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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR plants 230 bamboo seedlings along Bamban River

By [Jerry Hernandez](#)

July 28, 2022



BAMBOO PLANTING Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel and volunteers take part in a bamboo-planting activity along the Bamban River in Tarlac. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAMBAN, Tarlac: To boost reforestation in the province of Tarlac, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) planted about 230 bamboo seedlings along Bamban River.

A total 3,600-square meter portion of Bamban River was covered in the tree-planting undertaking.

The department noted that several activities were conducted in preparation for the activity.

"The DENR has regularly conducted clean-up activities in collaboration with partner agencies and the 40 estero rangers deployed in the area who collected an average of about 14,500 kilos of waste daily," Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office head Celia Esteban said.

The clean-up activities conducted in the region this year have yielded 140,000 tons of waste materials.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said planting bamboo is essential in the improvement of rivers, noting that roots of such grass are a good source of ensuring safer soil stability against erosion.

"Planting bamboos is a crucial component of rehabilitating denuded forest areas, facilitating rapid recovery of river easements and stabilizing river banks, particularly in Manila Bay areas in Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac," he said.

Since 2019, about 141,000 kilometer-stretch of river systems have been planted with 38,390 bamboo plants.



DENR restores Bamban River



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (File Photo)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

July 27, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said 230 bamboo seedlings were planted recently along Bamban River.

This tree planting project is in line with the agency's reforestation and Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts in Tarlac.

Celia Esteban, provincial chief of the DENR office in Tarlac, reported that the 3,600-square meter portion of the Bamban River located in Barangay Lourdes of the said town were planted with Chinese bamboo, scientific *Dracaena sanderiana*.

Esteban added that the DENR office in Tarlac regularly conducts cleanup activities in collaboration with partner agencies and the 40 estero rangers deployed in the area who collect an average of about 14,500 kilos of waste daily.

Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, said planting bamboos is a crucial component in rehabilitating denuded forest areas, facilitating rapid recovery of river easements and stabilizing river banks, particularly in Manila Bay areas in Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac.

Since the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program started in 2019, the DENR here has planted more than 141,000 kilometer-stretch of river systems with 38,390 bamboos.

This year, over 140,000 tons of wastes have been collected from 15,000 cleanup activities conducted in Manila Bay areas in Region 3.



MGB issues cease-and-desist order vs illegal quarrying in Lucena City

Published July 27, 2022, 9:41 PM

by [Danny Estacio](#)

QUEZON — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued a cease-and-desist order against an alleged illegal quarrying operation at Purok Pagkakaisa, Barangay Gulang-gulang in Lucena City.

MGB Regional Director Dondi Sarmiento ordered Marc Benedict Lee to stop conducting the illegal activity and was required to restore and rehabilitate the quarried area within 30 days from date of receipt of order June 26, 2022.

Sarmiento made the order based on the findings from an investigation which disclosed that Lee conducted clearing and earthmoving operations including haulage of rocks and earth/backfilling materials along a portion of Dumacaa river, wherein prominent traces of the said activities and stockpiles of stones and other earth materials removed from the riverbanks can be seen.

The quarrying operation too has no proper authority or permission from the Provincial Government of Quezon, the DENR, and the MGB office.

Further, a canal-like excavation approximately 15-20 meters long and 1-1.5 meters wide, constructed for the purpose of diverting the current flow of rivers was also observed, according to the findings.

MGB warns Lee that non-compliance shall compel him to file appropriate charges in accordance with the pertinent mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations, Sarmiento added.



MGB7 visits Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes

Published on: July 27, 2022

By Mines and Geosciences Bureau 7

CEBU CITY, July 26 (PIA) -- Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) 7 Regional Director Armando Malicse paid a courtesy visit to Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes at the Mandaue City Hall on July 14.

The two officials briefly discussed various important concerns on mining.

At the meeting, Cortes thanked MGB 7 for their initiative to establish close coordination with Mandaue City for any mining concerns within their jurisdiction.

"Ug unsay inyong kinahanglan motabang mi, tabangan gyud nato ang atong mga kauban sa buhat. Magtinabangay ta (We are going to help you whatever your need since we are colleague in the government. We help each other)," Cortes assured.

He also expressed his support for responsible mining.

Following the dialogue, an informal meeting with the officers of the Mandaue City Regulatory Board (MCRB) was held at the City Environmental and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

Also in the meeting were Engr. Edgardo Loquellano (OIC-Mine Management Division), Engr. Edward Malahay (Chief, Monitoring and Technical Services Section), Engr. Anjaylove Geniston (Senior Environmental Management Specialist), Ar. Araceli Barlam (Mayor Cortes' representative & MCRB Vice-Chairperson), Engr. Samuel Tagsip of Solid Earth Development Corporation (Large-Scale Mining Representative), Danilo Academia (Small-Scale Mining Representative), and CENRO Staff Placido Jerusalem and Jovelyn Dotillos.(PR)



Demand for climate information growing, says PAGASA

Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 27 2022 07:51 PM



A woman walks past debris in Barangay Pagbangkeruan, Alcala, Cagayan three days after the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong in September 2018. *AC Dimatatac/ICSC/Handout*

MANILA —The demand for climate information is expected to increase as the country finds ways to deal with the effects of climate change, state weather bureau PAGASA said Wednesday.

PAGASA Climatology and Agrometeorology Division officer-in-charge Rosalina De Guzman said in a forum that the public needs "reliable and actionable information" on the climate for decision making.

"There is also a growing recognition in the public and private sector for climate products of PAGASA, and it will grow in to the future," De Guzman said.

The climate information service is something that PAGASA has been giving in the past: weather forecast and tropical cyclone warning, flood forecasting and warning, climatological and farm weather services, research and development, and astronomical services, among others.

De Guzman said the state weather bureau is also offering new products.

"We provide observation and forecast of the heat index. (Another is) MARITES (Managing Risk and Uncertainties). This is a game tool for understanding forecast uncertainties and demonstrates how to create decisions based on different seasonal forecast uncertainties, what actions to take," she said.

PAGASA has also "co-produced client-tailored climate services" such as local climate advisories and consolidating capacities for disaster risk reduction in agriculture.

"Farmers use information to select cultivars, purchase appropriate seeds, use alternative livelihoods, determine the right harvest time, deciding time of pesticide application," said De Guzman.

But more needs to be done, she said.

"More effort is still needed to understand climate information users' needs and in the decision making processes," she said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/27/22/demand-for-climate-information-growing-pagasa?fbclid=IwAR3ZK6CEIyV61ATh03QgZ-McskqNckzSd1YWq8qa3AI-wZ9PONvH5xt1_gs



Kapulisan sumabak sa mangrove planting sa Camarines Norte

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By Reyjun Villamonte

DAET, Camarines Norte (PIA) – Umaabot sa 800 mangrove propagules ang naitanim ng mga kasapi ng Camarines Norte Police Provincial Office (CNPPO) sa Barangay Labnig sa bayan ng Paracale.

Ang tree planting ay alinsunod sa programang “Goal of the Community and Police to Rehabilitate the Environment to Eliminate and Mitigate Natural Cause of Climate Change” project o Project GREEN ng CNPPO.

Ayon kay CNPPO Director Col. Julius D. Guadamor, sa sama-samang pangangalaga sa inang kalikasan, isa na ang pagtanim ng mangrove kung saan mabibigyan ng proteksyon ang komunidad laban sa masamang epekto ng climate change.

Layunin ng naturang gawain na hikayatin ang lahat na magtanim, pag-ingatan, mag-preserba at magbigay ng importansya sa kalikasan upang makatulong na mabawasan ang hindi magandang epekto ng pagbabago ng panahon.

Ang Project GREEN ay binuo ng Provincial Community Affairs and Development Unit ng CNPPO katuwang ang law enforcement agencies na kinabibilangan ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Coast Guard, Armed Forces of the Philippines at Cyber Crime Unit.

Nakiisa sa naturang gawain ang mga kasapi ng municipal police stations ng lalawigan, Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, KABALIKAT, Police Hotline Movement Inc. at mga opisyaes ng barangay. (PIA5/Camarines Norte/nag-contribute sa ulat na ito ang CNPPO)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/27/kapulisan-sumabak-sa-mangrove-planting-sa-camarines-norte>

PHINLA waste mgmt project provides livelihood to 30 resource collectors in Mintal

Published on: July 27, 2022

By Carina Cayon

DAVAO CITY (PIA) – Barangay Mintal is the pioneering barangay in Davao City that has been implementing the improved waste management system project called PHINLA (Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka) by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Global Development (BMZ).

Since its launch in 2019, the project has established the Mintal Resource Collectors Association (MiRCA) and has opened livelihood opportunities to 30 waste or resource collectors who have been earning from the collected recyclable materials and food/kitchen wastes around the barangay.

“Dako og natabang sa amoa, sa akoo. Naga tigom ko ug naga kolekta. Ang income siguro nako sa isa ka bulan hapit baynte, kay kada semana man mi nagabaligya sa among ma kolekta (It's a big help for us. For me I save and collect. My monthly income would reach nearly 20,000 because every week we sell what we had collected),” MiRCA president Randy Irog shared during the Kapehan sa Dabaw at SM City Davao.

From the start of the project implementation, PHINLA has provided 25 pedicabs and seven (7) tricycle units to the resource collectors, which assist them on their day-to-day operations.

The said program has also raised public awareness on solid waste management and has intensified the segregation process in the area.

“PHINLA is a good initiative that is relevant during this time of pandemic. The project empowers the local resource collectors in Barangay Mintal to become an effective and vital actor for the improvement of the solid waste management of their community,” stated Evangeline Notarte, Phinla project coordinator for Davao City. (PIA-XI/Franchette Delfin)



Randy Irog (1st from right), president of Mintal Resource Collectors Association (MiRCA), shares that the improved waste management project called PHINLA (Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka) by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Global Development (BMZ), has opened livelihood opportunities to 30 resource collectors who have been earning from the collected recyclable materials and food/kitchen wastes around the Barangay Mintal, Davao City. (PIA-XI)



Editorial Cartoon July 26, 2022

BYBUSINESSMIRROR EDITORIAL JULY 26, 2022





Climate disinformation leaves lasting mark as world heats

BY JULY 27, 2022

IN 1998, as nations around the world agreed to cut carbon emissions through the Kyoto Protocol, America's fossil fuel companies plotted their response, including an aggressive strategy to inject doubt into the public debate.

"Victory," according to the American Petroleum Institute's memo, "will be achieved when average citizens 'understand' (recognize) uncertainties in climate science... Unless 'climate change' becomes a non-issue... there may be no moment when we can declare victory."

The memo, later leaked to The New York Times that year, went on to outline how fossil fuel companies could manipulate journalists and the broader public by muddying the evidence, by playing up "both sides" of the debate and by portraying those seeking to reduce emissions as "out of touch with reality."

Nearly 25 years later, the reality of a changing climate is now clear to most Americans, as heatwaves and wildfires, rising sea levels and extreme storms become more common.

Last week, President Joe Biden announced moves intended to expand offshore wind, though he stopped short of declaring a national climate emergency. A Supreme Court ruling last month limited the federal government's ability to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, meaning it will be up to a divided Congress to pass any meaningful limits on emissions.

Even as surveys show the public generally has become more concerned about climate change, a sizeable number of Americans have become even more distrustful of the scientific consensus.

"The tragedy of this is that all over social media, you can see tens of millions of Americans who think scientists are lying, even about things that have been proven for decades," said Naomi Oreskes, a historian of science at Harvard University who has written about the history of climate change disinformation. "They've been persuaded by decades of disinformation. The denial is really, really deep."

And persistent. Just last month, even with record heat in London, raging wildfires in Alaska and historic flooding in Australia, the Science and Environmental Policy Project, a pro-fossil fuel think tank, said all the scientists had it wrong.

"There is no climate crisis," the group wrote in its newsletter.

Years before Covid-19 set off a wave of misinformation, or former President Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 election helped spur an insurrection at the US Capitol, fossil fuel companies spent big in an effort to undermine support for emissions reductions.

Now, even as those same companies promote investments in renewable energy, the legacy of all that climate disinformation remains.

It's also contributed to a broader skepticism of scientists, scientific institutions and the media that report on them, a distrust reflected by doubts about vaccines or pandemic-era public health measures like masks and quarantines.

"It was the opening of a Pandora's Box of disinformation that has proven hard to control," said Dave Anderson of the Energy and Policy Institute, an organization that has criticized oil and coal companies for withholding what they knew about the risks of climate change.



Starting in the 1980s and 1990s, as public awareness of climate change grew, fossil fuel companies poured millions of dollars into public relations campaigns denouncing the accumulating evidence supporting the idea of climate change. They funded supposedly independent think tanks that cherry-picked the science and promoted fringe views designed to make it look like there were two legitimate sides to the dispute.

Since then, the approach has softened as the impact of climate change has become more apparent. Now, fossil fuel companies are more likely to play up their supposedly pro-environmental record, touting renewables like solar and wind or initiatives designed to improve energy efficiency or offset carbon emissions.

Aggressive approaches to address climate change are now dismissed not on scientific grounds but on economic ones. Fossil fuel companies talk about lost jobs or higher energy prices—without mentioning the cost of doing nothing, said Ben Franta, an attorney, author and Stanford University researcher who tracks fossil fuel disinformation.

“We are living within an extended multi-decade campaign executed by the fossil fuel industry,” Franta said. “The debate (over climate change) was manufactured by the fossil fuel industry in the 1990s, and we are living with that history right now.”

The impact of that history is reflected in public opinion surveys that show a growing gap between Republicans and other Americans when it comes to views on climate change.

While the percentage of overall Americans who say they’re concerned about climate change has risen, Republicans are increasingly skeptical. Last year, Gallup found that 32 percent of self-identified Republicans said they accepted the scientific consensus that pollution from humans is driving climate change, down from 52 percent in 2003.

By comparison, the percentage of self-identified Democrats that say they accept that human activities are leading to climate change increased from 68 to 88 over the same time period.

Fossil fuel companies deny any intent to mislead the American public and point to investments in renewable energy as evidence that they take climate change seriously.

ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods told members of Congress last fall that his company “has long acknowledged the reality and risks of climate change, and it has devoted significant resources to addressing those risks.” ExxonMobil’s public claims about climate change, he said, “are and have always been truthful, fact-based... and consistent” with mainstream science.

Asked about its role in spreading climate misinformation, a spokesman for the Southern Company pointed to recent expansions in renewable energy and initiatives meant to offset carbon emissions.

The 1998 “victory memo” laying out the industry’s strategy was created by the American Petroleum Institute. In a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press, API spokesperson Christina Noel said the oil industry is working to reduce emissions while also ensuring access to reliable, affordable energy.

“That’s exactly what our industry has been focused on for decades,” Noel said. “Any suggestion to the contrary is false.”

The 1998 memo is one of several documents cited by climate activists and some Democratic lawmakers who say they could be used to hold them legally responsible for misleading ratepayers, investors or the general public.



“It’s time for these companies to answer for the harm they have caused,” said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-California.

Republicans, however, have said Democrats want to focus on climate misinformation to distract from failed environmental policies that are driving up gas and energy costs.



Over 75% of mangroves threatened: UNESCO head

July 27, 2022, 7:36 pm



ANKARA – More than 75 percent of mangroves are under threat and the world cannot afford to lose the unique ecosystems, the head of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said Tuesday.

"Mangroves are in danger: it is estimated that more than three quarters of mangroves in the world are now threatened and with them all the fine balances that depend on them," Audrey Azoulay said in a statement for International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.

The day, which has been celebrated July 26 annually since 2015, aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem."

Regarding the mangrove's role in tackling climate change, she said the world cannot afford to lose these ecosystems as they are also carbon sinks.

UN figures indicate that a hectare of mangrove forest can store 3,754 tons of carbon, the equivalent of taking more than 2,650 cars off the road for one year.

"This is why UNESCO is acting to protect them, along with other valuable blue carbon ecosystems, through its geoparks, world heritage sites and biosphere reserves," said Azoulay, adding that UNESCO will launch new mangrove restoration projects in Latin America.

She also underlined the need for global awareness as well as the protection and restoration of mangroves, which would be possible by "educating and alerting the public."

Since mangroves grow along tropical coastlines and in saltwater environments on the boundary between land and sea, they are seen as a critical component of marine ecosystems, serving as nursery grounds for many aquatic species, including commercially important fish species.

Mangroves also reduce the effects of storms and keep coastal erosion under control as it is known that mangroves reduced the effects of the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami. **(Anadolu)**



Marcos supports passage of Department of Disaster Resilience bill

Published July 27, 2022, 4:40 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

Recognizing that calamities like the 7-magnitude earthquake will likely happen again, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is pushing for the passage of a measure that will create the Department of Disaster Resilience.



President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. (Screengrab from RTVM)

Hours after the strong quake jolted Luzon, the President expressed his support for the passage of the measure that aims to better manage the country’s disaster risk reduction and response efforts.

“Yes,” he said when asked if he will push for the passage of the bill.

“Mukhang (It looks like)... I don’t like to say it pero mukhang mapapadalas ito, e (it might happen more frequently). Not the earthquake pero yung (but the) weather, lalo na yung (especially the) extreme weather,” added Marcos.

He cited the extreme weather and other natural disasters experienced in various parts of the world, saying these were the occurrences that the Philippines must be careful about given the vulnerability it already has in terms of disasters and climate change.

The President said the country needs more capability to withstand calamities more than it has now.

“So these are the things that we have to be careful (of). We need more capability than we have now,” Marcos said.

“Magaling na tayo sa bagyo. Marunong na tayo sa lindol. Pero ang mga dangers na (We are already knowledgeable with typhoons and earthquakes. But) — the dangers that the effects of climate change present are different, that’s why we need a specialist agency,” Marcos added.

Under the proposed measure, the Department of Disaster Resilience “shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, organizing, and managing the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for and respond to disasters, recover and rehabilitate, and build forward better after the occurrence of disasters.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/27/marcos-supports-passage-of-department-of-disaster-resilience-bill/>



Marcos pushes for passage of disaster resilience bill

[Alexis Romero](#) - Philstar.com July 27, 2022 | 5:33pm



This handout photo released by the Bangued police station shows policemen evacuating an injured resident in Bangued, Abra province on July 27, 2022, after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit northern Philippines.

Handout / Bangued Police / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed support for a bill creating a disaster resilience department hours after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated the province of Abra and other parts of Luzon.

Marcos said the country needs to enhance its capability to mitigate disasters because of the risks posed by climate change.

"I don't like to say it but it seems that it will be more frequent. Not the earthquake, but the weather, especially the extreme weather... You have seen what happened to Europe, what happened to America. We might experience that, the intense heat," the president said at a press briefing Wednesday.

"So these are the things that we have to be careful (of). We need more capability than we have now. We can handle typhoons well. We are capable of handling earthquakes. But the dangers that the effects of climate change present are different, that's why we need a specialist agency," he added.

Marcos cited the need to recognize that the Philippines is prone to disasters.

"Our planning for the future should include all the mitigation — all the science and the knowledge and the learnings on the mitigation of these kinds of disasters. Earthquakes are different... The real problem with earthquakes is we cannot predict them. At least when it comes to the typhoon, there is a warning," said the president.

"So we just have to deal with it that way. And if we can make our — get that balance between cost and the mitigation requirements of our building code so that we are safe when the earthquake comes or when there is a strong typhoon, then that is what we will have to do."

The bill establishing a separate agency for disaster resilience is not among the 19 priority measures enumerated by Marcos during his first state of the nation address (SONA).



The president, however, vowed to alleviate the Philippines' vulnerability to climate change. He highlighted the importance of investment in science and technology to ensure accurate weather forecasts and on-time disaster alerts. He also gave assurance that the use of renewable energy is at the top of his climate agenda.

The bill creating the disaster resilience department, which aims to promote a more proactive approach to natural disasters, is one of the priority bills of former president Rodrigo Duterte.



Marcos to push for bill creating disaster resilience department

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 27, 2022 5:06:09 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 27) — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday said he will push for the passage of the bill seeking the establishment of a Department of Disaster Resilience.

Marcos expressed his support for the measure in a press briefing held hours after a [magnitude 7 earthquake](#) hit Abra province and jolted other parts of Luzon.

The President said while authorities can’t predict when quakes will occur, the country has to be better prepared for the effects of climate change.

“I don’t like to say it, pero mukhang mapapadalas ito eh [but it seems this will happen more often]. Not the earthquake, pero ‘yung [but the]...extreme weather,” he said.

“We need more capability than we have now. Magaling na tayo sa bagyo. Marunong na tayo sa lindol, pero [...] the dangers that the effects of climate change present are different, that’s why we need a specialist agency,” he added.

[Translation: We are already knowledgeable on handling the impact of storms and earthquakes, but the dangers presented by climate change are different, that’s why we need a specialist agency.]

During former President Rodrigo Duterte’s term, some lawmakers proposed the creation of the new department that will oversee all disaster-related concerns and functions in the country.

Among others, the agency’s mandate would cover earthquakes, volcanic activities, tropical cyclones, floods, erosions, and extreme weather events worsened by climate change.

However, there was also [pushback](#) from other members of Congress who cited concerns on duplication of tasks already performed by existing government agencies.

The bill was refiled this month in both houses of Congress.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/27/marcos-disaster-resilience-department-bill.html>



Department of Resilience, Napapanahon na!

[RESPONDE](#) - [Gus Abelgas](#) - Pang-masa July 28, 2022 | 12:00am

Mukhang napapanahon na nga para maitatag ang Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) dahil na rin sa palagiang pagkakaroon ng kalamidad sa bansa.

Kahapon magnitude 7 ng lindol ang yumanig sa Luzon na ang lakas ay naramdaman din sa Metro Manila.

Nasa Abra ang sinasabing epicenter ng lindol.

Naganap ang pagyanig ilang araw matapos ang isinagawang State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na doon nga niya nabanggit ang kahalagahan ng palagiang maging handa ng bansa dahil sa madalas na pagkakaroon ng kalamidad.

Bagamat habang sinusulat ang kolum na ito ay hindi pa nagdedeklara ng state of calamity ang pamahalaan sa mga lugar na naapektuhan ng malakas na paglindol, naiulat na rin na may mga casualties na sa pagyanig, maraming mga kabahayan, gusali, simbahan at maging mga paaralan ang iniulat na nagkabitak o winasak ng lindol.

Sa ganitong mga pangyayari, at sa lawak ng naapektuhan, kailangan ang agad na pagkilos ng pamahalaan.

Maging si PBBM ay sang-ayon na kailangan ang isang ahensya na tututok sa ganitong mga pangyayari kaya nga isusulong niya sa Kongreso ang pagpasa sa panukalang batas na naglalayong maitayo ang DDR.

Lalo pa nga at kabilang ang Pinas sa itinuturing na disaster prone.

Kung may tututok na specialist agency na may sariling pondo mas mapapadali ang pagkakaloob ng tulong at ayuda sa panahon ng anumang uri ng kalamidad sa mga naapektuhan nating kababayan.



EDITORIAL - Earthquake resilience

The Philippine Star July 28, 2022 | 12:00am



On July 16, 1990, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Northern and Central Luzon including Metro Manila. The death toll was placed at 2,412, and the damage to public works infrastructure and buildings was placed at \$369 million. Liquefaction swallowed up buildings and damaged roads.

The Hyatt Terraces Plaza in Baguio crumpled like an accordion. The quake struck at 4:26 p.m., when children were still in school and workers still in offices. In Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, near the epicenter of the quake, the six-story building housing the Christian College of the Philippines collapsed. Of the 250 students and teachers in the building, 154 did not survive.

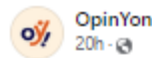
Almost to the day 22 years later, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked Northern Luzon yesterday, this time with Abra as the epicenter. As of late yesterday afternoon, the death toll stood at five. People must be building for earthquake resilience; damage to houses, offices and public works was far less than in the 1990 quake. Heritage houses in Vigan, Ilocos Sur and old churches, however, were damaged.

In the National Capital Region, no damage was reported. But the powerful earthquake revives warnings about the NCR being ripe for the “Big One” – a 7.2 magnitude quake from the 100-kilometer-long West Valley Fault. An earthquake impact reduction study released in 2015 warned that such a quake could leave 34,000 people dead within an hour of the quake, mostly from the collapse of 170,000 houses and damage to 10 percent of public buildings.

The study, conducted by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology together with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Japan International Cooperation Agency, estimated massive damage to water distribution pipes, electric and telecommunication cables. Fires are expected to spread and the NCR will be cut off from supply lines. Further damage will be caused by thousands of aftershocks that can last for over a week.



Since the 1990 earthquake, measures have been undertaken nationwide to improve preparedness against the temblors as well as volcanic eruptions that regularly hit countries like the Philippines that sit along the Pacific Ring of Fire. But there is always room for further improvement. Phivolcs has not lacked in warnings. Science has not devised a way of predicting earthquakes, but heightened preparedness can minimize the death and destruction.



UPDATE: Phivolcs releases places affected by Wednesday quake

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has revised the magnitude of the earthquake which struck Luzon Wednesday morning (July 27), from 7.3 to 7.0.

In its latest Earthquake Information No. 2, Phivolcs said the quake occurred at 8:43 a.m. with a depth of 17 kilometers in Tayum, Abra.

These are the reported intensities:

Intensity VII - Bucloc and Manabo, Abra

Intensity VI - Vigan City, Sinit, Bantay, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur; Laoac, Pangasinan; Baguio City;

Intensity V - Magsingal and San Juan, Ilocos Sur, Alaminos City and Labrador, Pangasinan; Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya; Mexico, Pampanga; Concepcion, and Tarlac City, Tarlac; City of Manila; City of Malabon

Intensity IV - City of Marikina; Quezon City; City of Pasig; City of Valenzuela; City of Tabuk, Kalinga; Bautista and Malasiqui, Pangasinan; Bayombong and Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya; Guiguinto, Obando, and San Rafael, Bulacan; San Mateo, Rizal

Intensity III - Bolinao, Pangasinan; Bulakan, Bulacan; Tanay, Rizal

Intensity II - General Trias City, Cavite; Santa Rosa City, Laguna

Instrumental Intensities:

Intensity VII - Vigan City

Intensity V - Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Peñablanca, Cagayan; Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Sinit, Ilocos Sur; Baguio City

Intensity IV - Gonzaga, Cagayan; Baler, Aurora; Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Ramos, Tarlac; Ilagan, Isabela; Basista, Pangasinan; Claveria, Cagayan; San Jose, Palayan City and Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija; Madella, Quirino; Tabuk, Kalinga; Santiago City, Isabela

Intensity III - Quezon City; Iba, Zambales; Navotas City, Malabon City, Metro Manila;

Magalang & Guagua Pampanga; Bolinao, Sison & Infanta, Pangasinan; Bulakan, San Ildefonso, Guiguinto, Plaridel, and Malolos City, Bulacan; Tarlac City, Tarlac

Intensity II - Dona Remedios Trinidad, Angat & Santa Maria, Bulacan; Tagaytay City, Cavite; Pasig City Metro Manila; Polillo, Gumaca & Infanta, Quezon

Intensity I - Tanay, Taytay, Morong, Antipolo City, Rizal; Marilao, Bulacan; San Juan City,

Las Pinas City, Metro Manila; Lucban, Quezon; Subic, Zambales; Mercedes, Camarines Norte; Olongapo City, Zambales; Carmona, Cavite

(With report from PNA/OpinYon News Team)

See Translation



Source:

https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/pfbid02LtaAiu3ysmMjoqNASews6nk528EdY3sNENS5LP98rNU9E4ywcDbxfAHEZ8qgPQsr1/?app=fbl_X1/?app=fbl



Aftershocks ng magnitude 7.0 na lindol ‘tatagal ng 2-3 araw’ — Phivolcs

(Philstar.com) - July 27, 2022 - 1:20pm



A car is buried under debris from a ruined old house in Vigan city, Ilocos Sur province north of Manila on July 27, 2022, after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the northern Philippines, killing one person, shattering windows of buildings at the epicentre and shaking high-rise towers more than 300 kilometres (185 miles) away in the capital Manila.

MANILA, Philippines — Asahan pa raw ang mga panaka-nakang aftershocks sa mga lugar na malapit sa episentro ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOLCS) press briefing, kasunod ng pagyanig ng 7.0 magnitude na lindol sa Abra.

Tinukoy ng Phivolcs ang epicenter ng lindol sa Tayum, Abra, na siyang may "tectonic" na origin bandang 8:43 a.m. [ngayong umaga](#).

“Posible pong matagal yan. ‘Yung iba nga taon ang binibilang, pero ang panganib po talaga niya ay first 2 to 3 days,” ani undersecretary at OIC ng Phivolcs na si Renato Solidum Jr. sa [press briefing](#), Miyerkules.

Ang aftershocks ay tumutukoy sa mga kasunod na mas mahihinang lindol sa parehong lugar. Aniya, anumang lindol na papalo ng magnitude 7.0 ay maituturing na "major earthquake."

Ayon pa sa Phivolcs, bagaman bababa ang bilang ng pagyanig sa mga susunod na araw, magkakaroon pa rin ng mga panaka-nakang malalakas na pagyanig.

“Bababa po ang bilang in the week, pababa ng pababa pero hindi po tuloy tuloy na bababa ang magnitude. Minsan may pasulpot sulpot tataas na naman ng kaunti,” dagdag pa ni Solidum.

“Importante po ang mga susunod na araw para doon sa mga lugar na malapit sa episentro. Diyan po ‘yung kasagsagan ng marami at malalakas na aftershocks.”

Ani pa ni Usec, ang nagyaring lindol kanina ay “remider to all” dahil biglaan itong mangyayari kahit na anong oras o araw.

Nagpalala rin ang Phivolcs na manatiling mapagmatyag sa mga susunod na mga oras at araw dahil nga inaasahan pa rin ang mga pagyanig. — **Philstar.com intern John Vincent Pagaduan**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/07/27/2198345/aftershocks-ng-magnitude-70-na-lindol-tatagal-ng-2-3-araw-phivolcs/amp/>



No expected tsunami, but aftershocks loom after 7 magnitude quake

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 27, 2022 12:27:13 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 27) — State seismologists said there is no threat of tsunami following the powerful earthquake that struck Abra on Wednesday.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology Director Renato Solidum explained that the fault line that triggered the 7-magnitude quake is located on land.

“Hindi niya mapapaangat ang seafloor para magdulot ng life-threatening tsunami,” he said of the tremor.

[Translation: It will not raise the seafloor that could lead to a life-threatening tsunami.]

Solidum, however, warned that aftershocks can be felt up to one to three days after the major quake.

He added that residents near the epicenter should stay alert at all times.

Phivolcs recorded at least 140 aftershocks, but only three were felt by residents.

Solidum likewise urged the public to stay indoors while the quake is ongoing and look for safe grounds outside when the shaking has stopped. He also advised them not to rush to the rooftop of buildings.

Source: https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/7/27/Abra-earthquake-tsunami-aftershock.html??&fbclid=IwAR1KmaRAWaRPgY4BvjwXMS0xdwSV2LZ5rJls_Uydobhd3LsZG0Uv43hJQZ0



Abra River Fault, which last moved in 1868, may have triggered powerful quake — Solidum

Published July 27, 2022, 1:21 PM by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



Science and Technology Undersecretary and Phivolcs OIC Renato Solidum Jr. (MANILA BULLETIN / FILE PHOTO)

Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. on Wednesday, July 27, said the major 7.0-magnitude earthquake in Abra was most likely generated by the movement along the Abra River Fault—an active fault, which last moved in 1868.

“Itong fault na ito ay known active fault na posible talagang kumilos at nasa range ng expected nating earthquake yung mga major earthquake events like magnitude 7 (This fault is a known active fault that may trigger major earthquake events, like the magnitude 7.0, which are in the range of our expected earthquake),” Solidum said in a press conference.

“Ang huling historical earthquake, mga magnitude 4 or less than 5, dito sa Abra River noong 1868 (The last historical earthquake, about magnitude 4 or less than 5, here in Abra River was in 1868),” he added.

Solidum, who is also the OIC of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), pointed out that faults usually take “several hundred years” before it could produce a powerful earthquake.

Aftershocks, landslides likely after strong quake

Solidum advised the public to remain vigilant, as aftershocks may likely occur in the next few days or weeks.

“May aftershocks pa po yan. Usually sa ating experience, ang mga aftershocks napakarami sa first two days, three days, unti unti siyang bababa ang bilang. Pero posible pa po siyang magtagal ng mga ilang linggo (There are still aftershocks. Usually, in our experience, there are several aftershocks in the first two days, three days, until the number gradually decreases. But it is still possible for it to last a few weeks),” Solidum said.

“But with time, ay lumiliit yung numero. Minsan pasulpot sulpot, may mas mataas pa sa previous, normal po yan. But ang tendency niya, it would decrease with time (But with time, the number decreases. Sometimes intermittently, sometimes the magnitude is higher than the previous one, that’s normal. But the tendency is, it would decrease with time),” he added.

As of 11: 30 a.m., Phivolcs so far recorded 140 aftershocks following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake.

Solidum also warned against possible landslides because of the earthquake.

“Most likely, nakita ko na yung ibang mga pictures, marami pong landslide na mangayayari (I have seen some pictures, there are many landslides that will happen),” he said.



“Kapag dumating ang mga ulan at bagyo posible pa magkaroon ng landslide dahil gumalaw ang mga lupa (When rains and typhoons come, landslides are still possible because the ground has moved),” he added.

Solidum said that the 7.0-magnitude tremor is so far the “strongest on-land earthquake” since the 6.6-magnitude Masbate quake in August 2020.



NTC directs telcos to deploy free calls, charging stations to areas affected by earthquake

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JULY 27, 2022



[Elmer B. Domingo](#)

NTC building in Quezon City (Photo by Elmer B. Domingo/CC-BY-SA-4.0)

The National Telecommunications Commission directed all public telecommunications entities to deploy “Libreng Tawag and Libreng Charging Stations” in strategic areas affected by the earthquake in Abra on Wednesday morning.

The areas include Regions 1, 2 and the Cordillera Autonomous Region, all of which sustained damage to public and private structures.

The NTC directive reminded the concerned parties to observe strict health protocols to avoid the transmission of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

NTC Commissioner Gamaliel A. Cordoba instructed Director Mildado C. Lee of NTC Cordillera Administrative Region to monitor and oversee the implementation of the memorandum, which was valid until August 5, 2022.

Telecommunications entities were also tasked to submit their reports of compliance on or before August 10 to the NTC.

According to state seismologists, the earthquake, classified as major, was caused by the movement of the Abra River Fault.

The earthquake was measured at a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 by the US Geological Survey (USGS), 7.2 by the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) and 7.3 by the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

The Phivolcs, however, revised the magnitude down to 7.0, but it was still the strongest to have hit the Philippines in years.

At least four people have died and 60 others were injured.

Image credits: [Elmer B. Domingo](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/27/ntc-directs-telcos-to-deploy-free-calls-charging-stations-to-areas-affected-by-earthquake/>



Patay sa Cordillera earthquake umakyat sa 4, sugatan nasa 60 na

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com) - July 27, 2022 - 12:33pm



Makikita sa larangang ito kung paano maipit hanggang mamatay ang isang lalaki sa La Trinidad, Benguet matapos ang magnitude 7 na lindol, ika-27 ng Hulyo, 2022

MANILA, Philippines (Updated 2:55 p.m.) — Lalong dumami ang bilang ng kumpirmadong patay at sugatan dahil sa sari-saring pagguho ng lupa at pagbagsak ng mga istruktura bunsod ng magnitude 7.0 na lindol na naka-focus sa epicenter ng Tayum, Abra ngayong Miyerkules.

Ito ang ibinahagi ni Interior Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. sa isang press briefing kasama si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"Sixty injured and so far po apat po ang nabalitaang nasawian ng buhay. Four deaths,"

"Of these four, two are in Benguet, one each in Abra and [Mountain Province]... Pagguho po [ng lupa ang dahilan], opo."

Una nang naibalita na isang construction worker mula sa La Trinidad, Benguet ang isa sa mga namatay, matapos mabagsakan ng debris.



Sinasabing 44 sa mga sugatan ang nanggaling mula sa Abra.

Narito ang sinasabing pinsala sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) sa ngayon:

- municipal roads (29)
- mga tulay sa Abra (3)
- gusali (173)



Nakapagtala naman ng 53 landslides sa ngayon, karamihan dito nangyari rin sa probinsya ng Abra (33).

"Naka-deploy po ang mga kapulisiyahan at mga bumbero po at mga disaster risk [officers] po ng mga [local government units] po sa mga lugar na ito," dagdag pa ni Abalos.

Meron na ring damage na naitala sa probinsya ng Ilocos Sur. Ayon kay Sen. Imee Marcos, napinsala na rin ng naturang lindol ang bell towers sa Bantay, Laoag at Sarrat.

Ilang heritage houses din ang sinasabing gumuho kasama ang ilang istruktura sa Kennon, Paraiso, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte at Apayao.

Sen. Imee Marcos reports that the belltowers in Bantay, Laoag and Sarrat were damaged. She adds that some heritage houses collapsed along with other structures in Kennon, Paraiso, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte and Apayao [@PhilstarNews](#)

— Xave Gregorio (@XaveGregorio) [July 27, 2022](#)

Makikita namang wasak-wasak ang ilang mga bahay at establisyamentong ito sa probinsya ng Abra. Ang ilang istruktura, halos humiga na.

Kanina lang nang palikasin ang mga nagtratrabaho sa Senado sa Pasay kaugnay ng lindol, matapos itong maramdaman din sa Metro Manila.

Rep. Ching Bernos of the lone district of Abra reports that the quake "caused damages to many households and establishments" in the province. Lagangilang, Abra is the epicenter of the magnitude-7.3 tremor, according to Phivolcs: Office of Rep. Ching Bernos [@PhilstarNews](#) pic.twitter.com/LumbQ9pDHm

— Xave Gregorio (@XaveGregorio) [July 27, 2022](#)

Sa kabila nito, [wala pa namang mapaminsalang tsumani threat](#) kaugnay ng naturang paglindol batay sa available na datos mula sa Phivolcs.

Una nang sinabi ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles na iniutos na ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang mobilization ng rescue at relief teams matapos ang lindol.

"The president is presently coordinating with the NDRRMC and the [Department of Social Welfare and Development," ani Angeles sa isang [pahayag](#).

"He has ordered and immediate dispatch of rescue and relief teams to Abra."

Sinasabing personal na lilipad si Bongbong patungo sa Abra oras na mabigyan na ng clearance. — **may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio**



DND: AFP to mobilize assets in quake-hit areas

By SUNDY LOCUS, GMA News

Published July 27, 2022 6:16pm



Landslide on portion of Andres Acop Cosalan Road in Poblacion, Bokod, Benguet on July 27, 2022 after Abra quake. Photo: PROCOR PIO

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has prepared its assets for mobilization to earthquake-hit areas in northern Luzon, Defense officer-in-charge (OIC) Jose Faustino Jr. said Wednesday.

At a media briefing presided over by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., Faustino said the military is ready to extend help by deploying its assets and giving out relief assistance to the affected local government units (LGUs).

“AFP prepared assets for mobilization already. We’re talking about air assets and can add more if kailangan pa [if still needed]. We have already a number of air assets in positions in the area in coordination with the Northern Luzon command. The Philippine Navy assets are on standby in Subic kung kinakailangan [when needed],” he said.

“Then of course, the available relief items of Civil Defense is already ready and prepared kung sakaling kinakailangan ng mga LGUs dahil mayroon namang naka-position na mga relief goods sa mga lugar na to,” he added.

Earlier, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Abra at 8:43 a.m. according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Its epicenter was located three kilometers northwest of Tayum, Abra, and had a depth of 17 kilometers.

Faustino said the Office of Civil Defense had already issued emergency alerts and warning messages to advise the public on the incident.

The Defense Department’s rapid assessment of the status of roads and bridges, critical lifelines, and infrastructure, the status of houses, total affected population, immediate needs, road clearing operations, and data gathering on submission of reports in the affected areas is also ongoing, he added. — **RSJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/839608/dnd-afp-to-mobilize-assets-in-quake-hit-areas/story/?fbclid=IwAR1HBQVB1ZMEEx44IVh9X-SAA3zXYLr8vsqJgJNLDL--1ng654kj99kaObQ0>



Phivolcs urges inspection of structures amid expected aftershocks

By Ma. Cristina Arayata July 27, 2022, 6:03 pm



Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum Jr. (File photo)

MANILA – Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) Director Renato Solidum Jr. on Wednesday said infrastructures damaged by the magnitude 7 earthquake that jolted Abra and neighboring provinces should be inspected first and not be used for the meantime.

He said aftershocks that may last for days and with strong intensity are expected. As of 4 p.m., Phivolcs has recorded 280 aftershocks. Of these, 13 were felt, and 57 were plotted or located. Magnitudes of these aftershocks ranged from 1.5 to 5.4.

"Ang ating advice, iyong mga lugar na may mga sira, mga bahay, mga gusali ay ma-inspect muna at huwag munang gamitin (Our advice is to inspect first the damaged infrastructure, houses, buildings. Don't use these for the meantime)," he said in a public briefing.

The number of aftershocks will decrease over time, or after two to three days, according to Solidum.

He, likewise, urged local governments to identify areas that must be avoided for safety reasons.

"There are areas that did not experience landslides but had crack or fissures. These areas will therefore be prone to landslides, especially when heavy rain occurs," he said.

Solidum emphasized the need to be prepared for strong earthquakes. "Kailangan nating pag-igtingan ang ating kahandaan nito pero huwag nating kalimutan iyong malalakas na paglindol, in less than one minute ay puwedeng makasira ng ating mga gusali, mga bahay, imprastruktura at ng ating ekonomiya (The public needs to strengthen preparedness. Remember that strong earthquakes, for instance, could destroy a building, house, infrastructure and the economy in less than a minute)."

He added that those in urban areas -- where there are more people, investments, and infrustures -- should be more prepared.

Meanwhile, Solidum said the the magnitude 7 earthquake was caused by the movement along the Abra River Fault. The temblor's epicenter was traced 3 kilometers northwest of the municipality of Tayum.

He said areas such as Bucloc and Manabo in Abra felt the earthquake at Intensity VII. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179958>



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LOOK: Damage of earthquake in Nueva Era-Abra road. | via Cely O. Bueno (Patrol 19)



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<https://www.facebook.com/227229807399739/posts/pfbid0WjCMM4Sa3LCk8M8T6rFnddRivfaDN6fbN9rTAPti9BoyjABqLob8HLCY2v1A37LXI/?app=fbl>

28 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



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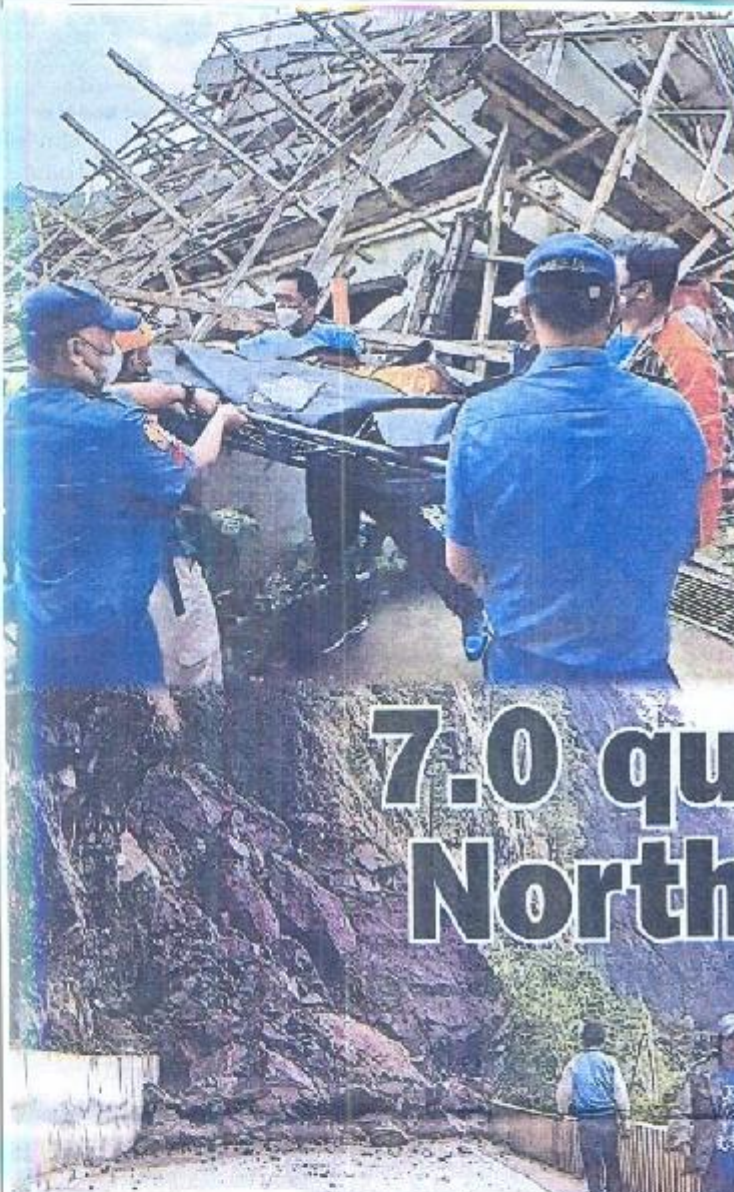
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7.0 quake rocks Northern Luzon

5 dead, at least 60 injured!

By ROMINA CABRERA

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Abra at 8:43 a.m. yesterday, jolting parts of Northern Luzon, causing landslides, collapsing or damaging buildings and infrastructure and killing at least five people.

At least 60 other people were reported injured in the aftermath of the quake. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) warned that aftershocks are likely to follow in the next two to three days.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said the epicenter of the tremor was three kilometers north of Tayum, and presumably caused by the movement of the active Abra River fault.

Its magnitude was downgraded to 7 after initially registering at 7.3. Solidum said a magnitude 7 earthquake usually lasts for about 30 seconds to a minute.

Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos said the quake left at least five people dead in the provinces of Benguet, Abra and Mountain Province. These were areas where most of the 58 reported landslides occurred, 31 of them in Abra.



A rescuer reaches an injured victim in Benguet, Abra, epicenter of the 7.0 earthquake yesterday.

A rescue team (upper photo) moves the body of a construction worker killed at the site of a collapsed three-story building in La Trinidad, Benguet after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake yesterday morning. Upper right photo shows a car buried under the ruins of an old house in Vigan, Ilocos Sur while lower photo shows a landslide blocking Natsena highway in Mountain Province.

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7.0 quake From Page 1

Also, 173 public and private structures were reportedly collapsed or damaged when the ground shock in at least 280 municipalities and 15 cities in Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley) and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Abalos said.

Intensity VII, a shaking deemed destructive in scale, was recorded in the municipalities of Budoc and Manabo in Abra.

Intensity VI, a very strong shaking, was recorded in Vigan City, Sinait, Bantay and San Esteban in Ilocos Sur; Laoac in Pangasinan and Baguio City.

Intensity V was felt in Magsingal and San Juan, Ilocos Sur; Alaminos City and Labrador, in Pangasinan; Bambang in Nueva Vizcaya; Mexico in Pampanga; Concepcion and Tarlac City in Tarlac and Manila and Malabon cities in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Meanwhile, Intensity IV was felt in Marikina, Pasig, Valenzuela and Quezon cities in Metro Manila; Tabuk City in Kalinga; Bantusa and Malasiqui in Pangasinan; Bayombong and Diadi in Nueva Vizcaya; Guiguinto, Obando and San Rafael in Bulacan and San Mateo, Rizal.

Intensity III was felt in Boñao, Pangasinan; Bulakan, Bulacan and Tanay, Rizal while Intensity II was felt in General Trias City in Cavite and Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

"Historically, the last earthquake in Abra River was in 1868. That was a long time ago," Solidum said in Filipino, adding that such strong earthquakes happen once in a hundred years.

Deaths and injuries

As of late afternoon yesterday, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) said there were five confirmed fatalities as a result of the tremor. It confirmed that 25-year-old construction worker Amri Cul-eteng was panned to death by falling debris from a building in Bayan, La Trinidad, Benguet.

NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal said Cul-eteng, a native of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, was at his workstation when the strong earthquake collapsed the building under construction.

The NDRRMC said the identities of the four others who died and the specific circumstances of their deaths have yet to be confirmed, but one of

them was reportedly hit by falling rocks in Balbalan, Kalinga.

A separate police report identified the fatality as Jefferson Basar, a resident of Quezon City, who died while being transported to the Kalinga Provincial Hospital. The report said Basar's fellow construction workers - Kelwayne Fultz, 22, Joseph Gallipis, 27, Christian Tongdo, 32, Shan Adrian Tebon, 24, Renato Mariapaz, 32, and Arnis Amnogawan - were also injured by falling rocks. In Abra, local police reported the death of 23-year-old Jonalyn Sigamay when a wall collapsed on her in Barangay Zone 3, Poblacion, Bangued a couple of minutes after the earthquake.

Meanwhile, neither the NDRRMC nor the PNP could give details about the two other fatalities, one of whom was from Tuba, Benguet.

In Bokod, Benguet, two farmers working on a community irrigation canal were badly injured when the structure caved in during the tremor.

Alfredo Coyos Boliquen, 60, and Pedro Vicente Camilo, 62, both from Karao, Bokod, were fixing their community irrigation system in Sitio Tikop, Barangay Karap in Bokod, when displaced boulders fell over them.

Camilo managed to free himself and seek the help of villagers to dig up Boliquen from under the rubble. They were taken to Dennis Molinas District Hospital, where they were treated for head and leg injuries.

Aftershocks

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, there were 261 aftershocks recorded since the initial quake, 55 of which were plotted by Phivolcs and at least 13 could be felt.

"Definitely there are aftershocks. There would be a lot in the first two to three days," Solidum told a press conference.

At 3:38 p.m., Phivolcs said a magnitude 5.4 earthquake was recorded in the town of Bucay, Abra as an aftershock to the initial quake. The tectonic quake had a depth of focus of 10 kilometers.

Solidum noted that over time the frequency of the aftershocks would decrease, but he urged local government units (LGUs) to continue inspections and review disaster contingency plans because aftershocks are imminent but indefinite as to

when they would strike.

This is why the public should stay alert, especially in high-risk areas.

Solidum said major landslides and infrastructure damage may be caused by aftershocks or when rains fall in the area.

Disaster response

Minutes after the earthquake, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) immediately worked on incoming information from the ground.

Timbal said Executive Secretary Vic Rodriguez attended the NDRRMC meeting with Department of National Defense (DND) Senior Undersecretary Jose Faustino Jr.

DND spokesman Director Arsenio Andalóng reported several landslides in the Cordillera region but said initial assessment of the dams showed they incurred no damage.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Army immediately mobilized their personnel and troops for rescue and other support requirements for the most affected areas in Northern Luzon.

Lt. Gen. Vicente Danao Jr., PNP officer-in-charge, instructed all police commanders in the affected regions to ensure 100-percent availability of resources and personnel and to coordinate with the LGUs and DRRM offices for the needed assistance to the public.

The PNP has constituted the Sub-Committee on Natural Disaster (SCND) and simultaneously activated the National Disaster Operation Center (NDOC) at the PNP Command Center to coordinate their efforts.

Its National Support Units with disaster response capability were also placed on alert for possible augmentation, among them the Special Action Force, Maritime Group, Police Community Affairs and Development Group, Highway Patrol Group and the Health Service.

The Philippine Army, through the 5th Infantry Division, immediately deployed its personnel for humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

Army spokesman Col. Xerxes Trinidad said soldiers of the 24th Infantry Battalion joined other government responders in the rescue efforts.

He said troops, hand-in-hand with the Abra Provincial Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Office and other responders, launched disaster response operations for victims in the

provincial capital, Bangued.

For his part, Abalos said: "I've already informed those affected, especially the hardest hit province of Abra, to respond to the needs of the people."

"I have instructed concerned DILG regional offices to coordinate with the PNP and BFP personnel to immediately provide assistance to affected Filipinos," the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) chief added.

He also instructed DILG regional offices to check the presence of local chief executives to their areas, as well as check for critical lifelines such as the supply of power and water and necessary access to roads and bridges.

To help, a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) contingent team has been deployed in Abra.

MMDA officer-in-charge Baltazar Melgar said the 39-man team is composed of personnel from the MMDA's Road Emergency Group, Metro Parkways Clearing Group and Public Safety Division, and would assist in road clearing operations.

Melgar said they will also dispatch two rapid response vehicles, one ambulance, two generator sets, 15 modular tents, 10 portable water purifiers and two portable jackhammers.

DSWD aid

Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo flew to Abra to oversee government aid and assistance operations and met with Gov. Dominic Valera, Vice Gov. Ma. Jocelyn Valera, former representative JB Bernos and other officials.

Tulfo assured them of the availability of P6 million in funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for the province and over 2,000 family food packs ready for distribution.

He said an additional 5,000 food packs are expected to arrive in the province, where all its 27 towns were affected by the strong tremors.

Damage assessment

In Abra, at least two major bridges - the Manabo in Manabo town and the Calaba in Bangued - were damaged as well as more than 20 government installations.

Landslides were reported in at least six towns - Budoc, Daguioman, Malibong, Manabo, Pidigan and Tinog - blocking roads and isolating the towns

of Tuba, Daguioman, Budoc and Lacub. Immediately, Mayor Benjamin Magalong of Baguio City and Romeo Salda of La Trinidad joined Benguet Gov. Melchor Dicala in suspending work in all government offices as well as classes in schools to pave the way for an assessment of the damage and the integrity of various infrastructure and buildings. Several buildings were reported damaged in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, including the old Spanish houses in the city's Heritage Village.

Also, the famous Bantay Tower in Bantay, Ilocos Sur was heavily damaged by the quake. In Pangasinan, Gov. Ramon Guico III suspended all classes and enjoined mayors to suspend work in government offices in the afternoon, with the exclusion of frontline offices for response and assessment of the situation after the quake. In Central Luzon, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (RDRMRC) reported no human casualties as of 1 p.m., but continued to assess possible damage to buildings and public infrastructure, according to provincial police director, Brig. Gen. Matthew Baccay. As of 4 p.m. in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, DPWH-3 Director Roseller Tolentino said a thorough inspection and assessment by all district engineers in Central Luzon showed no accidents involving damaged structures.

Transport situation

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said it has deployed quick response teams to the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley and CAR, where a number of national roads and seaports suffered minimal to extreme damage in the quake.

Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonohan said a total of 14 national roads in the northern regions were deemed impassable due to various reasons like rock fall and slope collapse.

In particular, road closures were enforced along the Abra-Kalinga Road due to soil collapse and the Abra-Ilocos Norte Road and Calaba Bridge due to settlement of approach. The Abra-Cervantes Road and Biweng Bridge were also shut on damaged approach. - With Artemio Dumlao, Michael Panongbayan, Cesar Ramirez, Emmanuel Tupas, Rudy Santos, Ric Sapna, Elijah Felice Rosales, Rodel Clapano, Mayen Jaymalin, Janvic Mateo, Ralph Edwin Villanueva



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7.0 quake jolts Luzon

Marcos assures immediate assistance

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ, CHITO A. CHAVEZ, and MARTIN A. SADONGDONG

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake shook parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila, on Wednesday morning, July 27, killing at least five persons, injuring 60 others, damaging various infrastructures, and rendering various roads impassable.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the powerful earthquake that occurred at

around 8:43 a.m. originated three kilometers (km) northwest of Tayum, Abra.

It was initially measured as a magnitude 7.3 quake, but Phivolcs later revised it to magnitude 7.0.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was felt at Intensity VII (destructive) in Bucloc and Manebo in Abra, and Intensity VI ("very strong" shaking), in Vigan City, Sinit, Bantay, and San Esteban in Ilocos Sur; Laoac in Pangasinan; and Baguio City. ➤





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7.0 quake jolts Luzon 1◀

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Intensity IV ("moderately strong" shaking) was felt in Marikina City, Quezon City, Pasig City, Valenzuela City, Tabuk City in Kalinga, Bautista and Malasiqui in Pangasinan, Bayombong and Diadi in Nueva Vizcaya, Guiguinto, Obando, and San Rafael in Bulacan, and San Mateo in Rizal.

Bolinao in Pangasinan, Bulakan in Bulacan, and Tanay in Rizal felt the quake at Intensity III (weak), and Intensity II (slightly felt) in General Trias City, Cavite and Santa Rosa City in Laguna.

Phivolcs noted that the earthquake was tectonic, which means it was caused by the movement of an active fault near the area.

What triggered quake?

Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the 7.0-magnitude earthquake was most likely generated by the movement along the Abra River Fault — an active fault, which last moved in 1868.

This fault is a known active fault that may trigger major earthquake events, like the magnitude 7.0, which are in the range of our expected earthquake," Solidum said in a press conference.

"The last historical earthquake, about magnitude 4 or less than 5, here in Abra River was in 1868," he added.

Solidum, Phivolcs officer-in-charge, pointed out that faults usually take "several hundred years" before it could produce a powerful earthquake.

5 dead, 60 injured

In a press briefing in Malacañang, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos told President Marcos that at least four fatalities and 60 injuries were recorded after the major earthquake struck.

"Sixty ang (Sixty were) injured and so far po apat ang nabalitaang nasawlan ng buhay, four deaths (there were four deaths). Of these four, two are in Benguet, one each in Abra and Mountain Province," Abalos said. The Office of Civil Defense, however, reported one



more fatality in Gattaran, Cagayan, but it gave no further detail.

Among the fatalities were Aron Cul-iteng of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur; Jefferson Basar, 24, construction worker, of Tandang Sora, Quezon City; and Jonalyn Siganay, 23, of Langiden, Abra and Zone 5, Benguet.

Cul-iteng, a construction worker, was buried alive in a building under construction in La Trinidad, Benguet. He was rushing out of the building basement, where he was working, when falling debris buried him, the La Trinidad Municipal Police Station said. The Bureau of Fire and Protection—La Trinidad still rushed him to the hospital where he was declared dead.

Basar died when he was hit by a falling large rock at a road being constructed in Sitio Bulalayao, Pantiklan, Balbalan, Kalinga. Six fellow construction workers were injured.

Siganay perished when she was hit by a concrete fence that collapsed while fleeing her boarding house in Abra. The victim sustained head injuries and died while being treated at Seares Memorial Hospital in Benguet.

In Bokod, Benguet, laborers Alfredo Coyos, 60, and Pedro Vicente Camilo, 60, both of Barangay Karao, Bokod, were injured when the community irrigation system they were constructing collapsed. They were rescued and taken to the hospital.

Damaged structures

Among the structures damaged were the Vigan Cathedral and the Bantay Bell Tower, both in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

In a Facebook Live video posted by Caesar Bueno Lumibao Jr., parts of the Vigan Cathedral in Vigan, Ilocos Sur were seen crumbling as the ground shook, forcing tourists to scamper to



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7.0 quake jolts Luzon 1◀

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THE RESPONSE OF PHILIPPINE PEOPLE
SINCE 1986
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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F. O. QUINCE VOLTS LUNON

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₱10 M, food boxes released

DSWD Secretary Tulfo, who flew to Abra shortly after the quake struck, ordered the release of ₱10 million to assist victims.

"Nakalapag na po tayo sa Bangued, Abra. Nakausap na po natin si Abra Gov. [Dominic] Valera at Vice Gov. [Maria Jocelyn] Bernos. Nagpalabas na po tayo ng inisyal na ₱10 milyon cash para sa mga appektado ng lindol at dinideliwer na po ng DSWD provincial office ang mahigit sa 1,000 food boxes para sa

mga evacuees (We have landed in Bangued, Abra. We have talked to Abra Gov. Valera and Vice Gov. Bernos. We also released an initial ₱10 million in cash for those affected by the earthquake and the DSWD provincial office has already delivered more than 1,000 food boxes for the evacuees)," Tulfo said in a Facebook post.

"Over ₱10,000 worth of food packs are arriving from the CAR regional warehouse this afternoon and additional cash assistance tomorrow morning, July 28," he added.

Damage assessment

Department of National Defense (DND) officer-in-charge Jose Faustino Jr., chairman of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), instructed regional DRRM offices in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3), and National Capital Region (NCR) to conduct rapid damage assessment in areas affected by the earthquake.

Faustino also ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to provide ground, air, and water assets and rescue personnel for mobilization in the said areas. (With reports from Aaron B. Recuenco, Rizaldy Comanda, Chino S. Leyco, and Ellison A. Quismorio)

Calamity funds insufficient?

Batangas 6th District Rep. Ralph Recto is worried the available National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF), otherwise known as the calamity fund, may be "insufficient for rehabilitation work."

"We are just in the opening weeks of the calamity season. And instead of a typhoon, a powerful earthquake was the opening act," Recto said in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

"Beginning-year available appropriations is ₱20.7 billion - ₱20 billion in 2022 appropriations and ₱700 million carried forward from 2021. As of June 30, releases have reached almost ₱6 billion, and if the ₱1.9 billion in earmarked allocations will be added, the disbursable amount left is ₱12.8 billion, the amount inherited by President Marcos," Recto explained.

"If the ₱12.8 billion will be used to fund the relief and repair work in earthquake-hit areas, it will leave the NDRRMF depleted, unable to respond to the typhoons that will surely hit us," he said.

"The President can augment this by tapping the ₱7-billion contingent fund for 2022. This is the national emergency fund under his disposal," noted the veteran lawmaker.

"And if this will not be enough, there is always the option of Congress passing an appropriations bill that will finance reconstruction," he added.

The House of Representatives is awaiting Malacañang's submission of the 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP), which will then be used to craft the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) or national budget.



Initial reports show 2 dead, 25 injured after 7.0 temblor jolts Northern Luzon

BY RENE ACOSTA @reneacostaBM

A POWERFUL earthquake jolted Abra on Wednesday morning, damaging houses, century-old churches and other structures in the province and in adjoining and other provinces in the Cordilleras and other parts of Northern Luzon.

At least two people were reported killed while scores were injured in the affected areas as reported by local officials although reports of casualties are still being validated disaster control officials.

The temblor, with a magnitude of 7.0, struck near the town of Lagangilang in Abra and was strongly felt in the neighboring provinces of Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Benguet and in other provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Region 1.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) held an emergency meeting following the quake, which was also felt in Metro Manila and was continuing to record aftershocks in the affected areas.

The government mobilized its response, with officials of the Department of Social Welfare and

Development flying to Abra and other areas while the Philippine Air Force flew aerial inspections in Northern Luzon.

Most of the affected areas, including coastal villages and towns in Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan due to fear of tsunamis, have shut down their communication and power lines.

Work suspensions were also imposed in some of the affected towns and provinces, especially in Abra.

The NDRRMC initially reported one death in La Trinidad, Benguet, while initial reports on damages coming from local officials showed widespread damage in Abra and Ilocos region, especially on houses and old buildings, including historic churches and hospitals.

The NDRRMC also reported damaged roads and cases of landslides in Abra and Benguet, shut-

ting off traffic.

In Abra, Vice Governor Joy Bernos told radio station DZBB in Manila that a 25-year-old man died in the capital town of Bangued after he was pinned by debris inside his house. Twenty-five others were also reported injured.

Bernos said 25 people also evacuated in the Municipality of Villa Viciosa, while residents in other parts of the province have set up temporary shelters in open areas for fear that aftershocks would collapse their homes.

She said they were not also recommending to residents to seek shelters in government-erected evacuation centers because these were made of concrete and have incurred damages following the quake.

The municipality of Manabo was isolated after the key road leading into the town was blocked by debris due to a landslide.

Bernos said houses, buildings and churches were damaged, including in the town of Lagangilang, as also confirmed by its acting chief of police, Lt. Boy Kis-ing.

Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Christian Castillejos Saguitan, in a message relayed to the DAR Central Office, said they are now coordinating with the building owner where DAR La Union Office is situated as well as the local NDRRMC office in the province to check on the building



following the quake as soon as possible.

"If it is certified as safe, then we go back to work. Until we get that from any authorized entity, all work is suspended for DAR La Union," she said.

At the same time, Saguitan said employees of DAR whose homes were damaged or need help in any way are advised to get in touch with the DAR through their official group chat.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the earthquake was recorded at exactly 8:43 a.m. with epicenter 2 kilometers northeast of Lagangilang, Abra.

The earthquake was strongly felt in the National Capital Region (NCR), and nearby provinces. Phivolcs said Intensity IV was felt in Quezon City. Phivolcs said they expect the earthquake to cause damages and cautioned the public against expected aftershocks that may occur.

Abra Rep. Ching Bernos, in a news statement, said "I urge everyone to stay alert and to prioritize safety in light of the possibilities of aftershocks that might be felt after that strong earthquake. We are monitoring the situation on the ground and gathering information on the extent of the damage to the Province. My office is also actively coordinating with proper authorities on what can be done to assist families and communities that were severely affected by this earthquake."

PNP PIO chief Brig. Gen Roderick Augustus Balba said the PNP is currently collating information on the ground from areas hardly hit by the earthquake.

"We will soon release our assessment. As of now, our priority is to respond to various reports regarding those individuals who are affected by the effects of the strong quake. Coordination is also being made with other frontline government agencies and responders who are on top of the situation," he said.

Gordon alerts PRC chapters

PHILIPPINE Red Cross (PRC) Chairman Richard Gordon on Wednesday directed all PRC chapters to be on stand-by following a powerful earthquake that shook parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila.

Gordon also asked the chapters to perform assessments within their areas of responsibility following the big earthquake.

The PRC said that several houses and infrastructures in different locations are severely damaged after the earthquake.

Gordon also urged all affected local government units and the Department of Public Works and Highways to assess damages and the safety of buildings and structures to ensure the safety of all.

The PRC also reminded the quake-hit areas to stay alert and vigilant for any aftershocks. *With Jonathan L. Meyuga and*



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KILLER QUAKE ROCKS ABRA

By Alfred Dalizon

FOUR were confirmed killed while at least 60 were injured as a magnitude 7 earthquake hit Abra province and other parts of the Cordillera region yesterday morning. Area Police Command-Northern Luzon commander Lieutenant General Rodolfo S. Azurin Jr. said.

Azurin, in a report to Philippine National Police Officer-in-Charge, Lieutenant General Vicente D. Danao Jr. said, the fatalities were from Cordillera region where 60 were also reported to have suffered injuries in the aftermath of the strong tremors.

Ten other injured persons were from the Ilocos-Pangasinan region.

Lt. Gen. Azurin said at least 11 areas in Cordillera region; and 45 in Ilocos-Pangasinan region were also hit by power blackout while 5 areas in Cordillera region have no cell phone signals or internet connections.

The official said there were also a total of 20 roads in Cordillera region and another in Region I which were rendered impassable to vehicles due to debris and major damage.

Lt. Gen. Azurin said at least 77 infrastructures — 47 from Cordillera region and 30 from Ilocos-Pangasinan region — were initially reported to have been partially damaged while another was found to have been totally damaged in Cordillera region.

In Cordillera region, one was confirmed to have been killed while at least 25 were injured as a result of the earthquake that hit Abra province and other parts of Cordillera region, said Cordillera Police Regional Office director Brigadier Gen. Ronald O. Lee.

The lone fatality was recorded in Benguet prov-

ince while the injured persons were 20 from Abra; 3 in Baguio City; and 2 from Benguet, the official reported.

Brig. Gen. Lee said power interruption was recorded in Abra and Benguet while 19 roads were impassable to vehicles due to various debris. The roads which were closed to traffic were seven in Abra and 12 in Benguet.

The official said they also recorded five partially damaged government infrastructures and 42 partially damaged private infrastructures in the region, 43 from Abra and the rest from Benguet.

Lee said a 19-year old female student from the Southern Louis University in Baguio City was injured when he jumped from the 4th floor of the A's Dormitory located at the Everett Building in Bonifacio Street around 8:43 in the morning.

The student identified as Kristina Cassandra Pascua landed on a taxi cab being driver by Pedro Abad Jr., the report stated. Abad said he was shocked to see the student landing on the windshield of his cab and immediately sought help in bringing the victim to the SLU Hospital for treatment. The student remained under observation as of press time.

Lee said the fatality from La Trinidad, Benguet was identified as Aron Culiteng, a native of Finsao, Baguio City, renting a house in Central Buyagan in Poblacion, La Trinidad municipality.

He said the victim was working in the basement of the building owned by one Charlyn Polled when the strong quake shook the place. The victim tried to run for safety but was hit by falling debris on his left arm. He was later extricated from the collapsed building by members of the La Trinidad

Bureau of Fire Protection and taken to the Benguet General Hospital where an attending physician declared him dead upon arrival.

PNP ON ALERT

At Camp Crame, Lt. Gen. Danao said they continued to maintain effective command and control of all PNP units and offices in Northern Luzon affected by the earthquake.

Primary and alternate communication lines with regional, provincial and municipal police units, including maneuver forces remain functional, and power sources in these areas remain stable, the top cop said.

Lt. Gen. Danao instructed the Police Regional Offices in Cordillera Ilocos-Pangasinan region and Cagayan Valley region to ensure 100 percent availability of PNP resources and personnel for disaster response operations in coordination with local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices and Local Government Units.

Danao also placed on alert the PNP Special Action Force, Maritime Group, Police Community Affairs and Development Group, Highway Patrol Group and Health Service which all have disaster response capability for possible augmentation to the affected regions.

MASS RAIL TRANSIT SUSPENDED

The Light Railway Transit Authority ordered the suspension of operations of trains and railways in Metro Manila in the aftermath of the powerful tremors felt in the metropolis.

Trains of the MRT-3, LRT-1 and LRT-2 and the Philippine National Railways line were temporarily stopped at around 8:44 in the morning for safety checks.

In Baguio City, Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong or-

dered the suspension of work and classes in the public and private sectors in the wake of the earthquake in Abra which was felt in the city.

The mayor however said they are yet to receive any reports of injuries except for a student of the Saint Louis University who reportedly panicked and jumped from a high place.

Mayor Magalong also appealed on all building owners in the city to prevent the entry of people until structural engineers or safety officers declare them safe already.

AFP DEPLOYS TEAMS TO QUAKE-HIT AREAS

National Defense (DND) officer-in-charge Undersecretary Jose Faustino Jr. said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been instructed to mobilize all of its assets to assist communities that were severely hit by the earthquake.

Faustino presided over the meeting of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) which was convened to assess the effects of the earthquake.

"Undersecretary Faustino informed the Regional DRRM Councils (RDRRMCs) that the AFP has been instructed to immediately mobilize assets to assist the affected local government units," DND spokesperson Arsenio Andalong said in a press statement.

"The Office of Civil Defense is in communication with its regional offices for damage assessment and coordination for deployment of response operations," he added.



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As this developed, Faustino, who is also NDRRMC chair, has also virtually met with RDRRMCs of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, Central Luzon, and the National Capital Region (NCR) to discuss the impact of the tremor.

"OIC Faustino confirmed the readiness of the AFP to support local operations of the LGUs. We have sufficient relief stockpiles prepositioned in these regions to support local relief efforts undertaken by the LGUs," NDRRMC spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal said in a message to reporters.

The Philippine Army (PA), through the 5th Infantry Division, spearheaded humanitarian assistance and disaster response

(HADR) efforts after the earthquake.

Col. Xerxes Trinidad, PA spokesperson, said the 24th Infantry Battalion, together with Abra's Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, local police, and other responders, launched disaster response operations for earthquake victims in Abra's capital town Bangued.

NO TSUNAMI ALERT

No tsunami alert or threat in Ilocos has been issued, Timbasaid.

"Please inform the public that the EQ (earthquake) has aftershock potential kaya po dapat laging lista, mag-duck cover and hold (so we must be vigilant, let's do the duck, cover and hold) and make sure to coordinate with local authorities for safety, evacuation and relief activities which are being supported by the

NDRRMC," Timbal added.

He said Executive Secretary Vic Rodriguez went to the NDRRMC Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to "join discussions on the updates for the EQ."

NO MAJOR AIRPORT DAMAGE

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) confirmed that airports located near the magnitude 7.3 earthquake in Abra reported no damages in its facilities.

Northern Luzon airports in CAAP Area 1 (Laoag, Vigan, Lingayen, Rosales, and San Fernando Airports) and Area 2 (Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Palanan, Baguio, Basco, and Ibayat Airports) reported no damages and has resumed passenger terminal and boarding operations.

As reported by Area 1

and Area 2 Managers Ronald Estabillo and Sul Sagorson, respectively, assessment of the runway, apron, terminal building, and other offices have also been completed.

CAAP Area 3 Manager Glenn Tripulca said all airports under Area 3 (Plaridel, Alabat, Jomalig, Baler, Iba, Mamburao, Pinamalayan, Calapan, Wasig, San Jose, Lubang, Marinduque, Romblon, Sangley, and Cabanatuan (off-airport facility)) reported no damages to its facilities as well.

CAAP Operations Center and Airport Safety Officers are also continuously monitoring the status of the airports in view of possible aftershocks.

Baguio Airport (Area 1) is being monitored as some minor cracks in some facilities have been discovered.

With Jun Legaspi



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A CAR (left photo) is buried under debris from a ruined old house in Vigan city, Ilocos Sur, while a damaged home is seen in Bangued, Abra yesterday after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit most parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila. (Photos from AFP, Abra Rep. Ching Bermos)

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7.0 QUAKE JOLTS LUZON

Obiena to get
cash reward
from PSC

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4 dead, dozens injured in strong tremor

By ELLALYN DE
VERA-RUIZ, MARTIN
SADONGDONG,
AARON RECUENCO,
ARGYLL GEDUCOS

earthquake shook most parts of Luzon Wednesday morning, killing at least four people, damaging buildings and roads, and causing power outage and signal interruption in Abra, the epicenter of the tremor, and nearby provinces.

A 7.0-magnitude

(Turn to Page 2)



7.0 QUAKE ...

(From Page 1)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the powerful earthquake that occurred at around 8:43 a.m. originated 3 kilometers (km) northwest of Teyum, Abra.

It was initially measured as a magnitude 7.3 quake but Phivolcs later revised it to magnitude 7.0.

During a press briefing in Malacanang, Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos reported that 15 provinces, including 15 cities and 280 municipalities, were affected by the earthquake.

There were also reports of road closures, power interruptions in Abra and Benguet, intermittent communication lines in the Ilocos Region and some parts of Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and minor damage in other areas.

4 DEAD

Abalos said that as of yesterday, four persons reportedly died due to the earthquake while 60 others were injured. Most injuries reportedly came from Abra, with 44 injured individuals.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said that one of the fatalities was a construction worker from La Trinidad, Benguet, who died after being hit by fallen debris.

According to the NDRRMC, road closing operations were ongoing in the Cordillera due to reported rock erosions.

In the Cordillera Central range, the Tinoc-Buguias Road and Tinoc-Klangan Road were deemed impassable to motorists due to multiple rock erosions.

A landslide along Gov. Bado Dangwa National Road in Kapangan, Benguet also rendered the major thoroughfare impassable and motorists were advised to take alternate route at Labueg-Dotakan barangay road.

Communication in some areas in the Cordillera was also affected due to power outage and signal interruption.

At least four people were injured in an earthquake-triggered landslide that hit a chapel in Bauko, Mt. Province.

Police Capt. Marnie Abellanida, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office-Cordillera Administrative Region, said three children and one adult were injured.

The landslide also caused a pine tree to fall right into the Saint Mark The Evangelist Chapel in Sitio Kamanggagan in Barangay Mayag.

"Accordingly, there is an ongoing Vacation Bible School when the earthquake occurred," said Abellanida.

Policemen were immediately sent to the area to assist the victims.

He said all injured victims were brought to Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital for medical treatment.

ROCKSLIDES

At least one person was injured while a number of major roads at the Cordillera Administrative Region were rendered impassable as a result of the quake.

Police Capt. Marnie Abellanida, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office-Cordillera Administrative Region, said as of 10:30 a.m., they received report of an injured person in the province of Ifugao.

"So far, we are already receiving reports of a number of roads in Ifugao, Benguet and Mountain Province which are currently not passable due to rockslides," he added.

Among them are the Andres Acop Cosalan Road particularly at Poblacion, Bokod in Benguet and the Tinoc-Buguias Road and Tinoc-Klangan Road in Ifugao.

In Abra, police personnel assisted in the transfer of patients at the Abra Provincial Hospital.

"Tents and temporary facilities are now also being set up for the patients evacuated from inside the hospital," a police report read.

Abellanida said that based on the initial assessment on the ground, there were no reported damages in all police stations and facilities in the region.

SCALE OF DAMAGE

Photos and videos posted on social media revealed the initial scale of the earthquake's damage.

In a Facebook Live video posted by Cesar Bueno Lumibao Jr., parts of the Vigan Cathedral in Vigan, Ilocos Sur were seen crumbling as the ground shook and tourists scampered to different directions to seek shelter.

In an interview, Lumibao said that he was at a fast food restaurant in Vigan and was parking his motorcycle when the earthquake occurred.

"Pag-atras ko po ng motor ko, akala ko po nahihilo lang ako pero nafaal ko na po 'yung lupa gumagalaw na," Lumibao said.

"Yung mga tourists po nagsiupo naat mga tricycle drivers, howak ang mga tricycles nila kasi halos matumba na talaga sila," he added.

In a separate Facebook live, netizen Edson Aducul showed how the quake destroyed the Bantay Bell Tower in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

"Buti hindi pa tayo umakyat doon!," a man was heard saying in the video.

La Paz, Abra Mayor Mendhie Bernos urged residents in the area to stay vigilant and prepare for aftershocks that may hit the province.

NO TSUNAMI THREAT

There is no tsunami threat to the Philippines following the earthquake, the Phivolcs said.

"No destructive tsunami threat exists based on available data. This is for information purposes only and there is no tsunami threat to the Philippines from this earthquake," it said in its tsunami information.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was felt at Intensity VII (destructive) in Buelac and Manobo in Abra.

Meanwhile, it was felt at Intensity VI, as a "very strong" shaking, in Vigan City, Sinit, Bantay, and San Esteban in Ilocos Sur; Laoac in Pangasinan; and Ragulo City.

It was also "strong" at Intensity V in Magsingal and San Juan in Ilocos Sur; Alaminos City and Labrador in Pangasinan; Bambang, Nueva

Vizcaya; Mexico, Pampanga; Concepcion and Tarlac City in Tarlac province; Manila City; and Malabon City.

Intensity IV or "moderately strong" shaking was felt in Marikina City; Quason City; Pasig City; Valenzuela City; Tabuk City; Kalinga; Bautista and Malasiqui in Pangasinan; Bayombong and Diadi in Nueva Vizcaya; Guiguinto, Obando, and San Rafael in Bulacan; and San Mateo, Rizal.

Bolinao, Pangasinan; Bulakan, Bulacan; and Tanay, Rizal felt the quake at Intensity III (weak), and Intensity II (slightly felt) in General Trias City, Cavite and Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

ABRA RIVER FAULT

Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. said yesterday the major earthquake in Abra was most likely generated by the movement along the Abra River Fault—an active fault, which last moved in 1868.

"Ang huling historical earthquake, mga magnitude 4 or less than 5, dito sa Abra River noong 1868," he added.

Solidum, who is also the OIC of the Phivolcs, pointed out that faults usually take "several hundred years" before it could produce a powerful earthquake.

AFTERSHOCKS

Solidum advised the public to remain vigilant, as aftershocks may likely occur in the next few days or weeks.

As of 11:30 a.m., Phivolcs so far recorded 140 aftershocks following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake.



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After the quake: Over 21 roads not passable

DPWH deploys teams for inspections

By AARON B. REQUENCO

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan ordered on Wednesday, July 27, the deployment of quick response teams to inspect safety of national roads and bridges, as well as other public infrastructure, following a strong earthquake that hit most parts of Luzon.

Bonoan said all the regional and district engineering offices in Luzon, especially near the epicenter, were instructed to check public infrastructure for any damage brought about by the earthquake that could endanger motorists and the general public.

The epicenter of the 7.3 magnitude quake is in Langangilang, Abra.

"Our teams of engineers are conducting assessment to evaluate the structural integrity and damage caused by the earthquake as we simultaneously clear debris along national roads and bridges," said Bonoan.

Several roads in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) were not passable after they were blocked

by rocks and soil when the quake triggered landslides in the region.

Based on the DPWH report, a total of 14 national roads are impassable to traffic due to rock fall, soil collapse, and safety reasons as a result of the earthquake.

Among them were the Abra - Kalinga Road K0437+250 - K0475+000, Intermittent Sections; Abra and at K0474+000 due to soil collapse; Abra - Ilocos Norte Road, K0430+000 section and Calaba Bridge due to settlement of approach; and Abra-Cervantes Road, at Biweng Bridge due to damaged approach.

Other roads in CAR closed to traffic are Kennon Road, Benguet; Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya Road K0303+100, Bobok Bisal, Bokod due to soil collapse and K0302+700, Poblacion, Bokod due to rock fall in Benguet; Baguio-Itogon Road, Itogon Bridge, K0267+519 due to safety reason; Congressman Andres Acop Cosalan Road, K0318+500, Sitio, Bugao, Brgy. Adaoay, Kabayan, Benguet due to soil collapse; and Gov. Bado Dangwa National Road K0297+200, K0297+800, K0298+400 sections in Belling-belis, Kapangan and K0313+150 section in

Poblacion, Kibungan, Benguet due to slope collapse.

Kalinga-Abra Road K0468+860 and K0467+400 in Ableg, Pail, Kalinga, and K0497+000 onwards along Abra, Pantikian to Balblasang, Balbalan, and Lubuagan-Batong Buhay Road in Upper Kalinga; Banaue-Hungduan-Benguet Boundary Road, K0389+700, Wangwang, Tinoc in Ifugao; and various sections of Baguio - Bontoc Road, Mt. Province-Cagayan via Tabuk - Enrile Road, Mt. Province-Ilocos Sur Road via Kayan Mt. Province-Ilocos Sur Road via Tue all in Mountain Province are also not passable.

Also, seven road sections have limited access in CAR and Region 1, namely Asin Road, K0305+820, Asin, Baguio City; Palispis Marcos Highway, K0273+780, Poblacion, Tuba, Benguet; Baguio-Bontoc Road, Balili Bridge, Benguet; Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya K0254+300, Sitio Lamut, Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet; Congressman Andres Acop Cosalan Road K0318+800, Sitio, Bugao, Brgy. Adaoay, Kabayan, Benguet; Baguio - Bauang Road, K0296+600 LS, Tadiangan, Tuba, Benguet; and Calunghuyan Bridge, Santa Rancho, Santa, Ilocos Sur.



Law on waste reduction needs support—Villar

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Cynthia Villar is calling on all sectors to assist in the implementation of the Extended Producer's Responsibility Act of 2022 or RA No. 11898 which lapsed into law on July 22, 2022.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment in the 18th Congress, shepherded the passage of this legislation along with her counterpart in the House of Representatives, Rep. Glona Labadlabad.

She said EPR focuses on waste reduction that seeks to lodge environmental responsibility to the producer throughout the lifecycle of a product.

She urged the public especially the organizations fighting for better solid waste management, to see it as an opportunity.

"It is a good start," Villar said, noting that the law introduces the concept of EPR and a circular economy.

The law also mandates the DENR to formulate a national framework on EPR for all types of waste.

The law provides targets on the recovery of plastic wastes initially and requires large enterprises or those above MSME levels to set up an EPR program within six months from the effectiveness of the act.

These programs are intended to achieve plastic neutrality through efficient management of plastic packaging waste, reduced production, importation supply or use of plastic packaging deemed low in reusability, retrievability or recyclability.

It sets rising targets for plastic recovery each year until 2028 when these enterprises are expected to achieve 80 percent neutrality.



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Pitmaster Foundation nag-reforest ng 250 ektaryang kabundukan sa Quezon at Laguna

TINATAYANG nasa kabuuang 250 ektaryang kabundukan sa lalawigan ng Laguna at Quezon ang nag-reforest na ng Pitmaster Foundation Inc. kung saan si Charlie 'Atong' Ang ang siyang nagsisilbi bilang Chairperson.

Ang Pitmaster ang siyang 'corporate social responsibility' (CSR) arm ng Lucky 8 Star Quest na itinuturing bilang isa sa pinakamalaking taxpayer sa bansa matapos itong makapag-remit sa kaban ng bayan ng P2.6B.

Nabatid mula kay Atty. Caroline M. Cruz, Executive Director ng Pitmaster Foundation na layunin nito na pinan ng mga bagong puno ang mga nakakalbong kabundukan sa lalawigan ng Laguna at Quezon.

Sinabi pa ni Atty. Cruz na isang napakahalagang investment ng pagtatanim ng mga puno hindi lamang sa ating kalikasan kundi bilang proteksyon din sa lumalalang climate change hindi lang sa ating bansa, kundi sa buong mundo.

Samantala ay napag-alaman din mula sa executive director ng Pitmaster na umabot na sa halagang P30M ang naipamigay na ayuda sa mga tricycle drivers at iba pang sektor na nawalan ng trabaho dahil sa patuloy na pandemya sa bansa.

May 6,300 wheelchairs naman ang naipamahagi ng Pitmaster Foundation sa mga persons with disabilities, ayon pa kay Atty. Cruz.

Sa loob lamang ng isang taon at kalahating operasy-

on ng Pitmaster foundation ay nakapagbigay na ri ito ng pagkain sa halos 350,000 pamilyang Filipino na nawalan ng kabuhayan sa panahon ng COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

Bukod pa dito ay umabot na rin sa 13,000 Filipino ang natulungan ng foundation sa pamamagitan ng dialysis treatments na isa sa napakalaking pagkat sa buksa ng pamilyang may sakit sa kidney.

Bunsod ng mga ginagawang tulong ng Pitmaster Foundation sa ating mga kababayang nangangailangan mula Luzon hanggang Mindanao ay binigyan ng kahulugan ang PITMASTER bilang "Providing Indigent Timely Medical Assistance Service and Targeted Emergency Relief".



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ment ng pagtalanin ng mga puno hindi lamang sa ating kalikasan kundi bilang proteksyon din sa lumalalang climate change hindi lang sa ating bansa, kundi sa buong mundo.

Samantala, napag-alaman din mula sa executive director ng Pitmaster na umabot na sa halagang P90M ang re-pamigay na ayuda sa mga tricycle driver at iba pang sektor na nawalan ng trabaho

dehil sa patuloy na pandemya sa bansa.

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IT-BPM, mining sectors seen with highest growth potential

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

The government sees information technology – business process management (IT-BPM) and mining as sectors with the highest growth potential in the near and medium term.

During the Post-SONA (State of the Nation Address) Economic Briefing, Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual said the IT-BPM sector, which is growing fast, is poised to even expand further.

“The potential is even greater now with the heightened use of digitalization and online services as a result of the pandemic,” he said.

He said the IT-BPM sector is among the sectors the Department of Trade and Industry is focusing on in terms of investment promotion efforts.

Last year, the country’s IT-BPM sector saw growth both in terms of headcount and revenues.

In particular, its full-time employees rose 9.1 percent

year-on-year to reach 1.44 million last year, surpassing the 1.43 million target for this year.

The IT-BPM sector generated \$29.49 billion worth of revenues last year, 10.6 percent higher than the 2020 level, and also above the \$29.1 billion goal for this year.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said mining is another sector with high growth potential.

“I will bet the mining sector will be the fastest growing.

From almost near zero, it can grow really fast,” he said.

Despite the country being rich in mineral resources, the mining sector’s contribution to the gross domestic product has been small, at less than one percent, amid restrictive policies.

Last year, the government lifted the four-year-old ban on open pit mining, with the sector seen as a potential contributor to the country’s efforts to recover from the pandemic.



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More and more companies are seeing a clear connection between social progress and business success. Not a day passes without hearing companies trumpet their triple-bottom approach to conducting business. These stories are being chronicled in sustainability reports that the Securities and Exchange Commission will reportedly mandate for all listed companies by 2023. Recent data shows that while this requirement is still on a comply or explain basis, the compliance rate among listed firms in the local bourse has been over 90% for the past two or three years. Indeed, local firms have gone a long way in implementing and chronicling their efforts to manage business impacts on people, profit, and the planet. Even without an expressed admission, companies are now fast becoming agents of social change.

And this is something we should all welcome. Seeing businesses influence community development, nation-building, and overall social amelioration is indeed a positive development. These days we are feeling the impact of shared values i.e., pursuing business success that promotes societal benefits.

We have heard and seen for decades how the global community has called into question how businesses are being conducted — where even the legitimacy of enterprises is put into question primarily because of their adverse impact on society. Thankfully, all stakeholders realize that the seeming antagonistic relationship between companies and communities is not the solution to huge problems such as environmental degradation and climate change. We are seeing several steps toward a more concerted approach to better sustainable business practices. Businesses realize they cannot work in silos as they exist in an ecosystem that involves the broader



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BUCHANAN

Moving for a collective impact

SHARED VALUES RON F. JABAL

society — impact communities, suppliers, distributors, consumers, non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and state entities, i.e., national and local governments.

Hence, in pursuing shared value initiatives, we are seeing a positive theme called "collective impact," which is fast becoming a "movement."

As some management literature posits, a collective impact presupposes that social malaise is brought about by a complex combination of actions and omissions by stakeholders in any given situation; hence can be solved and managed only through careful, strategic, and coordinated efforts of all the

stakeholders — the businesses, government, NGOs and POs, and the impact communities.

Indeed, a collective impact is an imprimatur for systemic changes. By bringing together relevant stakeholders — armed with appropriate data — the collective impact can foster a common understanding of the problem, eventually leading to developing and implementing mutually agreed upon solutions to social problems.

And businesses can bring so much to the table. They bring expertise in problem-solving within an understanding of time and budget. They embrace change management, pragmatism, and accountability, and have the ability to weave through ideological disagreements that sometimes affect governments and NGOs. Ultimately, motives can drive businesses to participate in col-

lective impact initiatives because their growth and resilience can be affected if and when social problems distress their businesses.

A clear example of a successful collective impact initiative is the Net Zero program being implemented by a global firm in the Philippines. Characterized as bold and yet realistic, this firm commits to: 1.) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% in their operations by 2025 and achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest; 2.) collect and divert 26,000 metric tons of plastic waste annually away from landfills and the ocean; 3.) reduce the use of virgin plastics by a third by 2025 and 100% of packaging to be recyclable or reusable; and, 4.) switch to 100% clean and renewable electricity in all its factories.

Early on, the company already realized that it could not achieve these targets alone. Thus, it has

forged several strategic partnerships and collaborations with several organizations. It partnered with EcoPlanet Bamboo and One Tree Planted to help plant 2.5 million bamboo clumps and 1 million trees in Mindanao over the next three years.

It is also collaborating with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to engage the youth in developing workable solutions to address issues and challenges linked to climate change through its innovation hub — Kikathon. Our Race Towards a Net Zero Reality. It is also in strategic alliance with the University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB) to develop a program for its Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (DAME) to harness the youth's potential for climate action through the "Net Zero Nation" competition.

Another company at the forefront of collective impact initiatives is one of the leading energy companies in the Philippines, which, for over 60 years, has been generating power from geothermal sources. It is earned its reputation as the Philippines' leading renewable energy producer and the world's largest vertically integrated geothermal producer.

Given its responsibility to carefully manage its impact in where it operates, this company has adopted a revolutionary framework that calls for regenerative development. It is particularly welcoming to hear its senior executives profess and commit action towards arresting the negative impacts of climate change.

This renewable energy firm has realigned its business, resources, and capabilities to fulfill a new chosen purpose: to forge collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future. Embarking on this path, the company seeks to elevate the environment, its employees, communities, customers, other co-creators, and shareholders to create a broader, more positive impact on the planet.

As we continue to build from the impact of COVID-19 amidst our battle against a number of social ills and the harmful effect of climate change, a new social mandate should be adopted by all businesses: a collective impact should be the new normal. More than a clarion call, a battle cry, or a mission, the collective impact should be a movement — a shared value for all. Only when a concerted and unified effort addresses social problems can we mitigate the bad, and, most importantly, grow and expand the good.

RON F. JABAL, AME, is the chairman and CEO of PASCENE Group (www.pascenegrup.ph) and founder of Advocacy Partner Asia (www.advocacy.ph)





S. No. 2423 H. No. 10494

Republic of the Philippines Congress of the Philippines Metro Manila Eighteenth Congress Third Regular Session

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11898]

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ON PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9603, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000"

Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022"

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9603 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall:

- (g) Integrate public participation in the development and implementation of national and local comprehensive and ecological waste management programs;
(h) Strengthen the integration of ecological solid waste management and resource conservation and recovery topics into the academic curricula of formal and non-formal education in order to promote environmental awareness and action among the citizenry; and
(i) Institutionalize the extended producer responsibility mechanism as a practical approach to efficient waste management, focusing on waste reduction, recovery and recycling, and the development of environment-friendly products that advance the internationally accepted principles on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, and producers' full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their product."

SEC. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9603 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purposes of this Act:

- (d-3) Circular economy shall refer to an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and releasing waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning. This intends to efficiently utilize resources by its continual use, and aims to retain the highest utility and value of products, components and materials at all times, through sharing, leasing, reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling in an almost closed loop;
(m-1) Extended producer responsibility (EPR) shall refer to the environmental policy approach and practice that requires producers to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of a product, especially its post-consumer or end-of-life stage;
(p-1) High recyclability shall refer to a condition wherein the value for recovery and reprocessing of a product is high, due to its design, composition, content, and density, among other things;
(p-2) High retrievability shall refer to a condition wherein after use of a product, a significant volume of its waste can be recovered, properly recycled, processed or disposed of, on account of its high value for recovery, recycling, or reprocessing;

(p-3) Importer shall refer to a natural or juridical person engaged in bringing consumer goods into the Philippines, intended to be sold, whether in original packaging or to be repackaged for distribution in the general public;

(p-4) Large enterprises shall refer to any business entity whose total assets, inclusive of those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the particular business entity's office, plant and equipment are situated, are exceeding that of medium enterprises stated under Republic Act No. 9641, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises";

(p-5) Obligated enterprises shall refer to product producers that are required to implement an EPR program under this Act;

"(v-1) Plastic shall refer to a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, PVC and nylon that can be processed to form solid objects of various shapes;

"(v-2) Plastic neutrality shall refer to a system or its desired outcome where, for every amount of plastic product footprint created, an equivalent amount thereof is recovered or removed from the environment by the product producers through an efficient waste management system;

"(v-3) Plastic packaging shall refer to the polymer material designed to protect a product from environmental factors, or carry goods for transportation, distribution, and sale, including service necessities and more particularly described under Section 44-U;

"(w-1) Product footprint shall refer to a measure of the amount of goods produced, imported, distributed or supplied by a product producer, and deemed to cause damage to the environment;

"(w-2) Product producer shall refer to any of the following persons:

- (1) brand owner who sells or supplies any commodity under a brand, label or identity using a product it produced, or a material supplied to it by another manufacturer, or supplier; and
(2) product manufacturer or importer that supplies its commodity for the use of the general consumer, or distributes the same as a material product of a brand owner; Provided, That for purposes of Article 2 of Chapter III-A, in case the commodities are manufactured, assembled or processed by a product manufacturer for another obliged enterprise which affixes its own brand name, the latter shall be deemed as the manufacturer;

"x x x"

"(q-1) Sustainable consumption and production shall refer to the use of services and related products that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while maintaining the use of natural resources and toxic materials, as well as the emission of wastes and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product, so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations;

"x x x"

SEC. 4. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9603 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. National Solid Waste Management Commission. - There is hereby established a National Solid Waste Management Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, under the Office of the President. The Commission shall be composed of eight (8) members from the government sector and five (5) members from the private sector. The government sector shall be represented by the heads of the following agencies in their ex officio capacity:

- (1) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
(2) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
(3) Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
(4) Department of Health (DOH);
(5) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
(6) Department of Agriculture (DA);
(7) Metro Manila Development Authority (QMDA); and
(8) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

"The private sector shall be represented by the following:

- (1) Three (3) representatives from non-government organizations (NGOs) with a track record on solid waste management or waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery;
(2) A representative from the recycling, composting, or resource recovery and processing industry; and
(3) A representative from the manufacturing industry, packaging industry, or obliged enterprises;

"x x x"

"Provided, That representatives from the private sector shall be appointed by the President for a term of three (3) years.

"x x x"

SEC. 5. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9603 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. The National Ecology Center. - There shall be established a National Ecology Center (NEC) under the Commission which shall provide technical expertise, information, training, and networking services for the implementation of the provisions of this Act. As part of its oversight function, the NSWMC shall have direct supervision over the NEC.

"In this regard, the NEC shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Facilitate training and education in integrated ecological solid waste management;
(b) Establish and manage a solid waste management information database, in coordination with the DTI and other concerned agencies;

"(1) on solid waste generation and management techniques as well as the management, technical and operational approaches to resource recovery;

"(2) of processors/recyclers, the list of materials being recycled or bought by them, and their respective prices; and

"(3) on the rate of recovery of each type of plastic waste, updated semi-annually;

"(4) Promote the development of a recycling market through the establishment of a national network that will enhance the opportunity to recycle;

"(5) Maintain an EPR Registry that contains the registered EPR programs submitted by obliged enterprises or Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs);

"(6) Monitor and evaluate the compliance of obliged enterprises and PROs, with the registration of their EPR programs;

"(7) Develop and maintain a database, which includes digital formats, subject to the provisions of Section 44-G, and ensure that it is reliable, efficient, secure, transparent, and accessible to the public;

"(8) Receive sampling and assessment reports submitted pursuant to second paragraph of Section 44-H and undertake the necessary action on such reports, or complaints from any citizen against a waste generator, an obliged enterprise, PRO, or waste management entity, for the purpose of improving compliance with the law;

"(9) Provide or facilitate expert assistance in pilot modeling of solid waste management facilities;

"(10) Develop, test, and disseminate model on waste minimization and reduction, auditing procedures for evaluating options; and

"(11) Within one (1) year after the effectivity of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, provide an assessment on the volume or frequency of other generated wastes, for priority inclusion in the EPR scheme.

"The National Ecology Center shall be headed by the Assistant Director of the Bureau in his/her ex officio capacity. The Assistant Director shall regularly submit reports as may be required by the NSWMC in its monthly meetings. The reports of the NEC shall be consolidated by the NSWMC Secretariat for submission to the NSWMC. The NEC shall maintain a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary pool of experts including those from the academe, inventors, practicing professionals, business and industry, youth, women, and other concerned sectors, who shall be screened according to qualifications set by the Commission."

SEC. 6. Republic Act No. 9603 is hereby further amended by inserting a new chapter after Chapter III to read as follows:

CHAPTER III-A EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

ARTICLE 1 National Framework for All Types of Product Wastes

"SEC. 31-A. National Framework for Extended Producer Responsibility. - Unless otherwise provided under Article 2 of this Chapter, within three (3) months following the effectivity of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, the Department, in consultation with the NSWMC, shall formulate a national framework on EPR for all types of product wastes. The framework shall include the following components:

- (a) Reduction of non-environment friendly products which may include the following activities and strategies:
(1) adoption of reusable products, or redesign of the products to improve its reusability, recyclability, or retrievability;
(2) inclusion of recycled content or recycled materials in a product;
(3) adoption of appropriate product refilling systems for retailers;
(4) viable reduction rates plan;
(5) information and education campaign schemes; and
(6) appropriate labeling of products, including the information thereon for the proper disposal of the waste product.

"(b) Product waste recovery programs aimed at effectively preventing waste from leaking to the environment, which may include the following activities:

- (1) waste recovery schemes through redemption, buy-back, offsetting, or any method or strategy that will efficiently result in the high retrievability, high recyclability, and resource recovery of waste products;
(2) diversion of recovered waste into value chains and value-adding useful products through recycling and other sustainable methods;
(3) transportation of recovered waste to the appropriate composting, recycling, or other diversion or disposal site in the country;
(4) clean-up of waste leaked to coastal areas, public roads, and other sites;
(5) establishment of commercial or industrial scale recycling, composting, thermal treatment, and other waste diversion or disposal facilities for waste products, when investment therein is viable; and
(6) partnership with LGUs, communities, and the informal waste sectors.



ARTICLE 2

Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging

SEC. 44-B. Obligated Enterprises Under This Article. - Product producers obliged to implement EPR under this Article shall refer to large enterprises that generate plastic packaging waste. Provided, however, that micro, small and medium enterprises defined under Republic Act No. 9501 shall not be covered. Provided, further, that in case the total value of assets of all enterprises carrying the same brand, label or trademark exceeds that of medium enterprises stated under Republic Act No. 9501, these enterprises shall be deemed obliged enterprises.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the immediately preceding paragraph, micro, small, and medium enterprises are encouraged to practice EPR voluntarily, or to be a part of the network of obliged enterprises or producer responsibility organizations practicing EPR.

SEC. 44-C. Plastic Packaging Covered by EPR. - For the purpose of Article 2 of Chapter III-A of this Act, plastic packaging shall refer to products utilized to carry, protect, or pack goods for transportation, distribution, and sale.

Elastic packaging shall include the following:

- (a) Sachets, labels, laminates and other flexible plastic packaging products, whether single layer or multi-layered with plastics or other materials;
(b) Rigid plastic packaging products, whether layered with any other materials, which include containers for beverages, food, home, personal care and cosmetic products, including their coverings, caps, or lids and other necessities or promotional items, such as cutlery, plates, drinking straws, or sticks, tarp, signage or labels;
(c) Plastic bags, which include single-use plastic bags for carrying or transporting of goods, and provided or utilized at the point of sale; and
(d) Polystyrene.

SEC. 44-D. EPR Standards. - Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 44-A, obliged enterprises shall, within six (6) months following the effectivity of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, establish or phase-in EPR programs for plastic packaging to achieve efficient management of plastic packaging waste, reduced production, importation, supply or use of plastic packaging deemed low in reusability, recyclability or retrievability, and plastic neutrality through efficient recovery and diversion schemes.

The programs under this section may include the activities and strategies stated under paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 44-A: Provided, That their mechanisms and strategies are submitted to the NSWMC, through the Department. Obligated enterprises shall institute an EPR program either individually or collectively, whether with or without a PRO.

SEC. 44-E. EPR Registration. - An obliged enterprise or the PRO shall register EPR programs with the NSWMC, through the Department.

The NSWMC shall ensure that the EPR programs submitted by an obliged enterprise or PRO, as the case may be, include the following information:

- (a) Obligated enterprise or PRO information, and contact information of the person responsible for its EPR;
(b) Specific type of packaging materials as covered by Section 44-C, and product brands;
(c) Whether the EPR program is to be implemented individually, collectively, or through a PRO;
(d) Verifiable volume or weight of the plastic packaging brought into the market within a specified period;
(e) Target volume or weight of plastic packaging waste for recovery, reuse, and recycling;
(f) Other EPR programs, such as the redesign of plastic packaging to improve reuse or recyclability;
(g) Labeling of packaging materials to facilitate recovery, reuse, recycling or proper disposal of packaging materials;
(h) Status of implementation of the EPR mechanisms; and
(i) Status of compliance.

As an initial compliance with the provisions of this section, obliged enterprises or PRO shall submit and register their EPR program to the NSWMC, through the Department, within six (6) months upon the effectivity of the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022.

The Department, through the Environmental Management Bureau, and in coordination with the NSWMC, shall monitor and evaluate the compliance of obliged enterprises or their PROs with their respective EPR programs. For this purpose, obliged enterprises or their PROs shall be required to submit annual compliance reports.

SEC. 44-F. Compliance Period for Plastic Packaging Recovery Programs. - Notwithstanding the provisions of the immediately preceding Article, and to give the obliged enterprises and PROs sufficient period to adjust to their EPR duties and responsibilities and improve their performance over time, obliged enterprises under this Article shall likewise establish and phase-in recovery programs

that will achieve plastic neutrality. The programs may include the activities stated under paragraph (b) of Section 44-A.

For this purpose, obliged enterprises that generate either rigid or flexible plastic packaging shall recover or offset their respective plastic packaging footprint.

The following targets for the recovery of plastic product footprint generated during the immediately preceding year are hereby set:

- December 31, 2023 - twenty percent (20%);
December 31, 2024 - forty percent (40%);
December 31, 2025 - fifty percent (50%);
December 31, 2026 - sixty percent (60%);
December 31, 2027 - seventy percent (70%); and
December 31, 2028 and every year thereafter - eighty percent (80%).

For this purpose, obliged enterprises shall submit the report of their compliance including appropriate documentation to the Department.

SEC. 44-G. Audit. - Obligated enterprises or their PROs shall establish and implement an auditing system to monitor and assess their compliance performance with this Act and their EPR programs. For this purpose, the obliged enterprise or their PRO shall engage an independent third-party auditor to verify the veracity of the reported plastic product footprint generation, recovery, and EPR program compliance, using uniform standards established by the Department. The audited report shall be submitted by the obliged enterprise or their PROs to the Department.

The certified reports on plastic product footprint generated and recovered by the obliged enterprises shall be made available to the public through the website of the Department: Provided, That a record, report, or information, or particular portion thereof deemed by the Department as confidential, shall not be made public when such would divulge trade secrets, production or sales figures, or methods and processes unique to the enterprise that would otherwise tend to adversely affect its competitive position.

SEC. 44-H. Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). - Obligated enterprises may voluntarily organize themselves to form or authorize a PRO for the purpose of establishing a viable platform to implement their EPR program under this Article.

For this purpose, the Department, in consultation with the NSWMC and obliged enterprises or their PRO, shall establish a system or parameters necessary to make the PRO sustainable and compliant with the purposes of this Act. These shall include standards, rules or guidelines for the following:

- (a) Organizational structure and leadership;
(b) Membership requirements;
(c) Duties and responsibilities, to include:
(1) implementation parameters of the EPR program;
(2) financing mechanisms;
(3) cooperation mechanism with other stakeholders, waste management entities, distributors, retailers, grocery and store owners, junkshop operators, and individuals or entities in the informal sector involved in waste management;
(4) implementation strategies;
(5) Setting standards towards plastic neutrality;
(6) Reporting, verification, and auditing of waste footprint generation, recovery, and diversion; and
(7) Data collection and database maintenance.

Sec. 7. Section 45 of Republic Act No. 9503 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 45. Incentives. -

- (a) Rewards and recognitions, monetary or otherwise, shall be provided to individuals, private organizations and entities, obliged enterprises, and PROs, including non-government organizations, that have undertaken outstanding and innovative projects, technologies, processes and techniques or activities in reuse, recycling, and reduction. Said rewards shall be sourced from the Fund herein created.
(b) An incentive scheme is hereby provided for the purpose of encouraging LGUs, enterprises, or private entities, including obliged enterprises, PROs, and NGOs, to develop or undertake an effective solid waste management, including recovery and diversion of plastic product footprint, or actively participate in any program geared towards the promotion thereof as provided for in this Act, as amended.

(c) Fiscal Incentives. -

Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, obliged enterprises or PROs acting on their behalf, and other registered business enterprises may apply for incentives following the approval process provided under Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, for eligible activities. Provided, That such activities shall undergo the standard processes in the identification

of qualified activities under the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP).

(b) The EPR expenses of obliged enterprises, PROs, and private enterprises shall be considered as necessary expenses deductible from gross income subject to the substantiation requirements for necessary business expenses deductible from gross annual income in accordance with Section 34(A)(1) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

(c) Tax and Duty Exemption of Donations, Legacies and Gifts - a x b.

SEC. A. Section 48 of Republic Act No. 9503 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 48. Fine and Penalties. - (a) x x x

(g) Any obliged enterprise that fails to register under Section 44-E or fails to comply with Section 44-F shall be imposed with the following fines:

- (1) a fine of not less than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) but not exceeding Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) for the first offense;
(2) a fine of not less than Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) but not exceeding Fifteen million pesos (P15,000,000.00) for the second offense; and
(3) a fine of not less than Fifteen million pesos (P15,000,000.00) but not exceeding Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) for the third offense and automatic suspension of business permit until the requirement of the law is complied with.

In case of failure to meet the target set under Section 44-F, the obliged enterprise shall pay the same fines set above, or a fine twice the cost of recovery and diversion of the footprint or its shortfall, whichever is higher.

The penalty shall be imposed whether or not the non-compliance is the result of the failure to register under Section 44-E, identification of documents, misadministration of generated or recovered footprint, employment of any scheme to maliciously evade the responsibility of an enterprise under the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, or tamper its compliance with the provisions of Section 44-F.

The Pollution Adjudication Board of the Department shall hear and adjudicate cases of violations or offenses under this section, and impose appropriate fines therefor.

SEC. 9. Mandatory Review. - Within five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, or as the need arises, Congress shall review the accomplishments, and impact of this Act, as well as the performance of its implementing agencies, and the compliance of obliged enterprises to achieve the objectives of this Act, for the purpose of determining the necessity of a remedial legislation mandating for more stringent footprint recovery targets, higher incentives, or phase-out of certain types of single-use plastic packaging.

Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the NEC shall further identify, review, and update the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and plastic packaging material that shall be phased out, especially those that are highly unnecessary or replaceable, or cannot be efficiently reused, recovered, or recycled, consistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. - The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the DENR under the General Appropriations Act: Provided, That obliged enterprises and the respective PROs shall be responsible for the funds necessary to operationalize and maintain the EPR programs, in compliance with this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DENR, in consultation with relevant government agencies, representatives from obliged enterprises, and other stakeholders shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 12. Section 68 of Republic Act No. 9503 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 68. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. - There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the implementation of the Act and to oversee the functions of the implementing agencies. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the Senate and the Committee on Ecology of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 13. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 14. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved:
LORD ALLAN V. Q. VELASCO Speaker of the House
VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate



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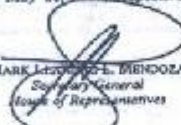
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11898

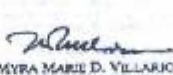
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This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 3425 and House Bill No. 10698 was passed by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives on May 23, 2022 and May 26, 2022, respectively.


MARK L. GOZON L. BANDOZA
Secretary General
House of Representatives


MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate

Approved:

Legal 2020 on Jul. 23 2022
without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27 (3) of the Constitution

RODRIGO ROA Duterte
President of the Philippines





TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE:

S. No. 2481 M. No. 10051

Republic of the Philippines Congress of the Philippines Metro Manila Eighteenth Congress Third Regular Session

Regun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11899]

AN ACT CREATING A SECOND CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW, ASSESS, AND EVALUATE THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE EDUCATION AND RECOMMEND INNOVATIVE AND TARGETED POLICY REFORMS IN EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality, accessible, adequate and relevant education at all levels. The State shall make education as a critical component of human capital development, socio-economic equality, inclusive growth, sustainable development, and fulfillment of human rights.

The State likewise adheres to the constitutional mandate of giving importance to the crucial roles of education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Towards this end, the State shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all, recognize the complementary roles of public and private education, and establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

SEC. 3. Objectives of EDCOM II. - In order to place education at the center of the development policies of the State, guided by a national vision on education, EDCOM II shall:

- (a) Set specific, targeted, measurable and time-bound goals that are products of a comprehensive assessment and evaluation, effective planning, and strategic investments in education;
(b) Develop a more holistic, harmonized and coordinated education ecosystem, through a review of the mandates of the three (3) agencies of education, namely: the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
(c) Prioritize the adoption of digital transformation in education, and the use of science, technology and innovation through the promotion of digital literacy, and development of critical thinking, problem-solving and other related core competencies at par with global standards;
(d) Promote the development of 21st century skills, including creativity, communication, collaboration, social skills, leadership, and initiative;
(e) Institutionalize educational reforms necessary to meet the new challenges to education, such as the implementation of alternative learning and delivery modes for basic education, higher education and post-secondary technical/vocational education and training as part of the adjustments and responses to the global pandemic, and the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution characterized, among others, by digital revolution or the rapid development of information technology such as artificial intelligence, automation, data analytics, blockchain, data mining, quantum computing, and internet of things analytics; and
(f) Recommend the adoption and institutionalization of relevant and meaningful assessment tools, such as teaching and learning competencies assessment tools, based on the best global practices which shall be used by educational agencies and institutions for their continued monitoring, evaluation, and development.

SEC. 4. Creation of EDCOM II. - There is hereby created an EDCOM II, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to undertake a comprehensive national assessment and evaluation of the performance of the Philippine education sector for the purpose of recommending transformative, concrete and targeted reforms in the sector with the end in view of making the Philippines globally competitive in both education and labor markets.

SEC. 5. Composition of EDCOM II. - The Commission shall be composed of ten (10) members, with five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the House of Representatives.

The Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, and on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education, and the Chairpersons of the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and an Higher and Technical Education shall serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Commission.

The other three (3) members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively.

The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation, but travelling, communications, and other necessary expenses shall be allowed, subject to existing laws, and rules and regulations.

SEC. 6. Duration of EDCOM II. - The Commission shall accomplish its mandate within three (3) years from its organization. It shall organize itself and commence its mandate upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of EDCOM II. - The Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Review, assess, and evaluate the formal and alternative learning systems of education, including continuing systems of education at all levels and the policies on licensure examinations conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission, the employment eligibility by the Civil Service Commission, and the competency assessment and certification by the TESDA.

(b) Recommend the improvement in the harmonization of the policies and programs of the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA.

(c) Formulate short-term and long-term policy and program recommendations that consist of specific, targeted, measurable and time-bound solutions to include, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) sectoral plans and targets;
(2) education governance and management;
(3) physical and digital infrastructure;
(4) educational trainings and programs;
(5) financing; and
(6) coordination among departments and sectors concerned with human resources management and development;
(7) Approve the workplans for the conduct of the national review, assessment and harmonization tasks and the budget for the programs of the Commission and all disbursements therefrom, including compensation of all personnel;
(8) Hire and appoint employees and personnel on temporary, contractual, or on consultancy basis;
(9) Hold hearings and receive testimonies, reports and expert advice on the status of Philippine education, extract available options to identify problems, and coordinate relevant sources of action as remedies;
(10) Summon by subpoena any public official or private person to testify before it, or require by subpoena duces tecum the production of necessary documents, as may be necessary;
(11) Secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the government such assistance, including technical information, preparation and production of reports, and the submission of recommendations or plans, as may be required;
(12) Conduct multi-stakeholder consultations, using proper mechanisms and guidance;
(13) Collaborate with emerging and innovative industries and services for the sharing of important information relative to their practices on specialized learning or apprenticeship programs in line with Republic Act No. 7888, or the "Dual Training System Act of 1994", and other related laws, to prepare the learners, students and the newly-hired workers to meet the demands of 21st century skills and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

(d) Review and act upon the recommendations of the Technical Secretariat or Standing Committee, or both, as it may deem appropriate;

(e) Report to Congress its accomplishments on a periodic basis, its findings and recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress, the departments, and other government agencies concerned with education, and provide a final report at the end of the existence of the Commission. The report shall include a roadmap with clear key performance indicators and results framework to address the learning crisis, with the following guiding principles:

- (1) Strategic - solutions have to be key drivers of improved learning outcomes;
(2) Inclusive - solutions need to address learning inequities;
(3) Resilient - solutions are sustainable and adaptable to global trends and future challenges; and
(4) Systemic - solutions should address issues that are systemic in nature;
(f) Recommend additional legislation to further the objectives of this Act;
(g) Formulate the necessary rules and guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act; and
(h) Exercise all other powers necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 8. National Assessment and Evaluation: Scope. - Pursuant to Section 4 of this Act, the national assessment and evaluation shall include the following:

- (a) Review of the observance of the mandates of the laws that created the three (3) education agencies, namely: DepEd, CHED and TESDA;
(b) Determination of factors that have contributed to the continuing failure in performance on identified subject areas to meet the desired international and local standards;

(c) Recommendation of specific, targeted and time-bound solutions to enable the education agencies to improve their performance vis-a-vis measurable indicators and deliver accessible, inclusive and quality education that is at par with world standards;

(d) Identification of best practices of various national and international educational institutions that can be adopted across the entire education system;

(e) Proposal for a monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure the timely achievement of set targets;

(f) Determination of the role of local government units (LGUs) in the delivery of basic education services;

(g) Reduction of the gap between the learning outcomes of higher education and the required competencies of the world of work through the adoption of a higher education curriculum that is relevant and responsive to the changing demands of industries and the labor market; and

(h) Adoption and use of trends in sectoral quality and performance and evaluation, including new ways of teaching and learning, assessment and certification of knowledge and skills, improvements in education governance, and new architectural and engineering designs for schools and auxiliary facilities.

SEC. 9. Standing Committee. - The members of the Commission shall establish from among its members standing committees, to be chaired by each member or experts from multi-sectoral groups, and engage resource persons from the public and private sectors as may be needed.

The standing committees shall include the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Philippine Sports Commission in their respective consultations to ensure that arts and sports education are integrated into the education system.

SEC. 10. Technical Secretariat. - A Technical Secretariat, to be headed by an Executive Director (ED), shall be organized to provide technical and administrative support to the Commission in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under Section 7 of this Act.

The Technical Secretariat shall co-exist with the Commission.

SEC. 11. Executive Director. - The ED to be appointed by the Commission must be a recognized expert with experience both in the fields of education and management. The ED shall work full-time and shall have the rank, privileges, and emoluments of an Executive Director IV (Salary Grade 30).

SEC. 12. Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) as Research Arm. - The PIDS shall serve as the research arm of the Commission. During the course of the Commission's existence, it shall produce data-based research and provide analysis to contribute to the formulation of education policy recommendations.

SEC. 13. Education, Legislation and Policy Advisory Council. - An Education, Legislation and Policy Advisory Council (Advisory Council) is hereby created to provide the Commission with expert testimony and advice. The members of the Advisory Council shall always be present in all meetings of the Commission. The Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall choose recognized experts from the following sectors to form part of the Advisory Council: two (2) members from the academe, two (2) members from the business sector, two (2) members from the government education agencies, two (2) members who are heads of LGUs, and two (2) members from civil society organizations and development partners engaged in education.

SEC. 14. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation, including any deficiency in the current year, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 15. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, instances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 17. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved: LORE ALAN V. Q. VELASCO Speaker of the House of Representatives and VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 2485 and House Bill No. 10356 was passed by the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives on May 23, 2022.

MARIE CLARA M. MENDOZA Secretary General House of Representatives and MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA Secretary of the Senate

Approved: Legend into law JUL 21 2022 without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27 (1) of the Constitution. RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE President of the Philippines

28 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH expands second COVID-19 booster rollout

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 27, 2022 | 8:42am



A medical worker prepares the Pfizer-BioNtech Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11 at a gym in San Juan City, suburban Manila on February 7, 2022.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health has issued guidelines for the rollout of a second booster shot for people aged 50 and up, and individuals with comorbidities aged 18 to 49.

In a statement Tuesday evening, only the COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna will be used for the vaccination of the expanded population groups. The second booster dose must be administered at least four months after the first booster.

The agency advised eligible individuals to check with the announcements of their nearest local government unit or private sector vaccination site for the schedules.

They only need to present their vaccination card and a valid ID. A medical certificate is not required, even for those with comorbidities as there are doctors in vaccination sites who will assess and make the determination.

The DOH also launched a campaign aiming to administer boosters to 23.6 million individuals within the first 100 days of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The drive also seeks to immunize 90% of the target senior citizen population.

COVID-19 jabs will be made available in workplaces, factories, schools, places of worship, plazas, malls, and transport terminals.

“As vaccine immunity wanes over time, we are dedicated to helping our people remain protected against COVID-19. We are making it easier for as many of our people to avail of the primary series and boosters—including second boosters,” said Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, officer-in-charge of the DOH.

Since March 2021, over 71.5 million Filipinos have completed vaccination against COVID-19.

Nearly 16 million people have gotten the first booster shot, while only 1.2 million individuals, mostly belonging to the vulnerable population, have received their second booster dose.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/27/2198308/doh-expands-second-covid-19-booster-rollout>

28 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



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