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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



BBM prefers OP disaster body rather than new dep't

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Rather than creating yet another new executive department, President Marcos yesterday expressed support for his sister's proposal to create a disaster body under the Office of the President.

He voiced his support a day after backing a measure seeking the creation of a Department for Disaster Resilience.

During a briefing on the effects of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Abra, Sen. Imee Marcos said the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has to be empowered and recommended the creation of an authority or a commission on disasters, instead of a full-scale department.

"Rather than full-scale department that will only lead to the depletion of the budget because of the salaries of five usecs (undersecretaries) and several asecs (assistant secretaries), can we start (with) an NDRRMC authority or administration?" the senator said in Filipino and English.

Senator Marcos told the President the budget department started as a commission during the time of their father, the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

The President agreed with his sister, saying the government should "dis-abuse" itself of the idea of forming new departments.

"We are siblings, indeed. I fully agree," the President said. "I don't think we need that because you don't really have to form policy."

In a press conference at Malacañang last Wednesday, he had expressed support for a bill creating a disaster resilience department, citing the need to strengthen the country's capability to mitigate the impact of disasters.

"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.

"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."

At yesterday's briefing, the President said the government only has to implement search and rescue missions. He said one of the good models he has seen is that of the United States' Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is only an adjunct to the American counterpart of the interior department.

In its website, FEMA said it coordinates with other agencies to ensure the US's readiness to respond to disasters.

The President said the bill creating a strengthened disaster body should be readied. His sister then informed him that she has already filed such a measure.

She said the body can be under the Office of the President but should only be an authority or administration "so we can save on costs."

Speaker Martin Romualdez, cousin of the senator and the President, also expressed support for the bill.

"We shall support the good senator's proposal here, owing to the fact that we have always been looking for best practices in FEMA," he said.

The senator told the Speaker that her bill is different from the one filed in the House.

"The problem with the House version is, it used the word 'department.' Waray thinking is really different from the Ilocano thinking," she said in Filipino.

Romualdez expressed readiness to "rightsize" the House bill.



Call to create disaster department pushed

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Sen. Bong Go has renewed his call for the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) to ensure quicker response and more proactive and holistic approach to dealing with calamities and other natural disasters.

He made the appeal following the earthquake that struck Northern Luzon, particularly Abra province, on Wednesday. The earthquake was felt in Metro Manila and other areas.

"I'm confident our government is always prepared to help our countrymen recover. I'm also willing to help our affected countrymen in whatever capacity," he said in a statement.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology initially measured the quake at magnitude 7.3 but later revised it to 7.0. The epicenter was about three kilometers northwest of the municipality of Tayum in Abra province, and was also felt in nearby areas and various parts of Luzon.

The disaster, according to Go, makes his long-running clamor for the establishment of the DDR even more relevant.

"Once established, we will have a Cabinet secretary-level department whose primary tasks are not limited to extending immediate assistance but also ensuring the rapid recovery and rehabilitation of affected communities," said Go in Filipino. "Immediate return to normalcy is one of the most important mandates of the envisioned DDR."

Go has reintroduced in the 19th Congress Senate Bill 188 to establish the DDR. The measure seeks to create a highly specialized agency that will be tasked with ensuring adaptive, disaster-resilient and safe communities.

The DDR will bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies.

To support the DDR's functions and responsibilities, an Integrated Disaster Resilience Information System would be created to serve as a database for all relevant disaster risk reduction and climate change information.

Moreover, the bill provides for the establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance Action Center, a one-stop shop for the processing and release of goods, equipment and services, in order to guarantee the timely delivery of assistance to disaster-stricken areas.

It likewise provides for remedial measures for areas under a state of calamity, such as the imposition of price ceiling on

basic necessities and prime commodities, programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair of public infrastructure and grant of no-interest loans by lending institutions to vulnerable groups or individuals.

The measure establishes the National Disaster Operations Center and Alternative Command and Control Centers to monitor, manage and respond to disasters.

There will also be a Disaster Resilience Research and Training Institute which will offer training and collect, manage and share information to improve the country's resilience.

"I will never stop pushing for this proposed measure because the life of every Filipino is important. Let's not wait for another tragedy or disaster to happen before we take action. Let's act now to protect our countrymen," he said.

Go likewise called on his fellow senators to pass SB 193, or his Mandatory Evacuation Center Bill, that will require the establishment of such safe, dedicated and equipped centers in every province nationwide.

The bill also provides the minimum requirements for every evacuation center, including the location, structural or building capacity and amenities and accessibility.

In particular, the evacuation centers shall be constructed and designed to withstand super typhoons or wind speeds of at least 300 kilometers per hour and seismic activity of at least magnitude 8.0.

The evacuation centers should be calamity-resilient and in accordance with the specifications of Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines and should be at par with the standards set by the International Building Code.

Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Loren Legarda on Wednesday also called for the passage of a department that would handle risk reduction during and after disasters like flooding, earthquake and typhoons.

During the third session at the Senate on Wednesday, Cayetano manifested on the floor that the Senate leadership ask the Palace to certify the bill as urgent. He filed a bill seeking the creation of an Emergency Response Department.

"So personally, I'll be drafting a letter addressed to Malacañang asking this bill to be certified urgent, but if the majority leader can consider it in the rules committee meeting, if the Senate would like to ask that this bill be certified as urgent, I would greatly appreciate it," Cayetano added.



Disaster resilience in focus anew

By **Malaya Business Insight** -July 29, 2022

'Disaster readiness and risk reduction has become the buzzword in schools and governments, as nations become aware that they need to make use of modern technology to counter the effects of natural and even man-made disasters to save lives.'

ALTHOUGH the proposal to create a Department of Disaster Resilience is not among the 19 priority bills President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. mentioned to legislators in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), a magnitude 7 earthquake that struck Luzon on Wednesday jolted Malacañang into putting disaster resilience in focus.

The northern Luzon temblor was particularly devastating, especially in the province of Abra, part of the Cordillera Administrative Region and the hardest hit area, where a total of 1,729 families had to move to evacuation areas because their homes were damaged and some 51 government buildings were hit, too.

Centuries-old churches in the Ilocos region were also damaged, along with roads and bridges in Region 1. The tourist city of Baguio was shaken, too, with Kennon Road having landslides and is now closed to all motorists.

The quake served as a jolting wake-up call for Malacañang, and President Bongbong Marcos himself faced the media to brief the nation about the catastrophe that claimed the lives of four Filipinos, with more than 50 others hurt and wounded. It was also a chance for new Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo to shine and do what his office is mandated to do, and it looked like he passed with flying colors.

With President Marcos' endorsement of the measure on disaster resilience, the number of priority bills which Congress has to act if it is really a reliable ally of the Chief Executive has become 20.

The measure proposes that 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."

Disaster readiness and risk reduction has become the buzzword in schools and governments, as nations become aware that they need to make use of modern technology to counter the effects of natural and even man-made disasters to save lives.

The Philippines is located in the Pacific Rim of Fire, where volcanoes abound and typhoons are normal occurrences, so the government should make all efforts at mitigating them through rigid preparedness and timely response.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/news_opinion/disaster-resilience-in-focus-anew/



Loren calls for disaster preparedness

Published on: July 28, 2022

By Jerome Carlo Paunan

In the wake of 7.0 magnitude earthquake

MANILA, (PIA) -- Senator Loren Legarda has called for the strengthening of disaster preparedness following the strong earthquake that hit the Philippines, Wednesday morning.

“Let’s strengthen our preparedness to disaster risk, whether it’s human induced or not. Retrofitting old infrastructure and building right at first sight will help in preventing disaster loss,” Senator Loren Legarda said.

In November 2021, the World Bank approved the Fourth Disaster Risk Management Policy Loan with a Catastrophe-Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT-DDO) of \$500 million for the Government of the Philippines.

This line of credit is intended to strengthen the country’s institutional and financial capacity to manage risks from climate change, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks.

After Typhoon Odette and the declaration of State of Calamity by then President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the Department of Finance (DOF) applied for a \$200 million drawdown in December 2021 and January 2022.

The Philippines still has \$300 million from the DRM Standby Loan Facility of the World Bank, which can be utilized for coordination and relief operations considering the aftermath of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

“Let us invest in where it truly matters so our development gains would not be wasted come another disaster,” Legarda added. **(PIA-NCR)**



After quake, disaster resilience bill is more urgent

JUL 28, 2022, 1:10 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

Ang Probinsiyano Partylist Rep. delos Santos is working with the House leadership to expedite the passage of the Department of Disaster Resilience bill, which had been approved by the previous Congress on third and final reading.

Rep. Alfred delos Santos, Ang Probinsiyano partylist, said he is working with the House leadership to expedite the passage of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience and the Laging Handa Act and Animal Calamity Rescue bills after Wednesday's magnitude 7 quake, which rocked Abra and wide portions of northern Luzon and the Cordillera Autonomous Region and parts of the Ilocos region. The quake was also felt in the National Capital Region.

Delos Santos said he also mobilized their volunteers all over Luzon to respond to the aftermath of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake with epicenter in Tayum, Abra.

He said, "this strong earthquake that struck us should be the last reminder to Congress on the urgent necessity of creating the Department of Disaster Resilience."

"Sobrang lakas ng lindol kanina sa bandang Abra at mga karatig lugar. Pinakikilos na namin ngayon ang mga volunteers ng Ang Probinsiyano Party-list sa buong Luzon para tugunan ang anumang pangangailangan ng ating mga kapwa Probinsiyano," Rep. Delos Santos said.

He said their volunteers shall "proceed with caution" because of the continuing aftershocks since the first powerful quake at 8:43am.

"Makikipag-coordinate ang ating volunteers sa mga mayor, governor, mga local chapters ng Philippine Red Cross, at mga ahensya tulad ng Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Health."

DDR

"I was a co-author of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill during the 18th Congress. It was approved on third and final reading; so, I add my voice in agreement to the fast track approach to bills that the House previously approved on third and final reading," Rep. Delos Santos said.

He added that he agrees with fellow Bicolano Rep. Joey Salceda and Deputy Speaker Isidro Ungab on invoking Section 48 of the House Rules to expedite the need to have priority bills enacted into laws.



“Ipinapaalala rin ng lindol na ito ang kagyat na pangangailangan ng ating archipelago na maging handa sa anumang sakuna. Inaasahan ko na ang ating Laging Handa bill at ang kaugnay nitong Department of Disaster Resilience bill ay makakasama sa mga uunahing madaliin sa Kamara,” he said.

“We did not have a DDR when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. We could have fared better against COVID if we had the DDR in place.

Laging Handa and Animal Calamity Rescue bills

Rep. Delos Santos said his Laging Handa bill (HB 1923) provides for “Integration of Basic Medical Training and Disaster Awareness or Response in all institutions of learning, including but not limited to, schools, colleges, universities, vocational learning institutions.”

“The schools would be mandated to integrate into their respective curricula and make available to all its students relevant and updated subjects, units, and electives, or courses, regarding basic medical training, national emergency or disaster awareness, preparedness, and response,” he said.

Implementing agencies in HB 1923 are the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMMC).

“Our Animal Calamity Rescue bill (HB 1915) addresses the lack of guidelines about the rescue of livestock and working animals during times of calamity. Many of our fellow Filipinos depend on their animals for their livelihood or business, and their rescue during disasters would reduce calamity impacts on households and enterprises,” the Ang Probinsyano congressman also said.

He notes that his proposed Medical Reserve Corps Act is one of the priority legislative measures of the President. “We shall file it again this 19th Congress.”

“We also need to check if there is a need to revisit the National Building Code. An updated National Building Code would make houses, buildings, bridges, power systems, water systems, and roads, especially in the provinces, resilient to disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and flooding,” Delos Santos said.



Inclement weather, poverty compound woes of some Abra earthquake victims

By: [Daniza Fernandez](#) - Reporter / [@DFernandezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:43 PM July 28, 2022



Around 30 individuals are staying in one makeshift tent in Lagangilang, Abra following the magnitude 7 earthquake. (Daniza Fernandez / INQUIRER.net)

ABRA, Philippines — Following the strong [magnitude 7.0 earthquake](#) that jolted Abra and many parts of Luzon, some displaced residents are starting to struggle with the inclement weather and lack of basic necessities while sheltered in makeshift tents.

“Napakahirap po kasi po wala po kaming matuluyan lalo na po ngayong umuulan. Tapos wala na rin pong pinagtatrabahuan ‘yung mga magulang namin kaya hindi po namin alam kung saan kami kukuha ng mga gastusin, mga pagkain,” Rainier Omlero of Barangay Nagtipulan in Lagangilang, Abra, the epicenter of the earthquake, told [INQUIRER.net](#) on Thursday.

(It is difficult because we have nowhere to go, especially now that it is the rainy season. Also, our parents are currently jobless, we do not know where to get money for our daily expenses.) Omlero stays in one of the makeshift tents made of materials donated by neighbors whose houses were nor badly damaged.

“Napakalamig po tapos minsan pa po maraming lamok, mga langgam. Minsan po nababasa na po kami sa ulan tapos mahangin pa kaya nababasa po ‘yung mga damit namin,” Omlero lamented when asked about their situation in the makeshift tent.

(It is cold and sometimes, there are many mosquitoes and ants. Sometimes, we get damp from the rain, at times, it is even windy that is why our clothes get wet.)



One of the damaged houses is Abra after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake jolted the province and other parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila Wednesday morning. (Daniza Fernandez / INQUIRER.net)



Omlero shared that during the day, some of them are heading to farms to harvest vegetables. According to Omlero, an officer from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has already visited the area and told them to not enter their residences as it is still unsafe.

“Mas okay sa’kin ‘yung du’n na lang muna kami sa tolda kaysa du’n sa dati naming bahay kasi hindi pa namin alam kung anong mangyayari o kung may lindol pa kaming nararanasan,” he said.

(It is better for us to stay in the makeshift tent instead of our house because we do not know what will happen or if more earthquakes will occur.)

Omlero [appealed for donations](#), particularly tents, food, and blankets.

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Afraid of aftershocks, some Abra residents line up for tents, water

By GMA News **Published** July 28, 2022 11:11pm

Still afraid to return to their homes because of aftershocks and uncertain of the safety of their houses, some residents of Bangued, Abra lined up for tents and water after the Magnitude 7 quake hit Northern Luzon on Wednesday.

According to Ivy Hernando's report on "24 Oras", residents formed queues to get tents that will serve as their temporary shelter after the powerful quake.

"Pasilungan lang namin matulog. Kasi po natakot kaming matulog sa bahay namin," resident Lilia Vargas said.

(It will serve as our shelter when we go to sleep because we are afraid to return to our house.)

The family of resident Pepito Bargas stayed under the bamboo tree after the powerful quake.

"Takot kaming matulog sa loob ng bahay dahil nagigiba naman na. Hindi pa tapos," Bargas said.

(We were afraid to sleep inside the house because it has been damaged. The aftershocks are also not over yet.)

Meanwhile, residents also lined up at a water refilling station to get clean water.

"Nahihirapan kami sa pagpapa-refill dahil sarado lahat ang mga establishment," resident John Cleo Sid-Ay said.

(We were having trouble getting refills because all the establishments are closed.)

Some were in line since Wednesday but their water gallons have yet to be filled.

"Nawalan ng kuryente kahapon hindi kami nakapag-igib kasi," resident Junie Briones said.

(The electricity was cut off yesterday because of that we were unable to store water.)

"Baka mag-extend po kasi marami kaming kakargahan" Gershon Rosario, employee of water refilling station, said.

(Our services will be extended because there are lots of water gallons to fill.)

The Bangued water district, on the other hand, was also giving fresh water in those areas without water supply until now.

More than 5,000 residents were evacuated throughout the province, while over 2,300 families or 5,300 individuals were affected by the earthquake.

A state of calamity was [declared in the province of Abra](#) on Thursday.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) chief Renato Solidum said a total of [828 aftershocks have been recorded](#) as of 11 a.m. on Thursday.

The PHIVOLCS said incidents of aftershocks are expected to continue in the next several weeks following the magnitude 7 earthquake. -Richa Noriega/NB, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/839781/afraid-of-aftershocks-some-abra-residents-line-up-for-tents-water/story/?fbclid=IwAR2Wqn_ar9KpmCUYWrcnXeS3ZvaI8nk7wKJza5CxXuqn6xHYPUx0--hO7eM



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Abra under calamity state

By ROMINA CABRERA

Up to 887 aftershocks were recorded since the magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Abra on Wednesday morning, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Of this number, 210 were plotted earthquakes or those that were located by three or more Phivolcs stations, the agency said.

There were also 24 earthquakes with magnitude range of 1.5 to 5.0, including a 5.0 magnitude quake recorded yesterday at 4 a.m. in Tayum, Abra, with Intensity IV felt in Bangued.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said aftershocks can be expected in the next few weeks, but the bulk of these might be in the first three days.

He urged the public, local and national government units to strengthen disaster preparedness response in light of the Abra earthquake.

Metro Manila, for example,

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Top photo shows boulders falling as a vehicle negotiates a road during an earthquake in Bauko, Mountain Province on July 27. One passenger was injured after a boulder hit the vehicle. At left, President Marcos meets with displaced residents during a visit to Bangued, Abra yesterday. Right photo shows a damaged monument of Gen. Antonio Luna built in 1938 at the Tayum Town Plaza. AP, JESSE BUSTOS



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could be due for a major earthquake as the West Valley Fault is nearing its 400-year lower limit since its last movement in the 1600s.

"When? 1600s, so it's near the 400-year lower limit. Nonetheless, that fault will move. Not a question if it will happen, it is when it will happen and we must prepare for it," he said over One News' "The Chiefs" on Wednesday night.

A study conducted by Philvolcs with other international agencies showed that the death toll from a catastrophic earthquake that may hit Metro Manila could reach 31,000 to 33,500 individuals.

Solidum noted that steps could already be taken to re-

duce the devastation of the earthquake, such as decongesting Metro Manila and ensuring that all structures are structurally sound. He said that about 10 percent of buildings could be seriously affected, and 40 percent might be slightly affected if the "Big One" comes.

"If we can lower the effect on infrastructure, and the people's lives, the disaster scale will be manageable so we can be able to recover in a fast manner," he said.

State of calamity

The Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Abra yesterday issued a resolution placing the province under a state of calamity.

"Such a disaster has destroyed power lines, placing Abra into province-wide brownout and the destruction

of houses, buildings and bridges have paralyzed the operation of businesses establishments, likewise displacing a lot of Abraños as they stay out of their homes without food," the resolution read.

"In order for the provincial government of Abra to immediately address the needs of the people in the aftermath of the earthquake, it is imperative to declare the entire province of Abra under a state of calamity," it added.

The resolution said the provincial and 27 local government units would be mobilized to respond to the needs of individuals, while five percent of the calamity reserve fund will also be made available as assistance.

The province will request immediate aid from all na-

tional government agencies for disaster response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction support.

Casualties

The number of reported deaths due to the quake rose to five on Wednesday, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

NDRRMC spokesman Mark Timbal yesterday said there are now five reported casualties - four in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and a fifth in Ilocos Sur - still subject for verification.

There were also 131 injuries recorded, 114 of which were confirmed. There were no recorded missing individuals.

According to the NDRRMC's situational report, 149 ba-

rangays were affected by the earthquake, equivalent to 3,456 families or 12,945 individuals, while 541 displaced families are staying in 21 evacuation centers.

About 857 houses were partially damaged, while 11 were totally damaged. The earthquake also resulted in P318 million in damaged infrastructure.

A villager died from fatal injuries when he was buried in a landslide in Sitio Boga, Bacangay Monamon in Bako, Mountain Province on Thursday morning, according to the Bako Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

Andres Sagayo, 58, and his family were holding a wake for a dead close relative when a huge landslide occurred, burying him. Rescue and retrieval operation immediately ensued but Sagayo was declared dead on arrival at the Lutheran Hospital in Ahatan, Buguias, Benguet.

Agri, infra damage

Damage to agriculture caused by the earthquake has reached P3.88 million, based on initial estimates of the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center. The affected infrastructure include farm-to-market roads, a diversion dam and communal irrigation systems.

In a separate statement, state-run National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said initial damage to irrigation facilities has reached P15 million.

Meanwhile, the Upper Chico River Irrigation System in Kalinga and West Apayao/Abulog Irrigation System intake gates were closed for inspection of possible damage on canal embankment.

While NIA Magat River Integrated Irrigation System reported no damage in its facilities, it has yet to inspect drainage gulchies due to the aftershocks. MARIS will be requesting experts from NIA Central Office for joint dam safety inspection and evaluation.

In Upper Pamponga River Integrated Irrigation Systems, department manager Rosalinda Bore instructed all UPRIS offices to assess dams, canal structures and office buildings right after the earthquake.

The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management (RDRRM) of DA-CAR reported 14 road closures caused by soil collapse, rockslides and cracks along the road lines, as assessed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The DA also gave assurance that supply and prices of agriculture commodities remain stable despite road closures in quake-affected areas.

According to the RDRRM team of DA-CAR, the road closures pose no significant effect to the delivery and transport of agriculture and fishery products to the trading areas in Metro Manila as

local government units and concerned agencies have conducted clearing operations.

DA Undersecretary Kristine Evangelista said they are releasing financial assistance to farmers and mobilizing Kadiwa mobile stores for affected residents in Abra.

DA-CAR has mobilized two Kadiwa trucks loaded with three metric tons of assorted goods and basic food items to the municipalities of San Quintin, Pidigan, Bangued, Tayum, Dolores, Laganglang and Bucay in Abra.

Public Works Secretary Manuel Boncan yesterday said they were able to clear and reopen vital sections of 17 national roads in the CAR and Ilocos region that were rendered impassable following the earthquake that hit northern Luzon.

He said some 2,226 personnel and 408 equipment and vehicles of DPWH Quick Response Teams are still pursuing clearing operations in CAR and Region I.

As of yesterday, the DPWH placed the partial cost of damage to national roads at P99.23 million.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines deployed 14 search, rescue and retrieval teams to areas affected by the earthquake, while the Department of Tourism directed its regional offices to coordinate with LGUs to determine the damage and extend assistance to affected establishments.

The Philippine National Police also ordered all police commanders in Northern Luzon and nearby regions to mobilize all available equipment for rescue, relief and road-clearing operations.

Free call, internet

Telco providers have strengthened their free call and internet services in areas damaged by the quake, as they also opened their digital platforms as a donation hub for disaster assistance.

Ayala-led Globe Telecom Inc. yesterday said quake survivors may avail themselves of unlimited voice consultations and one free video consultation on telemedicine app KonsultaMD from July 27 to Aug. 30 using the code LIBRENGKONSULTA.

Globe has also deployed free calls, free charging and free internet services in Benguet, Abra.

Pangilman-led DTI Inc. and its wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. activated five free call and free internet stations in Abra, Benguet and Ilocos Sur.

Apart from this, PLDT and Smart vowed to work with local government units for relief distribution in affected communities.

- With Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Richmond Mercurio, Arterio Dumlao, Rainier Alan Ronda, Daisea Rivera, Elijah Felice Rosales, Ralph Edwin Villanueva



Luzon earthquake damaged 3,494 houses, 51 buildings – DILG

By: [Beatrice Pinlac](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:38 PM July 28, 2022



A damaged house in Abra (Daniza Fernandez / INQUIRER.net)

MANILA, Philippines — The [magnitude 7.0 earthquake that jolted Abra](#) and other parts of Luzon on Wednesday damaged 3,494 houses and 51 buildings damaged, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Citing its initial assessment, the DILG on Thursday said the powerful tremor left 317 houses and two private buildings in ruins, while 3,177 houses and 49 buildings were partially damaged.

“Residents and volunteer groups likewise have to face the challenge of transportation as 47 roads and six bridges were reportedly impassable or partially impassable,” the DILG said in a statement.

It added that 19 local government units (LGUs) have since reported [continuous power interruptions](#).

“LGUs in the hard-hit areas of Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera Administrative Region are on top of the situation and will continue to respond to the needs of our citizens,” DILG chief **Benhur Abalos** said.

“Our LGUs have already convened their respective Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Managements Councils and have activated the red alert status,” he added.

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake on Wednesday morning [left at least five individuals dead](#). Abra has already declared a [state of calamity](#).

gsg



173 gusali sa CAR nasira ng lindol

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 28, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Umabot sa 173 gusali sa Cordillera Administrative Region na pag-aari ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor ang nagkaroon ng damage sa nangyaring 7.0 na lindol.

Ayon sa ulat kay Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ni Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos Jr., bukod sa 173 gusali na nagkaroon ng damage, mayroon ding 60 nasugatan at sa inisyal na ulat ay apat ang nasawi sa CAR.

Kabilang sa CAR ang mga probinsiya ng Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga at Mountain Province at Baguio City.

Sa 173 gusali na nasira, 33 ay nasa Baguio City, 59 sa Abra, dalawa sa Apayao, 62 sa Benguet, 7 sa Kalinga, at 10 sa Mountain Province.

“Sa buildings ito lang ho iaano ko lang, sa Baguio 33 were affected, tapos 59 dito po sa Abra, sa Apayao dalawa, tapos sa Benguet 62, pagkatapos po sa Kalinga 7, and then sa Mountain Province 10 po. That’s a total of 173.

Iniulat din ni Abalos na 58 na landslides ang naitala na karamihan o 31 ay nangyari sa Abra at tatlong tulay ang nasira sa probinsiya.

Ayon pa kay Abalos, bukod sa CAR, apektado rin ang Regions 1 at 2 at 15 probinsiya samantalang nakapagtala ng “minor damages” sa ibang rehiyon.

“Ang affected regions po ay I, II, and CAR; 15 provinces are affected; 15 cities; 280 municipalities; 6,756 barangays. Ang initial reports po are there are road closures in some parts of Abra; power interruptions in Abra and Benguet; intermittent communication lines in Region I; landslides in some parts of CAR; minor damages in other regions,” ani Abalos.



7 nasawi, 1 hinahanap pa sa gumuhong tulay sa Dasmariñas

(Philstar.com) - July 28, 2022 - 10:04am



Retrieval operation ng otoridad sa gumuhong tulay sa Dasmariñas, Cavite.
Dasmariñas City Councilor Kiko Barzaga and Benedict Samson

MANILA, Philippines — Magdamag ang naging retrieval operation ng Philippine Coast Guard upang matagpuan ang isa pang binatilyong nawawala mula sa gumuhong tulay sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite noong Martes ng gabi.

Una nang nakakuha ng bangkay ng isang lalaki noong Miyerkules ng madaling araw. Habang alas-7 naman ng gabi Miyerkules naiahon ang anim pang bangkay na nasawi rin sa pagguho ng tulay.

Isa na lang ang hinahanap sa naturang gumuhong tulay sa Sitio Talisayan, Sampaloc IV.

Pahirapan ang paghahanap dahil may kalaliman ang ilog at marami ring bakal at semento ang bumagsak kaya naman ang tantiya ng retrieval team, mahihirapan sila dahil posibleng nakadagan ang mga ito sa katawan ng biktima.

Iniisa isa naman nang alisin ng backhoe ang mga bloke ng semento at malalaking bakal upang maclear ang area at matagpuan ang katawan ng biktima.

Matagal na raw umanong ipinagbabawal na pumunta sa tulay ayon sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Dasmariñas ngunit dahil daw maganda ang lugar, nahihikayat ang mga kabataang mamalagi rito.

“Dahil nga ito ay iniinspect na at tuluyan na sanang aayusin so ang baranggay natin lagi silang pinapaalis. Nagkaroon din yung baranggay ng parang notice na bawal na talagang mag-stay doon pero tinatanggal naman nila” ani Dasmariñas Cavite City Mayor Jenny Barzaga sa ulat ng Teleradyo, Huwebes.

Ayon sa mga nakaligtas sa insidente, grupo ng kabataang edad 13 hanggang 17 ang nasa tulay bago ito gumuho.

Dalawa sa limang nakaligtas ang nasa ospital pa at patuloy na ginagamot. — **Philstar.com intern John Vincent Pagaduan**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/07/28/2198531/7-nasawi-1-hinahanap-pa-sa-gumuhong-tulay-sa-dasmarias/amp/>



Phivolcs warns residents in quake-affected areas to not return home immediately

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Baguio reopens to tourists after Abra quake

By GMA News

Published July 28, 2022 10:20pm

Baguio City reopened to tourists on Thursday, a day after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit Abra.

According to Jasmin Gabriel-Galvan's report on "24 Oras," the city engineering office assessed that all public parks and tourist destinations in the country's Summer Capital remain safe for both residents and visitors.

"After being declared safe, 'yun lang mga private tourist spot ang nire-request for inspection,'" Baguio City Information Officer Aileen Refuerzo said.

(After being declared safe, we're requesting the private tourist spots for inspection.)

Based on the monitoring of the city government, tourist arrivals has remained high since yesterday. It also said it will not implement any changes to its tourism policies.

Further, the local government opened Kennon Road to motorists, but advised them to exercise utmost caution.

"Sa Kennon Road kasi, although open na sya, not advisable na daanan kasi hindi natin alam, di ba? Kasi umulan kagabi. We don't know baka may mga hanging na rocks dyan," Silver Pilo, Benguet DRM Office Information Officer, said.

(Although it's open, it is still not advisable to pass through Kennon Road because we're still not sure. It rained last night. We don't know but there might be hanging rocks there.) — **Sundy Locus/BM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/839756/baguio-reopens-to-tourists-after-abra-quake/story/?fbclid=IwAR33sYGHKAG4AW3RlcyitynS2-hJ7Waj0PL5IVsndwSQdC8jq_QTNJ0RIJU



Sangkaterbang isdang monamon, napadpad sa baybayin ng Cabugao, Ilocos Sur

Hulyo 28, 2022 7:53pm

Matapos ang malakas na lindol nitong Miyerkules, sangkaterbang isdang monamon ang napadpad sa tabing-dagat sa isang barangay sa Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. Kaya ang mga residente, kaniya-kaniyang huli.

Sa ulat ni Tere Sundayon sa GMA Regional TV "Balitang Amianan" nitong Huwebes, sinabing napadpad ang maliliit na isda sa bahagi ng baybayin ng Barangay Sabang.

Banye-banyerang monamom ang nahuli ng mga residente na ibinenta na lang umano sa murang halaga, at ang iba naman ay gagawing daing.

Ayon sa isang opisyal ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Region 1 na si director Rosario Gaerlan, maaaring nakaapekto at nabulabog ang mga isda sa nangyaring lindol kaya sila napadpad sa baybayin.

"Mga events na ganyan [lindol] mayroon din epekto 'yan pero mga short term lang 'yan [pagpapagilid ng isda] siyempre [nabulabog ang mga isda] sa dagat," anang opisyal.

Inihayag naman ng punong barangay na talagang nakakahuli sila ng mga monamon sa ganitong panahon.--**FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/839755/sangkaterbang-isdang-monamon-napadpad-sa-baybayin-ng-cabugao-ilocos-sur/story/?fbclid=IwAR3a4IFCelz2TzpIjbAdR40iA8IKvV7490VkMi8XXiW04-MUXL0C33Do1RM>



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BUT NO NEW CONTRACTS EXCEPT THOSE RELATED TO FOOD, ENERGY, TRANSPORT

PALACE EXTENDS TERM OF AGENCY OIGS UP TO DEC. 31

By Nestor Corrales
@NCorrales

President Marcos has extended the terms of the current officers in charge (OIGs) of government agencies and departments until Dec. 31 or until a replacement has been appointed.

By presidential authority, Executive Secretary Victor Rodriguez issued a directive through Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 3 allowing the OIGs to stay for about five months "to ensure the continuous and effective deliv-

ery of government services."

Signed on July 27, the memo amended and supplemented MC No. 1, which initially extended the tenure of OIGs only up to July 31.

The new directive will also prolong the tenure of all contractual and casual employees from their positions until the end of the year.

"All OIGs of departments, agencies, bureaus and office, non-career executive service (CES) officials occupying CES positions and contractual or casual

employees covered herein shall continue to perform their duties and discharge their functions until 31 December 2022 or until a replacement has been appointed or designated, whichever comes first," the order said.

All officials and employees covered by the latest memorandum will be required to submit bimonthly performance reports to their respective heads.

What they can't do

But the retained OIGs, from the department level down to

the sub-agencies or bureaus, may not enter into new contracts or projects or disburse extraordinary funds—except for those involved in the food, transportation, and energy sectors.

Also covered by this ban on new contracts are government-owned and -controlled corporations, government instrumentalities with corporate powers, government corporate entities, and government financial institutions. The prohibition remains in effect until the appointment of new directors

and the election of chief executive officers.

The order also applies to free port and special economic zone administrators.

Vergeire, Solidum

Among the top-level OIGs whose term will be extended are Undersecretary Maria Rosario Verguire of the Department of Health, Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. of the Department of Science and Technology, and Dr. Melissa Aradanas of the Department of Human Settlements and

Urban Development.

Budget Secretary Arsenah Pangandaman earlier said the practice of hiring consultants and contractuels in government would soon end under the "rightsizing" bill to be proposed to the 19th Congress by the Marcos administration's economic team.

Pangandaman earlier estimated that removing even just 5 percent of redundant offices and positions would save the government about P14.8 billion.

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OICs, contractuels keep gov't posts until yearend

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Malacañang has extended the term of office for officers-in-charge of state agencies until the end of the year or until their replacement has been named.

Under Memorandum Circular (MC) 3 signed by Executive Secretary Victor Rodriguez by authority of President Marcos, all officers in charge of departments, agencies, bureaus and offices, non-career officials occupying career executive service posts

and contractual or casual employees shall continue to perform their duties until Dec. 31 or until a replacement has been appointed, whichever comes first.

The circular amended MC 1, which directed officers-in-charge, non-career officials occupying career executive service posts in holdover capacities and contractual or casual employees to perform their responsibilities until July 31 or until their replacement has been named.

MC 1, which was issued on

June 30, also declared vacant certain posts in the executive department. Among the agencies being led by OICs are the health, housing and science departments.

"In order to ensure the continuous and effective delivery of government services, there is a need to supplement MC No. 1 by extending the term of office of government officials and employees covered therein," Rodriguez said in the circular dated July 27.

"There is a need to supplement MC No. 1 to ensure that

no new contract, project or disbursement of extraordinary funds is made by a department, agency, bureau and office until the appointment is made by the President," he added.

All officials and employees covered by the circular are mandated to perform their functions and submit bi-monthly performance reports to the head of their office, "otherwise, they will be held accountable."

According to MC 3, the declaration that some posts

are vacant does not apply to government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), government instrumentalities with corporate powers, government corporate entities and government financial institutions since they would continue to be governed by their respective charters and articles of incorporation.

The circular barred officers-in-charge of government entities to enter into new contracts or projects or disburse extraordinary funds except

for those involved in food, transportation and energy sectors or "when authorized by the President in meritorious cases."

The prohibition also applies to GOCCs, government instrumentalities with corporate powers, government corporate entities, government financial institutions, free port and special economic zone authorities until new sets of appointive directors have been named and chief executive officers have been elected.



Palace extends terms of OICs till December

BY SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA
@sam_medenilla

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bong-bong" R. Marcos Jr. has authorized the extension of the terms of officers-in-charge (OIC) and other personnel on holdover capacity in government offices until the end of the year.

Press Secretary Beatrix "Trixie" Cruz Angeles disclosed Marcos instructed Executive Secretary Victor D. Rodriguez to issue Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 3 on Wednesday, amending the provisions of his previous MC 1.

"This extends the authority of Officers-in-Charge until December 2022, unless a replacement has been designated or appointed, whichever comes first," Angeles said in a brief statement issued on Thursday.

Under MC 1, OICs, non-Career Executive Officials (CESO) occupying Career Executive Services (CES) in holdover capacities, contractual or casual employees were supposed to end their terms on July 31, 2022.

The officials and personnel covered by MC 3 were required to submit a bi-monthly performance report to their respective heads for the duration of their extended term.

The covered OICs as well as government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCC) and government financial institutions (GFI), free port and special economic authorities without a new set of appointive directors and elected chief executives are banned from entering into new contracts.

The only exception to the said restriction is contracts or projects involving food, transportation, energy or those authorized by the President.

MC 3 also clarified the positions, which were declared vacant under MC 1 last June 30, do not apply to GOCCs, government instrumentalities with corporate powers, government corporate entities and GFIs.

The positions, which were declared vacant under MC 1 were presidential appointees, whose appointments are classified as co-terminus; appointees occupying positions created in excess of authorized staffing pattern; non-CESO occupying CES positions; and contractual and/or casual employees.

Rodriguez said MC 3 was issued to "ensure continuous and effective delivery of public service."



Palace extends terms of OICs till December

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HOUSE GEARS FOR BUSINESS: 60 CHAIRMANSHIPS FILLED

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

The House of Representatives has filled up about 60 standing and special committees in two days of plenary sessions.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda was kept at the helm of the powerful committee on ways and means which handles legislation relating to fiscal and financial affairs of the national government including taxes, tariffs, revenues and borrowings.

Speaker Martin Romualdez's wife and Tingog Sinirangan Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez was put in charge of the committee on accounts, which handles the chamber's internal budget.

Negros Occidental Rep. Juliet Ferrer was chosen to head the committee on justice, while

Sta. Rosa City Rep. Dan Fernandez was named chair of the public order and safety panel. Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers heads the committee on dangerous drugs.

Appropriations

Ako Bicol Rep. Elizaldy Co was made chair of the committee on appropriations, Bohol Rep. Edgardo Chatto was given the top seat on committee on climate change, and Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo was tapped to head the committee on basic education and culture. Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. is chairing the committee on economic affairs.

Baguio City Rep. Marquez Go will preside over the committee on higher and technical education; Lanao del Sur Rep.

Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo, Muslim affairs; Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., natural resources; and Surigao del Sur Rep. Romeo Momo, public works and highways.

The other chairpersons are as follows: Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao, agrarian reform; Quezon Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga, agriculture and food; Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Marañon III, aquaculture and fisheries resources; Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines Rep. Nicanor Briones, cooperatives development; and Dinagat Islands Rep. Alan Ecleo, disaster resilience.

Cavite Rep. Antonio Ferrer will head the committee on games and amusement; Parañaque Rep. Edwin Olivarez, government enterprises

and privatization; Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Francisco Benitez, housing and urban development; and Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Glona Labadlabad, interparliamentary relations and diplomacy.

Franchises, public works

Chosen to head the committee on labor and employment was Rizal Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles; Parañaque Rep. Gustavo Tambunting, legislative franchises; and Misamis Oriental Rep. Christian Unabia, micro, small and medium enterprise development.

Former Valenzuela City Mayor and now Rep. Rex Gatchalian gets the committee on local government, while Manila Rep. Rolando Valeriano will have the panel on Metro Manila development.

Kabalikat ng Mamamayan Rep. Ron Salo will chair the committee on overseas workers affairs; San Jose del Monte Rep. Florida Robes, people's participation; Masbate Rep. Wilton Kho, rural development; and Antipolo City Rep. Romeo Acop, transportation.

Special committees

Heading the special committees are Pangasinan Rep. Christopher de Venecia, creative industry and performing arts; Sultan Kudarat Rep. Princess Rihan Sakaluran, East Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Growth Area; Ang Probinsiyano Rep. Alfred Delos Santos, globalization and World Trade Organization; and Laguna Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Southern Tagalog development. INQ



For plastic neutrality! Villar welcomes lapsing into law of Extended Producer Responsibility Act

Published July 28, 2022, 2:53 PM by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) Act has already lapsed into law, Senator Cynthia Villar reported.

During the plenary session Tuesday, July 26, Villar, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, said the EPR Law would now mandate large corporations to process their plastic waste, which, in the first place, is their responsibility.

Villar shepherded the passage of the measure along with her counterpart in the House of Representatives, Rep. Glona Labadlabad.

EPR is an approach to waste reduction that seeks to lodge environmental responsibility to the producer throughout the lifecycle of a product, she pointed out.

With the implementation of the EPR Law, Villar expressed confidence that the Philippines would no longer be tagged as one of the largest plastic litterers in the world.

She urged the public and especially the organizations fighting for better solid waste management to look at the development as an opportunity.

"It is a good start," Villar said.

The law introduces the concept of EPR and a circular economy and mandates the DENR to formulate a national framework on EPR for all types of wastes. It mandates targets on the recovery of plastic wastes initially and requires large enterprises or those above micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) levels to set up an EPR program within six months from the effectivity 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.

It also activates the National Ecology Center, created under Republic Act (RA) 9003 and mandates it to assess the volume of other generated wastes for inclusion in the EPR scheme.

"We had to limit the EPR to plastic packaging and to large enterprises for now, which could be viewed as compromises, to be sure" Villar said, "but then, it is important to note that the law also requires an EPR framework and an assessment of volumes of other generated wastes that will allow the expansion of the scheme to include wastes with the most problematic components or volumes."

Villar expressed confidence that a convergence of initiatives among these mandated large enterprises, medium, and small scale producers voluntarily joining the program, and households and families who earnestly make an effort to reduce their wastes, will make a difference.

"All over the country, the current and near future landfill capacity will not be able to accommodate the expected waste generated. Waste recovery in an archipelago is no small matter and will not be cheap. It is time to place the responsibility of retrieving these wastes in the hands of the producers while still calling on the citizenry to do the appropriate thing and reduce, reuse, segregate, recycle and compost." she added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/28/for-plastic-neutrality-villar-welcomes-lapsing-into-law-of-extended-producer-responsibility-act/>



France ready to assist Philippines in nuclear energy transition, other renewables

By [Kaycee Valmonte](#)(Philstar.com) - July 27, 2022 - 12:57pm



This photo taken on April 5, 2022 shows an employee checking switches inside the control room at the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the town of Morong in Bataan province. The nuclear power plant built in the disaster-prone Philippines during Ferdinand Marcos's regime, but never switched on due to safety fears and corruption, could be revived if his son wins the May 9 presidential poll.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — As the Philippines transitions into putting renewables at the forefront of its energy mix, France said it can lend its expertise to Manila on nuclear energy as well as other renewable energy sources.

In a press conference on Tuesday, French Ambassador to the Philippines Michèle Boccoz said they are already in talks with the new administration. Despite discussions still being in the “early stages,” Paris is ready to assist the Philippines with its “innovative competence.”

However, Boccoz said the Philippines will first need to outline its nuclear energy framework, look at regulatory environment issues, and identify the kind of training its personnel would need to maintain the nuclear plants.

“Developing this project is not going to happen this year or next year. It will take time and maybe you’d have more details on this process,” Boccoz said.

Majority or 70% of France is said to be powered by nuclear energy, while 27% is sourced through hydroelectricity and only 3% comes from gas. The European country plans to further diversify its energy mix with other renewables such as hydropower, biomass and solar energy in the near future.

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the Philippines needs to reconsider building nuclear power plants to address the power crisis.

Over half of the Philippines’ energy mix is currently sourced through coal. The country is now scrambling to look for alternative sources of energy as its main source — the Malampaya gas field — is expected to be depleted by 2027 at the latest.

“We will comply of course with the International Atomic Energy Agency regulations for nuclear power plants as they have been strengthened after Fukushima,” Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

“In the area of nuclear power, there have been new technologies developed that allow smaller scale modular nuclear plants and other derivations thereof.”

Environment groups have previously voiced concern over the plan due to the hazardous risks of building nuclear power plants, despite it being a way to help lower electricity costs.



What about the Bataan powerplant?

His father's venture, the 621-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, was built in 1986 in the hopes of bucking an oil crisis while still meeting the country's growing energy demands.

The country's lone nuclear power plant cost taxpayers P25 million to P35 million to build but it was never commissioned due to safety concerns.

French Ambassador Boccoz said that the abandoned project is now "a thing of the past," considering the new technologies introduced over three decades since.

"It's probably too big and it probably needs to much of the grid to be operational."

"I dont think that's what the Philippines need for the future so having a sort of more modular systems is probably much more realistic," she said, adding that smaller nuclear systems would be a better fit considering the country's geography.

Meanwhile, French companies are also eager to look into the country's renewable energy industry as it has been identified as one of the areas with investment potential.

Economic Counsellor Olivier Ginepro told **Philstar.com** that some French renewable energy companies are beginning to test their technologies in some parts of the Philippines.

In the meantime, France said it stands ready to work with the government either through educational trainings or other technical assistance.

"We have had already some discussions to look at what, where we could be useful at this stage," Ginepro told the press.



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GOING NUCLEAR: A SENSIBLE AND PRACTICAL OPTION FOR THE PHILIPPINES

ENERGY is a vital resource of any country. Just as the human body needs energy to function and get things done, it is essential in the functioning and growth of the country's economy. Its reliability, accessibility, and sufficiency can have direct effects on one's quality of life.

The pressing need to address climate change and meet commitments made to reduce our carbon footprint, the war in Ukraine, and the pandemic, among other factors affecting the global economy, have all combined to create a multitude of issues, such as inflation and high gas prices, that have made life quite difficult for ordinary folk. It also bears mentioning

that even before the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, energy prices in the Philippines were already among the highest in the region.

In view of the multifaceted challenges faced by the Philippine energy sector, adding nuclear power to the country's energy mix is a sensible and practical option. Nuclear energy provides a solution to meet commitments to reduce carbon emissions, as well as adequate and reliable power for development needs. It also lowers electricity prices for consumers and enhances the country's energy security by reducing its reliance on third parties and external factors.

In his first State of the Nation Address this week, President Marcos Jr. cited the need to reexamine the country's strategy for utilizing nuclear power and adding it to the mix of energy sources needed to spur economic development while adhering to climate change commitments. He also assured the International Atomic Energy Agency that the Philippines will observe pertinent regulations for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy. With the President's pronouncement, going nuclear is now definitely part of our country's energy policy.

As for implementation, Executive Order No. 164 signed

by former president Duterte can be viewed as a starting point, as it provides a national policy position from which the strategy of building nuclear power plants can be reexamined by relevant agencies. There will be other key steps necessary to move forward with this policy, such as establishing an independent regulatory body, ratifying key global nuclear safety and security conventions and treaties, and passing legislation to update nuclear regulatory laws.

This means that the participation and support of both houses of Congress will be crucial. The involvement of the legislative branch of gov-

ernment in this process will provide ample opportunity to put into place a robust legal and regulatory framework to ensure safety and security in the use of nuclear energy. Given there will be resistance to the use of nuclear power from some sectors of society, the legislative arena provides ample opportunity for robust debate on the issue.

Mr. Marcos has yet to appoint an energy secretary, but whoever gets entrusted with that role will be crucial in putting everything together to enable the country to reap the benefits of nuclear energy. This person should be able to work closely with

other key agencies such as the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Trade and Industry, and Science and Technology. Hopefully, the right person would soon be chosen for the job.

This is an opportunity to get things done right for the benefit of all. The success of advanced economies may be traced in part to their use of nuclear energy. The Philippines is no longer a Third World country and is now a fast-rising, dynamic economy on the verge of achieving upper-middle income status. Let's not fail to seize the moment.

MOIRA G. GALLAGA



Sona: a game-changer for agriculture

On Jan. 25, President Marcos committed to implementing 10 game-changing agriculture directions and two laws. The priority given to agriculture in his State of the Nation Address (Sona) is a most welcome change from decades of neglect. We identify here some of these critical initiatives and one very important legislative measure.

Three directions:

1. Provide farmers inexpensive farm inputs. These include fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, feeds. Fuel subsidy and help will also be given to deserving beneficiaries.

After sourcing from local suppliers, the government can then use its clout to import at low prices and provide subsidies long denied our farmers for the urgent support we need to avert a food crisis. Government must now take the initiative. Relying on the private sector to move on its own, under the past misguided policy that the private sector's invisible hand is the solution, will be a recipe for disaster.

2. Strengthen coordination among the players in the value chain.

This has been mentioned by other presidents in the past, insofar as consolidating our small one-hectare holdings to achieve

COMMENTARY

ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ

economies of scale. Thailand succeeded because it has the Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives, which gives both the structure and budget for this badly needed coordination. We should do the same.

3. There will be new ways of planting and caring for animals.

Here is where technology comes in. But how can our farmers and fisherfolk get this technology when our agriculture extension workers are not there to help? The technology transfer other countries gave their farmers and fisherfolk to make their products globally competitive is largely absent here. In a December 6 multimedia interview with then presidential candidate Marcos, he emphasized the need for a strong guidance and support from the Department of Agriculture (DA) for LGUs to perform this critical function effectively.

Strategic law

We cite here the President's proposed Department of Water Resources. Equally pressing as our threatening food crisis is

the current global water crisis.

In the Philippines, there is poor water governance. Fifty-five people die every day, largely because the 32 water-related government agencies do not even communicate with each other.

In Asian Development Bank studies in 2013 and 2016, the Philippines ranked at the bottom quarter of 48 countries in all five categories of water governance.

In 2017, a legislative-executive-private sector water task force was created. It was led by the Office of the President, then represented by Secretary Leoncio Velasco. This was guided largely by Senator Loren Legarda and then Environment Secretary Regina Lopez, who helped support the task force members who came from seven different departments. Seven University of the Philippines Los Baños deans provided technical support while I was tasked as the private sector secretary general.

Upon completion of the task, our ADB ranking improved. We ranked second only to Malaysia, and above Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.

Of the seven priority recommendations that emerged during seven pre-summits nationwide, the most important was the cre-

ation of a Department of Water Resources. Especially important was the need for water harvesting, which we do for just 4 percent of our supply, way below India's 60 percent.

This law, therefore, is critical to achieve agriculture success.

On July 25, GRS Holdings chair Joe Simeon wrote the agribusiness committee of the Management Association of the Philippines: "Water is what the farmers need during dry season. Just impound water during rainy season so water will become available during dry season. Construct a series of dams along the rivers from the mountain and install release valves during the dry season, just as Japan and Korea do." But this needs the coordination of water agencies, which could only be addressed by a Department of Water.

The challenge of Mr. Marcos' Sona is in its implementation. The private sector must now join hands with the government so that the rhetoric in his Sona becomes our agriculture reality. isq

The author is Agriwatch chair, former secretary of presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry. Contact is agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com.



Intensified endemic flora conservation sought

The workshop served as an avenue to establish strategic collaboration and partnerships among local government units and various government agencies

BY JONAS REYES

LUBAO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has joined hands with the United Nations Development Programme as the agencies conducted workshops here to strengthen “benefit sharing” and conservation of genetic resources in the country, particularly its endemic flora.

This will improve the value chain of Banaba and soon, all species, ensuring that we are ever more conscious of our dependence on nature for our survival through the challenges of climate change and economic stress.

DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau deputy director Natividad Bernardino said that the workshop is a multi-sectoral initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility is an opportunity to advance the inclusion of endemic and abundant genetic resources in

the value chain, consequently increasing their market value.

Bernardino, who also chairs of the Access and Benefit Sharing National Project, said that the ABS Project is a step forward to developing at least two bio-products from local genetic resources of Banaba in Region 3 (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) and Pill tree (*Canarium ovatum and Canarium luzonicum*) in Region 5.

The workshop served as an avenue to establish strategic collaboration and partnerships among local government units such as the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Health, Pharmalytics Corporation, Herbanext Laboratories Inc., indigenous peoples, and other key stakeholders.

These aforementioned partners are both beneficiaries and advocates of the project's

full implementation in Region 3 for the next six years.

DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. welcomed this initiative as an opportunity to boost conservation efforts of indigenous trees in Central Luzon, which would likewise be supplemental to the government's existing reforestation program, as well as in the efforts to sustain the population of native trees that prevent them from potential extinction.

“This will improve the value chain of Banaba and soon, all species, ensuring that we are ever more conscious of our dependence on nature for our survival through the challenges of climate change and economic stress,” Moreno said.

He added that this project resonates fully with the guidance of Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to protect indigenous species as part of natural heritage and harness these resources for the benefit of the country.

Research shows that a tea made from boiling the leaves of Banaba is used to maintain kidney health and lower blood sugar. Its bark is said to be good for diarrhea, while its root extracts act as a pain reliever.



Tiu-led group to embark on large-scale bamboo dev't

By IRIS GONZALES

A group of businessmen led by Antonio Tiu and Isidro Alcantara is embarking on large-scale bamboo development, hoping to capitalize on the growing demand for bamboo products across the globe.

Tiu is president of listed Everwoods Green Resources and Holdings Inc., formerly Ever Gotesco, which is making a shift to agri-tourism and is now developing a bamboo project in Batangas. Everwoods will partner with farmers for a bamboo nursery project as well as a processing facility to employ locals to do furniture and decorative pieces made of bamboo.

These products, in turn, will be exported to capture a slice of the global bamboo market.

Tiu, who is also behind Agrinurture Inc. and Greenery, took over Ever Gotesco in 2019 as part of his vision of creating a group of sustainable and green-oriented companies with synergies in the fintech, agri-tourism and agri-business industries.

Alcantara, who is set to join the board of Everwoods, meanwhile, has been a pioneering advocate of bamboo farming.

He said bamboo has now become a \$70-billion global industry, of which 50 percent of annual production value comes from China.

For their project, Alcantara said the plan is to invite investors for large-scale bamboo plantation and to put up a

bamboo product processing and manufacturing facility to maximize the value of bamboo.

"We cannot stop at planting alone but must evolve into value-added processing. That's where the real contribution to the economy, job creation and income upliftment will come from," he said.

Bamboo has a wide range of applications and growing relevance, from food to energy. It is an effective tool in addressing soil erosion, landslides, and flooding which are the common disasters in any mine site.

Alcantara, formerly the president of Marcventures Mining and Development Corp., is behind the pioneering advocacy of bamboo farming as the heart of the company's mining rehabilitation program.

He said bamboo is considered to have the highest potential for maximum benefits to the environment and livelihood as it can release up to 35 percent more oxygen than any other trees, and sequester up to 12 metric tons of carbon dioxide per hectare.

The planting cycle for bamboo is five years but he said that as early as two to three years, bamboo can already be harvested.

In 2018, **The STAR** reported that Marcventures developed a bamboo program as part of its rehabilitation of the communities where it operates.

Bamboo has approximately 1,500 uses. It is even sturdier than some wood species, and is considered an excellent building material.



DENR reopens major trekking spot in Northern Negros Natural Park

By Nanette Guadalquiver July 28, 2022, 6:30 pm



TREKKING AREA. The Tinagong Dagat, a major trekking destination inside the Northern Negros Natural Park in this undated photo. The site will be reopened on August 1, 2022 after entry was suspended in September last year due to insurgency-related armed conflict in nearby areas. *(File photo courtesy of DENR-PENRO Negros Occidental)*

BACOLOD CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has approved the reopening of the Tinagong Dagat, a major trekking destination in the Northern Negros Natural Park (NNNP), on August 1.

The area was closed in September last year following incidents of insurgency-related clashes in nearby areas.

As of Thursday, bookings for the climb schedule are already being accepted by the Office of the Protected Area Superintendent.

Protected Area Superintendent Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya said this coming Monday, the Tinagong Dagat will be opened to the public using the official trails of Patag, Campuestohan, and Canlandog.

In Memorandum Order 11, series of 2022, Gerangaya issued the guidelines on the processing of mountaineering permits for major trekking activities, the mandatory hiring of tour guides and porters, and the observance of proper precautionary health measures against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

A weekly interval of entry points will be strictly implemented using the official trails found in Barangay Patag in Silay City; Sitio Campuestohan, Barangay Cabatangan in Talisay City; and Barangay Canlandog in Murcia town.

The trail in Barangay Kumaliskis, Don Salvador Benedicto town will be available every week.

Booking forms must be submitted at least two weeks before the scheduled climb to nnnp.penronegros@gmail.com or personally to the NNNP satellite office at DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in this city.

A maximum of 15 climbers per group and only 30 climbers per week will be allowed to conduct mountaineering activities, excluding porters and guides.

Mountaineering permit fee is PHP300 per person for locals and PHP500 for foreigners.



Every five climbers are required to hire one guide and one porter. Payment is PHP750 per day for each tour guide and porter.

The “no orientation, no climb” policy will be strictly implemented.

Trek orientation may be attended either virtually or face-to-face. **(PNA)**

Continuing rebound, Tullahan & Singapore F1

BYAL S. MENDOZA JULY 28, 2022



INDUSTRY performance continues to rebound as sales hit a whopping 26.8-percent increase last month. This can only be attributed again to the so-called “spending vengeance” car clients had been resorting to as the pandemic appears consistently to be on the wane.

The Covid-19’s two-year grip on the wallet is fast becoming history, triggering a buying binge as the treasured cash long-locked in the vault has started taking wings again.

“It’s now a fact that car customers are busy again scouting for new cars to acquire,” said an insider.

A friend of mine has asked for help to purchase his dream Lexus.

“Sad to say, Al San, that we are now swamped with orders,” said Lexus president Raymond T. Rodriguez. “The reservation has breached 100. And the waiting time is from six to eight months!”

And Raymond ends by saying, “But it’s a problem I love.”

June sales saw 28,601 units sold, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Campi) and Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA).

That’s a 26.8-percent growth from the 22,550 units sold in the same period in 2021.

“The automotive industry recovery is driven by the pent-up demand from consumers amid the less than ideal economic conditions recorded in the same period,” said Rommel Gutierrez, the lawyer-president of Campi.

Year-to-date, Campi-TMA sold 154,874 units, equivalent to 16.7-percent growth compared with the same period last year.

SMC clean-up drive

IN its continuing mission to clean the metropolis of river dirt in a bid to mitigate the flood menace and improve traffic flow, San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has reached its goal of removing over 1 million metric tons of silt and solid waste from the length of the Tullahan River in Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area—ahead of the schedule drawn up with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SMC’s clean-up teams have rid the river of an estimated 1,029,257 metric tons of silt and waste, roughly equivalent to close to 70,000 dump trucks.

That contributes largely to floods subsiding quickly during a downpour, easing up traffic flow to the delight and comfort of motorists traversing mainly Camanava districts.

Having met its target, SMC’s team will next clean up rivers belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) in Bulacan.



“We thank the DENR for its trust and confidence in our ability to get the job done. Despite the pandemic that delayed and limited our clean-up operations, we were determined to accomplish our objectives, including increasing the river’s width and depth in shallow sections, improving navigability, and helping restore marine life,” SMC president and CEO Ramon S. Ang said.

SMC started the P1-billion Tullahan program together with the DENR in February 2020, at no cost to the government or taxpayers.

Meanwhile, work to clean the MMORS in Bulacan has started in earnest last month. The initiative is part of its comprehensive flood mitigation measures for the province of Bulacan, which it committed together with its New Manila International Airport (NMIA) and Airport City projects costing P740 billion.

Singapore F1

THIS early, the stage is set for Singapore’s biggest party in three years, as the Formula 1 night race gets back on track from September 30 to October 2.

Singapore GP Pte Ltd. e-mailed to say the Singapore Grand Prix 2022 will feature acts from Marshmello, Westlife, and Green Day. Also in the line-up are Black Eyed Peas, The Kid LAROI, TLC, and Suede.

Black Eyed Peas is topbilled by apl.de.ap, a Filipino from Angeles City, Pampanga. The group has sold more than 35 million albums and 120 million singles worldwide and has won six Grammys.

The three-day race weekend now includes over 100 hours of entertainment throughout the Circuit Park, including 92 performances across nine stages, 79 roving acts as well as an array of art installations and activities to enthrall crowds.

I was fortunate to be invited by Toyota to cover the Singapore F1 inaugurals in 2008, the race becoming the first night event in Formula One history.

To purchase tickets for this year’s edition, and for more information on the race weekend line-up, visit www.singaporegp.sg.

PEE STOP Congratulations on the recent 25th year anniversary of Isuzu Philippines Corp! More power!...My friend extends his heartfelt gratitude to Rey Oben for the quick, personalized delivery of the Fortuner to my friend’s beloved wife last weekend. Action agad mantra at work! Mabuhay ka, Pareng Rey!



Almost 2,600 kilos of trash collected in Muntinlupa under Maynilad's clean-up drive for Laguna Lake

July 28, 2022 | 8:02 pm



MAYNILAD PHOTO HANDOUT

HUNDREDS of sacks of solid waste weighing a total of 2,584 kilograms were collected during a recent clean-up drive in Muntinlupa City's two rivers as part of Maynilad Water Services, Inc.'s (Maynilad) program to protect the water quality in Laguna Lake.

The Magdaong and Alabang-Bayanan rivers in the city are among the tributaries that flow into Laguna Lake, which serves as a raw water source for about two million consumers within Maynilad's concession area, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

"These river clean-up drives are among the interventions we are taking to help reduce pollution load into Laguna Lake, which is being used as a source for drinking water and should therefore be protected," says Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez.

"We call on other stakeholders to also partner with us in this environmental conservation initiative," he said.

Maynilad said the clean-up activity also helped unclog waterways that cause flooding.

The water company also said it is donating solar paddle wheels and a water quality analyzer equipment to Muntinlupa City to help mitigate algal bloom episodes in Laguna Lake.

Maynilad provides water and wastewater services in the west zone of the greater Metro Manila area, covering 17 cities and municipalities.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2022/07/28/464646/almost-2600-kilos-of-trash-collected-in-muntinlupa-under-maynilads-clean-up-drive-for-laguna-lake/>



Clean-up drive ng Maynilad sa Muntinlupa: 320 sako ng basura nakolekta

Umabot sa 320 sako ng basura o may katumbas na 2,586 kilo ng basura ang nakolekta ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) sa serye ng sinagawang river clean-up drive sa Magdaong at Alabang-Bayanan river sa Muntinlupa City.

Layon ng kampanya na mapahusay pa ang kalidad ng tubig sa tributaries na nagdurugtong sa Laguna Lake. Ang tubig mula sa lawa ay nililinis ng kompanya para magamit na pang-suplay sa kailangang tubig ng may 2 milyong

katap sa southern part ng Metro Manila.

Ang clean-up drive sa naturang mga ilog ay naisagawa ng Maynilad sa tulong ng Muntinlupa Lake Management Office na nagtanggap ng mga baradong waterways para malwasan ang pagbaha sa lugar kepeg umuulan.

"These river clean-up drives are among the in-

terventions we are taking to help reduce pollution load into Laguna Lake, which is being used as a source for drinking water and should therefore be protected. We call on other stakeholders to also partner with us in this environmental conservation initiative," pahayag ni Maynilad President at CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez. (Angie dela Cruz)



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Maynilad "Plant for Life" program to plant 1-millionth tree within 2022

WEST Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. kicked off its annual "Plant for Life" program with a commitment to plant its one-millionth tree within the year. This milestone will be reached once the target of planting 90,000 trees in 2022 is completed, thus serving as a highlight to Maynilad's 15th anniversary as a re-privatized company.

"Plant for Life" is the flagship environmental conservation program of Maynilad, which aims to recover denuded watersheds and thus protect the water supply of millions of consumers. It rallies volunteers from the public and private sector to

help recover forestlands through the annual planting of trees.

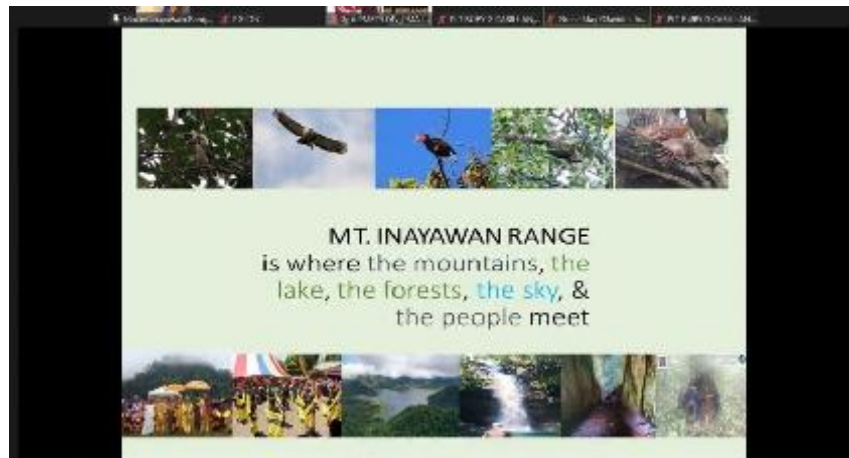
Originally conceptualized to reforest the watersheds in Angat, Ipo and La Mesa, this tree-planting initiative later became a multi-site reforestation program that included areas along the Manila Bay coast and Laguna Lake. Since the program's inception in 2007, Maynilad has already planted more than 923,000 indigenous trees and mangroves covering a land area of 573 hectares.

"Planting a tree may seem simple enough. However, its impact can be tremendous as far as watershed protection is

concerned. The more denuded forestlands we can recover, the better our chances of improving water security, and providing a sustainable environment for future generations," said Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez.

Tree planting also helps with carbon sequestration, which is essential to reducing the greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. Through "Plant for Life", Maynilad has been able to reduce its carbon emissions by around 25,000 tons per year. Together with the rest of the MVP Group of Companies, Maynilad is aiming to be Climate Neutral by the year 2037.





LDN-PAMB holds confab for monitoring of Mt. Inayawan

Published on: July 28, 2022

By PIO LDN

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte (PIA)--The key members of the province's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) Executive Committee for Mount Inayawan Range Natural Park convened for their first meeting, June 22.

Tagged as the only largest remaining rainforest in the province, Mt Inayawan is located in the heart of the Municipality of Nunungan. It stands at an astonishing height of 1,535 meters and 5,036 feet above sea level.

Being the highest mountain in the province, Mt. Inayawan also showcases abundant and pristine flora and fauna. In the recent field validation conducted for the predetermined areas of the mountain, 94.61% of the forest, which covers 4,008.11 hectares, were identified as Strict Protection Zone (only research data allowed), while the 5.38% of it is considered to be as Multiple Use zone (area for development) with 228.07 hectares.

With these figures, the Executive Committee plotted allowable activities and approaches to be observed in every zones. Until now, the committee awaits the result and process to finally consider this mountain one of the internationally selected protected areas with unique biodiversity and outstanding scenery.

With the intensified collaborative force of the committee and with the help of the police force, over 2.381 cubic meter (20pcs) of logs with an estimated value of P35,332.50 and 6.576 cubic meters (1,118 pcs) for P97,584.55 and several equipment were apprehended based on a report presented.

"We have identified violators, and they have already been charged, but most of the cases are still ongoing; no decision yet," said Forester Algazali Datu-Dacula, the Chief Enforcement of CENRO Kolambugan.

While deliberating further measures to safeguard the biodiversity and wilderness of the mountain, the group assured to compensate and help those private entities who are economically dependent on the area. As one of the advocates in promoting environmental awareness, Lanao Norte Mountaineering Club President Grace Mae Joven, formally gets the approval of the board to conduct a Mt. Inayawan Kalilintad Climb on July 15-17, 2022.

Mount Inayawan has been labelled by some nature lovers and mountaineers alike as an extremely great site for regular climbs and adventure hikes.



Moreover, Provincial Governor Imelda “Angging” Dela Cruz Quibranza conveyed her thanks for the active participation of the group in monitoring the situation of Mt. Inayawan. To recall, Mt. Inayawan bats for inclusion as an ASEAN Heritage Park with the initiative of former Congressman Abdullah Dimakuta Dimaporo and the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte. (PIO-LDN/PIA-10/Lanao del Norte)



Agri, mining seen as key to boosting jobs

July 29, 2022 | 12:02 am



DAVID HELLMANN-UNSPASH

THE government should focus on the agriculture and mining industries if it wants to generate more jobs, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) said on Thursday.

ECOP President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr. told BusinessWorld Live on One News Channel parts of agriculture with the potential to create jobs include bamboo.

“There are some little sectors like in agriculture... where we should be producing more. That can at the very least create 100,000 jobs easily, such as bamboo,” Mr. Ortiz-Luis said.

Mr. Ortiz-Luis added that more job-creation opportunities are available in mining.

“We’re beginning to look at responsible mining as doable, and we are hoping that (the government) will pursue this policy,” Mr. Ortiz-Luis said.

Mr. Ortiz-Luis said the association’s goal of creating one million jobs in 2022 is attainable despite the economic challenges posed by inflation, which rose to 6.1% in June.

“With or without inflation, provided, there are no (additional pandemic restrictions), and if they are able to solve transportation especially here in Metro Manila, (the target) is attainable,” Mr. Ortiz-Luis said.

In May, the National Employment Recovery Strategy task force set a target of one million jobs this year.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) President George T. Barcelon said during the Pandesal Forum on Thursday that the first State of the Nation Address (SONA) delivered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on July 25 was “very comprehensive.”

“He touched on a lot of points,” Mr. Barcelon said, though the PCCI wants to hear detailed plans.

“It is not explicitly stated what the President will do in terms of job creation. But all the narration that he did basically touches on the sustainability of our economy and that in effect would provide more jobs to our fellow Filipinos,” Mr. Barcelon said.

Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. President Henry Lim Bon Liong said that the SONA bodes well for investor confidence.

“His speech and the detailed list of proposed reforms by government will boost investor confidence in the Philippines, translating to a stronger economic recovery, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth,” Mr. Bon Liong said.

“We need reforms and political will for a stronger Philippine economic recovery and social (services),” he added. — Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/labor-and-management/2022/07/29/464655/agri-mining-seen-as-key-to-boosting-jobs/>



Mining company execs commit to comply provincial envi, tax policies

Published on: July 28, 2022

By Jeanevive Abangan

MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL -Executives of the sole mining company in Davao Oriental recently vowed to comply with environmental laws and taxes in a meeting with Provincial Governor Corazon N. Malanyaon.

Malanyaon recently met with the executives of the Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation-Arc Nickel Resources , the only mining company operating in the province of Davao Oriental, particularly in the municipality of Banaybanay.

During the meeting, they also promised to become active partners with the provincial government in its thrusts for development.

Malanyaon shared with the executives her intentions to revive the economic conditions of the province and have her local government units, particularly the poor barangays, take part in the shared prosperity the industry brings.

“We have to be properly compensated. You have to understand that we are a poor province with rich resources,” said Governor Malanyaon, noting it is the province’s resources that are being mined, and it is fit that the province also gets a share of the wealth that it can pour down for its development programs and projects.

Apart from the excise tax that the company pays to the national government, the Governor said that the provincial government, another taxing authority, also has the power to collect taxes, which the mining executives agree and support.

Governor Malanyaon said the province’s position was never for mining, but with it being a national policy, she wants her people, particularly the poor barangays hosting the mining operations to also get a share from these taxes. (PIO Davao Oriental/jmda)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/07/28/mining-company-execs-commit-to-comply-provincial-envi-tax-policies>



07-29-22

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Bulacan maghihigpit kontra illegal mining at pagputol ng puno

Mahigpit ang gagawing pagbabantay ng Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources o BENRO laban sa mga ilegal na pagmimina ng lupa at pagputol ng puno.

Ayon kay BENRO Head Julius Victor Degala, paigtingin nila ang pagbabantay sa mga ilegal na nagmimina at nagrotroso upang protektahan ang kapaligiran ng buong lalawigan.

Bilang karagdagan, bumuo rin ang kanilang tanggapan ng roving team na magbabantay sa mga checkpoint bukod pa sa regular na alas-8:00 ng umaga hanggang alas-5:00 ng hapon.

Nilinaw naman ni Gobernador Daniel Fernando na mataas ang pangangailangan sa quarrying at nagbibigay ito ng hanapbuhay sa mga Bulakenyo ngunit kailangan itong kontrolin at mahigpit na bantayan. *(Omar Padilla)*



Moving for a collective impact

July 27, 2022 | 5:58 pm

Shared Values By Ron F. Jabal



GUILLAUME DE GERMAIN-UNSPLASH

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 society — impact communities, suppliers, distributors, consumers, non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organization (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 collective 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 — Klimathon: 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 40 years, has been generating power from geothermal sources. It has 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 on 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 reel 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, APR, is the chairman and CEO of PAGEONE Group www.pageonegroup.ph and founder of Advocacy Partners Asia www.advocacy.ph

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2022/07/27/464232/moving-for-a-collective-impact/>

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.



Alarm as Earth hits 'Overshoot Day' Thursday — NGOs

Agence France-Presse July 28, 2022 | 8:26am



A formerly sunken boat rests on a now-dry section of lakebed at the drought-stricken Lake Mead on May 10, 2022 in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada.

Mario Tama / Getty Images / AFP

PARIS, France — Mankind marks a dubious milestone Thursday, the day by which humanity has consumed all earth can sustainably produce for this year, with NGOs warning the rest of 2022 will be lived in resource deficit.

The date -- dubbed "Earth Overshoot Day" -- marks a tipping point when people have used up "all that ecosystems can regenerate in one year", according to the Global Footprint Network and WWF.

"From January 1 to July 28, humanity has used as much from nature as the planet can renew in the entire year. That's why July 28 is Earth Overshoot Day," said Mathis Wackernagel, president of the Global Footprint Network.

He added: "The Earth has a lot of stock, so we can deplete Earth for some time but we cannot overuse it for ever. It's like with money; we can spend more than we earn for some time until we're broke."

It would take 1.75 Earths to provide for the world's population in a sustainable way, according to the measure, which was created by researchers in the early 1990s.

Global Footprint Network said Earth Overshoot Day has fallen ever sooner over the last 50 years.

Uneven burden

In 2020, the date moved back three weeks due to the Covid-19 pandemic, before returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The burden is not evenly spread. If everyone lived like an American, the date would have fallen even earlier, on March 13, Wackernagel said.

The two NGOs point the finger at the food production system and its "considerable" ecological footprint.

"In total, more than half of the planet's biocapacity (55 percent) is used to feed humanity," the two NGOs said.



"A large part of the food and raw materials are used to feed animals and animals that are consumed afterwards", said Pierre Cannet of WWF France.

In the EU, "63 percent of arable land... is directly associated with animal production", he said.

"Agriculture contributes to deforestation, climate change by emitting greenhouse gases, loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, while using a significant share of fresh water," the NGOs said.

Based on scientific advice, they advocate reducing meat consumption in rich countries.

"If we could cut meat consumption by half, we could move the date of the overshoot by 17 days," said Laetitia Mailhes of the Global Footprint Network.

"Limiting food waste would push the date back by 13 days, that's not insignificant," she added, while one-third of the world's food is wasted.



Earth hits 'Overshoot Day' today; NGOs warn the rest of 2022 will be lived in resource deficit

By LAURE FILLON, AFP

Published July 28, 2022 10:37am



A farmer and his grandson work in a paddy field in Baliuag, Bulacan on July 10, 2022. Maria Tan/ AFP

Mankind marks a dubious milestone Thursday, the day by which humanity has consumed all earth can sustainably produce for this year, with NGOs warning the rest of 2022 will be lived in resource deficit.

Dubbed "Earth Overshoot Day," Thursday marks a tipping point when people have used up "all that ecosystems can regenerate in one year," according to the Global Footprint Network and WWF.

"From January 1 to July 28, humanity has used as much from nature as the planet can renew in the entire year. That's why July 28 is Earth Overshoot Day," said Mathis Wackernagel, president of the Global Footprint Network.

He added: "The Earth has a lot of stock, so we can deplete Earth for some time but we cannot overuse it for ever. It's like with money; we can spend more than we earn for some time until we're broke."

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Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/839672/earth-hits-overshoot-day-today-ngos-warn-the-rest-of-2022-will-be-lived-in-resource-deficit/story/?fbclid=IwAR3jsroCH3Lz2MB1RnGmiRrENTJji4pFre7qROYr4O0-1m8-vZBF7aBdw1E>



Earth hits 'Overshoot Day'

Mankind marked a dubious milestone Thursday, the day by which humanity has consumed all earth can sustainably produce for this year, with non-governmental organizations warning the rest of 2022 will be lived in resource deficit.

Dubbed "Earth Overshoot Day," Thursday marks a tipping point when people have used up "all that ecosystems can regenerate in one year," according to the Global Footprint Network and WWF.

"From 1 January to 28 July, humanity has used as much from nature as the planet can renew in the entire year. That's why 28 July is Earth Overshoot Day," said Mathis Wackernagel, president of the Global Footprint Network.

He added: "The Earth has a lot of stock, so we can deplete Earth for some time but we cannot overuse it for ever. It's like with money; we can spend more than we earn for some time until we're broke." MBA



France on course for driest July on record: weather office

[Marc-Antoine Baudoux](#) - Agence France-Presse July 28, 2022 | 8:38am



This photograph taken on July 22, 2022, shows the dried out bed of the Lac des Brenets' part of the Doubs river, a natural border between eastern France and western Switzerland. The river has dried up due to a combination of factors, including geological issues, decreased rainfall and heat waves.

AFP / Fabrice Coffrini

PARIS, France — France is on track to experience its driest July on record, the national weather service said Wednesday, with drought-like conditions leading to increasingly severe water restrictions around the country.

"The month of July will very likely be the driest July ever recorded since 1959," spokesman Christian Veil from Meteo-France told AFP.

On average, just eight mm (0.3 inches) of rain fell across the country from July 1-25, less than the previous low of 16 mm which was clocked in 2020, he said.

"We're in a very difficult situation even though we're only at the end of July," he said, saying soil humidity was at record lows and many trees were losing their leaves prematurely.

Farmers across the country are reporting difficulties in feeding livestock because of parched grasslands, while irrigation has been banned in large areas of northwest and southeast France due to water shortages.

The flow of the river Loire for example, which empties into the Atlantic in northwest France, has fallen by a quarter since the start of July.

On the eastern river Rhine, which forms the France-Germany border, commercial boats are having to run at a third of their carrying capacity in order to avoid hitting the bottom because the water level is so low.

A total of 90 out of 96 administrative regions in mainland France have water restrictions of some sort, a record number, according to the environment ministry.



New discovery: Grasshopper species not recorded for more than a century found in Mt. Hamiguitan

Published July 28, 2022, 3:22 PM

by [Dhel Nazario](#)

A species of pygmy grasshopper commonly known as the four-spined pygmy devil have been discovered by researchers in Mt. Hamiguitan in Davao Oriental.



Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (Photo courtesy of IUCN Naomi Doak via the UNESCO website)

Arulenus validispinus, according to Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, leader of the Central Mindanao University (CMU) research team, has not been recorded for more than a century.

This discovery was brought about by the study, "Biodiversity in selected mountain ecosystems of Mindanao for conservation and sustainable development". The study also led to the discovery of other new species of flora and fauna in Mt. Hamiguitan.

Among those discovered were species of flowering plants such as *Hypericum perryongii* Galindon, sp. Nov and *Gymnosiphon syceorosensis* (Burmaniaceae). For fauna, apart from the pygmy grasshopper, a type of snout beetle, *Metapocyrtus* (*Artapocyrtus*) *brons* sp. Nov, was also recorded.

These findings are part of the Biodiversity Science and Technology Program funded and monitored by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD).

Mt. Hamiguitan is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. Prior to this, it has already been declared as an ASEAN Heritage Park. The mountain range showcases terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and includes threatened and endemic flora and fauna species.

Aside from Mt. Hamiguitan, Mt. Apo in North Cotabato, and Mt. Pantaron and Mt. Tago, both in Bukidnon, were included in the study also conducted by the University of the Philippines Los Baños-Museum of Natural History, Davao Oriental State University, and the Philippine National Museum.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/28/new-discovery-grasshopper-species-not-recorded-for-more-than-a-century-found-in-mt-hamiguitan/>



Puregold offers rebates with eco-friendly ‘Walang Plastik Mondays’ campaign

BYBMPPLUS JULY 28, 2022



Puregold Southgate

Single-use plastic could potentially end most of marine life as we know it. Once this happens, there is no going back and the planet will never be the same.

Did you know that the world produces about 300 million tons of plastic every year and most of these are single-use? These single-use plastics don't decompose and turn into microplastics, which mostly end up in the world's oceans and threaten marine life.

Single-use plastics include plastic grocery bags, water and soda bottles, and packaging straws.



Ivy Piedad, Puregold Senior Manager for Marketing

In an effort to do its part and create a substantial impact on the environment, Puregold has implemented “Walang Plastik Mondays” at all its stores in the National Capital Region. The supermarket will also give Php1 cashback for every eco bag used by Perks and Tindahan Ni Aling Puring members, who can earn up to Php5 in savings for every transaction.

“Puregold’s intent is to be a mindful company that reuses, recycles, and reduces whatever resources are available and as a retailer, encourages its customers to do the same,” said Puregold President Vincent Co. **“We are very much invested in doing business sustainably and help the younger generations look forward to their future. This is a community effort and we hope to work hand in hand with our customers in achieving our objective,”** said Vincent.

Puregold customers have been making more sustainable choices with a growing usage of eco bags, resulting in a decline of almost 40% in the company’s purchase of single-use plastic bags in 2021. Almost half of Puregold stores have either discontinued the use of single-use plastic bags or transitioned to more sustainable materials such as recycled carton boxes or eco bags.



To date, all Puregold stores are geared towards conversion to 100% LED main lighting to reduce energy consumption. Further, Puregold's 135 wastewater treatment facilities are compliant with government regulations, as it also ventures into Rainwater Catchment, Gray Water reuse and other water savings and mitigating measures to lessen the company's impact on water resources. Meanwhile, migration of business' logistics requirements to optimum cross-dock operations efficiency is in position to help reduce carbon emission by an estimated 36%.

Go #WalangPlastikMondays at Puregold, and do your part for the environment.

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/puregold.shopping

HASHTAGS: #Puregold #WalangPlastikMondays #WalastikMondays #AlwaysPanalo

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/28/puregold-offers-rebates-with-eco-friendly-walang-plastik-mondays-campaign/>



This robot fish can 'eat' microplastics in seas

Published July 28, 2022 6:50pm

A robot fish has been developed in China to address microplastic pollution in the world's oceans.

The fish is only 1.3 cm long, but it can suck plastics 52,000 times heavier than it is as it swims through bodies of water.

It is capable of self-healing when it gets damaged and it is not harmful should it be ingested by real fish.

Researchers think it can still be developed to enter the human body to deal with materials that can cause illnesses.

Scientists said microplastics are not just found in the oceans, but [everywhere](#)—in the air and even inside the human body.

In March, microplastics were [found in blood](#) for the first time and detected in organs such as lungs, spleen, and kidneys.

—MGP, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/839748/this-robot-fish-can-eat-microplastics-in-seas/story/?fbclid=IwAR1F1IO3HKhoNjNkMERxTv89I-fJFEgJhJNgSxxBgVICHqASva3vHU8NzQM>



Gunita sa pawikan

NAGSIMULANG sumansang ang bangkay ng pawikan, napadpad sa pampang ng Bolinao nitong nagdaang tag-araw, walang gumalaw, walang nangahas na ibaon man lang sa buhanginan.

Apat na pirasong talukap sa likod nito ang tinungkab ko... tulad sa sun-gay-kalabaw.. magagawang payneta, sinaunang ornamental comb.

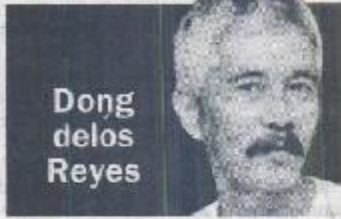
Malakas pa naman pala ang gagap at pulso... kispap-mata sa baklas ng tila nakalapat na yero sa sunong na bahay ng pawikan... napansin kasi na parang mula limbag-kahoy o ukiyo-e ng henryong Katsushika Hokusai ang mga guhit na nakalagda sa bawat talukap, kawangki ng sunod-sunod na sugod ng mga alon ang anyo... in feng shui, wavy lines in design motifs can bring money and opportunity.

Ah, a sea denizen can be taken out of the depths, but the depths have left palpable hallmarks and stays in such a denizen.

Hindi ko na pinakialaman ang tuka... kawangis 'to ng pagong sa tabang na kapag isinagpang, magtiwan sa pinagsagpangan ng bahagyang pamumuo ng dugo. Na hugis pusol 'Yun ang tunay na love bite-may isiswalat kahit mawawalat ang bahaging kinagatan ng sagisag ng pagsuyo.

MANGKOKOLUM

Kulamnista.blogspot.com



**Dong
delos
Reyes**

Sa pabula ni Aesop, kahit makupad ay masigasig sa pagsulong ang pagong—kaya panalo kahit sa karera, ad astra per aspera. Saka sagisag ng mahabang buhay at katatagan ang pagong at pawikan... naipapayo nga ng mga bihasa sa feng shui na maglagay ng pigurin nito sa ilalim ng kama o kahit papag na tulugan, pantunaw daw sa insomnia et aegri somnia.

Pero iba ang lindol na mitalal, kikititang kanta mula alaala—ab imo peccatore, mula puso man o puso, sabi nga ni Julius Caesar—kapag napadako sa silid-himlayan: "Si Haring Solomon, may alagang pagong, may biyak sa likod—parang pinalakol. Ang pagong na ito'y mahilig sa saging, pag sinusubuan ay pagiling-giling!"

To ang dahilan kaya hindi maatim

na tawaging mouse o daga na may pinapalitaw na palaso ang kabit na sangkap ng computer... hindi naman kasi hinihin... oops, pinipindot-pindot at hinihinas-hinas madalas para dumulas ang daloy ng pagsusulat, pananahiksik, at paghahalungkat ng samut-sari sa computer.

Para mas masaya nga kahit tunog-malaswa pero mula pa sa katha ni Nikolai Gogol, tinatawag na "Teras Vulva." O kahit "monay tibok-tibok" na lang. Masyadong mahaba kaya pagong na nga.

Ginawang palamuti ang apat na pirasong talukap-pawikan sa desktop computer sa bahay... pang-antig sa masigasig na pagsulong sa ginagawa... uuntag sa pinakasikat yatang limbag-kahoy ni Hokusai, The Great Wave off Kanagawa na naglalarawan ng Bundok Fuji at mga lunday na tinatahip ng mga alon.

Maipapakuwadro siguro, parang likhang sinag kasi... pampasuwerb, paratagalo sa kinagigiliwan na magdiriwang ng kaarawan, pambati kaugnay sa pagong na sagisag ng masigasig at mahabang buhay: "Ad multos annos!"

Binabati ko pa rin ng maligayang kaarawan sa Hulyo 30 ang yumaong si Julius Fortuna, lalo ang mga kapiling pa ring sina Grace B. Ongpin at ang aling kaliyag na asawa.



Blood of horseshoe crab used in vaccine development

Published July 28, 2022 4:29pm

Did you know that one of the most important materials for vaccine development are from a so-called living fossil?

The blood of horseshoe crabs, which has lived on Earth much earlier than the dinosaurs, contains an enzyme that identifies endotoxins or bacterial components.

This property is used to test the safety of vaccines, medicines, and implants, among others.

"We now have a whole new wave of vaccines being produced and developed for the battle against COVID-19 and they're being tested on the same test made from the horseshoe crab blood," said Glenn Gauvry of the Ecological Research and Development Group.

Due to overharvesting, however, the population of horseshoe crabs is now dwindling and it has been listed as as protected species.

Researchers and pharmaceutical companies are pursuing alternatives for horseshoe crab blood in vaccine and medicine development.

—MGP, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/839719/blood-of-horseshoe-crab-used-in-vaccine-development/story/?fbclid=IwAR3x0cG00WE1NnPdiXhFvfQ_wP-OiS0ZpVeeA90VdEylM15r-mzRhI7P4Rg



Environmental group nagbabala vs toxic lipsticks

NAGBABALA ang environmental group na Eco-Waste Coalition laban sa mga toxic lipstick na nabibili sa halagang P10 hanggang P50.

Kinuhanan ng sample at sinuri ng grupo ang 296 lipstick na binibenta sa merkado, at lumabas dito na 95 ay may 42.6 porsyentong laman na lead habang 25 porsyento naman ang nakitang may arsenic at cadmium.

"Nakababala ang napakataas ng lead o tingga, ginagamit 'yan sa batteries," sabi ni Dr. Geminn Louis Apostol, lead environmental health specialist ng Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health.

Kapag raipon sa katawan, maaari aniya itong magdulot ng chronic lead poisoning, kung saan puwedeng makaranas ng pananakit ng ti-

yan.

Maaari ring magdulot ang lead ng problema sa dugo at pamamaga ng utak.

Nabatid ng grupo na ang iba sa mga produkto ay binibenta sa online shops.

Nanawagan si EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero sa Bureau of Customs na hiqipitan ang customs control para hindi makapasok sa bansa ang mga nakakalasang cosmetic products.

Pinayuhan din ni Lucero ang publiko na beripkahin muna kung may certification mula sa Food and Drug Administration ang mga produkto bago bilhin.

"Basahin mabuti ang impormasyon sa mga etiketa... Bawasan ang madalas na paggamit ng lipstick para maiwasan [ang] direct exposure," ani Lucero.



TITLE :

PAGE :

DATE





Public Notices



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Bungkal, Davao City Philippines, 8000
Telephone No. (082) 227-2695

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

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

Location	Sava, Davao City
Description	Lot 1 & 2 FLA-V3, AMD
Area	39,206 square meters
Appraised Value of Land	Php3,751.00 per square meter or Php 147,622,500.00 for the whole tract
Existing Improvements	Php15,422,000.00
Applicant	INSULAR OIL CORPORATION Represented by: NIMFA B. MABANGLO Under P.L.A. NO. 112462 (E) 32

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

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

JUNY C. HOPILERA
DIC, CENR Officer




TITLE: _____

PAGE: _____

DATE: _____

Public Notices


 Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
 Bangkal, Davao City Philippines, 8000
 Telephone No. (082) 287-2685

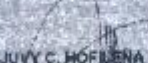
PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipinagbibigay alam sa hindi na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Bangkal, Lungsod ng Dabaw ay talagang ng selaydo o nakasulat na alok sa taong alas 10:00 ng umaga ngayong ika-18 ng **AUG 2022** para papahani ang isang suklat na lupang publiko na itinataguri sa ibaba nito.

Lugar	Sasao, Davao City
Deskripsiyon	Lot 1 & 2 FLA-Y-0, AMD
Sukat	39,206 Metro kwadrado
Talagang ng Luwa	Php3,750.00 kada metro kwadrado o kabuuang Php 147,022,500.00
Halaga ng nakatayang proyekto	Php13,422,000.00
Aplikante	INSULAR OIL CORPORATION Represented by: NIMFA B. MABANGLO F.L.A. NO. 112402 (E) 32

Ang kinaugali na upahan ang nasabing luwa ay ibibigay sa taong periodo na makapagbibigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng luwa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng nakatayang estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasal sa nasagaywang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat-dapat na aplikante at kailangang bago magamula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's o manager's check, ang siya lamang talong-papel. Ang isang tao na asal sa subasta na nagrepresenta ng isang tao ay makakasal lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kasukulang pahintulot na itataguri ng Notary Publico. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay magkakaroon ng dogdag na mensahe kung ang kaniyang alok ay itataguri para makumpleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapalag tumanggap o tanggapin ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalagan para sa pinalagiang.

Ang magwawag sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay itataguriang tumumbasan ang kabanyarang neguho sa pagpapalit-bala ng panawagang na ito sa pagpapalit ng luwa. Lungsod ng Dabaw, Pilipinas, ika-30 ng **JUN 2022**.


JUDY C. HOFLENA
 OIC-CENR Officer





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City,
Philippines 1103

PARIAMA WATER CORPORATION,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3357

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within the municipality of Cabiao, province of Nueva Ecija, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-10 m ³ (incl.)	0-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
1/2"	P 125.50	25.40	27.80	30.10	33.80	37.30
3/4"	P 261.00	51.30	54.30	58.20	64.10	69.30
1"	P 462.00	94.40	99.80	106.50	115.50	125.60
1 1/2"	P 1,207.00	241.40	253.10	267.30	287.30	309.40

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m ³ (incl.)	0-10 m ³	11-20 m ³	21-30 m ³	31-40 m ³	Over 40 m ³
1/2"	P 125.50	25.40	27.80	30.10	33.80	37.30
3/4"	P 261.00	51.30	54.30	58.20	64.10	69.30
1"	P 462.00	94.40	99.80	106.50	115.50	125.60

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m ³ (incl.)	16-25 m ³	26-50 m ³	501-1000 m ³	Over 1000 m ³
1/2"	P 231.00	44.90	60.10	67.90	80.40
3/4"	P 1,256.00	243.30	327.00	368.50	433.00
1"	P 3,442.00	672.40	902.00	1,017.00	1,201.00
1 1/2"	P 6,916.00	1,344.80	1,804.00	2,034.00	2,402.00
2"	P 13,832.00	2,689.60	3,608.00	4,068.00	4,804.00
3"	P 27,664.00	5,379.20	7,216.00	8,136.00	9,608.00
4"	P 55,328.00	10,758.40	14,432.00	16,272.00	19,216.00

Bulk

Pipe Size	Per cu. m.
1"	P 140.00

Others

Pipe Size	Per cu. m.
1/2"	P 81.60

This application will be publicly heard by the Board on **15 August 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 a.m. clock in the morning** at the **NWRB-WLC Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City**, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days** prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Nueva Ecija and advise by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all interested parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 17th day of June 2022.

By Authority of the Board:
(Sgd.)
DR. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:
The Secretary
Barangay Captain
Cabiao, Nueva Ecija

The Barangay Chairmen
All the affected barangays w/in
the municipality of Cabiao
Nueva Ecija

The General Manager
Cabiao Water District
San Juan South, Cabiao
Nueva Ecija 3107

29 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 cases still rising – DOH

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star July 29, 2022 | 12:00am



Shoppers wear face masks as protection against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while inside a market in Marikina City.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The country's positivity rate for COVID-19 went up to 14.8 percent this week from 12.5 percent last week, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

At the same time, the DOH said it has recorded more than 3,047 cases per day this week, which is 32 percent higher compared to last week's cases.

At a virtual briefing, Beverly Lorraine Ho, DOH officer-in-charge undersecretary of the public health services team, said the National Capital Region (NCR) has the highest daily moving average of 1,100 cases per day.

"This was followed by the rest of Luzon with 700 cases per day, and by the Visayas and Mindanao areas, though the rise in cases here was slow," Ho said.

Ho clarified though that, nationally, the country will still be under the low risk classification with a daily average attack rate of 2.43 cases per 100,000 population, with all regions showing increase in cases in the recent one to two weeks.

"That is the trend now, though all regions are still under low risk classification," she added.

Ho stressed that while there is an increase in cases, less than 1,000 cases of severe and critical admissions were recorded since middle of March. "The rise in cases didn't mean rise in hospital admissions," she said.

As of last Tuesday, 734 cases or 8.32 percent of total admissions were severe and critical. Of the total admissions, 16.49 percent were classified as asymptomatic and 40.97 percent mild.

Ho also revealed that the DOH has recorded 1,997 cases of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant BA.5 and 154 cases of the subvariant BA.2.12.1 in the country.

"All regions detected the (BA.5) variant except Region 12 and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or BARMM," she said.

She noted that there were 29 cases in Region 1; 59 in Region 2; 46 in Region 3; 13 in Region 5; 252 in Region 6; five in Region 7; one in Region 8; five in Region 9; one in Region 10 and one in Region 11.

Out of the 890 cases, 650 are fully vaccinated, 18 are partially vaccinated while the vaccination status of the remaining 222 still being verified.



“At the moment, the exposure of individuals, travel histories, health status and vaccination status are being verified as well,” Ho said.

Include antigen results

The OCTA Research group yesterday urged the DOH to include antigen test results in the official COVID-19 case counts, noting that fewer reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests are being conducted compared to previous surges.

“During the Delta surge, there were about 300 daily tests per 100,000 people (in NCR). During the Omicron surge in January, testing was really stretched to about 400 per day,” OCTA fellow Guido David said in a webinar organized by the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

“During the current wave, testing has not really increased that much. It has largely remained at baseline values... The concern here is that the testing is a lot lower compared to the previous wave,” he added, noting that current testing rates rarely reached 100 per day per 100,000 people in the NCR.

David said the actual number of cases may be significantly higher than the reported 2,000 to 3,000 per day because of the low testing rate.

“We’re not saying that there should be more testing necessarily because there are antigen tests being conducted,” David said. “But we’re hoping that data from antigen tests could be incorporated in the numbers that are being reported.”

Under the present guidelines, only positive results from RT-PCR tests are included in regular case reports released by the DOH, even as the cheaper antigen tests became more common in recent months.

OCTA fellow Ranjit Rye expressed support for President Marcos’ pronouncements regarding the health sector during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA). These include sustaining the vaccine and booster programs, revising health protocols and alert systems, building more health centers and hospitals, improving the welfare and hiring more health personnel and ensuring accessibility to cheap and effective medicines.

“All of these disparate initiatives should be part of one comprehensive masterplan as roadmap or blueprint for moving out of the pandemic,” said Rye. – Janvic Mateo



Philippines detects over 900 new cases of Omicron subvariants

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 28, 2022 | 4:25pm



People queue outside SM City Sta. Mesa in Quezon City to register for the upcoming December 2022 barangay elections despite the light rainfall on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has detected 923 additional cases of fast-spreading Omicron BA.5, BA.4, and BA.2.12.2 subvariants, the Department of Health said Thursday.

Beverly Ho, the agency's deputy spokesperson, reported the detection of 890 new BA.5 cases in all regions of the country except Soccsksargen and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Nine returning overseas Filipinos also tested positive for the BA.5 variant.

Of the newly-reported cases, 823 individuals have been tagged as recovered, while 31 are still undergoing isolation.

There are currently 1,997 detected BA.5 cases in the Philippines

BA.5, which has shown to be good at evading the immunity afforded by vaccination or prior infection, has been driving the renewed spike in infections in the country.

Health authorities also found 18 additional BA.4 cases, raising the total number of the Omicron subvariant to 71.

They also detected 15 more BA.2.12.1 cases, bringing the total to 154.

According to Ho, the Philippines remained at low risk for COVID-19 spread, while the capital region was deemed at moderate risk.

The Philippines reported 19,536 additional COVID-19 cases, or an average of 2,791 infections a day, from July 18 to 24.

The DOH earlier said the number of detected cases may reach around 19,306 a day by end-August. Improved vaccination rates and compliance with minimum public health protocols may slow the cases increase, the agency also said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/28/2198602/philippines-detects-over-900-new-cases-omicron-subvariants>

29 JULY 2022, FRIDAY



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Manila Bay Update: July 29, 2022

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