Examples of commonly remanufactured products are construction equipment, automotive engines and transmissions, medical equipment and aircraft parts. Those products are similar to brand-new products, and companies like Xerox, Caterpillar and GE all have made remanufacturing an important part of their overall operations. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/how-sustainable-manufacturing-could-help-reduce-the-environmental-impact-of-industry-185672>.

Image credits: [VectorMine/Dreamstime.com](https://www.vectormine.com/)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/24/how-sustainable-manufacturing-could-help-reduce-the-environmental-impact-of-industry/>



California wildfire rages as US engulfed in heat wave

Agence France-Presse July 24, 2022 | 9:51am



Destroyed property is left in its wake as the Oak Fire chews through the forest near Midpines, northeast of Mariposa, California, on July 23, 2022.

DAVID MCNEW / AFP

LOS ANGELES — A California wildfire ripped through thousands of acres Saturday after sparking a day earlier, as millions of Americans sweltered through scorching heat with already record-setting temperatures due to climb.

The heat wave encompassing multiple regions has increased the risk of blazes, such as the major Oak Fire, which broke out Friday in California near Yosemite National Park, where giant sequoias have already been threatened by flames in recent days.

The fire — described as "explosive" by officials — grew from about 600 acres to some 9,500 (3,800 hectares) within 24 hours. Concentrated in Mariposa County, it has already destroyed ten properties and damaged five others, with thousands more threatened.

More than 6,000 people had been evacuated, said Hector Vasquez, a public information officer with California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as the fire remained zero percent contained as of Saturday evening.

The department said the fire's activity was "extreme."

The blaze left ashes, gutted vehicles and twisted remains of properties in its wake, as emergency personnel worked to evacuate residents and protect structures in its path.

More than 500 firefighters are working to extinguish the flames with assistance from aircraft, Vasquez said. Officials cited by the Los Angeles Times said it could take a week to contain.

"There's personnel showing up from various departments all over the state to help control this fire," Vasquez told AFP, saying the situation remained "really challenging."

Climate scientist Daniel Swain tweeted that the fire was "exhibiting consistently extreme behavior," while stunned social media users posted images of billowing plumes of smoke that reached thousands of feet into the air.

In recent years, California and other parts of the western United States have been ravaged by huge, hot and fast-moving wildfires, driven by years of drought and a warming climate.

Drought and high temperatures have been "not in our favor," Vasquez said.



Record-breaking heat

Evidence of global warming could be seen elsewhere in the country, as more than a dozen states were under a heat advisory.

The central and northeast US regions face the brunt of the extreme temperatures, which are not expected to peak until Sunday at the earliest and have sent public health officials scrambling.

"From the southern Plains into the East, it will feel extremely oppressive," the National Weather Service (NWS) said Saturday evening, warning as well of possible severe storms.

Central US metropolitan areas such as Dallas and Oklahoma City were expected to reach highs of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (above 38 degrees Celsius) for at least the next five days.

A heat emergency is in effect for cities up and down the northeast coast, from Boston to Philadelphia to Washington.

Not even the usually cool Pacific Northwest will escape the far-reaching heat, with the region expected to face several days in the 90s next week.

The high temperatures have already caused an uptick in emergency calls for heat-related illness.

Cities have, meanwhile, been forced to open cooling stations and increase outreach to at-risk communities such as the homeless and those without access to air conditioning.

"This is really one of the things that we recognize in Oklahoma — heat is the number one weather-related killer across the United States. It far surpasses any other" nature-related cause of death, Joseph Kralicek, director of the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, told CNN.

Residents of the central US city were expecting temperatures to reach 103F (39C) Saturday and up to 106F (41C) on Sunday and Monday.

The nation's capital Washington reached temperatures near 100F (38C) on Saturday, and was expected to reach or surpass that level on Sunday for the first time in years.

New York was not far behind.

"Look for daytime max temps to eclipse the century mark in the Central Plains and record breaking high temps from the Central Plains to the Northeast today," the NWS said in a forecast.

"Sunday grows even hotter in the northeast," it added.

Severe thunderstorms are expected in the Midwest Saturday, with the potential for damaging winds, large hail and tornadoes, the NWS said.

Various regions of the globe have been hit by extreme heat waves in recent months, such as Western Europe in July and India in March to April, incidents that scientists say are an unmistakable sign of a warming climate.

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NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Meet the team carrying out Marcos' marching orders

Grand visions, broad marching orders, major policy shifts—expect these and more as President Marcos delivers his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) today.

But after the applause has died down and the President's pronouncements have been parsed, praised or panned, it's up to the select men and women in the new Cabinet to implement the promised reforms and pursue the new targets, and ultimately ensure that the people taste the benefits. Everyone will have his or her own share of the mammoth challenges faced by the new administration—a pandemic now well past its second year, rising fuel and food prices, the ravages of climate change, the aftershocks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the perennial gut issues concerning jobs, education, healthcare, etc.

Mr. Marcos' selection of department secretaries, bureau chiefs and advisers has so far been dominated by familiar names in government—many of them seasoned veterans of past administrations—including one from that of his own late father. But also in the lineup are achievers crossing over from the corporate world and called to serve in the public sector for the first time.

In no particular order, here's a rundown on the top-tier members of the Marcos team:

SARA DUTERTE-CARPIO, Vice President / Education Secretary
Vice President Sara Duterte, daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, was the first woman and the youngest to serve as mayor of Davao City, from 2010 to 2013, and was reelected in 2016 and 2019. She also served as the city's vice mayor from 2007 to 2010.

During her mayoralty from 2016 to 2022, according to her office, more than 3,000 infrastructure projects were completed in Davao City, including 1,424 roads, 51 bridges, 180 school buildings, 63 office buildings, 44 barangay halls, 84 health centers, nine police stations, 748 irrigation and drainage projects, 172 water systems, 11 electrification projects, and 669 other structures.

In June, the Vice President, speaking as concurrent education secretary, said she was "targeting" the resumption of in-person classes nationwide by August. This target was later moved to Nov. 2, although the Department of Education set

the opening of the new school year on Aug. 22.

Duterte obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from San Pedro College - Davao in 1999 and her Bachelor of Laws degree from San Sebastian College - Recoletos in 2005. She is also a reserve military officer with the rank of colonel.

MARIA ROSARIO VERGEIRE, officer in charge of the Department of Health (DOH)

At the early stages of the pandemic, she became the calm and steady voice of the government response. With over two decades of experience in public health, Vergeire became a familiar face on TV as she presided over the regular online briefings on the unprecedented health crisis, at a time when the DOH came under increasing pressure from an anxious public.

Vergeire, who is concurrently the undersecretary for public health services, joined the agency in 2007 after working for over a decade in the Marikina City health office.

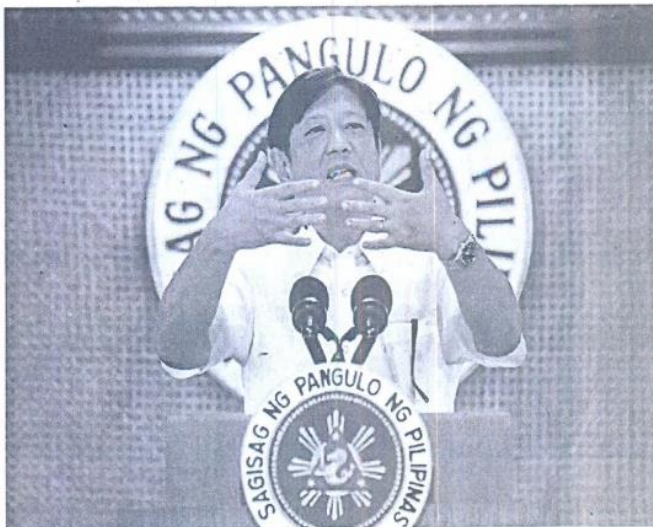
She was appointed assistant secretary in 2015 and held top positions in the attached agencies and bureaus, such as the Field Regulatory Operation unit of the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau, and the Health Research Division under the Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau.

Vergeire remains a member of the faculty at the Development Academy of the Philippines and at the Ateneo School of Government.

She earned her undergraduate degree in Zoology from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) and obtained her medical degree from De La Salle University College of Medicine. She has a master's degree in Public Health from the University of the Philippines (UP) - Manila.

BENHUR ABALOS, Interior Secretary

Abalos chaired the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) before resigning in February 2022 to become national campaign manager of then presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr. He was mayor of Mandaluyong City from 1998 to 2004 and from 2007 to 2016, and its con-



Mr. Marcos' selection of department secretaries, bureau chiefs and advisers has so far been dominated by familiar names in government—many of them seasoned veterans of past administrations—including one from that of his own late father. But also in the lineup are achievers crossing over from the corporate world and called to serve in the public sector for the first time

gressman from 2004 to 2007. He served as president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and League of Cities of the Philippines from 2007 to 2010.

Abalos earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from De La Salle University and his Bachelor of Laws degree from Ateneo de Manila University.

He is the son of former Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair and now Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos, who also chaired the MMDA from January 2001 to June 2002. Benhur is married to former Mandaluyong mayor and now Vice

Mayor Carmelita Aguilar-Abalos.

VICTOR RODRIGUEZ, Executive Secretary

A longtime chief of staff and spokesperson for Mr. Marcos, Rodriguez served as managing lawyer of Rodriguez & Partners and was president of the Quezon City Trial Lawyers League. He is also a former deputy general counsel of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Rodriguez obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from UST, and took up Executive Education under the National University of Singapore's Negotiation and Influence Program.

JESUS CRISPIN REMULLA, Justice Secretary

Remulla, who comes from a political clan who has long dominated Cavite, served as representative of the province's seventh district from 2010 to 2013 and from 2019 to 2022. He was reelected to the House in the May 9 elections but accepted the position to head the Department of Justice.

He was the Cavite governor from 2016 to 2019, succeeding brother Jonvic when he became the spokesperson for former Vice President Jejomar Binay.

He served in the Presidential Management Staff during the short-lived Estrada presidency.

Remulla finished law at UP.

ARSENIO BALISACAN, Socio-economic Planning Secretary

Balisacan was the first chair of the Philippine Competition Commission. Prior to this, he served as socioeconomic planning secretary under the Benigno Aquino III administration from 2012 to 2016. In his capacity as director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), he served as board chair of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and as the first board chair of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines. He is also

a former undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Prior to his Cabinet appointments, Balisacan reported to the World Bank in Washington, DC as an economist, and taught at the UP School of Economics, where he rose to become its dean.

Balisacan obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the Mariano Marcos State University; his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from UF Los Baños; and his doctorate in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He was also a research fellow at East West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

BIENVENIDO LAGUESMA, Labor Secretary

Laguesma served as labor secretary during the Estrada administration and earlier as presidential assistant to then President Fidel Ramos from 1996 to 1998. He was appointed chair of the Social Security System's audit committee in 2011 and a board member in 2013.

He was also a director and secretary of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines - Quezon City Chapter from 2005 to 2009 and president of the Rotary Club of Manila from 2007 to 2008.

Laguesma obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the Lyceum of the Philippines University and his law degree from Ateneo de Manila University. He also finished an administration course at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in London.

SUSAN "TOOTS" OPLE, Migrant Workers Affairs Secretary

A known advocate of migrant workers' rights, she is the daughter of the late Sen. Blas Ople, a longtime labor minister of the late former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

Susan Ople was the founder and president of the nonprofit Blas Ople Policy Center and the national coordinator on women workers' education for the International Labor Organization. She served as a labor undersecretary from 2004 to 2009, under the Arroyo administration, and was also named a trustee of the UN Trust Fund for Human Trafficking victims.

Ople took up Communication Arts at the University Santo Tomas and received a master's degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



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THE ROAD AHEAD

A2-1

Meet the team carrying out Marcos' marching orders

FROM A2-4

TRIXIE ANGELES, chief of the Presidential Communications Operations Office

Aside from being a vlogger with some 85,000 subscribers on her YouTube channel, lawyer and radio commentator Angeles was also a host of the Karambola program on radio station dwIZ.

She was also a former commissioner for cultural heritage at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and a former spokesperson of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

No stranger to the PCOO, she was its "social media strategist" from 2017 to 2018 under the Duterte presidency.

Angeles obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics and law degree from UP.

BENJAMIN DIOKNO, Finance Secretary

Under the Duterte presidency, Diokno was appointed Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor in March 2019, after three years serving as budget secretary and one of the architects of the "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program.

In January 2022, he was named the world's Best Central Banker, a first for a Filipino, by the London-based The Banker, an international business, banking, and finance magazine owned by The Financial Times.

A professor emeritus at the UP School of Economics, Diokno was also the budget secretary during the Estrada administration.

Diokno obtained his bachelor's degree in Public Administration and master's degree in Public Administration and Economics from UP, and his Master of Arts degree in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He also holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse University, New York.

ALFREDO PASCUAL, Trade Secretary

Pascual is an international development banker and a finance expert. He served as president and co-chair of the UP system between 2011 and 2017.

In December 2021, he was appointed president of the Management Association of the Philippines. At that time, he also served as the lead independent director at SM Investments Corp. and other publicly listed companies such as Megawide Construction and Conception Industrial.

His board memberships also include those in nonprofits and other organizations like the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), Institute for Solidarity in Asia, Finex Academy, UP Foundation, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations and the US-Philippines Society. He was also ICD's president and CEO from 2016 to 2019.

Pascual obtained his bachelor's degree in Chemistry from UP and his master's degree in Business Administration and Doctor of Humanities from the Partido State University. He also has a doctorate of pedagogy from the Angeles University Foundation and honorary degree as Doctor of Sciences from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

FELIPE MEDALLA, Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

An economist and educator, Medalla has served under four presidents. He was a member of the Monetary Board under then President Benigno Aquino III, and was appointed to a second term in 2017 by then



Arsenio Balisacan



Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga



Maria Rosario Vergeire



Jaime Bautista



Juan Ponce Enrile



Sara Duterte-Carpio



Erwin Tulfo



Jose Arnulfo Veloso

President Rodrigo Duterte. Earlier Medalla was the socioeconomic planning secretary and director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) from 1998 to 2001 during the Estrada administration. During the Ramos years, he became a member of the Presidential Task Force on Tax and Tariff Reform.

Medalla was a professor at the UP School of Economics, where he was also the dean from 1994 to 1998.

He became president of the Philippine Economic Society in 1996 and also chaired the Foundation for Economic Freedom, a nongovernmental organization engaged in public advocacy for fiscal reforms and market-friendly government policies.

Medalla obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Commerce (Economics-Accounting) from De La Salle University and his masters degree in Economics also from UP. He holds a doctorate in Economics from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

MANUEL BONOAN, Public Works Secretary

SMC Tollways president and chief executive officer Bonoan served as undersecretary for the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) during the Estrada and Arroyo administrations and was briefly the DPWH officer in charge in 2007. An engineer by profession, he also served as president of Skyway O&M Corp.

ANTON LAGDAMEO JR., Special Assistant to the President

Former Davao del Norte Lagdameo Jr. comes from one of the wealthiest families in Mindanao—the Florendos. He had worked as a credit analyst for Manufacturers Hanover Trust bank in Manhattan, New York, from 1989 to 1992 and later for National Westminster Bank also in New York for a year.

He became a director at Cambrick Trading Ltd. in London from 1993 to 1996. Af-

ter these professional stints abroad, he returned to the Philippines and became vice president at Anfo Management & Investment Corp. in Davao, a position he held from 1996 to 2007.

Entering politics, he served as congressman of Davao del Norte's second district from 2007 to 2016. He became a member of the House committees on agrarian reform, ecology, legislative franchises, Mindanao affairs, accounts; and of the joint congressional oversight committee on the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania and his master's degree in Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

MARIA ZENaida ANGPING, head of the Presidential Management Staff

Angping was elected as representative of Manila's "third district" for nine years and served as technical assistant at the Office of the Governor of Leyte and executive assistant to Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez. She was also a member of the transition team assembled by then President-elect Marcos to help oversee the smooth transfer of power from the Duterte administration.

Angping is married to former Manila congressman and Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping.

IVAN JOHN ENRILE UY, Information and Communications Secretary

Uy was the former chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology during the Benigno Aquino III administration. A lawyer, he also served as chief information officer and director of the Management Information Systems Office of the Supreme Court.

Uy obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from UP, his baccalaureate degree from Ateneo de Manila University, and took up advanced studies at the University of Minnesota.

ENRIQUE MANALO, Foreign Secretary

Manalo, who comes from a family of diplomats, has built a career in the foreign service spanning more than 40 years.

Prior to his latest appointment as head of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Manalo served as the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations beginning July 2020. Before assuming that post in New York, he was the foreign undersecretary for policy, a position he held from 2007 to 2010, under the Aquino administration.

Manalo was designated acting secretary of the DFA in March 2017 after the Commission on Appointments rejected the nomination of Perfecto Yasay as secretary.

Before he was named undersecretary for policy in early 2016, he was the ambassador to the United Kingdom and non-resident ambassador to Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

He was also the head of mission to the European Union and permanent representative to the Philippine mission to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva.

Manalo is the son of the late writer-diplomat Armando Manalo and former ambassador Rosario Manalo, the first Filipino woman to pass the country's career foreign service examinations.

MA. ESPERANZA CHRISTINA FRASCO, Tourism Secretary

Frasco won a third term as mayor of Liloan town, Cebu, in the May 9 elections. During the last campaign season, she also served as spokesperson for then vice presidential candidate Sara Duterte.

From 2015 to 2022, she held the post of vice president for the Visayas cluster of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

A lawyer, professor and businesswoman, she holds a Juris Doctor degree and Bachelor of Science degree in Management, Major in Legal Management, from Ateneo de Manila

University. Frasco is the daughter of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and the wife of the province's fifth district representative, Vincent Franco Frasco.

AMENAH PANGANDAMAN, Budget Secretary

Pangandaman served as BSP assistant governor and chief of staff from 2021 to 2022. From being Technical Advisor III, she rose through the BSP ranks and became managing director of the Office of the Governor and Executive Offices in 2019.

Earlier in her career, she worked in the Senate as a researcher and later headed the Policy Research Group of the office of Sen. Edgardo Angara. She later became Angara's chief of staff in 2007.

She joined the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) under the Office of the Secretary, and was one of its assistant secretaries from 2016 to 2018. She was appointed undersecretary and concurrent director of the Budget Technical Bureau in 2018.

Pangandaman was one of the prime movers in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the General Appropriations Act and oversaw the implementation of the "Green, Green, Green" initiative during the Duterte presidency.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Far Eastern University and a Master of Arts degree in Development Economics from UP.

ERWIN TULFO, Social Welfare and Development Secretary

Tulfo is a well-known journalist, broadcaster, and TV and radio host. He was a broadcaster for the government media channel People's Television Network and previously worked as a news anchor for TV5 and ABS-CBN.

He also hosted shows created by his brother, Ben, who owned Bitag Media Unlimited Inc., a company known for producing hard-hitting public service programs.

Tulfo also supported the Anti-Crime and Terrorism

Community Involvement and Support Inc. (ACT-CIS), one of the front-running party lists groups in the May 9 elections.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Special Degree Program) from the University of the East.

CLARITA CARLOS, National Security Adviser

Carlos is a retired UP political science professor and the recognized pioneer of political psychology in the Philippines.

Outside teaching, she has authored books and papers on political parties, elections, defense and security, and foreign policy.

Carlos was also the first female civilian president of the National Defense College of the Philippines, serving from 1998 to 2001.

She became a consultant to various government departments, including the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, and both chambers of Congress. She also concurrently served as head of the Office of Strategic and Special Concerns of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and director at the Philippine National Red Cross from 2001 to 2006.

Carlos has a doctorate in Political Science from UP, a postdoctoral degree in Political Psychology from Cornell University, and a postdoctora degree in Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis from the University of California.

CONRADO ESTRELLA III, Agrarian Reform Secretary

Estrella was one of the House Deputy Speakers of the recently adjourned 18th Congress.

He was first elected to Congress as representative of Pangasinan's sixth district from 1987 to 1995, and was reelected to serve successive terms from 2001 to 2010. In 2013, he returned to the House as Abono party list representative.

As a lawmaker, Estrella authored several bills that eventually led to the passage of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 and the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Estrella also served as chief of the National Electrification Administration.

He is the grandson of Conrado Estrella Sr., the first agrarian reform secretary to serve for a decade and a half, and a brother to Robert Raymond, a former representative of Abono party list.

RICARDO DE LEON, Director General of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica)

De Leon was a former Philippine National Police deputy director and former president of the Philippine Public Safety College's board of trustees.

He was a member of the "Maratag" Class of 1971 at the Philippine Military Academy.

LILIA GUILLERMO, Internal Revenue Commissioner

Guillermo was a former budget undersecretary and former deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue before she was appointed chief information officer of the BSP, where she oversaw most of the steps toward the modernization of the central bank's info-tech systems under a roadmap set for completion in 2023.

She served three terms as president of the Chief Information Officers (CIO) Forum, an organization of all CIOs in government.

She was also part of the Automated Election System team for the 2010 elections and was cited

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THE ROAD AHEAD

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Meet the team carrying out Marcos' marching orders

FROM A2-5

for the successful implementation of the Philippines Tax Computerization Project, which upgraded the collection systems of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs.

Among the honors she has received is the 2019 Presidential Gawad Career Executive Service Award and the BSP Gawad Gantimpala Award. In 2003, she was named by Enterprise Magazine as one of the 11 "most powerful women in information technology in the Philippines."

Guillermo earned a Bachelor of Science degree, Major in Statistics, in 1977 and a master's degree in Industrial Engineering in 1981, both from UP.

JUAN PONCE ENRILE, Presidential Legal Counsel

One of the most enduring figures in the country's political history, Enrile continues to be a presence in the corridors of power at age 98.

Thirty-six years after turning his back on then President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. and playing a key role in his ouster in the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution, the former martial law enforcer is serving the late strongman's son, Ferdinand Jr.

In the post-Edsa years, he had served multiple terms as a senator, including a stint as Senate President. He represented his home province of Cagayan in the House from 1992 to 1995.

His first government appointment, in 1966, was as finance undersecretary. He later served as acting customs commissioner, chair of the Monetary Board and acting finance secretary.

But it was his role as defense minister of the first Marcos presidency that remained the most indelible and controversial in the public mind.

Enrile earned his law degree from UP in 1953 and placed 11th among the successful bar examinees a year later with a rating of 91.72 percent. He obtained his Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School, specializing in taxation and corporate reorganization.

MENARDO GUEVARRA, Solicitor General

One of the Duterte Cabinet members given a new role by President Marcos, Guevarra first served the previous administration as senior deputy executive secretary (June 2016) and then as justice secretary (April 2018).

Under the Benigno Aquino III presidency, his last major position was commissioner of the newly formed Philippine Competition Commission.

Guevarra was a member of the Philippine legal team who in 2016 won a historic victory in the Permanent Court of Arbitration against China's sweeping claims in the West Philippine Sea.

He also became an ex-officio member of the Judicial and Bar Council.

In the 1980s, he worked as



Clarita Carlos



Raphael Lotilla



Silvestre Bello III



Jose Calida



Jesus Crispin Remulla



Benhur Abalos

a staff economist at Neda before his transfer to the Central Bank's Department of Economic Research as a bank economist.

Guevarra earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Ateneo de Manila University, a master's degree in Economics from UP, and a law degree also from Ateneo.

JOSE FAUSTINO JR., Defense Secretary

In February 2021, Faustino formally assumed his post as the 63rd commanding general of the Philippine Army.

A member of PMA "Marlingal" Class of 1988, he held various key command roles throughout his 36 years in service, including a stint as commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command and Army Chief of Staff. He also served as Commandant of Cadets and Head of Tactics Group in the PMA.

Among the other units placed under his command were the 7th Scout Ranger Company, 35th Infantry Battalion and 501st Infantry Brigade. Under his leadership, the 10th Infantry Division dismantled four guerrilla fronts of the communist New People's Army in a span of one year.

JAIME BAUTISTA, Transportation Secretary

Bautista served two terms as president of Philippine Airlines (PAL), from 2004 to 2012,

and from 2014 to 2019.

He retired from the national flag carrier after 26 years, having risen to the top echelon as executive vice president (1999 to 2004), chief financial officer (1994 to 1999), and vice president for finance (1993 to 1994).

Outside PAL, Bautista sat on the UE board as vice chair from 2002 to 2019, and has been a member of its board of trustees since 1991.

Bautista is a certified public accountant who earned his bachelor's degree in Commerce (major in Accounting) from Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Manila. In 2018, the Central Luzon State University conferred on him an honorary degree as Doctor of Humanities.

JOSE CALIDA, Commission on Audit Chief

Calida was the solicitor general during the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte from 2016 to 2022. He also served as justice undersecretary during Arroyo presidency from 2001 to 2004 and concurrently as executive director of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) in 2004.

Calida was a consultant to the House committee on dangerous drugs from 2005 to 2007, and earned recognition—the International Award of Honor—from the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association for his accomplishments in the campaign against illegal drugs.

De La Salle University in Manila in 1986.

RAPHAEL PERPETUO LOTILLA, Energy Secretary

Lotilla is back to the energy portfolio that he held during the Arroyo administration from 2005 to 2007.

Earlier, from 1996 to 2004, he was with Neda as its deputy director general.

Prior to this latest appointment from President Marcos, Lotilla was an independent director at Aboitiz Power and ENEXOR.

He earlier served as president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), a government corporation tasked to manage the privatization of power generation assets and the management of financial obligations of the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Lotilla taught law at UP and also served as the state university's vice president for public affairs (1991) and director of the UP Law Center's Institute of International Legal Studies (1989-1996).

He finished his psychology and law courses at UP and later earned a Master of Laws degree from the University of Michigan.

MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA, Environment Secretary

Yulo-Loyzaga, wife of former basketball star Chito Loyzaga, served as the executive director of the Manila Observatory from 2007 to 2016 and a trustee of Ateneo de Manila University from 2007 to 2017.

From 2016 to 2020, she chaired the observatory's International Advisory Board, focusing on climate action and disaster resilience. She was also a technical adviser to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

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

She graduated from Georgetown University with a master of government degree.

KARLO ALEXEI NOGRALES, chair of the Civil Service Commission

Nogralles served as Cabinet secretary during the Duterte administration, which also tapped him to cochair the International Agency for the Study of Emerging Infectious Diseases to help in the pandemic response.

He had also chaired the National Irrigation Administration, the Cabinet Assistance System, and the Cabinet Cluster Secretariat.

Prior to joining the Cabinet in 2018, he had served three terms as congressman representing the first district of Davao City and once chaired the powerful House committee on appropriations.

Nogralles graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Engineering and a Juris Doctorate from Ateneo de

Manila University.

SILVESTRE BELLO III, chief of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan

A seasoned lawyer, businessman and human rights advocate, Bello has served the government under four consecutive administrations and in various capacities.

He was the Duterte administration's labor secretary from 2016 to 2022 and Cabinet secretary of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from 2004 to 2010.

During the Cory Aquino administration, he was justice undersecretary from 1986 to 1991 and later the secretary until 1992.

The Ramos administration made him solicitor general in 1996, and he would return to head the Department of Justice in 1998 at the start of the Estrada presidency.

In the 16th Congress, under the Benigno Aquino administration, Bello entered the House as representative of the 1BAP party list from 2013 to 2016.

He finished political science at Manuel L. Quezon University, before taking up law at Ateneo de Manila University.

PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS JR., Agriculture Secretary

The country's 17th President made the unusual decision of appointing himself to a specific Cabinet position—agriculture secretary—in what may be an indication of his top priority as Chief Executive.

When he was still a senator from 2010 to 2016, Marcos pushed for agriculture-related measures such as Senate Bill No. 14 or the proposed National Irrigation Program, SB 112 or the draft National Seeds Production Act, SB 1863 or the proposed Anti-Rice Wastage Act, and SB 409 or the proposed Philippine Soybean Authority Act.

In the 16th Congress, he was a member of the committees on agrarian reform and on agriculture and food, as well as the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization and Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform.

In 2015, he called out the scant attention given to agriculture in the Sona delivered that year by then President Benigno Aquino III, noting that the country still lacked preparation for the full implementation of the Asean Free Trade Agreement.

SOURCE: INQUIRER ARCHIVES, OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE PHILIPPINES, VOTERPHILIPPINES.COM, MMB.A.GOV.PH, PHCE.GOV.PH, NAPCOR.GOV.PH, DPWH.GOV.PH, FIAR.GOV.PH, PCOO.GOV.PH, LLODAN.GOV.PH, LMP.ORG.PH, BSP.GOV.PH, PNA.GOV.PH, UEEDUPH, IAG.ORG.PH, PPSC.GOV.PH, CIOFORUM.ORG, LEGACY.SENATE.GOV.PH, DOJ.GOV.PH, ARMY.MIL.PH, PBBM.COM.PH, COA.GOV.PH, PNB.COM.PH, PIA.GOV.PH, DOE.GOV.PH, SOMULOPFOUNDATION.ORG, CSC.GOV.PH, ROLDOLE.GOV.PH, PAGIBFUND.GOV.PH, DAR.GOV.PH, PHILIPPINE NEWS ASSOCIATION, TRIPRETRAVEL.BLOGSPOT.COM, UNODC.ORG, NETSLUPD.EDU.PH, ZULLIGFOUNDATION.ORG



DENR discovers new cave in Laguna

By Jane Eleda



'PINAGDAOP.' The new cave found in Sta. Maria, Laguna.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) discovered a new cave in the town of Sta. Maria in Laguna.

The DENR-Calabarzon said the newly-found cave named "Pinagdaop," is still subject to the agency's analysis for proper management,

ment and schools for their strong fight against Covid," said Soriano.

"Well, the only proven solution to fight this pandemic is to be vaccinated (1st and 2nd dose, 1st and 2nd booster dose) so, magpabakuna po tayong lahat," he added.

Cavite province has

protection, and conservation of resources, as well as the wildlife found inside and outside the cave.

The "Pinagdaop" cave is a type of cave in which its tunnels are created between rocks stacked on mountain slopes.

The cave has an elevation of 514 meters above sea level and located inside the Presidential Proclamation 1636 in Bgy. Cueva, Sta. Maria, Lagu-

174,539 confirmed Covid-19 cases, with 169,864 recoveries, and 3,610 deaths as of July 23.

General Trias City Mayor Luis "JonJon" Ferrer IV encouraged residents to continue compliance with the minimum public health standards mandated by the govern-

na. It has the widest road inside at 4.39 meters while the narrowest at 0.64 meters.

"Pinagdaop" cave is classified as Class I cave or caves with archaeological findings and are for scientific and educational purposes.

Class I caves can also be used for exploration, mapping, and photography.

ment for our safety against the dreaded virus.

"Bakuna po ang mabisang panlaban sa Covid, kayapo hinihimok ko kayo mga kapwa ko Gentriseño na magpabakuna at booster sa vaccination sites sa ating lungsod," Mayor Ferrer said. **Dennis Abrina**



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NEWS BRIEFS

Using invasive frogs, fish a bad idea, gov't warns

The Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of the Interior and Local Government issued a rare joint warning on Sunday against the use of invasive species of frogs and fish in fighting dengue. "Scientific solutions can solve complicated problems like dengue. Releasing invasive species of frogs and fish is not the scientific solution," read an advisory issued by the three agencies on Sunday. The agencies issued the warning after barangay officials from Sapang Kangkong, Barangay Old Balara in Quezon City, again released hundreds of frogs in canals and lawns supposedly as part of its antidengue campaign. The same barangay officials have already been called out for releasing hundreds of invasive frogs in 2019. At least 65,190 dengue cases have been reported nationwide this year, which is 83 percent higher than the recorded dengue cases during the same period last year, which was 35,715. —DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN



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Manila Standard

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IN BRIEF

Frogs, fish won't stop dengue, agencies say

SEVERAL government agencies on Sunday reminded the public that vector control, and not placing frogs and fishes in swamps and stagnant water, could help curb the increasing dengue cases in the Philippines.

In a joint advisory, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stressed that only scientific solutions can solve the country's health problems like dengue.

"Dengue is caused by a virus that is transmitted through a vector, the *Aedes* sp. mosquito. The main solution to the dengue problem is vector control, that is, to destroy the breeding grounds of these mosquitoes," the advisory read.



DELOITTE ON THE DOT

MA. CELINA
AÑONUEVO | BONAR
LAURETO



The EPR Law takes on the Philippines' plastic problem

BARRING any last-minute hiccups, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022 should have lapsed into law by now, which means companies are now responsible for the plastic packaging they use to protect, transport and sell their products.

The law is meant to address our country's contribution to the global plastic pollution problem, where 40 percent of global plastic waste ends up in the ocean. In 2016 alone, 11 million metric tons (MT) of plastic entered the ocean. If nothing is done, this may reach 29 million MT by 2040.

Previously, manufacturers were only responsible for the impact of the actual production of their products. But under the EPR Act, product manufacturers will be held responsible for the entire life cycle of their product — from manufacture to use and to end of life.

Who will be affected?

The law covers brand owners who sell or supply any commodity under a brand or identity using a product it produced or a material supplied to it by another manufacturer or

supplier. Brand owners are also responsible for their toll manufacturers as they manufacture products on behalf of the brand owner.

Large enterprises, or businesses with total assets worth more than P100 million, are required to participate in EPR. Micro, small and medium enterprises are not required to do so but are highly encouraged.

What materials are covered?

The law covers plastic packaging that is used to "carry, protect, or pack goods for transportation, distribution, or sale." This includes:

- sachets, labels, laminates and other flexible plastic, whether single layer or multilayered with other materials, examples of which include packaging used for shampoo and noodles;
- rigid plastic packaging, whether layered with any other materials, and their coverings or lids such as bottles used for drinks and cosmetics;
- rigid plastic promotional items such as cutlery, plates, drinking straws or signage;

➔ **Deloitte B2**



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■ DELOITTE FROM B1

The EPR Law

- plastic bags, including single-use plastic bags used to transport products that are provided or used upon purchase; and

- polystyrene, including both rigid (e.g., take-out containers) and foam polystyrene (e.g., cups, packing foam).

Products made of plastic are not covered by the law.

What do companies have to do?

Companies must establish or phase in EPR programs for their plastic packaging within six months of the law's effectivity and register these with the National Solid Waste Management Commission. They also need to measure their annual plastic packaging footprint and meet diversion targets. By the end of 2023, they need to demonstrate recovery and diversion of 20 percent of their 2022 plastic packaging footprint. This rises to 40 percent in 2024 with a 10-percent annual

increase up to 80 percent by 2028 and onwards.

Companies are also required to submit annual compliance reports that are audited and assured by an independent third-party auditor. The report should include the company's plastic packaging footprint, amount of plastic recovered, recovery rate and EPR program compliance based on standards to be established by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Compliance comes in many forms, including:

- recovery schemes such as redemption, buy-backs, or any other method that results in high collection and recycling rates of the plastic waste;

- recycling and other sustainable methods;

- transporting plastic waste to appropriate processing or disposal sites in the country;

- cleanup of plastic waste leaked to coastal areas, public roads and other areas;

- establishment of commercial or industrial-scale recycling, thermal treatment, or other waste diversion or disposal facility; and

- partnerships with local government units (LGUs), communities and the informal waste sector to recover plastic waste.

Note that while schemes such as redesigning products to increase reusability and recyclability, using re-

cycled content in a product and establishing refilling stations reduce a company's overall plastic footprint, these are not considered "diversion activities."

Who can I work with on this?

Companies can do an EPR program on their own or form partnerships with other companies, nongovernment organizations and/or LGUs to scale up their activities. Companies can also join a producer responsibility organization.

For the waste footprint and diversion certification, companies need to work with independent auditors who can certify that their declared waste footprint and waste diversion are correct.

EPR program costs, meanwhile, are considered necessary business expenses and are deductible from annual gross income.

Lastly, companies that don't register their EPR programs or fail to meet the diversion targets will be fined as follows:

- for the first offense, between P5 million and P10 million;

- second offense, between P10 million and P15 million; and

- third offense, P15 million to not more than P20 million and suspension of business permit until they comply.

If a company does not meet the diversion requirements, it will have to pay the above fines or a fine twice the cost of recovering and diverting the amount of plastic needed to comply, whichever is higher.

No doubt this new law will have a significant impact on the operations of covered companies, at a time when many businesses may still be on recovery mode from the pandemic. But considering that the Philippines is one of the world's largest contributors to marine plastic pollution, it is our collective responsibility to take bold action now. Let's clean up our act while we can still make a difference.

The authors are part of the climate and sustainability advisory team within the risk advisory group of Deloitte Philippines (Navarro Amper & Co.), a member of the Deloitte Asia Pacific Network. For comments or questions, email manonuevo@deloitte.com or blaureto@deloitte.com.

Marcos faces crucial nature, climate challenges

If the state of the Philippine environment was a movie, we could already see that the ending will be tragic. As President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has taken the helm, he now has the job of driving the government's effort to change that grim ending.

The challenge of this decade is in addressing the "twin missiles" of nature loss and climate change that has our country in its crosshairs. This matters to us because our country is extraordinarily vulnerable. Our geography and demography make it so. Our country is an archipelago on the typhoon belt with many people living along the coasts. We are one of the top 17 most mega-diverse countries and the center of the Coral Triangle. We also have a large and young population and a high incidence of poverty and inequality.

The signs of nature loss and climate change are all around, but it seems more and more people are no longer alarmed about species going extinct, deforestation, decreasing fish catch, water scarcity, plastics in the food chain, and all the effects these have on us. Even the increasing number of intense typhoons that hit us every year is becoming unsurprising. Instead of becoming callous to these tragedies, we need to fight any growing indifference or distraction, and we must not accept defeat because our shared future is at stake.

There are a few opportunities I would like to share from the perspective of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines,

COMMENTARY

KATHERINE CUSTODIO

having worked in partnership with the government, the business and nongovernment organization sectors, and ordinary Filipinos concerned about our shared future.

During former president Rodrigo Duterte's term, our country made an ambitious pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030 to meet the target of keeping the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Other government commitments made at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021 were about ending deforestation by 2030, engaging farmers and fishers in sustainable production action projects, and implementing policies for a circular economy. The Philippine government was a strong voice at the UN Environment Assembly earlier in 2022, supporting the call for a global treaty to end plastic pollution. Our government supports the 30x30 Campaign for Nature, pledging to protect 30 percent of our land and sea by 2030 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. These are all laudable commitments that have the potential for a huge positive impact for generations to come, but only if the Marcos administration sees these through to implementation.

Mr. Marcos heading the Department of Agriculture (DA) is an opportunity for him to work with the best technical experts, the business sector, and the farmers and fishers themselves. Our food systems are where issues of environment, finance and economy, health, innovation, social justice, and local governance all play out. We hope his handling of the DA will open the doors to more holistic solutions that will make our agriculture and fisheries systems more productive, sustainable, inclusive, just, and able to deliver Mr. Marcos' campaign promise of providing the food our population needs. We urgently call for better integration across government agencies in addressing these issues so that resources will go a long way and initiatives will not undermine each other.

Lastly, we strongly hope that Mr. Marcos will demonstrate courage in working with all sectors, prioritizing the most marginalized, and adopting the view that nature in the Philippines is a source of pride and national identity, and is what sustains present and future generations of Filipinos. We have already learned hard lessons of the past: causing nature to fail ends in disaster and not development. We all want the Philippines to succeed. Together we must #ChangeTheEnding.

Katherine Custodio is the current executive director of WWF-Philippines.

Marcos faces crucial nature, climate challenges

If the state of the Philippine environment was a movie, we could already see that the ending will be tragic. As President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has taken the helm, he now has the job of driving the government's effort to change that grim ending.

The challenge of this decade is in addressing the "twin missiles" of nature loss and climate change that has our country in its crosshairs. This matters to us because our country is extraordinarily vulnerable. Our geography and demography make it so. Our country is an archipelago on the typhoon belt with many people living along the coasts. We are one of the top 17 most mega-diverse countries and the center of the Coral Triangle. We also have a large and young population and a high incidence of poverty and inequality.

The signs of nature loss and climate change are all around, but it seems more and more people are no longer alarmed about species going extinct, deforestation, decreasing fish catch, water scarcity, plastics in the food chain, and all the effects these have on us. Even the increasing number of intense typhoons that hit us every year is becoming unsurprising. Instead of becoming callous to these tragedies, we need to fight any growing indifference or distraction, and we must not accept defeat because our shared future is at stake.

There are a few opportunities I would like to share from the perspective of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines,

COMMENTARY

KATHERINE CUSTODIO

having worked in partnership with the government, the business and nongovernment organization sectors, and ordinary Filipinos concerned about our shared future.

During former president Rodrigo Duterte's term, our country made an ambitious pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030 to meet the target of keeping the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Other government commitments made at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021 were about ending deforestation by 2030, engaging farmers and fishers in sustainable production action projects, and implementing policies for a circular economy. The Philippine government was a strong voice at the UN Environment Assembly earlier in 2022, supporting the call for a global treaty to end plastic pollution. Our government supports the 30x30 Campaign for Nature, pledging to protect 30 percent of our land and sea by 2030 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. These are all laudable commitments that have the potential for a huge positive impact for generations to come, but only if the Marcos administration sees these through to implementation.

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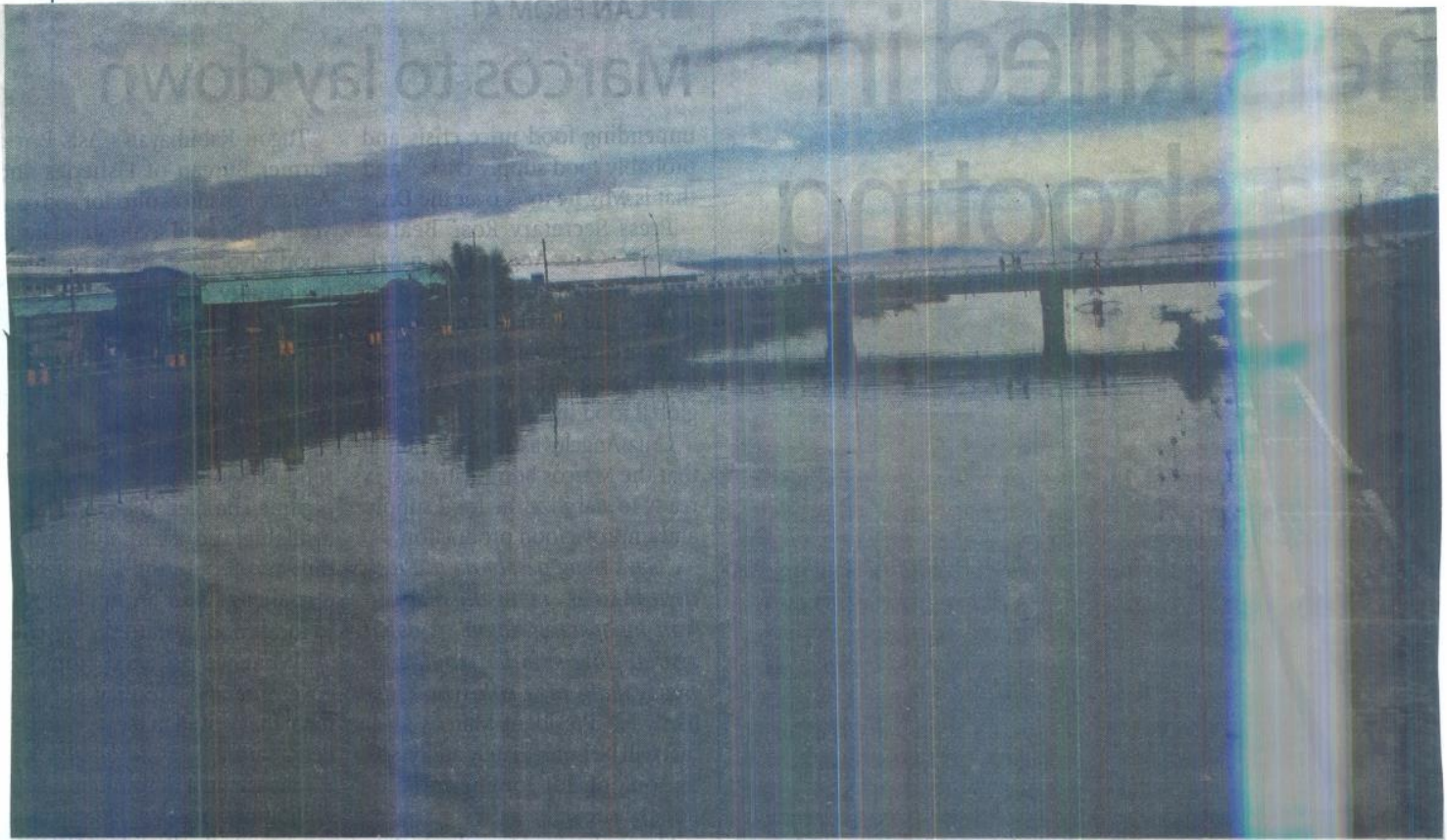
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PARKGOERS enjoy on Sunday the warm breeze at Manila Bay's Dolomite Beach in Manila.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEY SANCHEZ MENDOZA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribuneph_joey



'CLEANEST' RIVER The Tubod River in Ormoc City is considered the deanest river in the province as it is free from litter and garbage and connects to Lake Danao. The river was rehabilitated after the Nov. 5, 1991 flash floods that killed thousands of residents. PHOTO BY NESTOR L.ABREMATEA

25 JULY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH logs 3,657 new COVID-19 cases, active tally now at 27,116

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 24, 2022 10:43:25 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 24) — The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday recorded 3,657 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the country's active tally to 27,116.

According to the department's tracker, Cavite and Quezon City logged the most cases with 290 each, followed by Laguna with 253, and Rizal with 205.

The department said 21,803 individuals were tested, with a positivity rate of 13.7%.

The country has now tallied a total of 3,752,534 cases, with 3,664,735 recoveries and 60,683 deaths.

The DOH data also showed that the top regions with the most cases in the past two weeks were the National Capital Region at 12,077, Calabarzon with 7,574, and Central Luzon with 3,404.

Meanwhile, independent monitoring group OCTA Research said ten provinces recorded "very high" positivity rates of more than 20% as of July 22.



OCTA: 10 areas record ‘very high’ COVID-19 positivity rate

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 24, 2022 6:05:33 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 24) — The OCTA Research group on Sunday said 10 areas recorded “very high” positivity rate for COVID-19 as of July 22.

In a [tweet](#), OCTA Research fellow Guido David said Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Isabela have a positivity rate of more than 20% compared to the data recorded on July 16.

The positivity rate refers to the percentage of tested people with positive results. The World Health Organization has set a positivity rate benchmark of below 5%.

Of the areas flagged by OCTA, Aklan has the highest positivity rate of 32.6%, followed by Capiz with 31.9%, and Nueva Ecija with 30.5%.

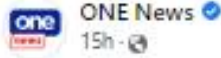
Earlier, OCTA also warned about the increasing positivity rate in [Metro Manila](#) which was at 14% on July 22 versus 12.7% on July 16.

Latest government data showed 3.748 million COVID-19 cases in the country, with more than 25,000 currently ill patients.

Health authorities have been urging more Filipinos to get their [COVID-19 vaccine booster](#) for additional layer of protection amid threats of the Omicron subvariants. However, nearly 50 million Filipinos are not yet getting their booster shot.

To address this, the Marcos administration will launch a COVID-19 [booster drive](#) on July 26 as it aims to administer boosters to over 23 million Filipinos in its first 100 days.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/24/OCTA-10-areas-very-high-positivity-rate.html>



DOH reminder: Remove stagnant water to prevent dengue

The Dept. of Health says removing stagnant water, where mosquitoes lay their eggs, should be a priority to prevent dengue.

The DOH says other methods, such as using invasive species of frogs and fish to remove mosquito eggs, are not considered scientific solutions and could destroy the ecological balance of the environment.

FB/DOH



MGA SCIENTIFIC SOLUTION ANG LUNAS SA MGA PROBLEMA TULAD NANG DENGUE

Joint Advisory - 24 July 2022

Malulutas ng mga siyentipikong solusyon ang mga kumplikadong problema tulad ng Dengue. Ito ang magkasamang posisyon ng Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ang dengue ay sanhi ng isang virus na nakukuha sa pamamagitan ng isang vector, ang *Aedes* sp. Na lamok. **Ang pangunahing solusyon sa problema ng Dengue ay ang pagkontrol sa vector, ibig sabihin, sirain ang mga lugar ng pangangitlog ng mga lamok na ito. Ang pagpapakawala ng mga invasive species ng mga palaka at isda ay HINDI ang siyentipikong solusyon.** Bagkus, ito ay magdudulot ng panganib sa kalusugan ng tao, at maaari ring makasira sa ecological balance na hahantong naman sa iba pang mas malaki na problema sa kalikasan, tulad ng mga isyu sa supply ng pagkain.

Alam nating lahat ang mga solusyon: **search and destroy** ang mga lugar ng pag-aanak (naiipong tubig at mga lalagyan nito). Gumamit ng **self protection**. Huwag mag-antala kapag may sakit, **seek early consultation**. Kung saan may outbreak, **suportahan ang fogging**.

/officialDOHgov @DOHgovph @doh.philippines www.doh.gov.ph

3

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/pfbid0PAp2cNpCmQCxxQGz3swANNGmvGf8iySAG7KiqHQUEJpzDajZeNee4yXs1Kc9Rfbl/?app=fbl>

25 JULY 2022, MONDAY



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
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
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talagang dinadayo na ngayon ang Manila Bay Dolomite ,yung mamasyal ka lang tapos konting kapaan uuwi kana masaya dahil sa naka libreng pang ulam kapa ,tahong at halaan lang ang malakas 😂

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