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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR forms transition team, urges BBM admin to continue use of task force on disaster rehab, recovery

Published June 1, 2022, 3:00 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has created a transition team that will work with the incoming administration of president-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the transition team will be headed by a department secretary to ensure a smooth turnover of the agency’s programs and projects.

Marcos is yet to name his DENR chief.

“We are ready. The documents have been prepared and will be presented to the next DENR Secretary,” Sampulna said.

Among the top DENR programs to be handed over to the incoming DENR chief are the Boracay Rehabilitation and Manila Bay Rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said that they will also be proposing to the next administration the continuation of task force on disaster recovery and rehabilitation created under the Duterte administration and the strict implementation of major environmental laws.

“The challenge is the effects of climate change; we are expecting tropical cyclones and calamities such as landslides and flooding. That’s why during the time of President Rodrigo Duterte we have the Task Force Build Back Better, a whole-of-government approach on post-disaster response,” said Leones.

“Secondly, our agency is mandated to protect the environment and conserve the natural resources, so we will focus on this and discuss with the incoming administration the strict implementation of environmental laws such as Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act,” he added.



DENR cites progress on climate resiliency under Duterte administration



[BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

JUNE 2, 2022

The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) believes that the Duterte administration made a significant progress towards a more climate resilient Philippines.

Jim O. Sampulna, DENR Acting Secretary made this pitch during the “Duterte Legacy Summit: The Final Report to the People” on May 30, saying Duterte had made great strides in institutionalizing the centrality of environment to the country’s development.

“The Duterte administration espoused that a healthy environment is the foundation for economic and social development,” said Sampulna, stressing the Duterte presidency has remained on track with its “Climate Action Pathway,” as a strategy to “enhance resilience and adaptive capacity of the ecosystems and vulnerable communities.”

The DENR chief also mentioned the “impossible” cleanup of Manila Bay and the six-month rehabilitation of Boracay Island as two of the administration’s major achievements that define President Duterte’s legacy on environment and climate governance to “foster a sustainable future for every Filipino.”

“Our government has shown real resilience, great concern for the environment, for the people,” Sampulna said.

He said that this highlighted how President Duterte has positioned his administration to take significant progressive actions on climate change and disaster resiliency with the creation of the Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) by virtue of Executive Order No. 120 to strengthen the climate resilience capacities of communities vulnerable to disasters and climate hazards, especially in Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, and Marikina River Basin.

“Phase 1 of dredging in the Magapit Narrows, Cagayan, and Marikina River had been completed, while the removal of critical sandbars restricting the water flows of the Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol Rivers is ongoing,” Sampulna pointed out.

His report was capped with a testimonial from Beverly Calud, a Marikina resident.

Calud attested to the marked absence of devastating floods along the Marikina River, which she attributed to the TFBBB’s dredging and widening of the river and watershed rehabilitation along the riverbanks and the Upper Marikina River Basin.

The TFBBB’s initiatives were done using a whole-of-government approach supported by the operation of a strengthened quick response mechanism to give immediate relief assistance to indigents living in hazard-prone areas and victims of typhoons and earthquakes nationwide.

“Emergency Operations Centers in 17 regional offices and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Centers were established as command-and-control points for emergency operations and activities,” Sampulna said.



DENR cites progress on climate resiliency under Duterte administration

The aspect deemed most salient in the report was the Duterte administration's commitment to clean energy, which has resulted in the ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, impose a moratorium on coal power projects, and advocate for the phase-down of unabated coal power and end of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies during the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“Renewable energy and a low carbon public transport system were actively promoted, especially with the recent passage of Republic Act 11697 or the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act. Proper solid waste management and alternative climate-resilient livelihoods were bolstered to relieve pressure on the environment and biodiversity,” Sampulna said.

He also emphasized the administration's efforts to push for responsible mining for sustainable development with the completion of the first and second phases of the mining audit, covering 43 large-scale surface metallic mining companies.

“An estimated P2.7 billion were also committed to environmental programs, on top of the 8.1 million seedlings and reforestation of 6,600 hectares of mined-out and other areas for the Mining Forest Program,” Sampulna said.

He added that P407.6 million of the Social Development Management Program of mining companies were realigned to support the affected impact and non-impact communities during the pandemic.



Duterte Legacy: Braving disasters thru climate change resilience

By Stephanie Sevillano May 31, 2022, 8:14 pm



MANGROVES. The Environment department shows a video of mangrove seedlings in Siargao Islands during a presentation on Monday (May 30, 2022). The administration helps local communities through the Enhanced National Greening Program, one of Duterte legacies, with around 387.83 million mangrove seedlings planted from 2007 to 2011 in the island province. *(Screengrab)*

MANILA – Extreme weather conditions hitting countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world are not solely headline-worthy scenarios with oftentimes horrifying death tolls, these also highlight the need for a quick global response that is best mastered in a whole-of-government approach.

Amid these global pressures to reverse climate situations, the Duterte administration has gained ground in ensuring that landmark programs go beyond its six-year term, to achieve sustainable climate resilience.

At the Duterte Legacy Summit 2022 on Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) highlighted some of the “life-saving” programs.

These programs were proven to mitigate disastrous climate impacts, not to mention the variety of challenges encountered by the Philippines including volcanic eruptions, coronavirus pandemic, and typhoons.

Lifeline in mangroves

Judilyn Arreza, secretary of a people’s group del Carmen Fisherfolk Association from Siargao Islands, said they are reaping the benefits brought by the flourishing mangrove trees on their island.



Duterte Legacy: Braving disasters thru climate change resilience

The administration, through the DENR, has launched the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), which has secured 387.83 million planted mangrove seedlings in their town from 2017 up to last year.

Arreza said it was only in 2016, through the ENGP, that they have benefitted from such a program since they formed their association in 2011, granting fishers additional income, with tourism also greatly contributing to their financial needs.

“Our community depends on the mangroves, which are very abundant. We have a lot of fish then, and many tourists visit us... We are earning almost PHP3,600 additional income per month, sometimes, during vacation season, we are earning as much as PHP1,000 a day,” she said in Filipino.

However, nature’s wrath did not spare Arreza’s community as Siargao Island became one of the areas devastated by Typhoon Odette.

“Typhoon Odette came, we were really afraid that time because the wind was really strong, we thought we’re gonna die, all of us, almost all the houses have been destroyed, almost all our source of income vanished,” she said.

“Odette” ravaged Visayas and Mindanao in December last year, killing at least 400 people, and affecting over a million others in the region.

Arreza has been grateful to the well-grown mangrove trees they have which somehow provided an impact buffer, just enough to save their lives.

“If it were not for the mangroves, maybe a lot more would have died, or a greater amount of damage would have been made during the typhoon,” she said.

Arreza noted that the DENR has been assisting them to recover through the seedling provision and various training.

Innovative preps

In the same report, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna cited numerous actions made by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), to “raise the bar” on the country’s environmental approaches.

“LGUs (Local Government Units) were supported with continuous updating of the geohazard maps and in the conduct of risk assessments in their areas to help them plan in disaster and calamities,” he said.

This covers various hazards related to flooding, earthquake, and even volcanic risks, among others.



Duterte Legacy: Braving disasters thru climate change resilience

State-of-the-art technologies for monitoring and forecasting were procured and used across agencies for LGUs.

“Emergency operations centers in 17 regional offices and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management operation centers were established as command control points for emergency operations and activities,” Sampulna added.

Operation Listo and Disaster Preparedness Manual were some of the tools used to engage the local communities in preparation for earthquakes, typhoons, and other forms of destructive weather conditions.

Over PHP2-billion immediate relief assistance, meanwhile, has been provided to affected families since 2018.

Besides disaster preparations and response, the Duterte administration has also advanced the rehabilitation and preservation of protected areas in the country, such as the Boracay and Manila Bay Rehabilitation.

Sampulna said science-based actions are needed to ensure resilience and sustainability for the country, which the outgoing administration has fostered.

“The Duterte administration shaped the vision and strategy of our country to improve lives, protect the people, and the environment, consistent with the global aspirations for a better, greener, bluer, and healthier post-Covid-19 recovery,” he said. *(PNA)*



Boracay rehab biggest environmental project under PRRD

By Perla Lena June 1, 2022, 8:02 pm



ISLAND REHAB. Livino Duran, DENR regional executive director for Western Visayas, says on Wednesday (June 1, 2022), there is a need to revisit the Boracay Action Plan to look into what has been completed and what needs to still be done. The action plan, which is divided into four thematic areas, costs around P26 billion. *(PNA file photo)*

ILOILO CITY – An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas said the rehabilitation of Boracay island is considered as the biggest environmental project of the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte in the region.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Livino Duran, DENR regional executive director for Western Visayas, said with the mandate of the agency-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) nearing its end on June 30, there is a need to go back to the 2018-2022 Boracay Action Plan (BAP) to look into whether more should be done as far as the rehabilitation is concerned.

The action plan, which is divided into four thematic areas, costs around PHP26 billion.

Duran said almost all components of the plan were implemented but the question is whether or not they are completed.

“This should be a continuing intervention to sustain the efforts and really to make Boracay presentable and tourist-friendly,” he said.

At the end of June 30, all agencies with direct mandate on the governance in Boracay will come in to continue the intervention in place, he added.

As of April 15, about 89 percent of the 339 establishments encroaching on the more than 25-meter beach easement rule were demolished and are expected to be completed by end of this year’s second quarter.



Boracay rehab biggest environmental project under PRRD

All beaches, including the front and the Bolabog beaches, became Class SB-compliant except for the outfall in front of the Kingfisher area, which is populated by residential houses that are not connected to the sewer network.

Duran said they are also looking for additional sanitary landfills as preparation for the solid waste management of the island.

The rehabilitation of Wetland 2 has been completed and already turned over to the DENR. Likewise, there is an ongoing rehabilitation of Wetlands 4, 3, 6, 8, while 9 is expected to be completed by the second quarter of this year.

For infrastructure support, Duran said road construction is a continuing intervention. (*PNA*)



MGB says nickel mining in Davao Oriental outside protected area, not an open-pit mine

June 1, 2022 | 7:08 pm



THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has clarified that the nickel mining project in Davao Oriental is not an open-pit mine and confirmed a local government's earlier statement that its location is outside the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, a declared protected area and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"Please be informed that the Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation (ALMC/HMC)... are nickel mines with valid and existing Mineral Production Sharing Agreements... and employ strip or contour mining method only," the bureau's Davao regional office said in a statement.

It also said that the companies have "already waived a portion of their mining claims to be part of the protected wildlife sanctuary."

HMC says on its website that it "relinquished 7,200 hectares to adequately expand the Hamiguitan World Heritage Site."

The delineation of the buffer zone boundaries was undertaken in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), according to the mines bureau.

"This office acknowledges the concerns raised by various environmental groups and advocates," it said. "Rest assured that you are heard and that the DENR is likewise putting its best foot forward to keep our environment and natural resources sustainably managed."

The local government of Mati City, Davao Oriental's capital and host of the project, earlier allayed public concern over the project following photos posted on social media about the mining site's location.



MGB says nickel mining in Davao Oriental outside protected area, not an open-pit mine

Advocacy group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Inc. said the mining project's close proximity to Mt. Hamiguitan as well as the Pujada Bay Seascape, also a protected area, poses a serious environmental threat.

“Regardless of the claim that it is outside the protected area delineation, we strongly uphold and fight for the ecological rights and integrities of these watersheds from ridge to reef,” IDIS said. — **Maya M. Padillo**



Mine output rises 36% to P49 billion in 3 months

By [Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star)

- June 2, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The value of the country's metallic production continued its double-digit growth in the first quarter of the year, driven by bullish metal prices and the increase in the mine output of gold, silver, and copper, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

Metallic mineral production value reached P48.61 billion, 36.2 percent higher than the previous year.

“Once again the bullish metal price during the period pushed the industry to this optimistic performance, coupled with the increase in the mine production of gold, silver, and copper,” the MGB said.

The average price of nickel registered a 59 percent year-on-year increase to \$28,089.77 per metric ton (MT).

Similarly, average copper prices also registered an 18 percent year-on-year increase to \$9,986.01 per MT, while the price of gold also increased by 4.05 percent to \$1,874.91 per troy ounce.

“We are seeing prices of metals at heights way beyond their pre-pandemic levels,” the MGB said.

Gold accounted for the bulk of the total production value or 45.74 percent at P22.24 billion, up 29 percent from last year.

Production volume of gold increased by 15 percent to 7,137 kilos. Direct shipping nickel ore together with its nickel products, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide, and scandium oxalate had the second largest contribution to the total metal output value with a 39.64 percent contribution at P19.27 billion.

Of the total, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide accounted for more than half at P10.7 billion. This was followed by nickel direct shipping ore with P8.45 billion.

However, in terms of volume, nickel direct shipping ore had the largest contribution with a 3.7 million dry metric tons (DMT) production, a nine percent drop from the 7.06 million produced in the first quarter of last year.

In contrast, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide registered 19,471 DMT in the first quarter, down by four percent from 20,239 DMT a year ago.

“For the rest of 2022 experts say that the demand for nickel will be fueled by the battery sector as battery producers and carmakers anticipate the transition to electric vehicles,” the MGB said.

Meanwhile, MGB data showed that copper had a 12.98 percent contribution to the total value of metal production at P6.31 billion, higher than the P3.33 billion registered in the first quarter of last year.

Copper production volume also increased to 64,841 DMT from 44,050 DMT last year.

The collective values of silver, iron ore, and chromite accounted for 1.64 percent of the total metal production at P0.8 billion.



Mine output rises 36% to P49 billion in 3 months

Silver production volume rose to 21,673 kilos from 5,603 kilos.

The MGB has planned an 18-year roadmap that aims for the sustained development of the country's minerals sector.

"This roadmap is divided into three phases: enhancing investors' confidence in the mineral sector (2022-2024); expanding domestic ore production and mineral asset (2023-2030); and the Philippines to level-up to the global mineral markets in the field of semi-processed and fully processed mineral products (2026-2040)," the MGB said.

Under the first phase, the government has initiated enabling policies for the industry such as the issuance of Executive Order 130, which allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements and Department Administrative Order 2021-40 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which lifts the ban on open-pit mining.

"In addition, the Bureau is also stirring towards the following activities: expanding the collection of geosciences and mineral information database both onshore and offshore; identifying new mineral reserves; and design mineral extraction to minimize environmental footprint," the MGB said.

Under the second phase of the roadmap, the government targets to increase and attract mineral/mining-related investment to build up the national economy.

"This would mean an expansion of the production capacity of existing mining projects and the entry of new players. Other specific programs under this phase are to bid out national government mining assets under the Privatization Management Office and Philippine Mining Development Corp. within three years," the MGB said referring to Basay Mining Corp., Maricalum Mining and Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp. as some of the government mining assets to be bid out.

The third phase aims to upgrade the Philippines to the global mineral markets in the field of semi-processed and fully processed mineral products.

Under this phase, specific programs include the mandate of the establishment of mineral smelting and refining facilities, iron making industry, and nickel refineries this move is to expand the export of value-added mineral products; conduct research on the re-use of mining waste and tailings for other industrial use, mine rehabilitation, and acid mine drainage management using the Development of Mining Technology and Geosciences fund under the Social Development and Management Program; and Build-up technical capacity both in the government institutions and private sector.

During the third phase, the government anticipates a full-blown downstream sector and the establishment and expansion of the upstream sector of the minerals industry.

"All things considered, the proper implementation of this roadmap would translate to growth in investment, trade, revenue, and employment opportunities," the MGB said.



Philippines to sell idle state mines from 2023 as part of sector shakeup

By [Reuters](#)

- June 1, 2022 - 6:39 PM



A Filipino mining engineer examines a mineralized ore containing copper and zinc in front of a milling plant in Lafayette Mining's open pit multi-mineral mine at Rapu Rapu island in the central Philippines, 350 km (217 miles) south of Manila, October 16, 2005. (Reuters/Erik de Castro/File Photo)

MANILA — The Philippines will sell idle state-held mining assets from next year, part of an 18-year plan to develop its fledgling mineral sector and boost its contribution to economic growth, the industry regulator said on Wednesday.

The Philippines is China's biggest supplier of mostly low-grade nickel ore used to produce nickel pig iron, a raw material for stainless steel, but mining accounts for less than 1% of its overall economic output.

Though more than a third the Philippines' land area has been identified as having "high mineral potential", less than 5% of its mineral reserves has been extracted so far, according to the mines bureau.

Assets up for sale include several nickel and copper mines and copper-gold projects, all in central and southern provinces, which the government took over from private firms several years ago and were subject to a legal review launched in 2020.

In a quarterly report, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said the assets sale was part of an 18-year plan that aims to boost investor confidence in the Philippine mining sector, then expand domestic ore production and mineral assets, and sell government-held mines.



Philippines to sell idle state mines from 2023 as part of sector shakeup

From 2026 to 2040, the plan focuses on improving infrastructure for mining and domestic processing to increase mineral exports value, the report said.

Restrictive policies saw the industry stagnate for years. President Rodrigo Duterte, whose six-year term ends on June 30, has recently lifted restrictions in the sector, including a ban on open-pit mining.

—Reporting by Enrico Dela Cruz; Editing by Martin Petty



[DOLOMITE BEACH TO OPEN ON JUNE 12](#)

JUN 1, 2022, 3:19 PM



Mike Taboy
Photographer

The controversial fake white sands coming from crashed dolomite that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources used in rehabilitating Manila Bay at the height of the pandemic, will be open to the public on June 12, Independence Day.

The dolomite sand beach was harshly criticized because instead of using the funds for pandemic response, the DENR opted to camouflage the filthy bay shore with fake white sands. See the real color of the beach in this photo.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/dolomite-beach-to-open-on-june-12?fbclid=IwAR2Hjz5OH3_ZrrpodCkU8Wp933dmQpNBmBAOoKbOC3K1877umOZzwXovtno



DOLOMITE BEACH MULING BUBUKSAN NG DENR SA JUNE 12



June 1, 2022 @ 11:03 PM 9 hours ago

INIHAYAG ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna na ang Manila Bay Dolomite Beach ay muling bubuksan sa publiko sa Hunyo 12 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Independence Day.

Nakatakda sanang muling buksan ngayong Mayo, iniurong ito ng DENR dahil may mga imprastraktura pa na kailangang tapusin sa lugar.

“We are excited to open the dolomite beach to the public again on June 12. This is the good legacy of the Duterte administration, that’s why we really aim to open it before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s term ends,” saad ni Sampulna.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones, dumaan na ang 500-meter beach nourishment project, na sinimulan noong 2020, sa ulan, bagyo at baha ngunit matatag pa rin ito.



DOLOMITE BEACH MULING BUBUKSAN NG DENR SA JUNE 12

“This proves that the dolomite beach, thanks to the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the other agencies, is stable and will prevail,” saad ni Leones.

Sinabi rin ni Leones na kasabay ng pagbubukas ng dolomite beach sa tabi ng US Embassy sa Maynila ang pagpapasinaya ng World War II Heritage Cannon sa Remedios area “to encourage patriotism among the public and to signify that the battle to cleanup Manila Bay is not yet over.”

Ang Heritage Cannon ay isa sa mga orihinal na kanyon noong World War II mula sa Fort Drum Island na matatagpuan sa may bukana ng Manila Bay.

Matapos ang kasalukuyang administrasyon, ang Manila Bay Dolomite Beach, ayon kay Leones, ay mananatiling bahagi ng rehabilitation approach sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay ayon sa writ of continuing mandamus mula sa Supreme Court noong 2008.

Samantala, nilinaw ni Manila Bay Coordinating Office Executive Director Jacob F. Meimban na ang muling pagbubukas ng beach ay para lamang sa pagpasyal, paglalakad at panonood ng sunset at hindi para sa paglalangoy sa kadahilanang ang water quality ay wala pa sa 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100mL) na standard fecal coliform level.

Positibo rin si Meimban na ang water quality ay tuluyan pang magiging maayos bago matapos ang taong ito kung saan ang isang istasyon sa dolomite beach ay mayroon na lamang 920 MPN/100mL coliform level nitong Mayo 13.

Bago simulan ang ‘rehabilitation efforts,’ ang tubig malapit sa Manila Baywalk ay nakapagtala ng average coliform level na 5.75 million MPN/100mL, base na rin sa datos ng MBCO noong 2019.

Kapag muli nang nabuksan, papayagan ng DENR ang 1,500 hanggang 3,500 katao at any given time sa kahabaan ng 500-meter dolomite beach upang matiyak na masusunod ang minimum health protocols.

Dagdag din ni Meimban na ang online pre-registration ay hindi na kailangan sa ilalim ng Alert Level 1 ngunit hinihikayat ang mga pupunta sa dolomite beach na maging fully vaccinated.



Manila Bay Dolomite Beach, bubuksan na sa Hunyo 12 — DENR

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | May 31, 2022



Magbubukas na muli sa publiko ang man-made beach na matatagpuan sa kahabaan ng Manila Baywalk sa Hunyo 12, kasabay ng selebrasyon ng 124th Independence Day ng bansa, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Sa isang statement, sinabi ng DENR na ang reopening ng Manila Bay Dolomite Beach ay unang naiskedyul nitong Mayo subalit iniurong ito dahil sa ilang mga imprastruktura ang hindi pa natapos sa naturang lugar.

“We are excited to open the dolomite beach to the public again on June 12. This is the good legacy of the Duterte administration, that’s why we really aim to open it before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s term ends,” saad ni DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampluna.

Matatandaan na maraming environmental groups ang bumatikos sa nasabing proyekto, dahil anila sa idudulot na epekto umano sa kalusugan ng isang indibidwal ng crushed dolomite na ginamit bilang “white sands.”



Manila Bay Dolomite Beach, bubuksan na sa Hunyo 12 — DENR

Gayunman, ipinagtanggol ng DENR ang proyekto, paliwanag nila ang mga concerned agencies at mga eksperto ay kanilang kinonsulta hinggil dito. Gayundin, ayon sa Malacañang ang P389-M dolomite beach project ay makatutulong para sa flood control at mapipigilan din ang soil erosion. Unang binuksan ang Manila Bay Dolomite Beach sa publiko noong Setyembre 2021.

Kaugnay nito, ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones, ang 500-meter beach nourishment project aniya, “has withstood rains, typhoons and floods yet remains intact.” “This proves that the dolomite beach, thanks to the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the other agencies, is stable and will prevail,” sabi pa ni Leones.



Cebu City holds river summit

[Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#) - The Freeman
June 2, 2022 | 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City government will hold its first ever river summit starting today until tomorrow, June 2-3, 2022.

The two-day day event is organized by the office of Vice Mayor Donaldo “Dondon” Hontiveros, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-7 and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-7.

The river summit, with the theme “Ang Hagit: Atubangon ang Kaniadto, Karon, ug Kaugmaon sa Atong Mga Suba”, will be held at Quest Hotel Cebu.

As reported by the city’s Public Information Office (PIO), Atty. Verona Aguilar, special projects and programs focal person of the Office of the Vice Mayor, said the summit aims to discuss the importance of the city’s rivers.

“Advocacy na man sad gyud ni Vice ang environment. Nakita man namo unsa gyud kahugaw ang mga rivers. So, isa na ba nga ma-discuss unta nga unsa pod ka-importante ang rivers, kay (ang) nahitabo ang rivers mura siya’g nahimong labayanan,” said Aguilar.

Among the topics to be tackled during the summit are the state of the rivers in the city, quality of its waters, as well as the ordinances and resolutions regarding the environment. Cebu City’s barangay captains are also expected to attend the event.

The city government has been conducting programs aiming to manage its rivers such as conducting clean-up drives which involve participation of City Hall employees, barangay workers, the private sector, and members of some organizations.

In the past clean-up drives, most of the waste collected are plastic.

The city government is urging the public not to throw their garbage in the river to avoid the rise of water level which causes flooding, especially during the rainy season. — **FPL (FREEMAN)**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2022/06/02/2185493/cebu-city-holds-river-summit>



Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

Yesterday at 4:04 AM · 🌐

PROTECT AND RESTORE! PRCMO, MERALCO LEAD SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY CLEAN-UP AT ESTERO DE PROVISOR

In celebration of the 2022 International Day of Biological Diversity, the PRCMO and multi-sector partners and stakeholders converged for a special inter-agency clean-up at Estero de Provisor in Paco, Manila.

A total of 820 sacks of water hyacinth were removed from the waterway which is one of the tributaries directly draining to the Pasig River and eventually to Manila Bay.

The special clean-up was held to establish Estero de Provisor and its adjoining Isla de Provisor as one of the PRCMO's priority sites for restoration and sustainable development through regular clean-up operations and partnership programs with the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), the country's power utility giant.

#PasigRiver #PusoParaSallogPasig #StrongerTogether



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064644703855/posts/pfbido2uXUp7aBFiucbEZz8Whn1Euyz9WQLRLKTfrF7TEyKrqdKaTKFwp7X7r2usPUPS1yZl/?app=fbl>



Sorsogon municipality judged 'best coastal community' by BFAR

Published June 1, 2022 3:04pm

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has declared the municipality of Prieto Diaz in Sorsogon province as best coastal community.

At the Laging Handa public briefing on Wednesday, BFAR chief information officer Nazzer Briguera said the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan 2020 (MMK) awarding ceremony was held in Pasay City on Tuesday.

“Ang naging grand winner ng MMK ay ito pong Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. At sinundan po ito noong dalawang munisipyo, ito pong Libertad, Antique at Hinunangan, Leyte, bilang 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up,” he said.

(The grand winner of MMK is Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. It is followed by Libertad, Antique, and Hinunangan, Leyte, as the 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up.)

Prieto Diaz will receive P30 million worth of fisheries livelihood projects for winning the contest.

According to the BFAR, Prieto Diaz exhibited an exceptional participatory process in its law enforcement as it has achieved almost zero cases of illegal and destructive fishing since 2017.

Through its strengthened avenues for community participation, Prieto Diaz established high social acceptability for projects aimed at protecting and conserving its natural resources, it added.

MMK recognizes municipalities' exemplary initiatives and accomplishments in coastal and fisheries resource management, and documents their best practices and strategies, according to BFAR.

The following are the criteria for the award:

- no illegal fishing;
- observance of closed fishing season;
- declared Marine Protected Areas;
- clean, coastal waters without any garbage or industrial effluence flowing to the sea;
- effective mangrove protection and rehabilitation program

—Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/833557/sorsogon-municipality-judged-best-coastal-community-by-bfar/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwARojBbuDdjLzQavNR3fX-1gBcFad8UpwmVCeU6GtjTNrcf9UQPLNYPSSsM



Beach fest revived as marine biodiversity effort

June 2, 2022



Crown of Thorns collection in Sarangani Bay CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VOLUNTEER scuba divers from the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) and local government units in [Sarangani Province](#) lead the underwater collection of the crown of thorns (COTs), which preys on the coral reefs in [Sarangani Bay](#), one of the country's most biodiversity-rich protected seascapes.

One of [Mindanao](#)'s richest bodies of water and diving haven, the bay has been experiencing occasional outbreaks of COTs over the past few years due to the loss of its natural predators such as the Triton trumpet, Napoleon wrasse, white-spotted pufferfish and titan triggerfish which keep its population in check, as well as the rise in sea surface temperature due to climate change.

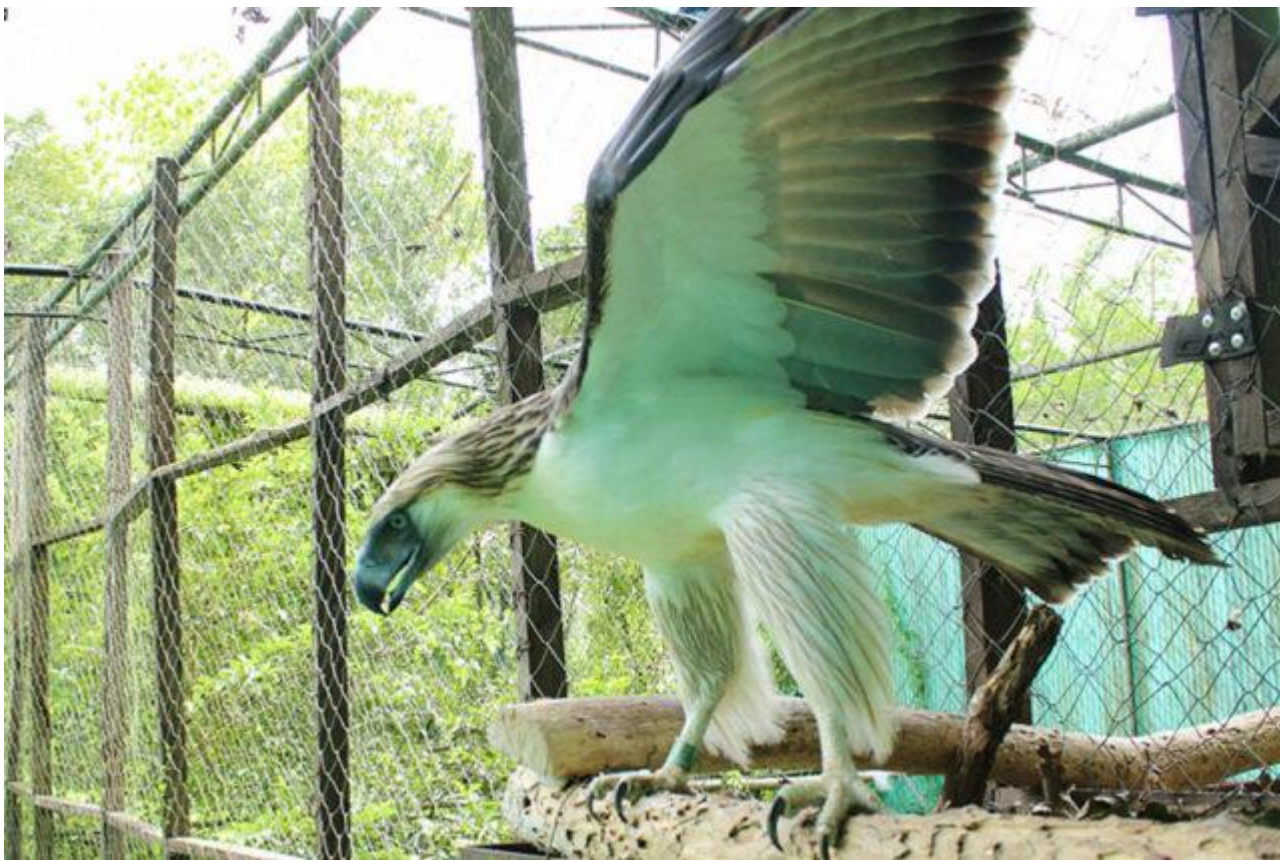
The four-day environmental initiative is part of the soft revival of the annual Sarangani Bay (SarBay) Festival, regarded as the biggest beach party in the archipelago held at the famed white beach of Gumasa, Glan which was suspended for the past two years due to the [Covid-19](#) pandemic. Aside from the COT collection, the Wake Up Sarbay Festival also includes a bike-for-environment ride, which will be participated in by cycling enthusiasts who will plant mangroves in the coastal villages of Malapatan town.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/02/public-square/beach-fest-revived-as-marine-biodiversity-effort/1845791>



PEF needs P56M for new center to relocate Philippine eagles

June 1, 2022 | 7:08 pm



PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION

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THE PHILIPPINE Eagle Foundation (PEF) will need P56 million to build a new center to protect its flock of eagles from Avian Flu and other threats due to increasing human activities around its current location in Davao City.

PEF Development Manager Andi Baldonado said the new site will still be within the city and the local government is providing a 50-hectare land.

“We are working with the city government of Davao to allow us to use land owned by the city in Barangay Eden. We are working on the release of the usufruct to allow us to use the facility for captive breeding and rescue rehabilitation center,” she said during the Kapehan sa Dabaw at SM City Davao on Monday.

“We are still in the initial phase but we are grateful that the city government is supportive of this emergency plan,” she said.

No Avian Flu case had been recorded in the city, but Ms. Baldonado said the recent outbreak in Magsaysay town in Davao del Sur, which is about 90 kilometers southwest of the PEC, already puts their 34 Philippine eagles at risk.

She said the relocation is also part of a long-term plan to have a site that is more conducive for breeding and other conservation activities.



The current center in Malagos has become more “susceptible to infection,” she said, citing the rise of more game farms around the area, among other human activities.

The annual Philippine Eagle Week will be celebrated on June 4 to 13 with “AgiLaya: Lasting Freedom for the Philippine Eagle” as this year’s theme. PEF will stage an exhibit at the SM Lanang Premier highlighting conservation milestones and continuing threats to the country’s national bird. — **Maya M. Padillo**



Editorial: Help the Eagles

June 01, 2022

DUE to the increasing farm and residential activities surrounding the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Malagos, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) hopes to relocate the center to a bigger area in Eden, Toril.

“If you look at Malagos right now, ’yong enclosure namin right now, next to it is [a] farm lot. Wala tayong buffer, talagang ’yong mga agila natin exposed lang to farm activities and other residential activities around the area,” Andi Baldonado, PEF development manager, said on Monday, May 30, 2022.

With the farm activities surrounding or near the center, the critically endangered Philippine Eagle is at risk of being affected by the avian flu.

When avian flu cases were detected in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat and Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, biosecurity measures were immediately implemented at PEC. These include suspending operations and conducting lockdown and quarantine. The center also intensified its isolation, sanitation, and waste disposal protocols. An Outbreak Management Plan was also created.

The foundation said in a statement that should the avian flu enter PEC, it could wipe out its captive breeding stock.

The human activities in the area have also pushed other wildlife to reside in the center. Snakes are a common threat to the eagles in the center.

A month ago, a python attacked a juvenile Philippine eagle, killing it in its snake-proof enclosure. This incident also had PEF strengthening the snake proofing of its enclosures.

Rapid urbanization and avian flu pose a risk to our national bird. Hence, PEF’s plan to relocate the center to somewhere safer.

The location they are looking at is within a 50-hectare area in Eden that has been designated as a conservation area. However, putting the center here comes with a hefty price tag.

“This have to take more time, kasi ang laki ng budget na kailangan namin to develop the facility, based on our framework plan, we need at least P56 million to develop enclosures, hospital for the eagles for the area, hindi accessible itong area na ito kaya it all causes a lot of expenses when it comes to construction,” Baldonado said.



Editorial: Help the Eagles

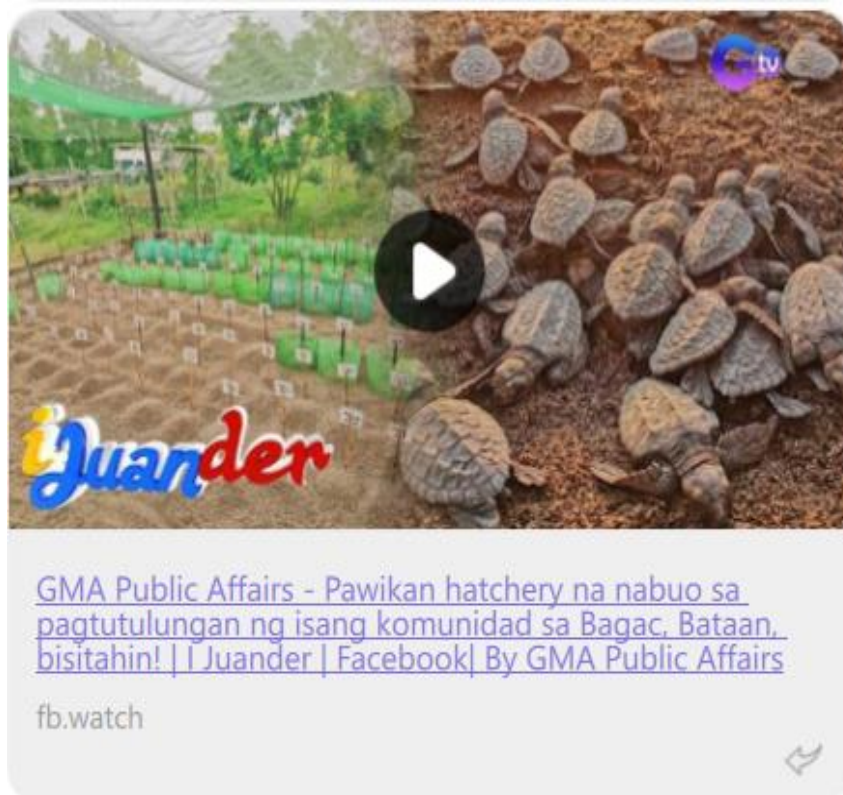
Our national bird will need every help it can get. And it is on us humans to help them. To know how you can help the eagles, visit

<https://www.philippineeaglefoundation.org/donate>.

Helping the foundation ensures that the future generation will still see the majestic Philippine Eagle.



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Source:

<https://fb.watch/dniP7MnPJy/>



BE Resort Mactan hosts 1st 'Laudato Si' underwater cleanup drive



[KAILA JEWELS TASHVANA B. CAJELO](#)

June 01, 2022

IN THE last decade, people have abused nature so much to the extent of maximal degradation. Various bodies of water—especially our seas and oceans—are facing the bigger brunt of this abuse.

Day by day, the threats to marine biodiversity multiply and plastic waste is among the many factors that contribute to pollution.

In celebration of the “Laudato Si” week, the Archdiocese of Cebu, Cebu Lions Club and Sacred Heart of Jesus, among other organizations, partnered with BE Resort Mactan in arranging an underwater cleanup drive on May 24, 2022.

The goal of the drive was to eradicate the plastic waste and other rubbish afflicting the reefs and sea bed fronting BE Resort Mactan.

Fr. Murphy Sarsonas from the Archdiocese of Cebu shared that it is the call of the Universal Church to take care of the environment. In the month of May, the Universal Church is celebrating the commemoration of “Laudato Si,” Pope Francis’ second encyclical letter that critiques consumerism and laments environmental degradation and global warming. From May 22 to 29,



BE Resort Mactan hosts 1st ‘Laudato Si’ underwater cleanup drive

the Catholic Church will be conducting environmental initiatives and projects that will highlight the importance of collectively taking care of nature. One of the projects they have conducted is the underwater cleanup drive.

The environmental problem we face today is very encompassing, states Fr. Sarsonas. The easiest solution we can abide by is raising individual awareness partnered with an effective institutional approach. He also highlights the significant role of education in renewing the face of the earth. Educating the masses about the harmful effects of plastics on the environment is also another solution next to the collective action of preventing further destruction of our earth due to plastic waste.

The Archdiocese of Cebu plans to hold this event annually along with other projects that will make certain of the gradual regeneration of our environment.



Philippines deploys four vessels to marine pollution exercises in Indonesia

(Philstar.com)

- June 1, 2022 - 5:04pm



Philippine Consulate General in Manado's Consul General Angelica Escalona as well as Philippine Embassy in Jakarta's Philippine Consul General Bryan Lao and Second Secretary Jonathan Abe on deck at the BRP Teresa Magbanua and the BRP Gabriela Silang with the officers of each vessel deployed.

DFA / Philippine Consulate General in Manado, Indonesia

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines deployed four of its maritime vessels to the regional marine oil spill response exercises currently held in Indonesia's South Sulawesi province.

[In a statement dated May 30](#), the Department of Foreign Affairs said the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is joining the Regional Marine Pollution Exercises (MARPOLEX 2022) this year in Makassar City in South Sulawesi.

The country, joined by Indonesia and Japan, conducts the exercises every two years in line with the Sulu Sulawesi Oil Spill Network Plan 1981.

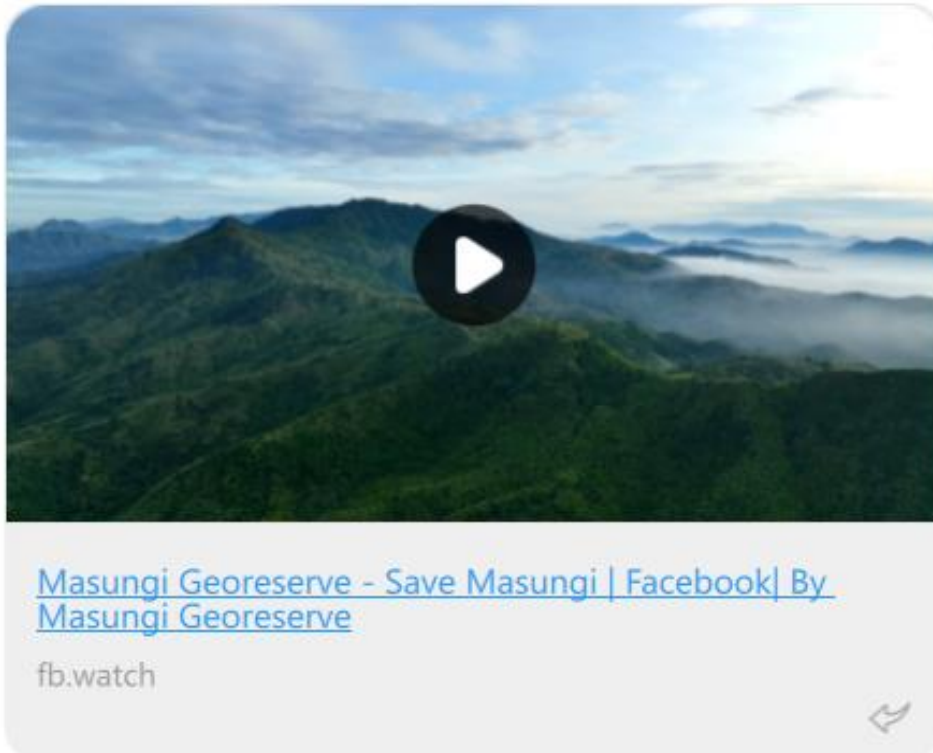
“[The exercises] aims to train and enhance cooperation and interoperability capacities as well as ensure participating countries’ preparedness in firefighting, rescue, and oil spill recovery operations,” the DFA said.

The Philippines deployed four ships, which includes the newly acquired BRP Teresa Magbanua, BRP Gabriela Silang, BRP Cape Engaño, and the BRP Malapascua.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/01/2185313/philippines-deploys-four-vessels-marine-pollution-exercises-indonesia/amp/>



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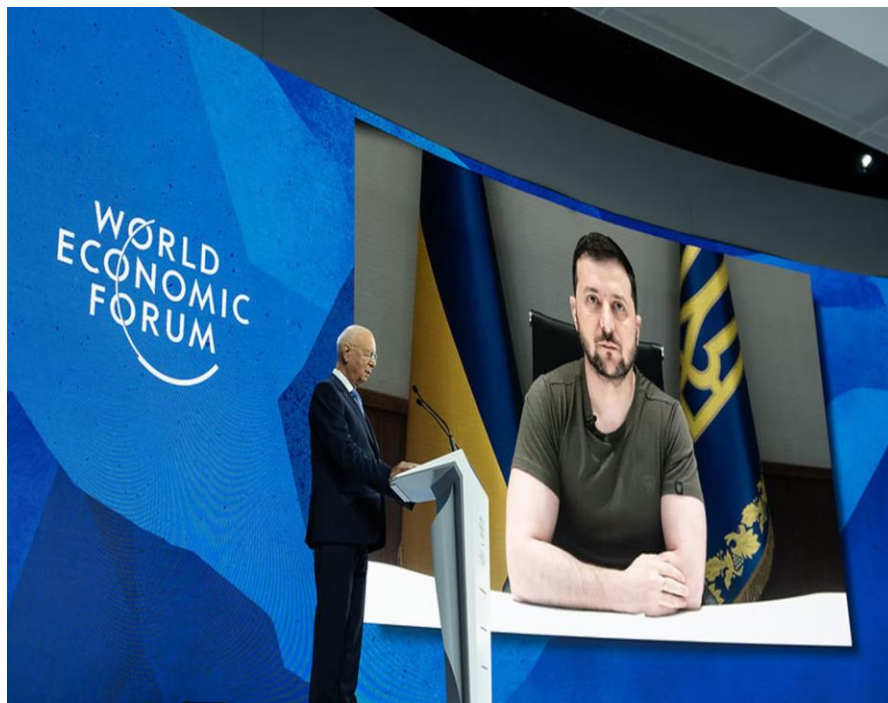


Source:

<https://fb.watch/dnlxASWo8W/>

Overheard at Davos: climate leaders at the 2022 WEF annual meeting

Eco-Business highlights statements related to the sustainability agenda from policymakers at this year's World Economic Forum, which took place against a backdrop of deep global uncertainties.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, president of Ukraine addresses Davos 2022. Image: World Economic Forum

By [Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez](#) and [Liang Lei](#)
7 minute read June 1, 2022

World leaders gathered at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland last week amid a war raging in Ukraine, dwindling food supply, worsening climate events, and a world recovering from a global pandemic.

The conference, which took place in person for the first time since the start of Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, had faced a strong [pushback](#), given how many attendees were stipulated to arrive in the Alpine resort town by way of private jet, tarnishing the event's eco-credentials. The organisers have responded by saying that Davos is carbon-neutral, with emissions from the group's activities being fully offset by supporting environmental projects in Switzerland and elsewhere since 2017.

As many as a third of the panel discussions this year were related to global warming, compared to last year's which centered mostly on healthcare. Eco-Business revisits statements from policymakers on how they will come together to address the energy transition, the impacts of supply chain disruptions, food shortages, and eco-anxiety, and dives into whether what they say matters.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/overheard-at-davos-climate-leaders-at-the-2022-wef-annual-meeting/>

The Global Plastics Treaty: We need speed, standards, scale and teeth

The historic treaty agreed by UN representatives in Nairobi earlier this year was in the spotlight again at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. Voices from government, business and civic society are shaping the way forward.



Plastic pollution reaches even the remote shores of the Arctic. A reindeer carcass lies on its beaches, its life ended by starvation after being tangled in plastic fishing nets. Captured in Eco-Business's documentary [Arctic Awakening](#). Image: Jessica Cheam/Eco-Business



By [Jessica Cheam](#)
5 minute read June 1, 2022

Rarely in the world of global negotiations do nation states ever quickly reach consensus on a particular issue – but earlier in March at Nairobi this year, heads of state and key representatives at the United Nations Environment Assembly made history by swiftly adopting a resolution setting up the path to a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution.

The Global Plastics Treaty: We need speed, standards, scale and teeth

There was a sense of euphoria and elation among those who were there, said Lea Wermelin, Minister of Environment for Denmark – who described it as a moment of the world “putting their faith in policymakers” and why the global community must move swiftly to solve this urgent problem.

She was among the speakers at [a dialogue I moderated at the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting in Davos](#) last week where the global plastics treaty was in the spotlight and key figures from government, business and society debated what lies in the road ahead.

The global plastics crisis is a man-made scourge. While plastic originated as an innovation to help us preserve food, insulate gadgets, and improve hygiene and public health, it is now so cheap to produce that its ubiquity in everyday life has blighted our ecosystems, generated millions of tonnes of waste, and threatened wildlife.

Earlier this year, scientists discovered [tiny plastic particles in humans](#) where they hadn’t been seen before: deep inside the lungs of surgical patients and in the blood of anonymous donors. While the science on the impact of this is still uncertain, there is much cause for concern from the human health perspective.

In recent years, growing awareness and public pressure has been mounting for strong policy intervention on this issue.

The OCED in February issued a report, [Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options](#), which found that plastic waste has doubled in two decades, with most ending up in landfill, incinerated or leaking into the environment. The report also identifies four key areas in urgent need of attention: markets for recycled plastics, technological innovation in plastics, domestic policy measures and international co-operation, including international financing.

The global treaty is a response to this movement and provides a glimmer of hope that international cooperation to curb this problem is possible.

Experts point to the Montreal Protocol — a 1987 global agreement to protect the ozone layer by phasing out ozone-depleting substances — as an example of how global policymakers can intervene to solve an environmental issue, only this time the ambition is greater.

Countries have agreed that the plastics treaty must address sustainability in the ‘full life-cycle’ of polluting materials. This means plastics manufacturing, recycling and waste disposal must become a zero-carbon process. These are not straightforward ambitions, [noted Nature in a recent editorial](#), which argued that is why science and research needs to be at the core of the treaty as negotiations get underway.

The Global Plastics Treaty: We need speed, standards, scale and teeth

Unlike the ozone layer and climate change, one advantage that the plastic pollution crisis possesses is its high visibility. As Gustavo Manrique Miranda, Minister of Environment and Water, Ecuador, puts it bluntly, “you open a fish, you find plastics”.

He shared that even Ecuador’s Galapagos Archipelago, which is one of the most pristine ecosystems in the world, is not exempt from plastic pollution. At least 38 different species in the Galapagos Islands, including turtles, marine iguanas and sea lions, have been recorded entangled by plastic such as bags and lines, having ingested it after mistaking it for food or living in affected habitats.

You open a fish, you find plastics.

Gustavo Manrique Miranda, Minister of Environment and Water, Ecuador,

Miranda says its situation exemplifies the crisis as “local problems that needs a global solution”.

Ecuador has been leading the way with state intervention. In December 2020, [a law restricting the use of single-use plastic products](#) entered into force. The country also launched national strategies to enable a circular economy and has a ‘Law for the Circular Economy’ under approval by its National Assembly.

For the treaty, UNEA is considering two different [drafts](#). Observers [note](#) that while one seeks to address plastics pollution worldwide from production to disposal, another focuses more narrowly on oceans and end-of-use.

Consensus seems to be emerging that the global treaty must address the entire life cycle of plastic, not just its end of life. Marco Lambertini, Director General at WWF, which has played a key role in mobilising business action prior to the UNEA meeting, noted that “courageous action” has been taken by governments and companies – but this is clearly not enough, as the problem has gotten worse, he noted at Davos.

This treaty needs to be “fit for purpose”, end plastic pollution, tackle both upstream and downstream aspects of the supply chain, and countries must set clear targets for reduction of the use of plastics.

Businesses are welcoming this intervention and more regulation around the issue, said Laurent Freixe, executive vice president and head of Americas at Nestle. The company was among a group of companies that [signed a business manifesto](#) urging UN member states to start on negotiations on the treaty.

This will help level the playing field, as businesses do not want to operate alone, he added.

The Global Plastics Treaty: We need speed, standards, scale and teeth



Speakers (from left to right): Jessica Cheam, Gustavo Manrique Miranda, Lea Wermelin, Joshua Amponsem and Laurent Freixe at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting panel discussion 'Towards a Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution'. Screenshot credit: World Economic Forum

Others such Joshua Anpomsem, founder of the Green Africa Youth Organization in Ghana, noted that the treaty has to be equitable and fair. It should provide for differentiated responsibilities according to countries and the 'polluters pay' principle.

Waste colonisation — where rich nations export their waste to developing ones — is also an issue to guard against, he added. Furthermore, about 20 million people are estimated to make a living as waste pickers worldwide. Some questions guiding further actions should include: how do we ensure that livelihoods continue to be enabled and improved, and what is the impact of the treaty on local communities built around the informal waste sector?

Finance also needs to be articulated in the treaty – who pays for what and how much? Too much funding is flowing into producing, and not enough into solutions, noted the speakers at the panel. Financial flows need to be channelled into the right infrastructure and innovations.

Lastly, observers are highlighting that this legally binding treaty must have teeth. How will the targets and legislation be enforced? What incentives and penalties might be meted out?

The global community is watching and there is much work to be done — 2024 is only two years away, a blip of time in the world of negotiations, noted Norway's Minister of Climate and the Environment Espen Barth Eide, but it is possible. While there remains a key role for polymers in society, what is urgently needed is an end to waste and pollution, he said.

For this treaty to work, it will require speed, standards, scale and solutions. The world has pinned its hope on this treaty, and now is the window of opportunity to get it right.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/the-global-plastics-treaty-we-need-speed-standards-scale-and-teeth/>



600kW solar project in Tawi-Tawi operational by November: MinDA

By Christine Cudis June 1, 2022, 6:49 pm



OPERATIONAL SOON. The Mindanao Development Authority on Wednesday says (June 1, 2022) the 600-kilowatt solar project in Tawi-Tawi province is set to operate by November this year. The project aims to help seaweed farmers in the area improve the quality of their production. *(Screenshot)*

DAVAO CITY – The 600-kilowatt (kW) solar project in Tawi-Tawi is set to operate by November this year, the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) said Wednesday.

MinDA Chairperson Maria Belen Sunga-Acosta said the solar power project in the municipality of Sibuto, Tawi-Tawi, aims to strengthen the economic activity, especially in the seaweed farming communities of the area.

“This will help the seaweed farmers as they can now sell semi-processed seaweed products instead of raw materials which have a lower value. With the help of the facility, the farmers can produce quality products which can be exported to the European countries and our neighboring Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations),” Acosta said in a statement.

Acosta hopes the project would lead to the establishment of more processing facilities as it will reduce the expenses of the farmers and improve their income.

“Hopefully by July, it can be tested as we expect it will be fully operational by November this year,” she said, adding that the project has securing funding from the European Union Access to Sustainable Energy.



600kW solar project in Tawi-Tawi operational by November: MinDA

In coordination with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and partner agencies, the project is seen to drastically improve the electric supply in the island province.

Once completed, MinDA said the project can generate 600kW of renewable energy.

The establishment of the hybrid solar and diesel technology by MinDA, in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Authority, also aims to increase the facility's number of hours of available power. *(PNA)*



Int'l film features Sagay City's mangrove island

By Nanette Guadalquiver June 1, 2022, 3:11 pm



MANGROVE ISLAND. One of the scenes of “Amon Banwa sa Lawod” (Our Island of the Mangrove Moon) being shot in Suyac Island of Sagay City, Negros Occidental. The international full-length film is helmed by acclaimed Filipino director Anton Juan. *(Photo courtesy of Sagay City Information and Tourism Office)*

BACOLOD CITY – The mangrove island of Suyac in Sagay City, Negros Occidental is showcased in an international full-length film helmed by acclaimed Filipino director Anton Juan.

Titled “Amon Banwa sa Lawod” (Our Island of the Mangrove Moon), the movie was shot for 10 days between April and May this year.

“The film would articulate the mangrove community, resurrect the lives of the people living and dead, their struggles and simple joys, their resilience, and connection with the environment, and their relationship with the sea and their protection of their mangrove island,” Juan said in his director’s statement.

He noted that all these sustain the community as a source of food, economic survival, and protection from huge flooding in the typhoon and monsoon seasons.

The film was shot with the permission and participation of the locals, including fisherfolk, children, and island people, who served as spot and supporting actors.

Actors from Sagay and Bacolod, most of them acting for the first time, starred in the “Amon Banwa sa Lawod”.

Written by Juan and award-winning Sagaynon filmmaker Mark Garcia, who also served as an assistant director, the film, devised from the play “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder, revolves around the memories of the island centered on the life, love, and passing of the people.

“The central dramatic line grows from the everyday resilience of fisherfolk, living by hope, work, and faith, confronting a global problem: the erasure of a people’s historical existence by power structures and neo-colonial moves on the high seas,” Juan said.



Int'l film features Sagay City's mangrove island

“I thank the city government of Sagay and Mayor Alfredo Marañon III for helping create a film that will speak of our people's beauty. In these crucial times we need to consolidate creative forces,” he added.

Garcia said Juan had been planning to shoot in Suyac Island even before the pandemic.

“It was a dream come true for him as the discussion to pursue the production happened again in December last year. We had to discuss most of the preparations online, including the script. The story was devised from a play, but the script was all inspired by the island, its people, and their ways of life,” he added.

“Amon Banwa sa Lawod”, produced by the US-based Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Erehwon Center for the Arts, the Performance Laboratory, Negros Cultural Foundation, and the City Government of Sagay, is set to hold an international premiere next year and will have local screenings in Suyac Island, Sagay City proper, and The Negros Museum here.

Marañon, who is outgoing mayor and congressman-elect of Negros Occidental's second district, said the city government supports the creative undertaking with the belief that film is powerful and persuasive.

“Film has also the potential to promote to tourism and with the strong local filmmaking movement, we can collaborate and make Sagay a film tourism destination in Negros provided that it will be environment and community-friendly, respecting the culture and sensibilities of our people,” he added. **(PNA)**

02 JUNE 2022, Thursday



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Environment code won't stop mining ops, says gov

South Cotabato exec to decide on veto in 2 days but notes Tampakan development can proceed as permit comes from national gov't

By Bong S. Sarmiento
@InqNational

KORONADAL CITY—The large-scale \$5.9-billion Tampakan mining project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) can still proceed even if South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. will veto the measure removing the controversial ban on open-pit mining in the province.

This was Tamayo's pronouncement on Wednesday, two days before the end of the 15-day period for him to act on the move of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board) amending the environment code that removed the ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato. The measure was submitted to the Office of the Governor on May 20.

"May veto or wala, madayon gihapon ang mining operation kay inti man kami gahatag permit kag natagaan na sila sang permit sang national government (With or without a veto, their large-scale mining operation can proceed because the local government is not the one giving them the permit. They have obtained a permit from the national government)," Tamayo told reporters.

The governor also noted that a national law supersedes a local legislation, apparently referring to Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, that allows the open-pit mining method.

In the last 12 years, the landmark environment code of South Cotabato prohibits open-pit mining method across the province.

On May 16, majority of the board members approved the



CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENT Nuns join antimining groups in a prayer rally in Koronadal City on Wednesday to press the governor to veto the provincial board's lifting of the 12-year-old ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato. —BONG S. SARMIENTO

amendment of the environment code that lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

The ban prevented the development of the Tampakan mining tenement, touted as the largest untapped copper-gold minefield in Southeast Asia and among the biggest of its kind in the world.

SMI, developer of the Tampakan project, said the most viable way to extract the massive deposits is through open-pit mining due to the shallow location of the minerals.

Rallies

The removal of the open-pit mining ban stirred widespread outrage within and outside South Cotabato. Those who opposed open-pit mining, led by the local Catholic church, appealed to Tamayo to veto the measure.

On Wednesday, pro and antimining groups stood a few

meters away from each other in front of the provincial capitol, separated by policemen with riot shields, to let the governor hear their positions.

The antimining supporters marched along major streets of this city before converging in front of the capitol, surprised to see that pro-mining groups occupied the venue. The antis applied for a rally permit in front of the capitol while the pros were supposed to have their activity at Rizal Park, which is a block away.

Tamayo, who came out from the compound of the capitol around noon with the pro-mining group dispersing, said he would decide "based on what's good for the province."

Talking to reporters, Tamayo said the rallies "will not give weight on his decision."

According to the governor,

he will use his "little negotiating power," should SMI proceed to commercial production, to push the company to put up a private air and water quality laboratory, and make the company ensure enough water supply to irrigation systems, and that potable water supply would not be contaminated by mining byproducts.

Tamayo said he would let the public know his decision on Friday or Saturday.

Appeal

Addressing the crowd, Bishop Cerilo Casicas, of the Diocese of Marbel, appealed to Tamayo to veto the measure. This was the second time that the diocese held an activity in front of the capitol to urge the governor to veto the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining.

"The Sangguniang Panlalawigan slapped us in the face when it lifted the ban on open-pit mining. We hope the governor will not do the same to us and listen to the voice of the majority of the people of South Cotabato, who are against the removal of the prohibition on open-pit mining," the prelate said.

Dalena Samling, tribal chieftain of the Danlag Tribal Council in Tampakan town supportive of the mining project of SMI, said they were glad that the board lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

"We have been waiting for that. We hope the governor will not veto it so that there will be no more obstacles for the Tampakan project," she said. —WITH A

REPORT FROM ALLEN V. ESTABILLO INQ



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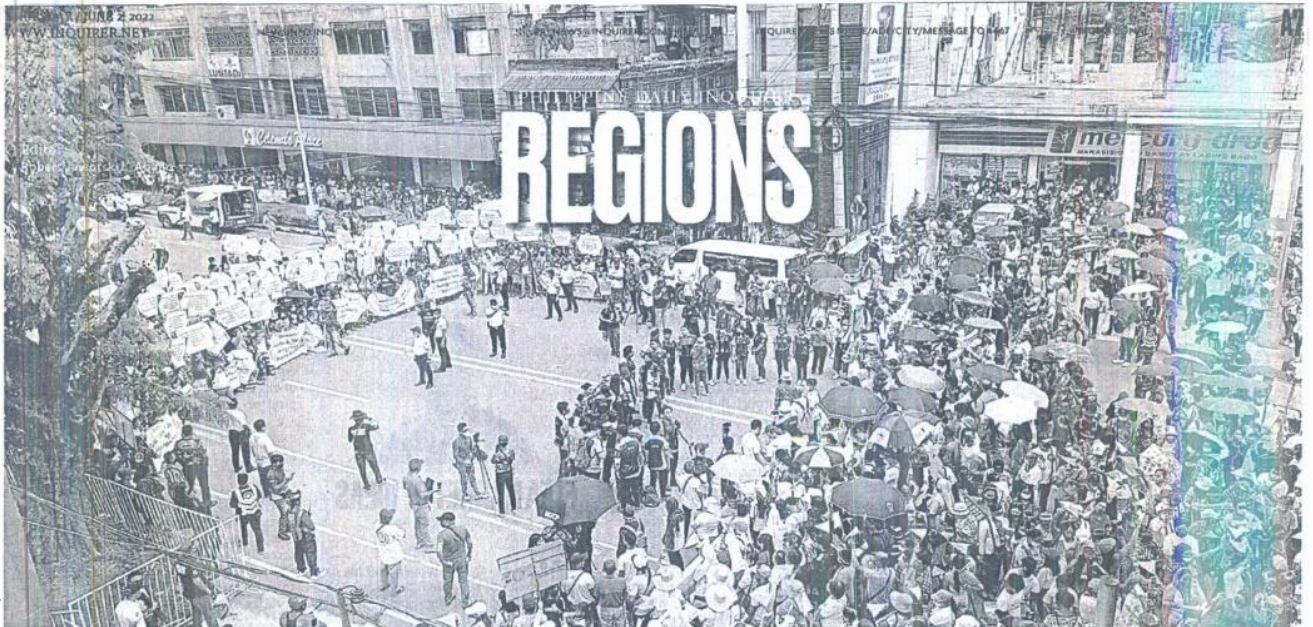
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S. Cotabato awaits gov's word on mining

KORONADAL CITY—South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. said pro and antimining rallies would not affect his decision on whether he would veto the amendment to the province's environment code that lifted the 12-year-old ban on open-pit mining. But he said the development of the Tampakan mining tenement can proceed regardless of his decision since its permit comes from the national government. —STORY BY BONG S. SARMIENTO **A7**



FACE-OFF Supporters of mining operations in South Cotabato (left) face-off with the larger antimining groups, led by the Catholic Church, in Koronadal City on Wednesday before Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. addresses the crowd on issues related to the province's environment code. —BONG S. SARMIENTO



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NEWS

THURSDAY / JUNE 2, 2022
WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Peza, DENR eye land for more ecozones

By **Frances Mangosing**
and **Roy Stephen C. Canivel**
@Team_Inquirer

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to look for lands that could be proclaimed as economic zones, with the Caraga Administrative Region being considered as the pilot area.

Peza signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the DENR on Tuesday for the two agencies to work together to identify viable lands under the DENR's jurisdiction.

"We are in the advanced stages of identifying potential ecozone areas in Caraga and there are seven. We are hoping to forge a (memorandum of

agreement) within the administration of President Duterte or before June 30," Assistant Secretary Michelle Go of the DENR said.


Caraga, considered as the country's timber corridor, covers the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and the Dinagat Islands.

Environment Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. said they were looking at lands with contracts that have been rescinded by the government and mineral product sharing agreements that are about to expire.

The region of Mimaropa is also being looked at as a potential area, but he did not elaborate.

Public land inventory

"The MOU signing will


We are in the advanced stages of identifying potential ecozone areas in Caraga and there are seven. We are hoping to forge a (memorandum of agreement) within the administration of President Duterte or before June 30

Michelle Go

Assistant Environment Secretary

serve as an initial and broad framework of understanding between Peza and the DENR toward the goal of identifying public lands nationwide

that can be harnessed in a sustainable and environmentally compliant manner," said Peza Director General Charito Plaza. "[This is] to spread eco-

zones because they are drivers of economic growth outside the National Capital Region (NCR)."

Under the MOU, the DENR agrees to provide an inventory of public lands and islands under its jurisdiction to Peza in order to explore feasible development of sustainable mineral and agro-forestry processing economic zones, oil depots, refinery ecozones, eco-tourism and agro-industrial special economic zones.

"We agreed with DENR for them to identify available production areas in every region. So initially, it is the Caraga region that is ready with their list and one goal is also for us to restore back the wood industry," Plaza said.

"Caraga happens to be the

biggest timberland in the country. It also has the biggest mining lands in the country. So to put the goal of creating environment-friendly industries and green sustainability and smart ecozones, Caraga will be the first and other regions will follow," she said.

Investors in related industries will be invited later on.

Economic advantages

The DENR will also provide technical assistance to Peza in the formulation of proposals that will include the adoption of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement approach for the identified special economic zones.

Peza and the DENR may also constitute a technical working group that will

FROM A4

study, formulate and recommend policies to be adopted and observed by both agencies in implementing the MOU.

An ecozone is a specified area subject to different economic regulations that are considered conducive or attractive to both foreign and local investors. Companies locating in

these ecozones enjoy additional economic advantages, particularly tax incentives, compared to business establishments outside the zones.

The Duterte administration had pushed for the development of ecozones outside NCR to help boost regional economies. It already suspended the issuance of new ecozone permits for Metro Manila to make prospective investors locate in the provinces.

Increasing the number of

ecozones will also help boost Peza-registered investment pledges, which plummeted by 68 percent to P8.14 billion in the first quarter this year from P25.38 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Pandemic, elections

Peza had blamed the dismal first quarter performance, which was also below the P16.5 billion in pledges it attracted in the first three months of 2020,

on the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as uncertainties surrounding the general elections and the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Plaza had said that the significant drop in investment pledges in the first quarter was "anticipated because the pandemic is still there. Then we have the [Russian invasion of Ukraine]. Then the election."

"Usually, during election

period, investors will wait for what is going to be the results of the elections because they already anticipate that there will surely be new policies and laws and rules that will be adopted by the new administration. You would usually see that during election periods," she added.

Adding new ecozones will likewise help accommodate the expected influx of investments following the passage in March last year of the Corporate Re-

covery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez had described the reform law as a "game changer," in that it would bring in "[a] massive inflow of investments that will create more jobs."

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III had also called it "one of the largest economic stimulus measures in the country's history." **INQ**



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FIRING LINE

ROBERT B. ROQUE, JR.

Betrayal over Tampakan

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in South Cotabato is every miner's dream. Many say it is the largest undeveloped copper-gold minefield in Southeast Asia and certainly one of the biggest of its kind in the world, touted to be worth \$5.9-billion (about P300 billion).

Since the turn of the millennium, Sagittarius Mines, Inc., or SMI, has been chasing that dream, promising to carry out "responsible mining" once it secures all necessary permits. But in 2010, these ambitions were put on hold by the ban on open-pit mining - the method that SMI claims is the most viable way to extract

the minerals from the giant Tampakan project.

Then on May 16, 2022, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Board) of South Cotabato railroaded the plenary approval of an amendment to the Environment Code that would effectively lift the ban on open-pit mining.

Clearly, this sly move was orchestrated to happen right after the elections so as to elude condemnation and protest from the voting public, who most certainly would have boycotted the candidacies of SP members behind it.

"There was betrayal here. The future of the province was decided this morning

in 15 minutes," said Marbel Bishop Cerilo Casicas, who was quick to protest the shameless action of the provincial board members.

In a statement sent to Firing Line, pro-environment advocacy group AGHAM said: "It bears emphasizing that thousands of residents would be displaced, five major rivers or tributaries would be contaminated, the only remaining canopy forest in the region would be destroyed, and at least 33,000 hectares of ricefields in Koronadal Valley would be affected."

"It is also worth stressing that critical individuals have been killed, harassed,

threatened, incarcerated, or massacred, including environmentalists and activists, in the course of the struggle to pass the Code and to oppose the destructive project. The victims include the staunch advocate of Envi Code, Eliezer "Boy" Billanes, who lobbied it to the previous local provincial officials," it added.

Moreover, it is estimated that at least 2,900 natives are bound to lose their ancestral domain, about 800,000 trees cut down, and endemic flora and fauna in the area will be wiped out because 985,730 hectares of watersheds are likely to be contaminated.

Not just environmentalists and church leaders but the true natives of Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Sarangani are up in arms over this development.

Firing Line calls out you

in the SP of South Cotabato who are responsible for this outrage - Board Member Glycel Mariano-Trabado who presided over the SP in the absence of Vice Gov. Vicente de Jesus; Board Member Hilario de Pedro VI, who authored the proposal to remove the ban on open-pit mining, and your colleagues Edgar Sambog, Dardanilo Dar, Noel Escobillo, Antonio Fungan, Eamon Gabriel Mati, Henry Ladot, Rolando Malabuyoc, Alyssa Marie Fale, and Rose Grace Achurra, whose very silence betrayed the trust of their constituents.

* * *
SHORT BURSTS. For comments or reactions, email firingline@ymail.com or tweet @Side View. Read current and past issues of this column at Tempo - The Nation's Fastest Growing Newspaper



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Mineral output value up 36%

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE country's metallic mineral production value jumped 36.21 percent in the first quarter of the year to P48.61 billion from P35.69 billion in the same period in 2021, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

MGB said higher metal prices and increased production of gold, silver and copper for the period were major drivers of growth.

MGB noted prices are way beyond their pre-pandemic levels.

MGB's report showed gold had the biggest share in total production value at P22.24 billion or 45.74 percent followed by the collective values of direct shipping nickel ore together with its nickel products, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide and scandium oxalate at P19.27 billion or 39.64 percent.

Copper followed with P6.31 billion at 12.98 percent while the shared output value of silver, chromite and iron ore contributed P800 million or 1.64 percent.

In terms of production, all metals rose: gold by 15 percent to 7,137 kilograms (kg) from 6,214 kg; silver by 126 percent to 12,673 kg from 5,603 kg; copper, by 47 percent to 64,841 dry metric tons (dmt) from 44,050 dmt; chromite by 282 percent to 18,036 dmt from 4,720 dmt; and iron ore by

Mineral Commodity	Unit Used	JAN-MAR, 2022		JAN-MAR, 2021		% Change	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gold	KGS.	7,137	22,235,963.624	6,214	17,292,692.029	15	29
Silver	KGS.	12,673	501,560.890	5,603	225,552.303	126	122
Copper Concentrate	DMT	64,841	6,309,067.341	44,050	3,327,164.339	47	90
Copper Metal Equivalent	MT	15,388		10,294		49	
Mixed Nickel-Cobalt Sulfide	DMT	19,471	10,711,954.082	20,239	7,613,171.758	-4	41
Scandium Oxalate	Dry-Kg	4,694	104,161.522	3,605	91,145.043	30	14
Nickel Direct Shipping Ore	DMT	3,701,418	8,453,904.376	4,077,507	7,055,965.419	-9	20
Nickel Content of Ore	MT	46,791		51,580		-9	
Chromite	DMT	18,036	161,828.653	4,720	37,618.374	282	330
Iron Ore	DMT	44,133	131,660.507	15,898	45,313.296	178	191
TOTAL			48,610,100,996		35,688,622,562		36.21

Source: MGB

177 percent to 44,133 dmt from 15,898 dmt.

Direct shipping ore nickel was the only component that experienced a decrease in production for the period to 3.7 million dmt, down 9 percent, from 4.08 million dmt.

The average price of nickel for the period surged by 59 percent

to \$28,089.77 per metric ton (MT) from \$17,625.46 per MT; copper by 18 percent to \$9,986.01 per MT from \$8,478.58 per MT; and gold by over 4 percent to \$1,874.91 per troy ounce from \$1,801.86 per troy ounce.

The agency said it plans to sustain development of the minerals sector by crafting an 18-year road

map aimed at enhancing investors' confidence in the mineral sector from 2022 to 2024; expanding domestic ore production and mineral asset from 2023 to 2030 and levelling up the domestic industry to the global mineral markets in the field of semi-processed and full-processed mineral products from 2026 to 2040.



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Mine output rises 36% to P49 B in 3 months

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The value of the country's metallic production continued its double-digit growth in the first quarter of the year, driven by bullish metal prices and the increase in the mine output of gold, silver, and copper, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

Metallic mineral production value reached P48.61 billion, 36.2 percent higher than the previous year.

"Once again the bullish metal price during the period pushed the industry to this optimistic performance, coupled with the increase in the mine production of gold, silver, and copper," the MGB said.

The average price of nickel registered a 59 percent year-on-year increase to \$28,089.77 per metric ton (MT).

Similarly, average copper prices also registered an 18 percent year-on-year increase to \$9,986.01 per MT, while the price of gold also increased by 4.05 percent to \$1,874.91 per troy ounce.

"We are seeing prices of metals at heights way beyond their pre-pandemic levels," the MGB said.

Gold accounted for the bulk of the total production value or 45.74 percent at P22.24 billion, up 29 percent from last year.

Production volume of gold increased by 15 percent to 7,137 kilos. Direct shipping nickel ore together with its nickel products, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide, and scandium oxalate had the second largest contribution to the total metal

output value with a 39.64 percent contribution at P19.27 billion.

Of the total, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide accounted for more than half at P10.7 billion. This was followed by nickel direct shipping ore with P8.45 billion.

However, in terms of volume, nickel direct shipping ore had the largest contribution with a 3.7 million dry metric tons (DMT) production, a nine percent drop from the 7.06 million produced in the first quarter of last year.

In contrast, mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide registered 19,471 DMT in the first quarter, down by four percent from 20,239 DMT a year ago.

"For the rest of 2022 experts say that the demand for nickel will be fueled by the battery sector as battery producers and carmakers anticipate the transition to electric vehicles," the MGB said.

Meanwhile, MGB data showed that copper had a 12.98 percent contribution to the total value of metal production at P6.31 billion, higher than the P3.33 billion registered in the first quarter of last year.

Copper production volume also increased to 64,841 DMT from 44,050 DMT last year.

The collective values of silver, iron ore, and chromite accounted for 1.64 percent of the total metal production at P0.8 billion.

Silver production volume rose to 21,673 kilos from 5,603 kilos.

The MGB has planned an 18-year roadmap that aims for

the sustained development of the country's minerals sector.

"This roadmap is divided into three phases: enhancing investors' confidence in the mineral sector (2022-2024); expanding domestic ore production and mineral asset (2023-2030); and the Philippines to level-up to the global mineral markets in the field of semi-processed and fully processed mineral products (2026-2040)," the MGB said.

Under the first phase, the government has initiated enabling policies for the industry such as the issuance of Executive Order 130, which allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements and Department Administrative Order 2021-40 issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which lifts the ban on open-pit mining.

"In addition, the Bureau is also stirring towards the following activities: expanding the collection of geosciences and mineral information database both onshore and offshore; identifying new mineral reserves; and design mineral extraction to minimize environmental footprint," the MGB said.

Under the second phase of the roadmap, the government targets to increase and attract mineral/mining-related investment to build up the national economy.

"This would mean an expansion of the production capacity of existing mining projects and the entry of new players. Other specific programs under this phase are to

bid out national government mining assets under the Privatization Management Office and Philippine Mining Development Corp. within three years," the MGB said referring to Basay Mining Corp., Maricalum Mining and Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp. as some of the government mining assets to be bid out.

The third phase aims to upgrade the Philippines to the global mineral markets in the field of semi-processed and fully processed mineral products.

Under this phase, specific programs include the mandate of the establishment of mineral smelting and refining facilities, iron making industry, and nickel refineries this move is to expand the export of value-added mineral products; conduct research on the re-use of mining waste and tailings for other industrial use, mine rehabilitation, and acid mine drainage management using the Development of Mining Technology and Geosciences fund under the Social Development and Management Program; and Build-up technical capacity both in the government institutions and private sector.

During the third phase, the government anticipates a full-blown downstream sector and the establishment and expansion of the upstream sector of the minerals industry.

"All things considered, the proper implementation of this roadmap would translate to growth in investment, trade, revenue, and employment opportunities," the MGB said.



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Regional Updates

MGB says nickel mining in Davao Oriental outside protected area, not an open-pit mine

THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has clarified that the nickel mining project in Davao Oriental is not an open-pit mine and confirmed a local government's earlier statement that its location is outside the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, a declared protected area and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"Please be informed that the Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation

(ALMC/HMC)... are nickel mines with valid and existing Mineral Production Sharing Agreements... and employ strip or contour mining method only," the bureau's Davao regional office said in a statement.

It also said that the companies have "already waived a portion of their mining claims to be part of the protected wildlife sanctuary."

HMC says on its website that it "relinquished 7,200 hectares to

adequately expand the Hamiguitan World Heritage Site."

The delineation of the buffer zone boundaries was undertaken in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), according to the mines bureau.

"This office acknowledges the concerns raised by various environmental groups and advocates," it said. "Rest assured that you are heard and that the DENR is likewise

putting its best foot forward to keep our environment and natural resources sustainably managed."

The local government of Mati City, Davao Oriental's capital and host of the project, earlier allayed public concern over the project following photos posted on social media about the mining site's location.

Advocacy group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Inc. said the

mining project's close proximity to Mt. Hamiguitan as well as the Pujada Bay Seascape, also a protected area, poses a serious environmental threat.

"Regardless of the claim that it is outside the protected area delineation, we strongly uphold and fight for the ecological rights and integrities of these watersheds from ridge to reef," IDIS said. —

Maya M. Padillo



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PEF needs P56M for new center to relocate Philippine Eagles

THE PHILIPPINE Eagle Foundation (PEF) will need P56 million to build a new center to protect its flock of eagles from Avian Flu and other threats due to increasing human activities around its current location in Davao City.

PEF Development Manager Andi Baldonado said the new site will still be within the city and the local government is providing a 50-hectare land.

"We are working with the city government of Davao to allow us to use land owned by the city in Barangay Eden. We are working on the release of the usufruct to allow us to use the facility for captive breeding and rescue rehabilitation center," she said during the Kapohan sa Dabaw at SM City Davao on Monday.

"We are still in the initial phase but we are grateful that the city government is supportive of this emergency plan," she said.

No Avian Flu case had been recorded in the city, but Ms. Baldonado said the recent outbreak in Magsaysay town in Davao del Sur, which is about 90 kilometers southwest of the PEC, already puts their 34 Philippine eagles at risk.

She said the relocation is also part of a long-term plan to have a site that is more conducive for breeding and other conservation activities.

The current center in Malagos has become more "susceptible to infection," she said, citing the rise of more game farms around the area, among other human activities.

The annual Philippine Eagle Week will be celebrated on June 4 to 13 with "Agi-Laya: Lasting Freedom for the Philippine Eagle" as this year's theme. PEF will stage an exhibit at the SM Lanang Premier highlighting conservation milestones and continuing threats to the country's national bird. — **Maya M. Padillo**



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US Peace Corps helps address biodiversity threats

THE U.S. Peace Corps recently held a biodiversity conservation training to help address biodiversity threats in Minalungao National Park in Nueva Ecija and Panaon Island in Southern Leyte.

Held in Laguna from May 11 to 19, the training brought together nearly 50 participants from Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Southern Leyte State University, Nueva Ecija's Protected Area Management Board, and Panaon Island local government.

The training included specimen sampling and data collection at Taal Lake, Mt. Makiling, and Calatagan, and it also featured lectures from experts on state-of-the-art biodiversity assessment in terrestrial, marine, and inland aquatic environments and GIS mapping.

U.S. Peace Corps Country Director Jenner Edelman said "the aim of this critical workshop was to support academe and government partners in working together to reduce threats to biodiversity in Minalungao National Park and Panaon Island."

While the Philippines is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, it risks losing its significant biodiversity resources without better conservation efforts to address the growing population, increasing pollution, and the impacts of climate change.

Through this training, participants developed new skills for conducting biodiversity conservation research and were able to craft management plans to address biodiversity threats.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development, the training was conducted by

the University of the Philippines-Los Baños' School of Environmental Science and Management, which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education as a Center of Excellence on Environmental Science.

The U.S. Peace Corps is the U.S. government's premier volunteer service organization. Over 9,300 American volunteers have served alongside

host communities across the Philippines since it was founded in 1961. In the absence of American volunteers due to the pandemic, the U.S. Peace Corps is collaborating with host country partners to meet the Philippines' most pressing development priorities, such as biodiversity conservation, through initiatives like this workshop.

Cristina Lee-Pisco



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2 nagbenta ng illegal na ibon, arestado

OLONGAPO CITY – Dalawang lalaki ang inaresto matapos ang illegal na pagbebenta ng mga ibon sa magka-hiwalay na operasyon ng pulisya dito sa lungsod at sa Zambales.

Sa ulat, dinakip ng Olongapo Police ang suspek na si Noriel De Jesus, residente ng Castillejos, Zambales.

Matapos umanong

masamsaman ng may 10 piraso ng ibong Martines na patagong ibinebenta sa lungsod na ito kamakalawa ng hapon.

Samantala, limang ibon din ng Martines sa Iba, Zambales ang nakumpiska ng mga otoridad sanhi ng pagkakaaresto ng suspek na si Richie Batinga, residente ng San Felipe,

Zambales.

Kakaharapin ng mga suspek ang kasong paglabag sa R.A. 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act at R.A. 10175 o Cybercrime.

Ayon sa batas, ipinagbabawal ang pagbebenta ng anumang wildlife species na walang kaukulang permit o anumang dokumento. (Jojo Perez)



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DENR cites progress on climate resiliency under Duterte admin

THE Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) believes that the Duterte administration made a significant progress towards a more climate resilient Philippines.

Jim O. Sampulna, DENR Acting Secretary made this pitch during the "Duterte Legacy Summit: The Final Report to the People" on May 30, saying Duterte had made great strides in institutionalizing the centrality of environment to the country's development.

"The Duterte administration espoused that a healthy environment is the foundation for economic and social development," said Sampulna, stressing the Duterte presidency has remained on track with its "Climate Action Pathway," as a strategy to "enhance resilience and adaptive capacity of the ecosystems and vulnerable communities."

The DENR chief also mentioned the "impossible" cleanup of Manila Bay and the six-month rehabilitation of Boracay Island as two of the administration's major achievements that define President Duterte's

legacy on environment and climate governance to "foster a sustainable future for every Filipino."

"Our government has shown real resilience, great concern for the environment, for the people," Sampulna said.

He said that this highlighted how President Duterte has positioned his administration to take significant progressive actions on climate change and disaster resiliency with the creation of the Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) by virtue of Executive Order No. 120 to strengthen the climate resilience capacities of communities vulnerable to disasters and climate hazards, especially in Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, and Marikina River Basin.

"Phase 1 of dredging in the Magapit Narrows, Cagayan, and Marikina River had been completed, while the removal of critical sandbars restricting the water flows of the Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol Rivers is ongoing," Sampulna pointed out.

His report was capped with a testimonial from Beverly Calud, a Marikina resident.

Calud attested to the marked absence of devastating floods along the Marikina River, which she at-

tributed to the TFBBB's dredging and widening of the river and watershed rehabilitation along the riverbanks and the Upper Marikina River Basin.

The TFBBB's initiatives were done using a whole-of-government approach supported by the operation of a strengthened quick response mechanism to give immediate relief assistance to indigents living in hazard-prone areas and victims of typhoons and earthquakes nationwide.

"Emergency Operations Centers in 17 regional offices and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Centers were established as command-and-control points for emergency operations and activities," Sampulna said.

The aspect deemed most salient in the report was the Duterte administration's commitment to clean energy, which has resulted in the ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, impose a moratorium on coal power projects, and advocate for the phase-down of unabated coal power and end of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies during the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Security lessons

“
Right now, coal and natural gas are the more reliable sources of electricity, which needed to be maintained while RE is being developed.”

An energy crisis hit the nation in the late '80s after the People Power Revolt that installed Cory Aquino. Among her first governance agenda was political vendetta by removing all vestiges of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos. Strangely, this included the abolition of the Ministry of Energy, which left the government without any body to oversee energy supply. The National Power Corp. then became the *de facto* Energy department which, nonetheless, was not equipped with the programs of the Marcos era that included the then highly-criticized Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

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DAILY TRIBUNE

Several myths were floated about BNPP, including its being the milking cow of energy officials then, and a source of a possible radioactive future.

What resulted was an energy stupor that led to the disastrous power crisis, since supply of electricity failed to keep up with the surge in economic activity. No investor dared to put up a power plant with the experience of the sudden cancellation of the BNPP operation that injected uncertainty.

Manila was then hit by daily blackouts, usually lasting four or five hours. Office buildings and factories were ordered to close every Monday to preserve dwindling energy supplies.

It was total chaos then as the *Washington Post* reported that “across Manila, the loss of power has left buildings without air conditioning, food spoiling in refrigerators and streets in gridlock because of non-working traffic lights. Travel agents have been unable to book airline tickets because their computers are down, and bank workers are telling customers to return to complete their transactions when the power returns.”

Now the situation is far different as programs are laid out way ahead to preserve energy security which, ironically, now includes nuclear technology and the BNPP.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the program will have an increasing integration of renewable energy (RE), but technology has not reached the point that it can be relied on as the main source of electricity or, technically, for base-load capacity.

The Department of Energy auctioned recently 2,000 megawatts sourced from wind, solar and geothermal to be included in the power grid.

“We need RE, but at the moment it would not be sufficient. Solar energy, for instance, remains vulnerable to weather changes, the same goes with wind sources, so they play different roles while the technology has not been perfected,” Cusi explained.

Time will come that technical perfection will be achieved to usher in a reliable and consistent source of power. However, at the moment, we still need conventional sources of power.

Right now, coal and natural gas are the more reliable sources of electricity, which needed to be maintained while RE is being developed, according to Cusi.

The situation, thus, is that the long-term programs would be the use of RE, but the growing economy would have to depend now on tested technology, including nuclear energy to bridge the point until the know-how will be enough for a full use of green sources.

Energy security, nonetheless, will not be compromised anymore as the programs are well on track.

“
Several myths were floated about BNPP, including its being the milking cow of energy officials then, and a source of a possible radioactive future.”



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

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock A.M. on **June 14, 2022** for the lease for **commercial** purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Panacan, Davao City
Description	: Lot 2-A, Mlc-11-001241-D
Area	: 2,310 square meter
Appraisal of Land	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwadrado o Kabuuang Php. 27,696,900.00
Value of Existing & Proposed Improvements	: Php. 385,200.00
Applied for by	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

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 proposed/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) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed 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) months rental, otherwise such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Davao City, Philippines, April 28, 2022.


JOVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC, CENR Officer



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

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

Notice is hereby given that Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10.00) o'clock A.M. on **June 14, 2022** for the lease for **commercial** purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Panacan, Davao City
Description	: Lot 1, Mlc-11-001242-D
Area	: 5,340 square meter
Appraisal of Land	: Php 11,990,00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 64,026,600.00
Value of Existing & Proposed Improvements	: Php. 52,364,621.15
Applied for by	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

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 proposed/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) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed 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) months rental, otherwise such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Davao City, Philippines, April 28, 2022.

JUDY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC, CENR Officer



06-02-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE



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

PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipanabigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas 10:00 ng umaga sa ika 14 ng Hunyo 2022 para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito:

Lugar	Panacan, Davao City
Deskripsyon	Lot 2-A, Mlc-11-001241-D
Sukat	2,310 square meter
Tasahan ng Lupa :	Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 27,696,900.00
Halaga ng nakatayo At itatayong Proyekto	Php. 385,200.00
Aplikante	DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

Ang karapatan na upahan ng nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat dapat na aplikante at kailangan bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's or manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa subasta na nagrepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang laong sumali ay makaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kayang alok ay itinataas para makupleto ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa mapahalaan.

Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Dabaw, **Abril 28, 2022.**

JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC, CENR Officer



06-02-22

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Lugar	: Panacan, Davao City
Deskripsyon	: Lot 1, Mlc-11-001242-D
Sukat	: 5,340 square meter
Tasahan ng Lupa :	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 64,026,600.00
Halaga ng nakatayo At itatayong Proyekto	: Php. 52,364,621.15
Aplikante	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

Ang karapatan na upahan ng nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapatdapat na aplikante at kailangan bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's or manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa subasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay makaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kayang alok ay itinataas para makuplete ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa mapahalaan.

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Lungsod ng Dabaw, **Abril 28, 2022.**

JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC, CENR Officer

02 JUNE 2022, Thursday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



No severe Covid-19 cases so far recorded despite uptick

By Lade Jean Kabagani June 1, 2022, 7:39 pm



MANILA – No severe coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases so far have been recorded by health authorities despite having an uptick of active cases, Vaccine Expert Panel member, Dr. Rontgene Solante, said Wednesday.

In a televised public briefing, Solante cited those Covid-19 patients needing oxygen treatment and experiencing respiratory failures have been significantly reduced, following the surge caused by the coronavirus variant.

“Well, one good thing, one good news is that despite *na nakikita natin na may kaunting uptick ang mga kaso ngayon* (seeing a slight uptick now in cases), we have never seen any more Covid cases *na talagang nagsi-severe* (that are really severe),” he said.

The OCTA Research Group earlier said Covid-19 cases in Metro Manila have climbed to 1.4 percent this week, compared to 1.2 percent in the previous week.

The one-week average daily attack rate also increased from 0.51 to 0.52, however it remained at low risk.

“So our assumption to this is that, yes, this new variant of concern, the Omicron, can be highly transmissible. But I don’t think this is the same variant of concern that we had with Delta *na talagang mas malala ang presentation, na mataas din ang mortality* (has really bad presentation and the mortality rate is high),” Solante said.

He added the Omicron variant will usually attack the infected patient’s upper respiratory tract rather than the lower respiratory tract, resulting in experiencing only mild symptoms.



No severe Covid-19 cases so far recorded despite uptick

“And, in fact, *kadalasan talagang walang nararamdaman, pupunta lang sa ospital kasi nagpa-positive sila sa mga tests nila* (oftentimes they won’t feel anything, they just go to the hospital because they tested positive),” Solante said.

Solante sees the future cases would be manageable despite the emergence of Omicron sub-lineages.

“These sublineages of the Omicron, being highly transmissible, but they don’t cause a lot of these symptoms. And in fact, *kung sasabihin man natin* (if we would say), a lot of these are underreported, [it’s] because most of those with Omicron are asymptomatic or very mild symptoms,” he said.

Solante said there is still a need to continue the monitoring of Covid-19 cases because it will still indicate the level of restrictions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The country’s hospitalization rate is currently at a very low percentage.

The OCTA Research also noted the massive Covid-19 vaccination program has greatly contributed to the reduction of cases in the country. **(PNA)**

02 JUNE 2022, Thursday



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
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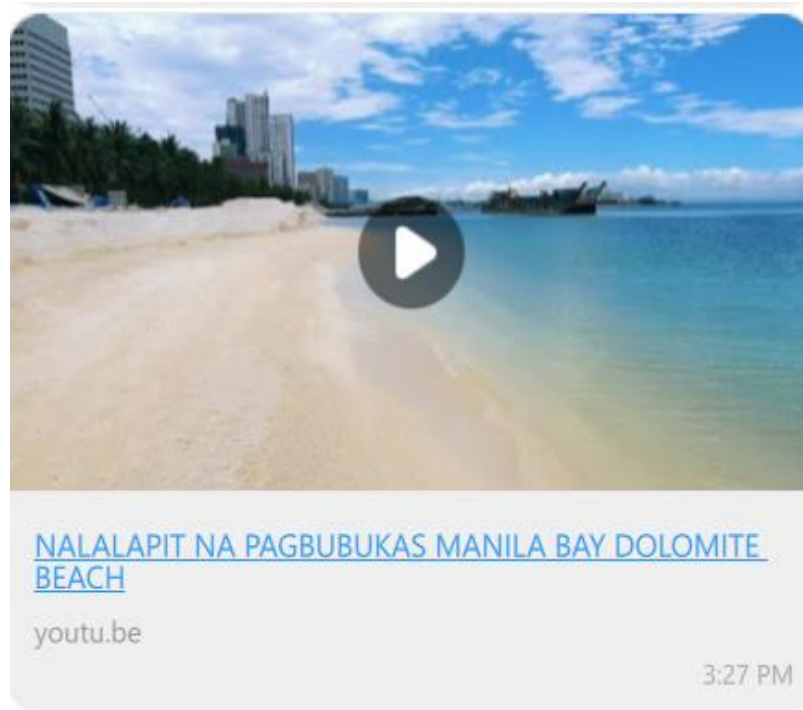
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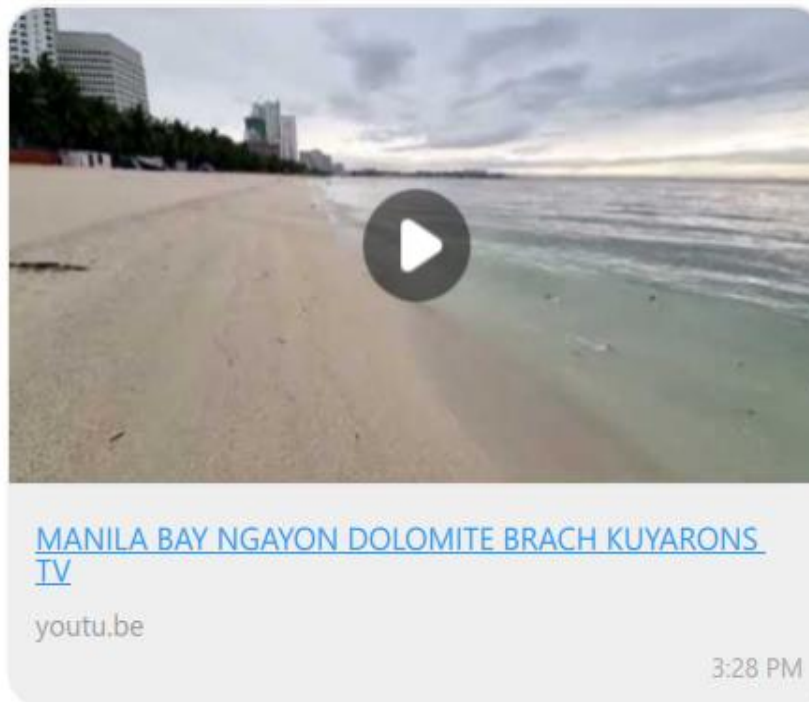
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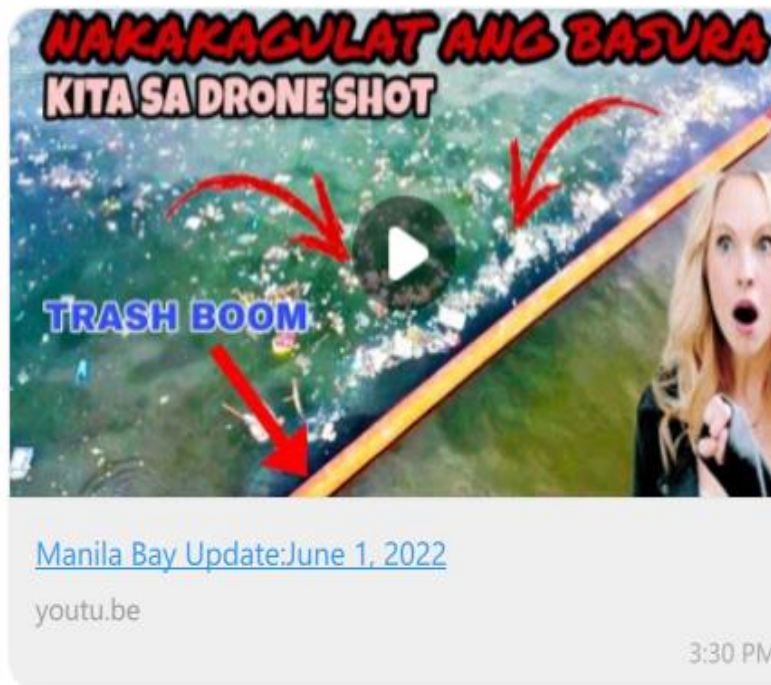
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