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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR Western Visayas cites Boracay rehab as key environmental achievement of Duterte

Published June 5, 2022, 2:45 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)



A COUPLE walks on the white sand beach of Boracay with the iconic Willy's Rock in the background. (Tara Yap/File/Manila Bulletin)

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 6 (Western Visayas) considers the rehabilitation of world-famous Boracay Island as a key environmental achievement of President Duterte's administration in the region.

"So far, the Boracay rehabilitation is the biggest in terms of the interventions made," said DENR Region 6 Director Livino Duran as the country commemorates Environment Month.

While the rehabilitation program of the country's most famous beach destination is not yet finished, it is almost 90 percent complete.

The resort island in Malay, Aklan had to be closed for six months in 2018 to pave the way for the long-term rehabilitation that included removing illegal structures from the beachfront, the forestlands, and the wetlands.

Duran admitted that many thought the Boracay rehabilitation was an impossible task. "The Boracay closure really hurt. It costs a lot. We were serious. It wasn't a joke," Duran said.

Duran said that the leadership of Secretary Roy Cimatu as DENR chief pushed the seriousness of the rehabilitation as the DENR took the lead role in implementing environmental laws in coordination with other government agencies.

Meanwhile, DENR Region 6 is hopeful that the rehabilitation will still be a priority of the next administration to be able to sustain the environmental balance at the country's tourism crown jewel.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/05/denr-western-visayas-cites-boracay-rehab-as-key-environmental-achievement-of-duterte/>



DENR: No open-pit mining operations in Davao Oriental



Photo by Mark Perandos

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

June 05, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Davao clarified that there are no existing open-pit mining operations within Davao Oriental's protected areas.

In their statement released on May 30, 2022, MGB-Davao said the mining operations of Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation (ALMC/HMC) are using "strip or contour mining method."

MGB-Davao also clarified that the ALMC/HMC joint mining operations are nickel mines with valid and existing Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) No. 197-2004-XI and 196-2004-XI, and have not operated since 2016.

The agency said, "ALMC/HMC already waived a portion of their mining claims to be part of the protected wildlife sanctuary and collaborated with DENR in the delineation of the property's buffer zone boundaries."

MGB-Davao released the statement to address the concerns raised by environmental groups about the effects of the mining operations in nearby protected areas of Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary and Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape and called for their full closure.

However, according to MGB-Davao metallic minerals, such as nickel, is an essential resource in the production of mobile phones, buildings, transportation, power generation, electric battery, etc.

"DENR is likewise putting its best foot forward to keep our environment and natural resources sustainably managed," the statement read.

MGB-Davao assured it will adhere to responsible mining.

The ALMC/HMC mining operations have a total area of 17,215.49 hectares located outside the boundary of Unesco heritage site Mount Hamiguitan and four kilometers from Pujada Bay.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931144/davao/local-news/denr-no-open-pit-mining-operations-in-davao-oriental>



DENR-Davao reminds hikers to distance from wildlife



Video screenshot from The Strolling Mind Facebook page

RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT

June 05, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region (DENR-Davao) reminded anew hikers and climbers to keep their distance from wild animals and refrain from provoking them.

This after a hiker tried to approach a wild pig or "baboy ramo" they saw during their hike at Mount Apo and it attacked him. The video was uploaded on The Strolling Mind Facebook page, owned by video creator Kim dela Calzada.

According to dela Calzada, the incident happened on May 28, 2022, wherein several groups of hikers stopped over to check it out, gave food to the hungry wild pig, and took photos.

"Out of the many, one curious hiker tried to touch it, slowly, like any other animal you want to pet on your first encounter. However, the wild pig, as its nature, attacked him 'after feeling threatened,'" she said in her post.

Dela Calzada said the mountaineer is safe, except for his puffer jacket that was torn due to the attack.

In a separate post, the video creator posted a screenshot post of a certain Facebook user Rivera Ronel clarifying that he was only trying to pick up garbage near the wild pig when it attacked him.

Ronel also apologized for his action.

"Sana maging aral ito sa akin at sa iba pang kasamahan ko sa larangan ng mountaineering at maging aware sa lahat ng bagay pag nasa ganitong sitwasyon," he said.

(I hope this would be a lesson to me and my fellow mountaineers to be aware in these situations.)

DENR-Davao, in a Facebook post, issued reminders to all hikers to respect and protect the wild.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931139/davao/local-news/denr-davao-reminds-hikers-to-distance-from-wildlife>



Wild boar o baboy ramo, sinakmal ang isang hiker sa Mt. Apo

Hunyo 3, 2022 11:15pm GMT+08:00

Sa kabila ng mga paalala na layuan ang mga Philippine warty pig o baboy ramo sa Mt. Apo, may mga hiker na hindi pa rin mapigilan ang sarili na lumapit sa naturang hayop.

Sa nag-viral na video sa social media, makikita ang isang grupo ng hikers na nakapaligid sa baboy ramo.

Isa sa kanila ang umupo sa harap nito at tila may inaabot. Doon na siya sinakmal ng hayop.

Mabuti na lang at kapisaso lang ng jacket na suot niya ang nahagip ng ngipin ng baboy ramo.

Itinanggi ng hiker na plano niyang hawakan ang hayop. May kukunin lang daw siya sa malapit sa baboy ramo.

Pero aminado siya na mali ang kaniyang ginawa at hindi dapat pamarisan.

Dati nang ipinapaalala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at iba pang kinauukulan na hindi dapat lapitan o pakainin ang mga baboy ramo.

Mas makabubuti umano sa mga hayop na ito na maghanap ng sarili nilang makakain upang mabuhay sa natural nilang tirahan sa wild sa halip na bigyan.

Itinuturing endangered o malapit nang maubos ang populasyon ng mga Philippine warty pig. -
-FRJ, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/833859/wild-boar-o-baboy-ramo-sinakmal-ang-isang-hiker-sa-mt-apo/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR08nxtokMyrTrvzD_8V_DpQAgvNMN3UHhfHwUEDyJSHipFgz-YHdTBss



Penro-Pampanga leads clean up drives for environment month



CLEANUP DRIVE. The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) Pampanga led a series of tree planting and clean-up activities as part of its kick-off activities for the start of the Environment Month this year. (Penro Pampanga)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

June 05, 2022

THE Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro)-Pampanga led a series of tree planting and clean up activities as part of its kickoff activities for the start of the Environment Month 2022.

The event runs with the theme "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo." Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo #OnlyOneEarth is the campaign for World Environment Day 2022. It calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore the planet.

Penro-Pampanga's Manila Bay Unit, led by Forester Noel Mariñas, conducted a clean-up drive along the waterways of Sapangbalen Creek, Malpitic, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The activity collected a total of 119 sacks or 27.37 cubic meter of wastes consisting mainly of plastics.

Also, PENR Officer Roger Encarnacion held a bamboo planting activity along the Pampanga River in Barangay Sulipan in Apalit recently to celebrate the Philippine Environment Month. A total of 200 bamboo stocks were planted in a 900-square meter site along the easements of Pampanga River.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931095/pampanga/local-news/penro-pampanga-leads-clean-up-drives-for-environment-month>



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- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

 **CDN Digital** ✓
21h · 🌐

Nakapanlimpyo na ba ang tanan?

LOOK: Here are some scenes from the Butuanon River clean-up early on Sunday morning, June 5, in celebration of World Environment Day.

Volunteers cleaned portions of the river located in Barangays Maguikay and Ibabao Estancia in Mandaue City. | Photos from DENR Central Visayas Fb page #CDNDigital



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15 Comments 5 Shares



Harnessing the ASEAN youth's powers for the environment

Published on: June 05, 2022
By ACB

LAGUNA -- In the multiverse theory, there exist alternate realities where we have Earths that are untouched, lush, and teeming with biodiversity.

But our reality is we only have one Earth, and on this World Environment Day, we once again contemplate its health and existence to ensure that we protect our own, as a species. The loss of biological diversity on this planet translates into deterioration that affects us all who inhabit it. In Southeast Asia, some 221 species are considered critically endangered. Projections show that the region is poised to lose 13-42 per cent of species and 70-90 per cent of habitats by 2100 if drivers such as habitat fragmentation, pollution, and climate change are unabated.

For the people of ASEAN, the rich biodiversity not only underpins the region's economic development and prosperity -- it also is an integral part of our identity. Our culture, our knowledge, and our practices are intricately connected with the diversity of life that surrounds us. Nature also holds the solution to the challenges that our region, and indeed the rest of the world, are currently facing. Healthy and intact ecosystems help in mitigating climate impacts, and even regulating disease outbreaks. Irreversible damage to this natural wealth will thus have a huge negative impact on our lives and livelihoods in the region.

And no other sector will be most affected by the cumulative effect of the negative actions of the past towards nature than the youth who will inherit its outcomes. This realisation has driven our youth in the ASEAN to care for and protect the resources that not only nourish us but also shape the future before us.



Youth are important actors in biodiversity conservation. Photo by ACB.



Thus the youth, in particular, are crucial in transforming our collective relationship with nature.

With their boundless energy and creativity, the youth are important actors in communicating the values of biodiversity through various platforms. In this day and age where information is easily accessed, storytelling plays an important role in paving the pathway to recovery and resilience. Hence, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) considers the youth as our dynamic partners in conserving the rich biodiversity of the ASEAN.

In time for World Environment Day, the ACB officially announced the impressive roster of Young ASEAN Storytellers (YAS), innovative youths who hope to inspire others to learn about and care for our shared biological and cultural diversity through poems, visual arts, songs, and other creative mediums. The twenty Young ASEAN Storytellers, hailing from the different ASEAN Member States will craft powerful stories of conservation of the region's rich natural and cultural heritage teeming in select ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP).

The Young ASEAN Storytellers are called upon to wield their superpowers to raise awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity. Their hopes and aspirations told through stories are powerful tools that can communicate to the ASEAN and to the world, the wonders of the AHPs, and the significance of ASEAN biodiversity as our home and heritage.

Indeed, we must assemble our power and collectively act to keep our only one Earth safe for many more years to come. Happy World Environment Day! (TMSLIM-ACB)



Groups urge government to back measures vs organic pollutants

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star June 6, 2022 | 12:00am



A surgical face mask washes up on the shore of so-called Baseco Beach in Manila.

Philstar.com / EC Toledo IV

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental groups EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) and the Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) have urged the Philippine delegation to the ongoing conference in Geneva, Switzerland to support stricter limits for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste to avoid contaminating the recycling chain.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the EcoWaste, IDIS and MEF specifically urged the Philippine delegation to the Triple Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, being held in Geneva today until June 17, to align the Philippines with the African nations seeking stricter limits in POPs in waste.

At least 53 countries belonging to the African bloc are advocating for stricter limits for POPs such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers in waste under the Basel Convention, to stop imports of PBDE-containing e-waste into the region and to end recycling of POPs into new products.

“Countries on the receiving end of the inequitable global waste trade will suffer more if parties accept less stringent limits for POPs in waste,” EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

“Delegates must negotiate with the paramount interest of people’s health and the environment in mind and decide on the most stringent limits that will in effect block the transfer of POPs-containing products and wastes to developing nations to protect vulnerable populations and ecosystems,” she added.

IDIS executive director Mark Peñalver explained that if stricter limits are adopted, “governments can then enact regulations based on these limits to stop the entry of POPs-contaminated wastes into our ports, markets and households.”

“Establishing stricter limits is necessary to ensure that waste materials containing POPs do not contaminate the recycling chain with these persistent chemicals,” MEF chairperson Sonia Mendoza said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/06/2186320/groups-urge-government-back-measures-vs-organic-pollutants>



Angeles gets plastic shredding machines



PLASTIC SHREDDING MACHINE. Workers operate the plastic shredding machine acquired by the City Government of Angeles. (Angeles City Information Office)

CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB

June 05, 2022

THE Angeles City Government recently purchased plastic shredder machines that will help in the recycling of the city's collected plastics into brick pavers, the first of its kind in the city and Pampanga.

Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr.'s Chief Adviser IC Calaguas said the local government purchased the shredders after the city already collected 552,555 kilos of plastic from the "Walang Plastikan, Plastik Palit Bigas" project of the reelected mayor.

"Ito po ay bahagi ng programa ni Mayor Pogi para sa environment. Bukod po sa layunin na sanayin ang ating mga kababayan natin ang waste segregation sa kanilang mga kabahayan, nais po nating mabawasan ang paggamit ng plastik," Calaguas said.

The said collected plastics will be recycled into brick pavers, facilitated by City Engineer Donato Dizon and the Environmental Management System, Calaguas says.

"Employees will be trained in the recycling process, which will be overseen by Engr. Dizon himself," Calaguas said.

Dizon said one of the two purchased plastic shredder machines has already arrived and is now operating at the facility.

"Mayroon pa pong isang parating na machine na mas malaki," Dizon said.

He added that the machine can accommodate even hard and stiff plastics like monoblock chairs.

"When it comes to limit of plastic being shredded, wala pong limit. Kayang-kaya pong mag-operate," Engr. Dizon shared.

Dizon also said only trained employees will be solely assigned for the brick pavers making.

The Walang Plastikan, Plastik Palit Bigas project was launched on January 2022 by Lazatin, through redemption trucks plying over 33 barangays to exchange collected plastic from Angeleño households for rice, with 1 is to 1 ratio, via schedule.



City officials led by Calaguas, Dizon and Executive Assistant Reina Manuel donated rice cookers to residents who got the most number of rice in the initial implementation of the program.

Through the efforts of Lazatin, the city also acquired the Bilis Walis truck, a truck-mounted street sweeper, the first of its kind in Pampanga.

Boracay among world's most sustainable destinations in 2022

June 5, 2022



Boracay (PNA file photo)

By Gabriela Baron

Boracay is among the world's most sustainable destinations this year, according to travel and lifestyle site Hospitality Net.

Hospitality Net described Boracay as “the stuff Instagram dreams are made of.”

“After refocusing their efforts and allowing the island’s ecosystems to start to recover, Boracay is now responsibly welcoming visitors again, managing volumes with a daily tourist limit,” the site wrote.

“The island has also implemented an array of sustainable eco-tourism practices, including the adoption of electric tricycles, and now relies on solar power as their main energy source, seeking to ensure a long and healthy future,” it added.

Boracay Island was ordered close to tourists from April 26 to Oct. 25, 2018 to undergo rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, also among Hospitality Net’s list are Hoedspruit, South Africa; Stockholm, Sweden; Arusha, Tanzania; Merzouga, Morocco; Puerto Iguazu, Argentina; Villa de Leyva, Colombia; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Toronto, Canada; and Rishikesh, India. – **ngs**

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/boracay-among-worlds-most-sustainable-destinations-in-2022/>



'No space for fossil gas in Verde Island Passage or elsewhere'

Fr. Edwin Gariguez - Philstar.com June 5, 2022 | 4:36pm



Fishers' and community groups hold a boat parade in protest of plans to expand the use of fossil gas and liquefied natural gas in Batangas province on April 22, 2022.

Philstar.com/Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — Today is World Environment Day. More than being a celebration, it is a wake-up call to how humankind is continuously committed to destructive activities that threaten the health of the planet, our common home.

All the signs and science point to an undeniable reality: that human-induced rise of global temperatures is causing widespread disruption in nature and is affecting the lives of billions of people around the world.

In the last several years, global scientists and experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have been repeatedly warning us to brace for increasingly disastrous climate hazards, including those that will be irreversible, over the next two decades, if we don't act with urgency. Time is ticking if we want to keep more catastrophic climate change at bay.

Despite such warnings — each more harrowing than the last — the world continues to rely on the single biggest cause of global warming for its power needs: fossil fuels. This is especially true for us who are living in the Southeast Asian region.

A [new report](#) from the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) and partners raised alarm over the massive expansion of fossil gas — a fossil fuel falsely labeled as a clean alternative to coal — in Southeast Asia.

Thanks to both local and international gas companies and financiers, we now have the highest concentration of gas power projects planned to be developed in the world. Ordinary folks like ourselves are told that plans to develop gas to this extent will help our status as developing nations, but in reality, it will only subject us to worse climate catastrophes, make our power bills even more unaffordable, and hurt the rich marine biodiversity found in our region and country.

This threat of destruction has hit close to home for me. My hometown of Oriental Mindoro is one of the five provinces — the rest being Batangas, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon — that surround Verde Island Passage (VIP), an ecological hotspot at the heart of Southeast Asia's Coral Triangle.

VIP is the most biodiverse marine habitat in the world and is even touted as the "Amazon of the oceans," comparing it to the Amazon rainforest of Brazil, the most biodiverse rainforest in the world. It houses 60% of all the world's known shore fish species, over 300 coral species, and thousands of other types of sea creatures.



This global wonder is at risk because of plans for massive development of fossil gas projects. In the last decade, the Philippines built and commissioned a large fleet of new coal-fired power plants, but civic movements, church, youth, communities, and Filipinos of all walks of life worked together to expose how dirty and devastating, not to mention costly, coal is.

Now, we are made to believe that gas is the cleaner alternative to coal, but the truth is so far from this. Gas is still a fossil fuel that accounts for a fifth of the world's total carbon emissions. The drilling, extraction of fossil gas from wells, transportation in pipelines and ships, and all other processes involved in the life cycle of fossil gas - often referred to as natural gas — all lead to leaking high amounts of methane into the atmosphere — a greenhouse gas that is 34 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over 100 years and 86 times stronger over 20 years.

In the Philippines, Batangas is the epicenter of this dangerous expansion. On top of five existing gas-fired plants, a fleet of eight proposed fossil gas and LNG power plant projects and seven new LNG terminals are to be built in the province, posing grave threats not just to biodiversity but to the health and livelihood of the communities in the area. There are two projects already in advanced stages of development — an LNG terminal of Linseed Field Power Corp. and Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company, and an adjacent 1,750 MW gas plant of San Miguel Corp. Global Power.

The mere fact that such destructive developments are being constructed in the waters of VIP is an affront to our moral duty to protect the environment. Shouldn't our rights to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment be guaranteed by the government by prioritizing the communities that will be immediately and directly affected by fossil gas projects?

Fishermen in nearby barangays report fewer fish catch. They used to catch as much as 10 kilograms, which have dropped to two to three kilograms since Batangas' transformation into a fossil gas hub. Their health and wellbeing are also under grave threat. In a marine ecology and water quality study conducted by CEED and Caritas Philippines as part of Protect VIP, a network of advocates for the protection of creation which I am also glad to be in, "very high" concentrations of toxic metals such chromium, copper, and lead have been detected along the coasts of Barangay Ilijan and Dela Paz in Batangas City where these fossil gas facilities are being built.

The whole pipeline of fossil gas projects still planned to be constructed in Batangas will further degrade the waters of VIP. How then, will fishermen make a living? What about those who rely on VIP for their sustenance? What will happen to life systems in other seas, to which new spawns of sea creatures from VIP also trickle on? It bears heavy in my heart to know that these impacts will also be mirrored by other communities and environments host to planned new fossil gas projects across the country.

It is unacceptable how developers and financiers of these projects peddle the idea that development can happen at the expense of the environment and people. A world with economic growth and environmental sustainability isn't a utopia — it is attainable for as long as the desire to protect people and the environment is genuine.

Environmental protection itself contributes to economic growth. Our climate woes are worsened — and have reached this terrible state — because of economic growth tethered to greenhouse gas emitting industries and destructive practices.

As we work to protect the VIP, our oceans, and the world we call home from further degradation, we also must stand firm that there is no space for any more fossil fuels. The Church recently affirmed this in the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines' 2022 Pastoral Statement on



Ecology where we called for an end to financial services for coal, gas, and all fossil fuels. Last month's Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations' climate change conference of parties also came to the same conclusion with "clear collective determination to tackle the current energy crisis alongside the climate crisis, and to seize the opportunity for a clean energy transition."

Indeed, we need to continue fighting for an end to fossil gas, coal, and all other dirty energy, and hasten the shift to energy that can power a sustainable future.

Fr. Edwin Gariguez is a long term advocate for environmental justice and protection. In 2012, he was awarded with the Goldman Environmental Prize for his work with grassroots movements in resisting destructive mining in Mindoro. Having served for a decade as Executive Secretary of Caritas Philippines, where he led the advancement of various environmental initiatives and programs, Fr. Gariguez now continues his work as Social Action Director of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, board member of CEED, and lead convenor of Protect VIP.



Government employees join cleanup drive



BACOLOD. The Bacolod City government employees help in removing campaign materials in different areas over the weekend. (Contributed photo)

June 05, 2022

SEVERAL Bacolod government employees joined the cleanup drive in various areas in Bacolod City over the weekend.

Wilfredo Geolongo, head of Task Force Disiplina, on Sunday, June 5, 2022, said his team along with the personnel from the City Legal Office was deployed on Lacson Street for the removal of campaign materials and cleaning the street on Saturday morning.

He said on May 10, Mayor Evelio Leonardia issued Executive Order No. 24 creating a post-election cleanup committee to remove the large number of campaign materials installed by candidates in various areas in the city during the campaign period.

He added the cleanup drive activity will be held every Saturday starting June 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Geolongo said all the government employees including the job orders were required to join the cleanup drive.

“It’s a directive from our mayor to ensure the cleanliness of our city,” Geolongo said.

He said some of the employees were deployed in the areas of Burgos Street, Lizares Street, among others.

He added the employees were tasked to remove the installed campaign materials including the garbage.

The committee is chaired by Leonardia and co-chaired by Vice Mayor El Cid Familiaran with City Administrator Edward Joseph Cuansing as action officer.

The committee members included Acting Secretary to the Mayor Ma. Victoria Parrenas; Engineer Aladino Agbones of City Engineer’s Office; General Services Office head Gilda Lluisma; Ramil Palalon, officer-in-charge of Department of Public Services; Atty. Reuben Sabig of the City Legal Office; and the Public Information Office. **(MAP)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931146/bacolod/local-news/government-employees-join-cleanup-drive>



Doing solar seriously

[CTALK](#) - [Cito Beltran](#) - The Philippine Star June 6, 2022 | 12:00am

If all goes well, I will be putting my salary where my mouth is in a “Big” way.

After talking about solar power for many years and installing solar streetlights around our property in Lipa City and Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig, I have asked a supplier to do the ocular inspection in order to install a solar powered deep well water pump. Depending on the system we choose, the initial cost will be a couple of months of my salary. But I will have the satisfaction of being partially off grid for water. This installation will be the big test intended to help us decide if we convert much of our energy needs to renewable energy.

Switching to solar power in Lipa makes sense because the weather is cooler than Metro Manila most of the year and we often get by with a fan. Having converted to vegan/vegetarian we no longer need the freezers we used to have, and plans are underway to invest in a real greenhouse to supply our plant-based needs. Given today’s technology switch to “compact” designs, a solar based set up will more than meet our energy needs and, being in our senior years, there is a high probability that the system we install this year will outlive us. Given the added reality that productivity and long-term employment diminish drastically in our senior years, making sure that our quality of life does not suffer as our finances diminish with age has now become a concern that needs action. Going to solar power is just one of those solutions where you use technology to manage your expenses.

* * *

Last Saturday as I surfed the internet and checked YouTube on solar related topics, I came across a documentary on the world’s largest floating solar power plant and I ended up watching several other videos on projects in China, Singapore, Japan and the Netherlands. I honestly had to shake my head because it made me realize that we have missed our flight, missed the boat and missed the bus in terms of tapping the energy potential that solar power plants could have given the country from 2000 onwards. It was around that time when China started an “experiment” which is the official word for “to try” putting up a 300 gigawatt floating solar power plant on the Changhe and Zhousiang reservoirs 150 kilometers south of Shanghai. The experiment was constructed inside the Hangzhou Fenglin electricity science technology solar park. After construction the floating solar facility provided electricity to 100,000 families. This was further expanded with a 120 megawatt floating solar facility that further increased the energy supply for families and businesses, created an estimated \$45 million in revenue for power while the \$260-million cost has an estimated payback period or ROI of five years.

While China may claim to have the biggest floating solar farm in the world, their bragging rights won’t be theirs for long because reports indicate that South Korea is on their way to building a similar project, but twice as big in area and capacity as that in China. Meanwhile, our neighbor Singapore, being the pragmatic folks that they are, has purpose built a floating solar power plant designed to energize their five water treatment plants, and currently has four floating solar power projects under construction with plans of making as many as 16 such projects by 2025. The Netherlands has invested half a billion dollars on such a project they call ZON OP ZEE or Sun In the Sea to tap solar power off-shore, especially now that natural gas is in short supply.

As I went over those various videos, I realized that floating solar power plants are no longer “experimental” in the true sense of the word. Their locations are all dependent on what’s available or highly beneficial. Several have been placed inside reservoirs and next to hydro-electric power plants because they have a complimentary feature triggered by nature. During rainy seasons, hydro-electric plants generate full capacity but during summer or dry season the floating solar facility efficiently produces the short fall of the hydro-electric plant. Another benefit



of the floating solar facility is that it can cover wide areas and reduce water evaporation and solar panels above water are 5 to 15 percent more efficient than roof top installations.

Back in the Philippines, just when I thought that bright minds at the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) finally got on the right track, it seems that the start of a good thing has intentionally been “bypassed” after a member of the Board decided to play safe and smell clean with the BBM administration. Unfortunately, what has been “bypassed” was the awarding of winning bids to the first “experiment” or trial on floating solar power plants on Laguna de Bay. The LLDA could collect rent, the business model was our best chance at proving to the BBM administration that solar is a viable energy source, reduces weather and typhoon related disruption and damage to power supply and a viable investment offering to investors, both local and foreign.

Whether it's on Laguna De Bay, the Pasig River, the Cagayan Valley River, we all know that solar power technology is being used to power storm and flood monitors, to power data gathering equipment around Mayon and Taal volcanos. Many streetlights all over the country are solar powered. In fact, if the BBM administration treats solar power technology with intentionality, it can be an equalizer and gamechanger providing cheaper electricity on site in depressed communities, military camps, hospitals and schools, etc. A far-sighted Cabinet secretary could dedicate the next six years to the goal of creating pump-priming factories that manufacture low cost solar power panels, etc.

Let's create the Solar Power Development Agency! If not the LLDA, perhaps TESDA, MWSS, the AFP and DepEd should open the doors to investors and make a profit that's there for the taking.



Ecozones in ancestral domains pushed

[Louella Desiderio](#) - The Philippine Star June 6, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has partnered with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to promote the creation of economic zones in ancestral domains and lands to spur development in the countryside.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by PEZA director general Charito Plaza with NCIP chairperson Allen Capuyan last week to work together in the identification, creation, development, implementation and operation of ecozones in ancestral domains and lands, and empower indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) or IPs to become ecozone developers or operators as owners of the lands.

PEZA and NCIP entered into the MOA pursuant to Administrative Order 18 issued by the Office of the President in June 2019, which seeks to accelerate rural progress through the development of special economic zones in the countryside.

Under the MOA, the PEZA and NCIP will assist ICCs or IPs who are interested in having portions of their ancestral domains to be declared as an economic zone.

Information and education campaigns will be conducted for interested and qualified communities on the different kinds of economic zones, the processes and requirements for declaration of such, as well as the benefits.

In promoting the creation of economic zones in ancestral domains and lands, the parties will ensure cultural sensitivity and cultural integrity are upheld.

A technical working group composed of five members each from PEZA and NCIP will be formed to regularly monitor and report updates on the implementation of the MOA.

Plaza said the PEZA wants to start the implementation of the MOA with those with certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) or a title formally recognizing the rights of possession and ownership of ICCs or IPs over the ancestral domains.

She said those issued with CADT will serve as the ecozone developers or owners who will be receiving the lease payments from the ecozone locators.

She also said the ICCs or IPs should be prioritized in terms of jobs that will open in the ecozones to be developed under the MOA.

“We have to enrich, empower, not just the government, not just LGUs (local government units), not just locators and investors, but most especially the people who own the land,” she said.

For his part, Capuyan said the NCIP expects the development of special economic zones in ancestral domains to provide not just economic opportunities, but also increase the basic services including education and health in the IP communities.

Despite ICCs or IPs owning vast lands, he said they are among the poorest social groups as illiteracy, unemployment, and poverty have deprived them of rights and opportunities to develop capabilities needed to cope with the fast changing economic environment.

“We hope that this partnership will bring a real positive change to the lives of these ICCs or IPs through the creation of livelihood and enterprise for increased economic productivity along with sustainable mineral, agroforestry processing, sustainable tourism industries, among others,” he said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/06/06/2186251/ecozones-ancestral-domains-pushed>



High level of arsenic found in lake waters of 9 towns in Batangas

[Arnell Ozaeta](#) - Philstar.com June 5, 2022 | 5:42pm



View of Taal Lake in Batangas province, south of Manila, pictured on Nov. 21, 2020.
Philstar.com / EC Toledo IV

BATANGAS, Philippines — At least nine towns here were found positive with high level of arsenic in their lake waters, provincial task force said.

In a meeting of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force on Arsenic – Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL) revealed that the towns of Laurel, Balete, San Nicolas, Mataas na Kahoy, Alitagtag, Sta. Teresita, Lemery, Taal and the city of Tanauan have high level of arsenic in their lake waters.

Dr. Rhodora Reyes, Batangas Medical Center Toxicology Center chief and head of the Provincial IATF on Arsenic-TVPL said that arsenic is a kind of chemical which is carcinogenic or may cause cancer in the skin or lungs.

Reyes said these chemicals can be inhaled or taken by drinking contaminated water.

The high level of arsenic in the said areas was first recorded when the Taal Volcano erupted on Jan. 12, 2020, reaching 10 parts per billion (ppb) or higher than the standard or normal level.

As a preventive measure, the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office allocated P3.5 million from their trust fund for water testing in the affected areas.

In light of the detected arsenic contamination in Taal Lake waters, the Provincial Health Office advised the following:

Avoid drinking or taking in lake water since it is not safe.

Limit number of hours of swimming or submerging in the water since long exposure can be harmful

Make sure to take a shower or take a bath after swimming in the lake

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/06/05/2186247/high-level-arsenic-found-lake-waters-9-towns-batangas>



Climate change in Southeast Asia: Where are we and what are we bound for?

June 6, 2022

Last of 2 parts

Mental illness

Climate change and extreme weather events will also increase mental illness. Children, youth, women and elderly are particularly at risk of developing anxiety and depression, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder associated with extreme weather events and the loss of homes and other assets.

A recent nationwide survey by Unicef Malaysia in 2020 found that 92 percent of young persons are already worried about the climate crisis (eco-anxiety).

These forecasts highlight the importance of GHG reductions and the preservation of vital ecosystem services. Unfortunately, progress on this front remains inadequate across the region. Between 2010 and 2019, the region saw an annual average increase of 1.8 percent in carbon intensity, and of 5.1 percent in CO2 emissions from 2015 to 2019 in the energy sector.

Southeast Asia also recorded the fastest per capita growth in transport emissions (4.6 percent per year) in the world, and saw its forest cover decrease by a whopping 13 percent between 1990 and 2015, with mangrove forest loss growing by 0.39 percent per annum between 2000 and 2012.

GHG reductions

One ray of hope, according to the IPCC, is that Southeast Asia has the potential to rapidly reduce as much as 43 percent of GHG emissions by 2050 from reduced energy demand and increased energy efficiency in the building sector, and that further GHG reductions would be possible with more investment and research on decarbonization.

This is critical. If the world is to have a decent chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 C, we need to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 at the very least. At present, however, policymakers and politicians are either not taking the problem seriously enough or feel unable to break out of our dependency on fossil fuels as indicated by an Asean report that shows a gap between current country commitments and the necessary GHG reductions.

Similarly, the radical change required to the way we treat and use the land currently appears to be beyond the capabilities of society.

The last United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last year that brought together 120 world leaders saw some welcome commitments from governments. For example, Indonesia, as one of the world's largest carbon emitters through deforestation and land use change, made a commitment to the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

A number of countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) signed the Global Methane Pledge to cut 30 percent methane by 2030, and a portion of Asean countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) fully or partially signed the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement. These pledges and commitments must still be translated into action. But even if they are, more rapid and radical change is needed.



BY KWAN SOO-CHEN AND DAVID MCCOY, IPS

Kwan Soo-Chen is a post-doctoral fellow and David McCoy is a research lead at the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH).



EDITORIAL - Only one Earth

The Philippine Star June 6, 2022 | 12:00am



The World Health Organization keeps warning that the once-in-a-century pandemic is far from over, with the COVID virus continually mutating and more contagious strains emerging. But infections have drastically slowed down, thanks to widespread vaccination as well as continued adherence to basic health safety protocols such as masking.

Long after the COVID virus ceases to be a serious threat to public health, the planet will continue to be threatened by environmental degradation. Experts have said the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to the ruinous impacts of climate change. Filipinos need greater awareness of the need to protect the environment, and to remember that there is only one Earth – the theme of this year's World Environment Day.

While public awareness of environmental protection has grown over the past decades and there has been significant progress in promoting an eco-friendly way of life, daunting challenges persist. The United Nations warns that the Earth faces a triple planetary emergency: climate is heating up faster than people and nature can adapt; an estimated one million species may become extinct due to habitat loss and other pressures; and air, land and water continue to be poisoned by pollution.

The call is for people to live sustainably in harmony with nature. Each person has a role to play. Transformation is needed in the way we live, travel and have fun. Sustainable living must be designed into homes, workplaces, cities, places of leisure and worship.

Those with the power to set policy and rewrite the rules clearly have a major role to play in the transformation to sustainable living. These include governments, businesses, financial institutions and organizations. The UN emphasizes the need for concerted international action. On World Environment Day, its message is that people must shift from harming the Earth to healing it.



Phivolcs raises Alert Level 1 over Bulusan Volcano

By Azer Parrocha and Connie Calipay **June 5, 2022, 1:12 pm** **Updated on June 5, 2022, 2:29 pm**



Bulusan Volcano eruption (Photo courtesy of Arvie Gernandizo)

MANILA – The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Sunday raised the alert status over Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon province to Alert Level 1 after a 17-minute phreatic eruption was recorded by seismic and infrasound monitoring.

In an advisory, Phivolcs said a phreatic eruption occurred at the Bulusan Volcano at 10:37 a.m. on Sunday.

“Alert Level 1 status is now raised over Bulusan Volcano, which means that it is currently in an abnormal condition,” Phivolcs said.

The Phivolcs said the phreatic eruption was poorly visible through cloud cover over the edifice although a steam-rich grey plume at least 1 kilometer tall was observed from Juban, Sorsogon and was subsequently observed to drift west.

“Ashfall has been reported in Juban and Casiguran, Sorsogon. Prior to the eruption, the BVN [Bulusan Volcano Network] recorded 77 volcanic earthquakes in the past 24-hour observation period,” Phivolcs said.

Phivolcs reminded local government units (LGUs) and the public that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone must be strictly prohibited and that vigilance in the 2-kilometer Extended Danger Zone on the southeast sector must be exercised due to the increased possibilities of sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions.

It also urged civil aviation authorities to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ash from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft.

Phivolcs likewise enjoined people living within valleys and along river/stream channels especially on the southeast, southwest and northwest sector of the edifice to be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahars in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall should phreatic eruption occur.



Volcanic ashes cover houses, roads, and trees in Jubain and Irosin, Sorsogon following a 17-minute phreatic eruption of the Bulusan Volcano at 10:37 a.m. on Sunday (June 5, 2022). *(Photo courtesy of Sorsogon Provincial Information Office)*

Phivolcs records indicate that Bulusan's last eruption was in 2017.

The agency is closely monitoring Bulusan Volcano's condition and vowed to communicate any new development to all concerned stakeholders.

In a separate statement, Malacañang assured that concerned agencies are on standby 24/7 after Alert Level 1 has been raised.

Acting presidential spokesperson Martin Andanar reminded the public, particularly the residents of surrounding areas, to be vigilant, monitor any development regarding the volcano's condition and cooperate with local authorities.

Health risks

Meanwhile, the Department of Health-Bicol (DOH-5) also issued an advisory to warn the public against the health hazards caused by ashfall.

DOH-5 said the effects of the ashfall range from irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat; coughing; bronchitis-like illness; discomfort while breathing; skin irritation; and minor skin problems.

Aside from such health risks, ashfall may also result in accidents such as collapsed roofs or vehicular crashes caused by slippery roads.

"To mitigate these health risks and accidents, the public is advised to avoid going out of their homes and to close all windows and doors; hang damp curtains on windows and doors to avoid the entry of ash; use a dust mask or a cover for nose and mouth; use eye protection such as goggles; place pets and other animals in safe locations; clean fallen ash from the roof to avoid collapse; be updated on the latest situation before traveling; and obey all traffic laws," DOH-5 stated.

The Office of Civil Defense-Bicol (OCD-5) also confirmed the safety of all 14 hikers and four guides who climbed the volcano.

OCD-5 spokesperson Gremil Alexis Naz said they are still waiting for other official situation reports from the Sorsogon Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

"Local government units in Sorsogon are currently conducting assessment and information gathering," he said in an interview. ***(With reports from Samuel Toledo/PNA)***

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1175909>

06 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



TITLE: _____

PAGE: _____

DATE: _____

Smooth turnover of DENR programs to new admin assured **By CORY MARTINEZ**

THERE will be a smooth turnover of the programs and projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to the incoming administration

This was the assurance made by DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna as he already formed a transition team even before the appointment of a new DENR chief.

Sampulna said a DENR undersecretary will chair the team to oversee the preparations for the handing over of responsibilities.

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

According to Sampulna, this move is aligned with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's instruction to his cabinet officials to "do it right."

"By doing it right, he means you won't make excuses and you will not do any nonsensical actions. Because I have a good President, I will leave DENR in good governance," he said.

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

In 2018, President Duterte ordered the rehabilitation of Boracay Island over concerns that its famous beaches and clear blue waters have been transformed into a "cesspool" because of sustained environmental damage.

Boracay's successful rehabilitation has served as a model for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, dubbed as "Battle for Manila Bay," started on Jan. 27, 2019, in compliance with the Supreme Court's Writ of Continuing Mandamus directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make it fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.

As part of the historic bay's rehabilitation program, a solar-powered sewage treatment plant (STP) was installed along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on July 30,

2020.

The installation of solar-powered STPs in the cities of Pasay and Las Piñas is also in the pipeline.

Based on the monitoring of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, the average coliform levels in the 10 stations along the Manila Baywalk have dramatically decreased from 198,000 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) in 2019 to 47,900 MPN/100 mL in 2022.

On the other hand, coliform level in the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach area has an average of 1,200 mpn/100ml from its three monitoring stations.

The Manila Bay Dolomite Beach is a part of the beach nourishment process under the Manila Bay Rehabilitation program.

The DENR was able to draw inspiration from these initiatives as it also ramped up the rehabilitation of other resorts and water bodies nationwide.

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 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.

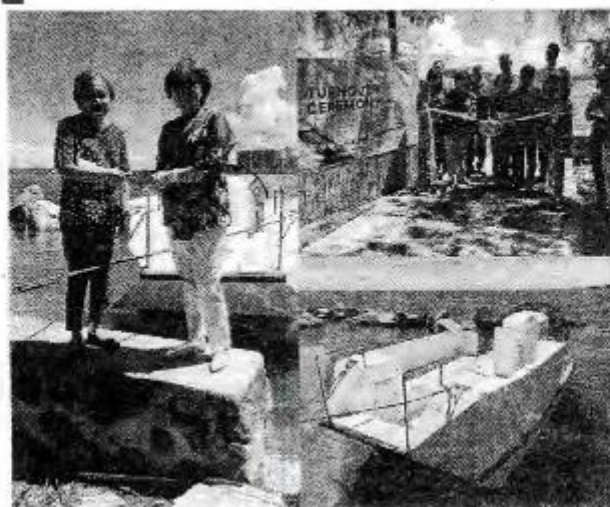
Moreover, under the solid waste management program, the DENR strengthened the implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, highlighted by the closure of open dumpsites all over the country.



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PAGE:

DATE



MARINE PROTECTION. Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla (second from left), Senator Cynthia Villar (right), incoming Palawan Rep. Edward Hagedorn, and conservationist Antonio Oposa Jr. (left) hold the Verde Island passage covenant they signed on Sunday, on UN World Environment Day. Inset photos show Villar also donating an airboat to the Department of Environment to check on the conditions at the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park to DENR-NCR Regional Director Jacqueline Caanacan. **Danny Pata**



PHILIPPINE EAGLE WEEK

ALAM n'yo ba na nagsi-mula ika-4 hanggang ika-10 ng Hunyo ay kinikilala bilang "Philippine Eagle Week" alinsunod sa Presidential Proclamation No. 79. Muling pinangunahan ng BMB o ng Biodiversity Management Bureau ng DENR o ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang pagdiriwang sa temang "Kapayapaan at Kalayaan: Ang Agila at Mamamayan, May Kaugnayan."

Sang-ayon sa Presidential Proclamation ay kinilala ito bilang siyang pambansang ibon kahalili ng maya. Dati

itong tinatawag na monkey eating eagle at kilala rin bilang agila, Haribon (Haring Ibon) at benog.

Ang Philippine Eagle o Pithecopaga jefferyi ay kabilang sa pamilyang Accipitride na endemic o tanging dito lamang sa Pilipinas matatagpuan. Ito ay kuley brown at cream, may sukat na 2.82 hanggang 3.35 feet, may timbang na 4.7 hanggang 8 kilograms at lumilipad sa taas na 5,900 feet. Ito ay nabibilang sa mga "rarest, largest and most powerful birds in the world".

Linuturing ng International Union for the Conservation of Nature at ng Birdie International ang Philippine Eagle bilang isang "critically endangered" o lubhang nanganganib na maubos.

Tinatayang mayroon na lamang 180 hanggang 500



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

ang bilang ng ibong ito sa ating himpapawirin sanhi ng mabilis na pagkakaibo ng ating mga kagubatan, pagmimina, polusyon buhat sa mga mabagsik na pestisidyo, at ilegal na panghuhuli.

Sa 16 na agila na pina-kawalan na muli sa himpapawirin, kalahati na ang namamatay sanhi ng pamamari at wala pang ni isang nahuhuli o napaparusahan.

Isa sa mga nakikilang dahilan ng walang habas na pamamari sa mga agila ay ang kakulangan ng forest

guards na siyang dapat magbabantay sa mga kagubatan ng ating bansa.

Pero sa totoo lang, ang kawalan ng pagpapahalaga at kawalan ng puso ng ilan nating mga kababayan ang dahilan nito. Kailangan talagang magkaroon ang DENR-BMB ng malawakang information campaign drive ukol sa Republic Act No. 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, upang matigil na ang pagpatay sa lahat ng buhay ilang natin.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

AG
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

TARGET
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-05-22

FILE:

PAGE 1

DATE

Boracay pins hope on Marcos admin to finish island rehab

The president-elect won on the island and officials, businessmen expect their support will be rewarded with gov't help

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Business owners and residents of Boracay Island have something to look forward to in the next six years: better government support.

They were hopeful that the victory of President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Boracay Island would translate to a lot of government assistance to help the island recover from the massive slump due to the COVID-pandemic, said Mayor-elect Froilbar Bautista of Malay town in Aklan, where the island is located.

Marcos won by 593 votes against Vice President Leni Robredo in Boracay Island in the May 9 elections. Marcos got 8,932 votes against Robredo's 8,339 votes.

Stakeholders of the island were also watchful on the plans of incoming Tourism Secretary Ma. Christina Frasco, the mayor of Liloan town in Cebu and spokesperson of Vice President-elect Sara Duterte, who will succeed current Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat.

"We hope that programs for Boracay Island under the Duterte administration will be continued by the next administration

because many voters here voted for Marcos because he promised continuity," Bautista told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Bautista is currently the town's acting mayor after the Office of the Ombudsman dismissed Mayor Ciceron Cawaling from office in 2019 for grave misconduct and gross neglect of duty. Cawaling's dismissal was not yet final pending his appeal before the Court of Appeals.

Bautista said they hoped that rehabilitation projects, mainly those included in the P25.27-billion Boracay Action Plan (BAP) that were started when the island was closed to tourists for six months in 2018, should be completed within the six-year term of Marcos.

Unfinished work

The BAP is the rehabilitation and development plan for the island, which focuses on enforcement of laws and regulations, pollution control and prevention, rehabilitation and recovery of the ecosystem, and sustainability of island activities. A significant portion, P16.21 billion, was allotted for infrastructure while P5.13 billion was for pollution control and prevention.

Among the unfinished in-

frastructure projects are the drainage system, upgrading of the circumferential road and sewerage system.

The P1.94-million rehabilitation of the 21.64-kilometer circumferential road connecting the island's three villages of Manoc-Manoc, Balabag and Yapak should be completed in 2023.

Malay Councilor Maylyn "Nenette" Aguirre-Graf, chair of the municipal council's tourism committee, said the next ad-

ministration should fast-track the completion of the drainage project as flooding continues on the island during heavy rains more than four years after major rehabilitation works started.

Aguirre-Graf said the perennial problem on land ownership should also be addressed as many property owners were still fearful they would be removed from their land.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1064 issued in 2006 by then



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

46
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

2022-03-11

DATE

TITLE: Boracay pins hope on Marcos admin PAGE 2
to finish island rehab

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo classified 628.96 hectares of land in Boracay as allenable and disposable (could be subjected to privatization) while 377.68 ha were classified as forestland or public land. The rest are protected areas. PP 1064 has been used as the basis for the removal of structures and occupants on areas classified as forestland.

Recovery mode

Business owners also hoped the new administration would help the island regain its pre-pandemic tourism activity levels.

The island has been seeing a surge in domestic travelers but foreign tourists were still minimal due to travel and health restrictions.

Tourist arrivals on the island resort in May reached 201,368 but only 4,268 of them were foreign tourists.

"Domestic tourists are practically double than before the pandemic but we are still trying to recover," said business owner Jose Carlos "Binggoy" Remedios.

Aguirre-Graf said an in-depth study on the island's carrying capacity should be conducted and made a basis for the regulation of tourist arrivals and sustainable development of the

island, noting that the current carrying capacity was pegged in 2018 before the island underwent major rehabilitation.

In April, Puyat admonished local officials after tourist arrivals in April reportedly breached the island's carrying capacity of 19,215 tourists at any given time. This was denied by officials, saying there was a confusion in the tourist arrival figures.

Residents were also asking if the Marcos administration would continue the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), the body supervising the island's rehabilitation that would be dissolved when the term of President Duterte ends on June 30; and if the bill creating the Boracay Island Development Authority (Bida) would be pursued.

Aklan officials and Boracay residents have opposed the creation of the Bida, meant to replace the BIATF, because it would only create a government-owned and -controlled corporation with corporate powers.

"The incoming president is a former governor [of Ilocos Norte] so he knows the role and importance of local government units," Bautista said. INO



THEY ARE BACK Domestic tourists are back with a vengeance on Boracay Island as shown in this photo taken on March 11, as the world-famous island resort continues to have record-high visitors during the pandemic. —JACK JARILLA



TITLE:

PAGE

13

DATE

One Meralco Foundation's One for Trees Program:

Empowering communities to care for the planet one tree at a time



Launched in 2019, One for Trees aims to protect critical forests by engaging local communities in the mission to plant trees and nurture them for at least three years.



Through the Payment for Ecosystem Services, XSF brings together donors from non-profit and private sectors and peoples' organizations such as indigenous groups to jointly care for the environment.

MANY businesses, big and small, have started actively advocating sustainability to strike the much-needed balance between generating revenue and ensuring a better and greener future for the next generation. At the forefront of this drive towards sustainability is the country's largest distribution utility, the Manila Electric Company (Meralco).

In a bid to bring a meaningful and lasting impact to its customers, its communities, and the country, Meralco established its own Sustainability Agenda with a view towards achieving business objectives and transforming operations, while protecting the environment and ultimately, powering better lives.

This Sustainability Agenda—called "Powering the Good Life"—is marked by a distinctive focus on four pillars: Power, Planet, People, and Prosperity, and is rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

With environmental stewardship as part and parcel of this Sustainability Agenda, One Meralco Foundation (OMF), the company's social development arm, has been championing initiatives aimed at caring for our common home.

Through One for Trees, OMF leads the Meralco Group in preserving and protection of Philippine forests and watersheds through reforestation and agroforestry. The program aspires to nurture and protect at least 5 million trees by 2025, while providing sustainable livelihood to communities around conservation sites.

Launched in 2019, One for Trees aims to help protect critical forests by engaging local communities in the mission to plant trees and nurture them for at least three years. It was successfully piloted in San Miguel, Bulacan through a partnership with Green Earth Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization that also focuses on agroforestry.

"The program highlights the importance of community engagement as a crucial element in making tree nurturing programs truly sustainable," says Atty. Ray Espinosa, Vice Chairman of OMF and President and CEO of Meralco.

"While caring for the environment is important, attending to the social and economic needs of communities in and around forests is also equally essential," he added.

By the end of 2021, more than a million seedlings have been planted in reforestation sites in Luzon and the Visayas. This includes 80,750 trees planted by OMF's partners in San Miguel, Bulacan, and 143,791 trees planted by various people's organizations engaged by Global Business Power



SUSTAINING MORE COMMUNITIES

In 2021, OMF entered into a partnership with Xavier Science Foundation (XSF) for the expansion of the "One for Trees" reforestation program in Mindanao, starting with Bukidnon.

The project is now being implemented in partnership with the Nagkahiusang mga Manobong Manununod sa Yutang Kabilin (NAMAMAYUK), a Manobo organization with members spread out across four sitios in the barangays of Bacusanon and Nabaliwa, Pangantucan, Bukidnon.

The Manobos were displaced when settlers from outside Mindanao began to relocate in the area. Commercial logging also denuded it.

After many years of dialogue, the Manobos finally returned home with help from the Catholic Church and the local government. However, their once lush forest is now almost completely devoid of trees.

This is why NAMAMAYUK members have been working hard to replant indigenous trees hoping to revive their traditional source of food and medicine.

REVIVING THE FORESTS

Despite their limited means, members of NAMAMAYUK have been actively replanting endangered tree and plant species in their ancestral domain with the hope of nursing back to health their traditional forest.

Grassroots organizations like XSF also invested in the capacity of the natives to implement agroforestry, helping them grow and market high-value crops like corn, cacao, and coffee.

"Through the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), XSF brings together donors from the non-profit and private sectors and peoples' organizations such as indigenous groups to jointly care for the environment," says Roel Ravanera, Executive Director of XSF.

"We channel the donations from the funders to the communities in the form of financial incentives, so they appreciate the value of caring for the environment. It is in this framework that OMF comes in as a partner of our foundation in helping the NAMAMAYUK," he added.

OMF's partnership with XSF enabled it to fund the ongoing reforestation and agroforestry efforts of the NAMAMAYUK. Starting with the planting of 49,980 seedlings of native tree species, and coffee, the Foundation's investment in the partnership also includes multi-year funding for maintenance and is expected to incrementally increase the number of trees in the next five years.

To ensure every member of the association is given equitable opportunities to benefit from the project, the NAMAMAYUK leaders distributed the reforestation work across the four sitios. In each planting site, a leader was appointed to see to it that the seedlings were planted as planned, continuously monitored, and maintained.

Aside from the income earned for growing, planting, monitoring, and nurturing the trees, NAMAMAYUK members will potentially earn more once the fruit-bearing trees are ready for harvest and the coffee beans are processed and sold.

"We are extremely thankful to the Almighty for bringing together institutions like the One Meralco Foundation and Xavier Science Foundation to help us revive our natural heritage," Datu Herminio

Guinto, appointed as the tribal adviser, said during the inaugural tree planting activity attended by over a hundred NAMAMAYUK members.

The festive event commenced with Manobo traditional rituals signifying that, more than just a reforestation project, it has a deeper cultural significance to the lumads.

"As partners, we commit to doing our share in ensuring the success of this initiative and taking care of the trees entrusted to us through this project," Guinto added.

One for Trees is more than just a tree planting initiative since it involves taking care of the seedlings until it is mature enough to thrive on its own.

"In the long run, these trees will certainly help mitigate the effects of climate change. I believe that through One for Trees, we are able to significantly contribute to our shared responsibility of providing a livable, more sustainable world for our children," says OMF President Jeffrey O. Tarayao.



TITLE:

Empowering communities to care for the planet
one tree at a time

PAGE

3/3

06-06-22

DATE



In 2021, OMF entered into a partnership with Xavier Science Foundation for the expansion of the One for Trees reforestation program in Mindanao. Present during the MOA signing were (in photo L-R): OMF President Jeffrey O. Tarayao, Xavier University CDO President and XSF Chairman Fr. Mars P. Tan SJ, and XSF Executive Director Roel Ravanera.



OMF's partnership with XSF enabled it to fund the ongoing reforestation and agroforestry efforts of the NAMAMAYUK starting with the planting of 49,980 seedlings of native tree species, and coffee.



Through One for Trees, OMF leads the Meralco Group in preserving and protection of Philippine forests and watersheds through reforestation and agroforestry.



06-06-28

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PAGE:

DATE

Climate change in Southeast Asia: Where are we and what are we bound for?

Last of 2 parts

BY KWAN SOO-CHEN
AND DAVID MCCOY

Mental illness

CLIMATE change and extreme weather events will also increase mental illness. Children, youth, women and elderly are particularly at risk of developing anxiety and depression, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder associated with extreme weather events and the loss of homes and other assets.

A recent nationwide survey by Unicef Malaysia in 2020 found that 92 percent of young persons are already worried about the climate crisis (eco-anxiety).

These forecasts highlight the importance of GHG reductions and the preservation of vital ecosystem services. Unfortunately, progress on this front remains inadequate across the region. Between 2010 and 2019, the region saw an annual average increase of 1.8 percent in carbon intensity, and of 5.1 percent in CO2 emissions from 2015 to 2019 in the energy sector.

Southeast Asia also recorded the fastest per capita growth in transport emissions (4.6 percent per year) in the world, and saw its forest cover decrease by a whopping 13 percent between 1990 and 2015, with mangrove forest loss growing by 0.39 percent per annum between 2000 and 2012.

GHG reductions

One ray of hope, according to the IPCC, is that Southeast Asia has the potential to rapidly reduce as much as 43 percent of GHG emissions by 2050 from reduced energy demand and increased energy efficiency in the build-

ing sector, and that further GHG reductions would be possible with more investment and research on decarbonization.

This is crucial. If the world is to have a decent chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 C, we need to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 at the very least. At present, however, policymakers and politicians are either not taking the problem seriously enough or feel unable to break out of our dependency on fossil fuels as indicated by an Asean report that shows a gap between current country commitments and the necessary GHG reductions.

Similarly, the radical change required to the way we treat and use the land currently appears to be beyond the capabilities of society.

The last United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last year that brought together 120 world leaders saw some welcome commitments from governments. For example, Indonesia, as one of the world's largest carbon emitters through deforestation and land use change, made a commitment to the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

A number of countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) signed the Global Methane Pledge to cut 30 percent methane by 2030, and a portion of Asean countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam) fully or partially signed the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement. These pledges and commitments must still be translated into action. But even if they are, more rapid and radical change is needed.

IPS

Kwan Soo-Chen is a post-doctoral fellow and David McCoy is a research lead at the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH).



06-06-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Climate change

LIKE graft and corruption, illegal drugs, hunger, poverty and skyrocketing prices of goods and services, the incoming government ought to prioritize the fight against climate change.

Various quarters, including the ordinary citizens, said the worsening of climate change would have untold consequences for various industries, including tourism and fisheries.

Global warming, brought about by various factors, such as society's continued addiction to fossil fuels, destroys the world's remaining healthy coral reefs.

We concede that coral reefs are a source of food and new medicines. In fact, millions of people across the globe depend on coral reefs for food, income and protection.

And they protect coastlines from typhoons, storms and erosion. In fact, healthy coral reefs support commercial and subsistence fisheries as well as jobs and businesses.

Thus, the continued worsening of climate change must cause great concern among concerned government authorities not only in the Philippines but in other countries.

We are made to believe that the incoming administration of presumptive President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. is out to address the problem of climate change.

Of course, this is in close coordination with other health, environment and government authorities in various parts of the world.

Unless concerned authorities exert their best efforts to arrest global warming, people across the globe may one day find themselves on the edge of the hopeless stretch.

Thus, there's that urgent need for everybody to work in unison to prevent the worsening of climate change.

Dapat lang!



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06-06-22

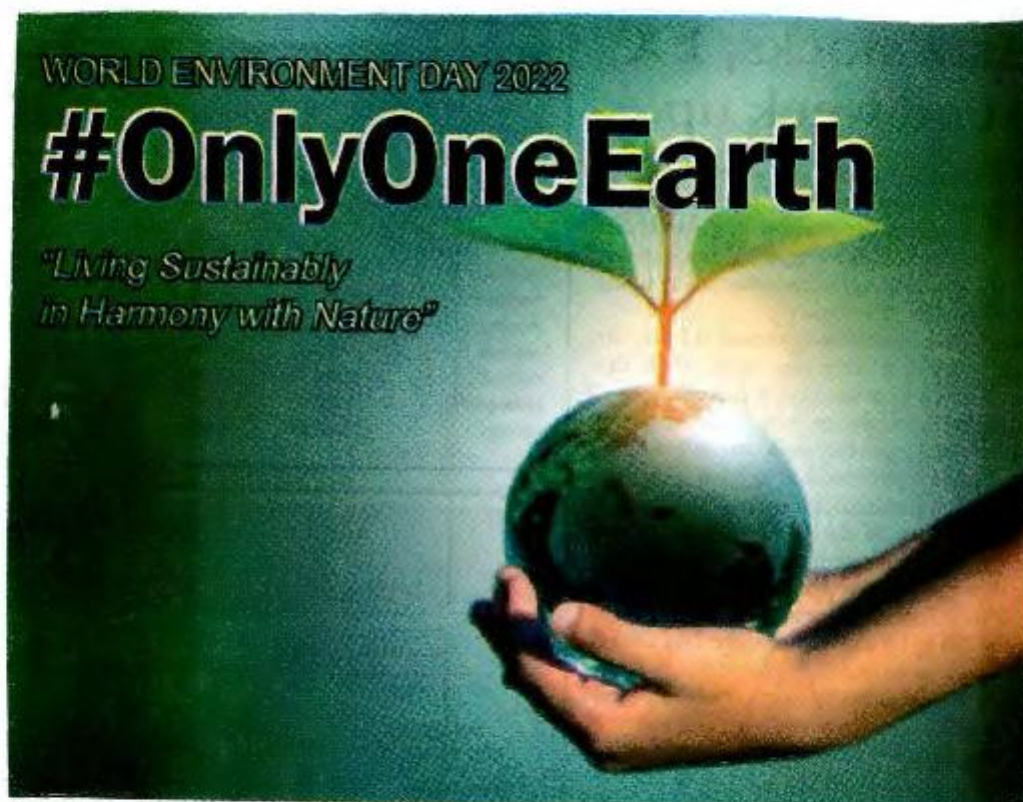
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PAGE _____

DATE _____



CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL RISKS. Bangko Sentral Gov. Benjamin E. Diokno led the Financial Stability Board Regional Consultative Group for Asia in tackling climate-related financial risks during a recent online FSB-RCGA meeting. FSB-RCGA members shared their progress on actions to address financial risks from climate change, provided updates on the FSB's overall work program, and identified areas where RCG Asia members can contribute. The meeting also convened senior representatives of financial and supervisory authorities from key Asian economies to discuss financial market developments related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, including elevated and highly volatile commodity prices and the implications for financial stability. The FSB RCG Asia is co-chaired by Diokno and Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Rajeshwar Rao. Some of the senior officials who attended the meeting include RBI Executive Director Saurav Sinha, FSB Deputy Secretary-General Rupert Thorne, Bank Indonesia Deputy Gov. Junda Agung, Bank Negara Malaysia Deputy Gov. Jessica Chew Cheng Lian, and Ministry of Finance (India) Senior Economic Adviser Shashank Saksena. More than 60 participants from 16 jurisdictions attended the meeting. Members of the RCG Asia include financial authorities from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The FSB has six Regional Consultative Groups, established under the FSB Charter, to bring together financial authorities from FSB member and non-member countries. These groups serve as platforms for the exchange of views on vulnerabilities affecting financial systems and on initiatives to promote financial stability. Typically, each Regional Consultative Group meets twice a year.



WORLD Environment Day, the biggest international day for the environment led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is celebrated by millions of people across the world. Since 1973, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach.

World Environment Day 2022, hosted by Sweden, furthers the "Only One Earth" campaign slogan, with focus on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature".

"#OnlyOneEarth advocates for transformative environmental change on a global scale. The campaign shines a spotlight on climate action, nature action and pollution action while encouraging everyone, everywhere to live sustainably," says the UNEP.

Five decades have passed since #OnlyOneEarth was coined during the 1972 Stockholm Conference. The threats to the health of planet Earth have multiplied, the dangers have grown more imminent, the world is in the middle of

a climate emergency. And while everyone can make a difference through choices made in everyday consumption, the "climate emergency" calls for collective action that will bring about change to transform lives and systems. Sustainability needs to be the way of life, not just an option.

"A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference, we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well-being depend," stated the 1972 Declaration at the first world conference on the environment in Stockholm.

These words were stated 50 years ago, and they still ring true today. World population has exploded since then, and the dangers are multitudinous. Hence the emergency. And like any emergency, there needs to be quick and definitive action.

"A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference, we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well-being depend."



The first world conference on the environment

The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue. The participants adopted a series of principles for sound management of the environment including the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment and several resolutions.

The Stockholm Declaration, which contained 26 principles, placed environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns and marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans and the well-being of people around the world.

The Action Plan contained three main categories: a) Global Environmental Assessment Programme (watch plan); b) Environmental management activities; c) International measures to support assessment and management activities carried out at the national and international levels. In addition, these categories were broken down into 109 recommendations.

One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

*From the Declaration of the United Nations
Conference on the Human Environment
Stockholm, June 5-16, 1972*

Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights, even the right to life itself.

The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world; it is the urgent desire of the peoples of the whole world and the duty of all Governments.

We see around us growing evidence of man-made harm in many regions of the earth: dangerous levels of pollution in water, air, earth and living beings; major and undesirable disturbances to the ecological balance of the biosphere; destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources; and gross deficiencies, harmful to the physical, mental and social health of man, in the man-made environment, particularly in the living and working environment.

The developing countries must direct their efforts to development, bearing in mind their priorities and the need to safeguard and improve the environment. For the same purpose, the industrialized countries should make efforts to reduce the gap themselves and the developing countries. In the industrialized countries, environmental problems are generally related to industrialization and technological development.

The natural growth of population continuously presents problems for preservation of the environment, and adequate policies and measures should be adopted, as appropriate, to face these problems. Of all things in the world, people are the most precious: it is the people that propel social progress, create social wealth, develop science and technology and, through their hard work, continuously transform the human environment. Along with social progress and the advance of production, science and technology, the capability of man to improve the environment increases with each passing day.

A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference, we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well-being depend. Conversely through fuller knowledge and wiser action, we can achieve for ourselves and our posterity a better life in an environment more in keeping with human needs and hopes... defend and improve the human environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal for mankind—a goal to be pursued together with, and in harmony with, the established and fundamental goals of peace and of worldwide economic and social development.

To achieve this environmental goal will demand the acceptance of responsibility by citizens and communities and by enterprises and institutions at every level, all sharing equitably in common efforts. Individuals in all walks of life as well as organizations in many fields, by their values and the sum of their actions, all shape the world environment of the future. Local and national governments will bear the greatest burden for large-scale environmental policy and action within their jurisdictions.

International co-operation is also needed in order to raise resources to support the developing countries in carrying out their responsibilities in this field. A growing class of environmental problems, because they are regional or global in extent or because they affect the common international realm, will require extensive co-operation among nations and action by international organizations in the common interest. The Conference calls upon Governments and peoples to exert common efforts for the preservation and improvement of the human environment, for the benefit of all the people and for their posterity.

www.unep.org



Groups urge gov't to back measures vs organic pollutants

Environmental groups EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) and the Mother Earth Foundation (MEF) have urged the Philippine delegation to the ongoing conference in Geneva, Switzerland to support stricter limits for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste to avoid contaminating the recycling chain.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the EcoWaste, IDIS and MEF specifically urged the Philippine delegation to the Triple Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, being held in Geneva today until June 17, to align the Philippines with the African nations seeking stricter limits in POPs in waste.

At least 53 countries belonging to the African bloc are advocating for stricter limits for POPs such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers in waste under the Basel Convention, to stop imports of PBDE-containing e-waste into the region and to end recycling of POPs into new products.

"Countries on the receiving end of the inequitable global waste trade will suffer more if parties accept less stringent limits for POPs in waste," EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

"Delegates must negotiate with the paramount interest of people's health and the environment in mind and decide on the most stringent limits that will in effect block the transfer of POPs-containing products and wastes to developing nations to protect vulnerable populations and ecosystems," she added.

IDIS executive director Mark Peralver explained that if stricter limits are adopted, "governments can then enact regulations based on these limits to stop the entry of POPs-contaminated wastes into our ports, markets and households."

"Establishing stricter limits is necessary to ensure that waste materials containing POPs do not contaminate the recycling chain with these persistent chemicals," MEF chairperson Sonia Mendoza said.

- Elizabeth Marcelo



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Batangas waters cleared of harmful starfish species

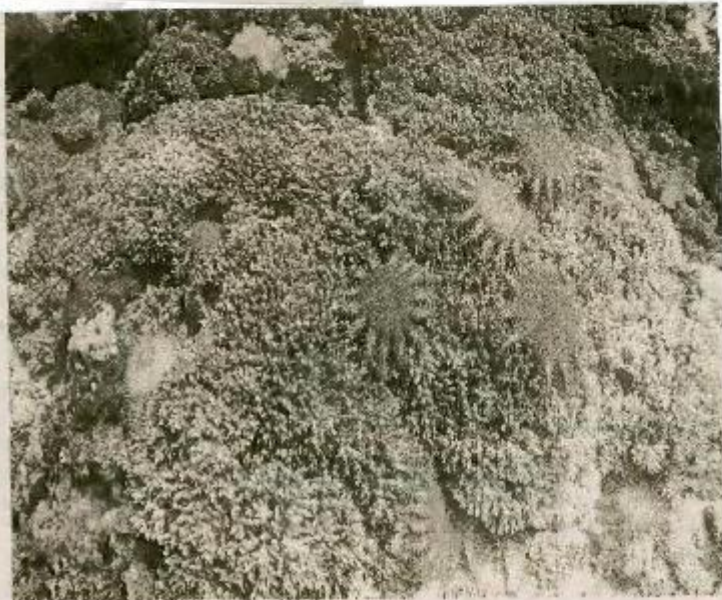
By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
@dtmallarijrINQ

LUCENA CITY—Thousands of crown-of-thorns starfish (COT) were removed from the seas off Batangas province by authorities who were responding to the outbreak of the poisonous starfish that could endanger local natural resources.

The Batangas public information office (PIO), citing the report by Luis Awitan, chief of the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office, said authorities had collected 4,500 pieces of COT in Batangas City, 2,000 in Tingloy town, 968 in Calatagan, 202 in Nasugbu and 25 each in the municipalities of Taal and San Luis in their respective marine protected areas.

More than three tons of COT were also gathered in Mabini town, the report added.

The PIO said the local and



provincial governments and marine conservation organizations had been conducting continuous cleanup operations and monitoring the presence of

COT in Batangas seas.

"We consider this already an outbreak of COTs, or 'taeng kalabaw' (cow dung), a species of starfish that consumes



POISONOUS A diver collects the poisonous crown-of-thorns starfish (left) in the waters near Tingloy, Batangas, during a cleanup operation in May. —PHOTOS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

coral reefs, [because] in one area, there are 15 to 30 COTs in a hectare of sea," Awitan explained in the PIO report issued on Saturday.

The COT (*Acanthaster planci*) feeds on stony corals by sucking them dry of nutrients, leaving the reef dead and white.

Known as a "coral-killing sea star" because of its spines that cover its body, the COT matures into an adult in about two years, with the capacity to coordinate spawning in one region, and may deposit up to 60 million eggs in a season, effectively disturbing the marine environment.

It has venomous sharp spines that look like a crown. The COT is one of the largest kinds of starfish and can reach up to 20 inches in diameter.

Verde Island Passage

The COT outbreak in Batangas seas was discussed during the meeting of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on June 2.

Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, who presided over the meeting, said the provincial government

had been focused on ending the COT outbreak to protect the local natural resources, particularly Verde Island Passage (VIP).

VIP traverses through the provinces of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro, which was recognized as the "center of global shorefish biodiversity" due to the high densities of marine resources in the area.

One of the Philippines' richest fishing grounds, VIP teems with hundreds of species of fish, sea turtles, mangroves, seagrass, nudibranchs and corals that some described as "extremely rare."

The lives of over 2 million people from five provinces are inextricably connected to VIP, their main source of livelihood.

The COT is also dangerous to humans. Its prick causes stinging pain, bleeding, nausea and swelling, which may last a week. INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



06-06-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Tanzania lifts ban on wildlife exports

DAR ES SALAAM, AFP – Tanzania is temporarily rolling back a ban on wildlife exports that was in force for six years to safeguard protected animals and birds in the east African nation, the wildlife service said.

The decision to lift the ban for an initial six months saw conservationists appeal for monitoring processes to guard against poaching, which has been in decline.

"The government has been assessing the business of exporting live wild animals since the ban was imposed and now it has lifted the ban," Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority said in a statement late Friday.

Traders will have six months from June 6 to December 5 to "clear stocks of animals" that they were unable to sell under the ban, it added.

Tanzania imposed the ban in 2016 under the authoritarian rule of then president John Magufuli, whose uncompromising leadership style saw him nicknamed "the Bulldozer".

The government at the time justified the ban because of "irregularities" in trade, including the shipment of protected animals abroad.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has sought to break with some of Magufuli's policies since she came to power last year following his sudden death.

Conservation group WWF cautioned that easing the ban should not undo gains made in protecting wildlife, such as triggering poaching which has been on a decline.

"Proper monitoring mechanisms and data are needed to back such kinds of decisions," WWF country director Amari Ngusaru told AFP.

Tanzania is famed for its sandy beach archipelago of Zanzibar, wildlife safaris and Mount Kilimanjaro which are a lucrative draw for tourists.

In 2010, at least 116 animals and 16 birds, some of them protected species, were illegally exported from Kilimanjaro airport in the north of the country aboard a Qatari plane.

They included at least four giraffes, several different types of antelope, hornbills and vultures, according to local media.



Bulusan residents ordered to prepare for evacuation

BY RENE ACOSTA
✉ @reneacostaBM
& BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS
✉ @BNicolasBM

AUTHORITIES have alerted communities near Mount Bulusan in Bulusan, Sorsogon to be on alert for possible evacuation in case the volcano's eruption will worsen following its successive phreatic explosions on Sunday.

Mount Bulusan made phreatic eruptions at around 10:30 a.m. and 10:54 a.m., according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) citing the reports of local disaster officials on the ground.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported that the volcano made phreatic eruption at around 10:37 a.m., with the explosion lasting for about 17 minutes.

As such, the Phivolcs issued "Alert Level 1," which mandated the evacuation of families living within the 4-kilometer permanent danger zone and alerted farther communities for possible evacuation.

NDRRMC Spokesman Mark Cashean E. Timbal said a small community has so far remained within the danger zone as local officials have already moved out other communities under an existing program to clear the permanent danger zone from human habitation.

"We were informed that there is a 'sitio' of the municipality

of Bulusan composed of 66 families that are still living within the danger zone. Although we received info that they are relatively unaffected at this time," Timbal said.

"No ash fall experienced in their community due to the strong westerly direction of winds that carried the ash elsewhere. But the residents are on standby in case evacuation will be required by the LGU [local government unit]," he added.

Timbal said that based on reports they received from disaster officials in Sorsogon, particularly from the town of Bulusan, no communities elsewhere have also been affected by ash fall as a result of the eruption.

The same was also reported by officials and policemen from the neighboring town of Barcelona.

Malacañang said President Rodrigo Duterte is "closely monitoring" the condition at Bulusan following the eruption.

In a statement, Presidential Communications Secretary and Acting Presidential Spokesman Martin M. Andanar assured the public that government agencies are ready to extend assistance.

"All concerned agencies are on standby 24/7 after 'Alert Level 1' has been raised," Andanar said. "We remind the public, particularly the residents of surrounding areas, to be vigilant, monitor any development regarding the volcano's condition and cooperate with local authorities."



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06-06-22

FILE: _____

PAGE 1

DATE

BULUSAN ERUPTION RAINS ASH, FORCES EVACUATION

STORY BY MA. APRIL MIER-MANJARES, MICHAEL JAUCIAN AND FRANCES MANGOSING

Another explosion is possible because the volcano is 'slightly inflated,' which means a mass of new lava is rising to the surface, says Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology chief Renato Solidum. **A2**



ASHFALL Mt. Bulusan explodes on Sunday morning, after more than eight months of being under alert level 0, sending gray plumes into the sky and raining down ash on several villages in the towns of Juban and Iresin, Sorsogon, and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of families. —SORSGOGON PROVINCIAL INFORMATION SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

06-06-22

DATE

FILE: *Bulusan eruption Rains Ash, Forces evacuation*

PAGE 2

By Ma. April Mier-Manjares,
Michael Jaucian
and Frances Mangosing
@Team_Inquirer

LEGAZPI CITY—More than a thousand families in Sorsogon were ordered to evacuate after Mt. Bulusan erupted at around 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, with steam-rich gray plumes rising about a kilometer and raining down ash on several villages in Juban town and the adjoining municipality of Irosin.

Some 1,500 families in Juban alone were affected by the ash-fall, according to Arvee Lodronio, head of the town's disaster risk reduction and management office (DRRMO).

In a phone interview, Lodronio said the municipal government has ordered the forced evacuation of residents in the villages of Buraburan, Sangkayon, Puting Sapa, Añog, Bacolod, Catanusan and Guruyan.

He said they prioritized persons with respiratory illnesses, senior citizens and children in Barangay Puting Sapa who were living inside the 5-kilometer radius of the volcano.

"The first explosion seems like rocks rolling at our roof. After a few minutes, the loud sound was followed by heavy ashfall," said Jonilyn Redota, who said she immediately rushed out of their house in the village of Puting Sapa when she heard four loud thunder-like explosions and looked at Mt. Bulusan, an active volcano towering over their municipality.

The 33-year-old mother said she immediately instructed her four young children to wear face masks and close the windows and doors of their house.

Her mother and two children evacuated to the isolation center of the town while she and two other children stayed in their house to watch over their belongings.

But Redota and the rest of her family would likely have to head for government shelters after Sorsogon authorities ordered a forced evacuation because of Bulusan's phreatic eruption, which is a steam-driven explosion that occurs when underground water is heated by magma, lava or hot rocks.

Tourist destinations closed

Joseph John Perez, DRRMO coordinator of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Sorsogon, said school officials were advised to prepare the classrooms in the towns of Juban, Irosin, Casiguran and Bulusan for possible evacuation of the affected population.

But some residents were reluctant to leave their homes.

Roel Binios, also from Barangay Puting Sapa, said they chose to stay home since they were not sure of their situation in the evacuation center.

"It would be hard for us; we don't know where to cook and sleep there," he said.

Raden Dimaano, Sorsogon DRRMO chief, said in a statement that the Bureau of Fire Protection has started clearing operations in the affected areas and emergency operation centers across the province were activated.

Due to possible contamination of water sources by the ash-fall, Lodronio said residents in affected areas needed drinking water and other basic necessities.

"Most of the affected families were relying on spring water. Because of the eruption, (ash) contamination is possible," he said.

Irosin Mayor Alfredo Cielo also issued an advisory that the town's tourist destinations would be temporarily closed to visitors.

Bernadette Tabing, DRRMO coordinator of DepEd Juban and a member of nongovernment organizational MJ Haboc Foundation, said they have distributed around 100 packs of relief goods to the residents of Puting Sapa who chose to stay in their houses despite the ashfall.

Hazardous eruptions

Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), said there was a possibility of another eruption because the volcano was slightly inflated.

Based on the ground deformation data, the edifice or cone-shaped structure of the volcano has been inflated since February 2021 while the electronic tilt monitoring recorded

a sudden but isolated inflation or swelling of the southwest lower slopes in April 2022, according to a Phivolcs bulletin.

Until Sunday's eruption, Bulusan had been under alert level 0 (normal) for more than eight months. The last bulletin issued by Phivolcs before Sunday was

on Aug. 18, 2021, lowering Bulusan's status from alert level 1 (low-level unrest) to alert level 0.

Phivolcs reminded local government units and the public that entry into the 4-kilometer radius permanent danger zone must be strictly prohibited and that vigilance in the 2-kilometer extended danger zone on the southeast sector must be exercised due to the increased possibilities of sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions.

It also urged civil aviation authorities to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ash from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft.

Phivolcs likewise enjoined people living within valleys and along river/stream channels especially on the southeast, southwest and northwest sector of the volcano to be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahars in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall should phreatic eruption occur.

The Department of Health on Sunday also issued a public health warning that the volcanic ash emitted by Bulusan contains carbon dioxide and fluorine that can have a detrimental effect on human health if inhaled.

Affected residents were advised to avoid direct exposure to volcanic ash; stay indoor and close doors and windows; keep the surroundings wet and put damp curtains on windows and doors to prevent dust; avoid inhaling air with ashfall; use glasses or goggles, and prepare an emergency bag (Go Bag) with an adequate supply of wa-

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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

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INQUIRER

PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06-06-22

TITLE: Bulusan Eruption Rains Ash, PAGE 3

DATE

Forces Evacuation

ter, food, clothing, first aid and medicines.

Malacañang on Sunday said it was "closely monitoring" the condition of Mt. Bulusan following the phreatic explosion.

In a statement via Viber, Communications Secretary and acting presidential spokesperson Martin Andanar said all concerned government agen-

cies were on standby 24/7 after alert level 1 has been raised.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who hails from the Bicol region, also said on Sunday that they have begun mobilizing for rescue and relief operations ahead of the volcano's unrest.

In a Facebook post, Robredo said they were already prioritizing Juban, Bulusan and

Irosin as well as surrounding areas affected by Bulusan's restiveness.

According to Robredo, affected residents mostly need face masks and bottled water.

She added that her team will be traveling to Sorsogon as soon as possible. —WITH REPORTS FROM JEROME ANING AND KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING INQ



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PAGE _____

DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CALACA

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 AM on July 25, 2022 for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location : Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas
Description : Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-4-A
Area : 39,399 sqm.
Applied for by : Holcim Mining and Development Corp.
represented by Renato A. Baje

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 land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed 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 right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

MAY 5, 2022
Date

[Signature]
ISAGMIL Q. AMATORIO
CENR Officer

06 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

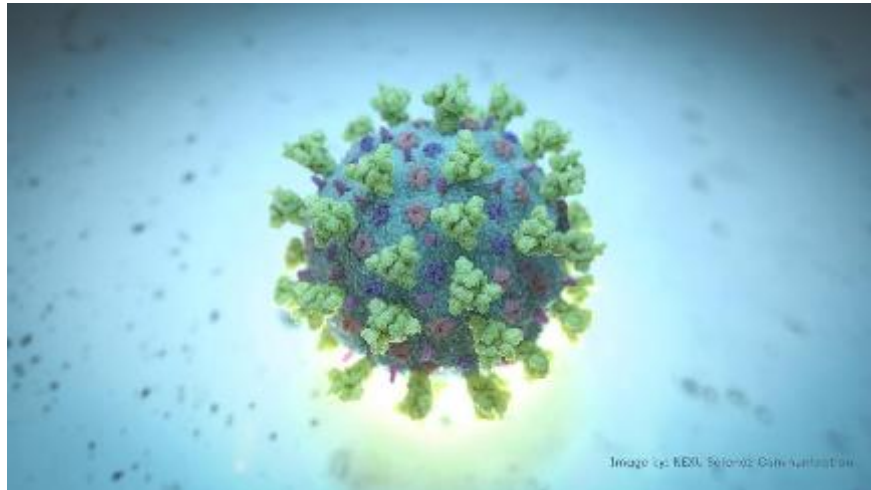
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH records 219 new COVID-19 cases, active infections at 2,479

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:52 PM June 05, 2022



FILE PHOTO: A computer image created by Nexu Science Communication together with Trinity College in Dublin, shows a model structurally representative of a betacoronavirus which is the type of virus linked to COVID-19, better known as the coronavirus linked to the Wuhan outbreak, shared with Reuters on February 18, 2020. NEXU Science Communication/via REUTERS

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) has recorded 219 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 2,479.

Based on the latest data in the [DOH's COVID-19 tracker](#), the new infections also raised the country's total caseload to 3,691,546 with 3,628,611 recoveries and 60,456 deaths.

Meanwhile, the new infections are higher than the average number of cases recorded from May 23 to 29 at 188 infections, based on the DOH's weekly COVID-19 data. The next weekly data is set to be released on June 6, Monday.

Infections have been slightly increasing in the past few weeks, after experts previously said COVID-19 cases may surge by May triggered by lax compliance to [health standards](#).

/MUF

06 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx7OOiqx9bM>

#manilabay

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