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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, DOT, DILG lead ‘Year of the Protected Areas’ campaign

📅 June 6, 2022 ⌚ 4 min read



MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), along with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), sign a joint report for the execution of the Year of the Protected Areas or YoPA campaign recently.

The ceremonial signing was led by DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, and DILG Secretary Eduardo Año, as they spoke to raise public awareness of the value of national parks in the country.

“Our protected areas (PAs) are essential to the survival of humanity because they provide vital ecosystem services such as the provision of food, source of fresh water for domestic and agricultural production, raw materials for various products, a depository of genetic resources awaiting discovery for manufacturing of novel medicines, purifies the air we breathe, protects us from natural disasters, climate regulation, climate change mitigation, among other ecological, aesthetic and cultural benefits,” said Sampulna.

“This joint declaration will mandate the DENR, DOT, and DILG to lead the implementation of a massive YoPA information campaign to encourage people to visit the PAs and practice responsible tourism, which will be their contribution to protected area management and biodiversity conservation” he added.

The creation of the YoPA jibes with the celebration of the 90th anniversary since Republic Act (RA) 3915 – An Act giving for the building of national parks, declaring such parks as game refuges, and for other purposes – was enacted and formally established the national parks system in the Philippines.



At present, there are 246 PAs in the country, including the El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area in Palawan, and the six (6) YoPA pilot sites namely: Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro, Bongsanglay Natural Park in Masbate, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park in Negros Oriental, Samar Island Natural Park in Northern, Eastern and (Western) Samar Provinces, Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental and Mts. Timpoong-Hibok-hibok Natural Monument in Camiguin.

With the reopening of tourism in the country, PAs are circling the most pristine mountain ecosystems, lakes, rivers, and coastal marine areas.

Ecosystems give diverse options for a lifetime nature experience for the adventure and thrill-seekers, and those seeking pure relaxation or the therapeutic hug of nature.

The DENR via the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) leads the development and implementation of national platforms for attainable management of PAs, and has jointly adopted with the DOT, and other key government agencies, the National Ecotourism Strategy to ensure that tourism in PAs is sustainable.

Aside from PAs under the purview of the RA 7586, as said by RA 11038, the management and protection of other ecosystems such as inland wetlands, caves, and key biodiversity areas outside PAs are being wooed to broaden the coverage of protected ecosystems via other effective area-based conservation management pleas such as local conservation areas with local governments and indigenous cultural conservation areas with the Indigenous People.

To encourage the sustainable use of resources in PAs, the Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises program is being applied to help communities around PAs harness the economic potential and sustainable resource-based livelihoods. In line with this, 178 people's organizations are due to be known and empowered in the next four years to manage their own biodiversity-friendly enterprises, such as food processing, handicrafts, tourism, and aquaculture.

"Our protected areas are testament to the immense benefits that nature continues to provide for us. We must therefore increase our investments for the effective management of our protected areas," BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said.

As such, the BMB calls for backups from other national government agencies, local governments, academe, business sector, and international donor agencies, to pull money, resources, and skills to a collective sector action for PAs. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/06/06/denr-dot-dilg-lead-year-of-the-protected-areas-campaign/?fbclid=IwAR1iIOxIQUBk5WiXLq0Y6TiYmcKzxdTsUUuSZ8xc1yxOheTfbt0U1qo5J3I>



Malabon LGU receive trash collector from DENR, DOST



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA · JUNE 6, 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has recently turned a P7.6-million automatic trash rake facility to the local government unit (LGU) of Malabon City.

The Malabon City Engineering Department and DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center designed the ATR facility, which was installed at Letre Creek along P. Aquino Avenue in Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon City.

It features a better trash collection rate and can lift large-sized trash along the creek, unclog drainage systems, boost waste management capabilities, and collect wastes in waterways faster and easier, especially during the rainy season.

Unclogging of drainage systems are often done manually and requires manpower, and will still take days, if not weeks or months to do the job.

In a news statement, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the facility serves as an “alternative measure to improve flood control operation through better trash collection rate with the capability of lifting large-sized trash along creeks and unclog drainage systems.”

The ATR facility will keep floating debris, leaves, and other solid waste from entering the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros or MaNaTuTi River System, while supporting the ongoing Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program or the “Battle for Manila Bay.”

During the turnover ceremony held on May 27, Sampulna underscored the valuable contribution of strategic partnerships with other government agencies to successfully implement various environmental programs and policies in the country.

“We have to protect our countrymen and act with urgency. This is the very reason the DENR has been constantly pushing for sustainable projects and forging a strategic partnership with various government agencies like the DOST,” Sampulna said.

“This collaboration is grounded on a genuine spirit of partnership, where all parties agree to complement each other’s efforts and embrace contributions of other partners,” he added.

Aside from the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, the ATR facility is also expected to boost the DENR’s solid waste management program.

Sampulna has expressed hope that the ATR facility will be “replicated not only in Metro Manila but the entire Philippines.”

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/06/malabon-lgu-receive-trash-collector-from-denr-dost/>

DoST readies Camanava for typhoons with garbage collecting tech

🕒 June 7, 2022



City Administrator Voltaire de la Cruz (center) receives the 3D-printed model of the Automatic Trash Rake that was turned over to the City of Malabon. Also in photo are Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim Sampulna (left) and Department of Science and Technology (DoST)-Metals Industry Research and Development Center Deputy Executive Director for Research and Development Agustin Fudolig. PHOTO BY HENRY DE LEON/DOST-SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION INSTITUTE

As illustrated in the children's storybook, "The Ant and the Grasshopper," planning and working for the rainy days may always be the right approach, especially when it comes to the government's solid-waste management and flood-control efforts.

Perennial floods, caused by clogged drainage and sewerage lines, have been the bane of every Metro Manila resident's existence, as the problem seems to worsen every year in the absence of an integrated program to curb the urban-waste problem.

Laying down one of the solutions on the table, the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) joins the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in finding solutions to a national battle against garbage and floods as it recently turned over the Automatic Trash Rake (ATR) technology to the City of Malabon, an initiative that will complement the city's solid waste management program to rid its constituents of floods and garbage.

The project was conceived in 2018 after several consultations with various local government units in the Camanava area, comprising Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela. Historically, the area has been frequently inundated by heavy rains, coupled with the rise in sea level and overflow of rivers and dams; thus, leaving low-lying and flat-terrain areas submerged in water.

The Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros is a major river system that connects to the Letre creek where Malabon ends up swamped with tons of garbage annually. In Malabon alone, about 7 to 8 tons of residual waste are collected every month.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/07/public-square/dost-readies-camanava-for-typhoons-with-garbage-collecting-tech/1846361>




DENR processing Land Titles in Marawi

Monday, June 6, 2022 Journal Online



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 10 Database Management Officer II Sittie Almairah Lomondot (right) receives from Mamarinta Cabila Radia, an internally displaced person from Barangay Bubonga Lilod Madaya in Marawi City, the receipt of his real estate tax payment, one of the requirements for the processing of land titles in the city. Through the Social Cartography Project and Strategy of the DENR Land Resource Management Sub-Committee of Task Force Bangon Marawi, residents are now paying their real estate taxes and processing their transfer taxes to acquire their own land titles. The titles are expected to be awarded to residents of Marawi City from the subdivided ancestral mother titles.



DENR to award land titles for Env't Month

Published on: June 06, 2022

Updated as of June 6, 2022 4:37 pm

By Benjamin Moses Ebreo

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya (PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be distributing land titles to various stakeholders in Cagayan Valley in celebration of the country's Environment Month and the agency's 35th Founding Anniversary.

Gwendolyn Bambalan, DENR regional director, said the 'Handog Titulo' is one of the priority programs of the DENR under the leadership of Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna.

"The distribution of land titles is in support of the government's program called Pamana sa Mamamayang Pilipino: "A Duterte Legacy"," she said.

Bambalan said more or less 1,500 land titles will be given to qualified recipients in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya in June 13 and in Cagayan and Isabela in June 14.

She said the 'Handog Titulo' under the Land Administration and Management Program of the DENR fast-tracked the resolution of several land cases in the region.

"We understand how important it is to have land titles for our stakeholders," Bambalan said. (OTB/BME/PIA NVizcaya)



HANDOG TITULO PROGRAM, BAMBOO PLANTING SET IN ENVIRONMENT MONTH

By Vince Jacob Visaya | June 6, 2022 | 40

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela: In celebration of the Philippine Environment Month this June, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Cagayan Valley will be spearheading the awarding of land titles through the "Handog Titulo" program and the planting of bamboo and indigenous species within the 49-hectare identified planting sites along the riverbanks and in upland and lowland areas. Handog Titulo is one of the priority programs of DENR and under the government's program entitled "Pamana sa Mamamayang Pilipino: A Duterte Legacy."

About 1,500 land titles will be given to qualified recipients in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya on June 13 and Cagayan and Isabela on June 14. "Through the 'Handog Titulo' under the Land Administration and Management Program of the DENR, we fast-tracked the resolution of several land cases because we understand how important it is to have land titles," DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said during the awarding of land titles in Batanes on May 27. Meanwhile, the planting of around 10,000 seedlings of bamboo and indigenous species will be held on June 8 at 6:00 in the morning to kick off the environment month celebration and commemorate the 35th DENR Founding Anniversary on June 10.

This will be undertaken by all DENR employees in the region, who will be planting at least five seedlings each. Local government units, national government agencies, non-government organizations, uniformed personnel, youth, academe, media, and other partners and stakeholders have signified their intent to participate in the simultaneous nationwide bamboo/tree planting activity. Over 2,000 planters nationwide will join. Bambalan directed the field officials to prepare quality planting materials.

"We do not just plant, we have to grow the trees and ensure their survival," she said. There will be environmental symposiums, youth camps, cleanup drives, press briefings and radio guesting, regional sports fest and team building, seedling production, and distribution of seedlings and information, education and communication materials.

The Philippine Environment Month with this year's theme "Aksyon para sa Natatanging Mundo" has been celebrated every June since 1988.



Although some areas may seem yet unfamiliar to other tourists, the DOT said responsible and sustainable tourism should be highly encouraged to assure these great destinations will still be enjoyed by generations to come.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año also expressed his optimism that visitors and tourists will now be able to appreciate the value of this natural wealth.

“By calling visitors and tourists from all corners of the archipelago and the world to view and experience our protected areas, we anticipate that many will finally learn to love and value our national parks and natural wealth as important sources of livelihood and ecosystem services such as water, erosion control, and natural task management,” he said.

Año said each local government unit (LGU) has an important role to prevent unlawful actions in these protected areas in their jurisdictions.

“Our LGUs (Local government units) are doubly crucial both in reviving the health of national parks and preventing illegal loggers, poachers, and developers from encroaching these ecological havens,” he said. (PNA)



DENR confirms sightings of 'missing' Philippine Eagle

Ramon Efren Lazaro - The Philippine Star 

June 7, 2022 | 12:00am



The celebration of Philippine Eagle Week runs from June 4 to 10.

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — The celebration of Philippine Eagle Week has renewed hope in Central Luzon following sightings of a raptor that has been missing following its release in the forests of Aurora.

The celebration of Philippine Eagle Week runs from June 4 to 10.

Based on the monitoring of the conservation and development division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the eagle named Agawid could still be alive, but could not be located as its radio transmitter could have malfunctioned, Lorie Gene Cruz-Gaba, DENR-Central Luzon information officer, said.

Alfredo Collado, provincial and environment and natural resources officer of DENR-Aurora, told The STAR that there has been no conclusive report on whether Agawid is still alive or has died.

Collado said there were sightings of a Philippine Eagle on Mt. Mangan in Dipaculao town.

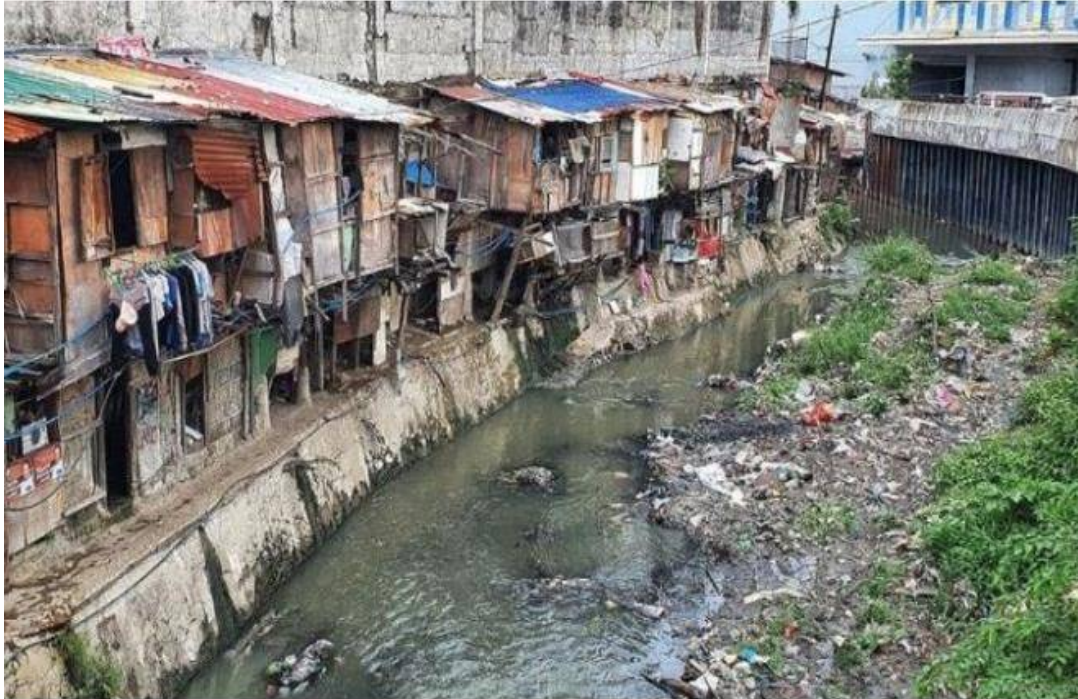
In June 2016, a farmer found a Philippine Eagle trapped in a snare for monkeys at the Aurora Memorial National Park (AMNP).

The eagle, later named Agawid, was nurtured back to health and released in the forests of the AMNP in October 2017.



DENR: Fecal coliform in city rivers alarming

By Caecent No-ot Magsumbol (The Freeman) - June 6, 2022 - 12:00am



Despite several attempts to relocate them to safer grounds, informal settlers on the banks of Kinalumsan River in Cebu City are still found in the area. The river is one of the five rivers found by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to have disturbing level of fecal coliform.

Aldo Nelbert Banaynal

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu City's rivers, in general, failed in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)'s assessment for the first quarter of 2022 with its fecal coliform level at disturbing levels.

The rivers assessed included Guadalupe, Butuanon, Mahiga, Lahug, Kinalumsan, Bulacao, and Estero de Parian.

The assessment depends on the river body's classification, according to DENR-Environmental Management Bureau's regional water quality focal person, Kay Espinosa, during the Cebu City's River Summit.

Cebu City rivers are classified under class B, C and D: Guadalupe upstream, class B, and downstream, class C, Mahiga (C and D), Lahug (B), Kinalumsan (unspecified), Bulacao (class B and C), Butuanon (class D) and Estero de Parian still unclassified.

Class B are for recreational class which is for contact recreation, including bathing, swimming, skin diving while class C is fishery water, recreational (boating, etc.), and industrial water supply (class 1 from manufacturing processes after treatment) and class D for agriculture, irrigation, live stocks watering, as well as industrial water supply and inland waters.

Water quality parameters include dissolved oxygen level, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), Total Suspended solids and fecal coliform level, all of which should be low except for the dissolved oxygen level that should be high.



“Sa tanang parameters nga atong makit-an, dapat ang kani rang dissolved oxygen level ang taas. Di ta ganahan nga ang uban taas as possible,” said Espinosa.

Among the parameters, the fecal coliform count, is being highlighted as it is the most controversial parameter that led to the then closure and rehabilitation of the famous Boracay beach. Fecal coliforms are from warm bodied-animals, even including humans.

“Mao ni ang one of the reasons why Boracay was closed down because of high fecal coliform levels,” Espinosa said.

For class B, the fecal coliform count should not be more than 50 mpn (most probable number) per 100liters and not over 400 mpn for class D. MPN is the most commonly applied metric for quality testing of water to ensure it is safe in terms of bacteria present in it.

The only parameter that most of the city rivers passed is Total Suspended solids (kalubogon in Cebuano) as they still have some clarity.

The rivers include Lahug, Mahiga, Kinalumsan, Bulao’s upstream, Estero de Parian, and Guadalupe. Butuanon also barely passed on its dissolved oxygen.

However, all rivers failed in fecal coliform count with Kinalumsan at 13 million mpn, Butuanon river at 5 million mpn, Bulacao with 3 million mpn, Mahiga at 8 million mpn downstream, and 3 million upstream, while Estero de Parian, Lahug and Guadalupe having 240 thousand mpn. According to standards, the number should only have 200 to 400mpn per 100 liters to be safe.

“I don’t really wanna be the bearer of bad news, but this is it... This is actually data. First quarter of 2022,” said Espinosa.

With this, the water quality of rivers in Cebu City has all exceeded the allowed levels based on their classification.

Espinosa ended her report by challenging the Cebuanos saying that how they want rivers to be defined is how they should do their part in helping revive it. — JMD (FREEMAN)



DENR opens 'pawikan' nesting site in Zambales

By Jerry M. Hernandez  June 7, 2022  10

AS part of its program to raise public awareness and community support for the protection and conservation of marine resources, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) opened a pawikan (sea turtle) nesting site in Magalawa Island in Palauig, Zambales.

In a statement, DENR Masinloc's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office head Ariel Mendoza said the coastline of the 42-hectare Magalawa Island has been an important nesting ground for marine turtles. It is located within the 7,000-hectare Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Seascape and Landscape (MOBPLS).

"We have sighted olive ridley and green sea turtles nesting in the white sand of Magalawa since December of last year," he said, noting that more than 400 hatchlings have been released back to the sea.

DENR Undersecretary Annaliza Teh said a climate resilient infrastructure should be an integral part of a marine protected area management plan to achieve environmental sustainability. "Solar energy panels and rainwater harvesting systems are some of the important infrastructures that can help in attaining climate resiliency in protected areas."

The MOBPLS is the first and only legislated marine protected area in Zambales and in Central Luzon under Republic Act 11032, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System." It is home to unique and diverse species, including the hybrid mangrove species of *Rhizophora x lamarckii* and the blue-spotted rabbitfish, and an important habitat for marine life. It also includes a 1,500-hectare coral reef, 109-hectare mangrove forests and vast seagrass beds.

The opening of a nesting site in Magalawa is part of this year's environment month celebration under the theme "Only One Earth."



DENR holds paralegal training on forestry

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has conducted last week a two-day paralegal training on forestry and other environment and natural resources related law to strengthen its forest protection.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR information officer, said that the training was participated by around 45 selected personnel of the Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices and enforcement section of the DENR regional office.

“The two-day activity aims to strengthen forest protection and to increase efficiency on law enforcement through capacitating knowledge in different forestry laws and other ENR (environment and natural resources) related laws and rules,” Tan said.

Among the ENR related laws they tackled during the training were Republic Act 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act; R.A. 9175 or Chain Saw Act of 2002; and, R.A. 9072 or National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act.

They also discussed about a briefer on Philippine Mining Laws; Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018; Importance of Case Build-up; and, other Forestry and ENR Related Laws.

The resource speakers of the two-day training included top officials of DENR and its concerned bureaus.

The two-day training was conducted in line with the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month which is anchored on the theme: “Aksyon Para Sa Natatanging Mundo.”

The activity was held at Mount Timolan Protected Landscape in Limas village, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur. (SunStar Zamboanga)



Pasig River clean-up efforts boosted by new equipment from Japan

By CNN Philippines Staff

Published Jun 6, 2022 9:36:56 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 6) — The Pasig River clean-up project received a boost as more equipment from Japan arrived to help ramp up the extraction of waste and debris from the waterway.

The 2 billion rehabilitation project led by San Miguel Corporation aims to reduce flooding in Metro Manila by increasing the river's hydraulic capacity, deepening shallow waters for better shipping vessel transport, and removing the river's debris and garbage to revive marine life.

A statement from the conglomerate on Monday said SMC president and CEO Ramon S. Ang formally accepted the two new equipment from Hitoshi Nagasawa, the president of shipping company NYK, in a ceremony attended by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

"We are deeply honored and thankful to receive this donation to boost our river rehabilitation operations at a time when heavy rains and typhoons threaten most Metro Manila cities with severe flooding," Ang said.

Aside from the donation, NYK will handle the maintenance costs of the powerful, high-capacity excavators.

Meanwhile, Nagasawa said he was "optimistic" that their relationship with SMC would allow them to "to seek more opportunities for the benefit of Filipinos and the Philippines."

A separate statement from the Japanese Embassy quoted Ambassador Koshikawa as saying that he hoped the donation would foster stronger ties between the two countries.



"As 70 percent of crew members of Japanese international shipping lines are Filipino, I hope NYK's dedication to promote a more intensified people-to-people exchange between Japan and the Philippines will set a precedent for more companies to follow," he said.

According to SMC, dredging teams have extracted a total of 437,890 metric tons of silt and waste from Pasig River to date, while the company recently reached its 1 million metric ton target at the Tullahan River.



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT | Environmental groups call on DENR to rethink plans that rely on fossil gas in Verde Island Passage

June 6, 2022 , 09:17 PM

By Mikee Garcia

(June 6, 2022) – Ahead of World Oceans Day, church, fisherfolk and environmental groups on Monday raised concern over the ecological impacts of the massive development of fossil gas power in the marine biodiversity hotspot Verde Island Passage (VIP), demanding a thorough rethink of the incoming administration’s plans.

Think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) and Catholic Church-based Caritas Philippines/National Secretariat for Social Action (CBCP-NASSA) conducted studies on the quality and marine ecology of waters along an existing gas-fired power plant and two new liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Barangay Ilijan in Batangas Bay.

They found that the presence of key pollutants and heavy metals such as phosphates, chromium, copper, lead and others have reached alarming levels from exposure to industrial activities.

Marine ecology findings showed that while less fish biodiversity and fish abundance is present in the waters next to the project sites compared to the rest of the VIP due to stressors, fish biomass remains high. But existing biodiversity in project sites have already been subjected to destruction from construction operations.

“May malinaw na epekto ang industriyang ito sa yamang dagat natin at sa maraming komunidad, lalo na ang mga mangingisda na tuluyan nang nauubos ang mga nahuhuli,” said Fr. Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of Protect VIP and Social Action Director of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan.

“Nangangamba kami na hindi lamang sa Batangas ito mangyayari, kung hindi sa kalakhan ng Verde Island Passage. Kung maaari naman tayong makakuha ng kuryente mula sa malinis na renewable energy, bakit tayo aasa pa sa mapanirang fossil gas?” he demanded.

The Protect Verde Island Passage (Protect VIP) Campaign network is composed of the CEED and CBCP-NASSA together with the Bukluran ng Mangingisda ng Batangas (BMB).

The Verde Island Passage is a marine biodiversity hotspot known as the center of the center of marine shorefish biodiversity in the world, housing 60 percent of all known shore fish species and thousands of other species. It is, however, also the epicenter of fossil gas projects in the Philippines, a fossil fuel falsely touted as a clean alternative to coal.

Five out of six existing gas fired power plants are located in the VIP while eight new LNG and fossil gas plants and seven new LNG terminals are intended to be built in the area.

“The gas industry has been peddling lies of its ability to provide cheap, clean, and reliable electricity. All-time high gas prices today prove this is not true, and the glimpse we get to see today of the environmental destruction it can cause prove that it is simply unwise to go for fossil gas expansion,” argued Gerry Arances, the Executive Director of CEED.



“Unfortunately, this is the direction our next government seems intent on taking – and this calls for a thorough rethinking.”

Earlier today, the groups, led by the BMB, filed a letter of request at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), urging the office to declare the waters of VIP as a non-attainment area where specific pollutants from either natural or man-made sources have already exceeded the water quality guidelines based on the Philippine Clean Water Act.

“Kailangang maiwasan ang higit pang pagtaas ng nasabing mga pollutant sa isang mahalagang anyong tubig,” wrote Tomas Buitizon, the Chairperson of BMB.

(MM)

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/ecological-impact-environmental-groups-call-on-denr-to-rethink-plans-that-rely-on-fossil-gas-in-verde-island-passage?fbclid=IwAR3I9WI7FYaOmwmDWZUcds8gdHW0zITc8iVQT49cUvsJvfJpbMfrQvMDOI8>



Villar to Filipinos: Be passionate to contribute in healing Mother Earth

Published June 6, 2022, 1:30 PM
by [Mario Casayuran](#)

As the Philippines celebrated the 49th World Environment Day yesterday (June 5), Senator Cynthia A. Villar encouraged everyone to be responsible and passionate to contribute and inspire others to do their own part in healing Mother Earth.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, guaranteed that Filipinos' collective efforts would make a difference in the protection and conservation of our environment.

Speaking during the installation of Verde Island Passage (VIP) Marker on the occasion the of the UN World Environment Day organized by environmentalist lawyer Tony Oposa. Villar noted that the United Nations has confronted the country with the severe reality that the earth faces a triple planetary emergency.

Villar relates that these are the following:

- The climate is heating up too quickly for people and nature to adapt,
- The continuing habitat loss and other pressures mean an estimated one million species are threatened with extinction, and
- pollution continues to poison our air, land and water.

“Due to this, the United Nations finds it fitting to adopt the “Only One Earth” slogan as a reminder for us, earthlings, that while there are billions of galaxies, planets and stars, the Earth is just our one solitary home and we should take care of it,” she said.

“All of us are being encouraged to be more connected to it, focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature, and shift our lifestyles from harming the Earth to healing it,” she added.

The invitation of Oposa, the lady senator said, has brought into her consciousness the need to accord the appropriate protection status to VIP, the channel that cuts through the Philippines by the south of Luzon.

The marker is right in the center of the Coral Triangle that is considered an area of extreme ecological importance.

It was reported in the 2005 study led by marine biologist Dr. Kent Carpenter that the VIP has the highest concentration of marine shorefish biodiversity on the planet.

Because of this, Villar said it has been labeled as “the epicenter of marine biodiversity”.

“Even with this little information I gathered, I am a little bit surprised why up to now it seems that no protection status “by legislation” has been accorded to VIP that could ensure its sustainability,” she said.



Villar has been espousing on environmental protection.

She also related she is one of the many that was inspired by Oposa's brilliant work in instigating the continuing mandamus for the clean up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"The continuing mandamus has provided the needed justification that helped in boosting my very own continuing efforts that I have started way back in 2002 to clean up two rivers in my hometown, namely the Zapote River and the Las Pinas River, and even my more recent efforts of cleaning up as well the neighboring Molino River in Bacoor City. All of these rivers directly flow into Manila Bay," she related.

"To finally witness a clean and pollution-free Manila Bay that is fit for recreational swimming (just like in the old days) is indeed an aspiration worth pursuing for the benefit of the living and future generations," she stated.



Mini-gardens set up in 'garbage hotspots'

Sanden J. Anadia - The Freeman 

June 6, 2022 | 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — As part of Cebu City government's campaign against indiscriminate throwing of garbage, it has set up mini-gardens in the so-called "garbage hotpot" barangays of the city.

In doing this, the Cebu City Environmental Sanitation and Enforcement Team (CESET) hopes to encourage the public to appreciate clean environment and discourage them from irresponsibly disposing of their wastes.

In photos posted by the city's Public Information Office, ornamental plants grown on recycled tires loaded with soil could be seen in these mini-gardens. But CESET head Grace Luardo said that more than just putting up these gardens, what is important is the attitude of the people towards waste.

Thus, she urged residents not to dump garbage anywhere.

She also urged the public to strictly follow the guidelines on the collection of garbage, particularly on the schedule of arrival of garbage trucks tasked to collect such wastes.

The CESET chief believes that broad cooperation of the people is the main instrument for maintaining the cleanliness of the city.

Clean-up storm

Meanwhile, Luardo revealed that the city's wide -ranging program called the Garbage Clean-Up Storm continues. Under this program, CESET staff continue to work to clean up areas of the city even late at night.

Joining CESET personnel in cleaning the streets are various City Hall department workers such as those from Prevention, Restoration, Order, Beautification, and Enhancement (Probe), Department of Public Services (DPS), Cebu City Transportation Office (CCTO), Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO), among others.

Right now, they are still removing campaign materials of the candidates in the last elections.

Luardo said that for those caught throwing their wastes indiscriminately, a fine of P1,000 will be imposed.

CESET also revealed that they are also active in conducting clean-up drives.

In fact, various clean-up activities were conducted in some parts of the city yesterday by the City Hall personnel. — JMD (FREEMAN)



Zamboanga City pushes 'no single use of plastic' campaign



ZAMBOANGA. The City Government of Zamboanga, through the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR), joins the celebration of the World Environment Month this June focusing on the no single use of plastic campaign. A photo handout shows residents in the villages conducted clean-up drive on Sunday, June 5, 2022, which is the World Environment Day. (SunStar Zamboanga)

THE City Government of Zamboanga, through the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR), joins the celebration of the World Environment Month this June, focusing on the no single use of plastic campaign.

The celebration of the World Environment Month kicked off here with a motorcade Sunday, June 5, 2022, spearheaded by the OCENR.

Engineer Reynaldo Gonzales, OCENR chief, said that simultaneously all barangays held clean-up activities in their respective area of responsibility as June 5 is also the World Environment Day.

Gonzales, through Public Service Officer Raymond Padayhag, met with representatives of various malls and supermarkets to reiterate the implementation of Executive Order 453-2019 banning the use of plastic shopping bags in the city every Saturday and Sunday, thus, the emphasis on the no to single use plastic on weekends campaign.

Meanwhile, the OCENR has scheduled other activities for the World Environment Month celebration.

These include meeting with owners of all drugstores, stores selling China-made items and public market stall holders on E.O. 453 on June 15; Celebration of Arbor Day through mangrove propagule planting on June 25; Coastal clean-up at R. T. Lim Boulevard; and, awarding ceremonies on June 28, 2022. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931220/zamboanga/local-news/zamboanga-city-pushes-no-single-use-of-plastic-campaign>



E-commerce companies urged to cut back on plastic packaging

June 6, 2022 | 8:13 pm

PLASTIC WASTE generated by electronic commerce (e-commerce) transactions is beyond the capacity of local governments to deal with the additional solid waste, EcoWaste Coalition said.

The environmental advocacy said in a statement on Monday that the plastic waste from e-commerce packaging imposes an “additional and unnecessary burden” on communities, particularly after the pandemic forced consumers to order more goods online.

“Lazada and Shopee will again hold a mid-year grand sale starting June 6 which will add to more packaging and plastic waste being burned or dumped into our environment. We urge these companies to implement a genuine plastic use reduction scheme and to support their sellers and logistics providers in implementing similar measures,” EcoWaste Coalition Plastic Solutions Campaigner Coleen Salamat said.

EcoWaste coalition said the e-commerce industry is currently valued at P1.2 trillion, equivalent to 5.5% of the economy in 2022, according to data from the Department of Trade and Industry.

“Lazada and Shopee should... support global efforts to save our climate and environment. Cutting back on their plastic waste should be a very simple step for these companies. Let us stop sacrificing our environment for profit,” Ms. Salamat said. — Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/06/06/453158/e-commerce-companies-urged-to-cut-back-on-plastic-packaging/>



De Lima lauds governor who vetoed the lifting of open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato

Published June 6, 2022, 4:35 PM
by [Hannah Torregosa](#)

Opposition Senator Leila de Lima on Monday, June 6 commended South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. for vetoing the controversial local measure that seeks to lift the ban on open-pit mining in the province which was approved by the Provincial Board two weeks ago.

“I laud South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo, Jr. in his veto of the Provincial Board’s lifting of the ban on open-pit mining in the province. Mabuhay ka, Gov.! Thank you for doing the right thing,” de Lima said in her recent tweet.

De Lima, in an earlier handwritten statement, urged Tamayo to veto the said Provincial Board’s amendment of the local environment code on open-pit mining and heed the calls of various groups and individuals on the matter.

The senator lauded Tamayo for heeding the call of all concerned sectors on the possible lifting of the open-pit mining ban.

Tamayo reportedly announced his decision in a public statement last June 3, a day before the deadline for him to act on the amendment of Ordinance No. 22 or the South Cotabato Environment Code.

“I am informing the general public of South Cotabato that Resolution No. 137, enacting Ordinance No. 23 series of 2022 amending pertinent provisions of the Environment Code of South Cotabato, is vetoed by the provincial governor,” Tamayo said.

He issued the veto “for being prejudicial to the public welfare and inimical to the overall interest of all South Cotabateños,” invoking the language of the Local Government Code of 1991 or Republic Act No. 7160, which allows local chief executives to veto local ordinances.

De Lima reiterated that the veto of the Provincial Board’s lifting of the ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato will benefit both the people and the environment.

“Sa lahat ng pagkakataon, pangunahing konsiderasyon dapat ng mga pinuno at lingkod bayan ang kapakanan at kaligtasan ng mas nakakarami. Isang paraan dito ang pangangalaga sa kalikasan (In every opportunity, the main consideration of leaders and public servants should be the interest of the people. That includes taking care of the environment),” the outgoing senator said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/06/de-lima-lauds-governor-who-vetoed-the-lifting-of-open-pit-mining-ban-in-south-cotabato/>



Metro, News

Pasay City launches recycling program

Published June 6, 2022, 1:17 PM
by Jean Fernando

The Pasay City government, together with Coca Cola Philippines, launched a plastic recycling program called “Tapon to Ipon: Basta Klaro Panalo” that aims to convert polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles into.

Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano said the “Tapon to Ipon: Basta Klaro Panalo” was launched on Saturday, June 4 at Stanford basketball court in Barangay 65, Pasay City.

Rubiano said the project falls under the E of her HELP (Health and housing, E-education, economic growth and environment, L-livelihood and lifestyle, P-peace and order, palengke (market) and pamilya (family) agenda.

She said residents who can collect one and half kilos of PET bottles can exchange these for any Coke product at the identified collection hub partners: EDM Store, 2407 M. Dela Cruz, Pasay City; Rhyelnetts Eatery, 2193 Luna St.; Omar Minimart, 2642 Tramo St.; Jacquelyn Store, 2413 P. Villanueva St.; Bhebang Store, Market Rd. cor. Taft, Pasay City; and Freya Consumer Good Store, 2336 Leveriza St. Brgy. 40, Pasay City.

The mayor said the bottles that can be exchanged for any Coke product are those with label “I” which means clear or no color, clean, no any particles placed inside the bottle, and are dry.

Rubiano said the project will also help in making the city’s surroundings and environment clean.



Mayor to protect 2 whale sharks spotted off Mactan Island

By John Rey Saavedra

 June 6, 2022, 6:26 pm



GENTLE GIANT. One of the two whale sharks is seen swimming off Barangay Punta Engaño, Lapu-Lapu City on Saturday (June 4, 2022). Mayor Junard Chan on Monday pledged to protect this species of huge, slow-moving fish locally called "butanding". (Screengrab from Ricky Blesario's Facebook video)

CEBU CITY – They are not endemic in the Mactan Island waters but two whale sharks showed up in the seawater off Barangay Punta Engaño in Lapu-Lapu City, Mayor Junard Chan said on Monday.

Chan said the appearance of the two giants, locally called "butanding", amazed a group of people who actually saw and video-recorded them while their motorboat passed by the area on Saturday.

He pledged to implement measures to protect the sea creatures and to "make our oceans a safe home" for them.

"Ang nagpadala niining video kay si Ricky Blesario nga nakasaksi gayud sa kaanindot niining manyag nga mga mananap nga gawasnong naglangoylangoy sa dagat. (The sender of this video is Ricky Blesario who actually witnessed the beauty of these beautiful animals swimming freely in the sea)," Chan said in a social media post.

In a separate social media post on Saturday, Blesario said: "After vertical jigging session, personal encounter with these two friendly beautiful big whale sharks at Punta Enganio Lapu Lapu near Artera.. Beautiful creation by God".

Although "butanding" are commonly found in Cebu's southern town of Oslob -- particularly in Barangay Tan-awan where hundreds of local and foreign tourists visit for whale shark-watching activities -- it was only the second time that the people in Lapu-Lapu got to see the gentle giants.

In June 2021, a whale shark was trapped in a fisherman's net in the seawaters of Barangay Maribago.



A diver, Boyla Gilig, reported then that it was feeding in the area when it was accidentally trapped.

Since then, divers have been coordinating with the local fishery office and agreed to help protect the butanding.

Chan said the City Agriculture and Fishery Office will do a study to identify those areas that could be a safe haven for the whale sharks where they can freely swim without interference from the village folks.

“We need to protect them so they can live peacefully,” he added. (PNA)



QC aims to be 'lead city' in fight vs. climate change

By Marita Moaje

 June 6, 2022, 1:45 pm

MANILA – The Quezon City government has strengthened its policies to protect the environment and combat the threat of climate change.

QC's projects aim to reduce air, land, and water pollution to make for a green and sustainable city.

Solar panels will be installed in at least 50 public schools and at Quezon City General Hospital and Medical Center in Barangay Bahay Toro, Rosario Maclang Bautista General Hospital in Batasan Hills, and Novaliches District Hospital.

The city government also established a 93-kilometer protected bike lane network that traverses major and secondary roads to promote active transport and urban mobility and help in decarbonization strategy to reduce air pollution.

Public parks and open spaces have been renovated and improved while the 5.39-kilometer Green Open Reclaimed Access (GORA) Lane, a pedestrian-oriented promenade along Dona Hemady Avenue, Scout Tobias Street, and Mother Ignacia Avenue, promotes walking and active recreational activities.

The "Trash to Cashback" program pays recyclable items with "environmental points" which may be exchanged for basic commodities and used to pay utility bills.

Right after the May 9 polls, the "Vote to Tote" program turned collected campaign tarpaulins and posters into reusable bags.

Other ordinances are Plastic Bag Ban, which prohibits single-use plastics for dine-in customers in restaurants and hotels; Green Building Ordinance; and Green Public Procurement Ordinance that mandates the inclusion of environmental criteria in public procurement.

"It is the city government's responsibility to protect its residents from the threats brought by a warming planet. Through our collective effort with stakeholders and residents, we hope to become the lead city in advancing an inclusive, ambitious, evidence-based, innovative, and transformative climate action in the Philippines," reelected QC Vice Mayor Gian Sotto said in a statement on Monday.

Sotto said their programs and initiatives are all guided by the QC Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2050, which is consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, an international treaty on climate change, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in order to build resilient, carbon-neutral, green, livable, and quality communities. (PNA)



'Prioritize renewable, not nuclear power'



By Leander C. Domingo



June 7, 2022



40

GLOBAL environment network Greenpeace International has urged the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos to prioritize renewable energy for the country's power requirements instead of reviving the mothballed Bataan nuclear power plant.

"We have yet to see detailed plans of the incoming administration for energy development, but recent statements that nuclear energy is the 'cleanest and cheapest' are not true and are dangerous assertions," Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu said.

Yu said nuclear power is the most dangerous and most expensive way to produce electricity.

Greenpeace has cited a 2020 report by Lazard that the levelized cost of operating energy of solar is around \$36 to \$44 per megawatt-hour (MWh) while nuclear costs \$112 to \$189 per MWh.

"Pursuing nuclear energy will be a distraction from achieving energy transition, as this could derail investments on renewable energy, undermine ongoing policy efforts, propel high electricity prices, and bring in risks of radioactive contamination and nuclear meltdown," the report said.

"It also fails to meet the basic technical, economic, social and political criteria for a sustainable energy policy," the report added.

Yu also cited the worsening climate impacts and the country's vulnerability to said impacts as critical risk factors for a potential nuclear disaster.

He said nuclear energy will be too risky to operate in the Philippines "considering that we are constantly battered by strong typhoons and other extreme weather events, which could easily compromise the operation of a nuclear power plant."

"The incoming administration should also bare their plans for when a nuclear disaster happens. Experiences from other countries have shown that nuclear disaster cleanup and rehabilitation can reach up to hundreds of billions of dollars. It's clear that nuclear power does not make any economic sense and will hinder all efforts on economic recovery," Yu said.

Greenpeace also noted that with around 800 gigawatts of untapped renewable energy in the country, the priority of the new administration should be the strengthening of the transition to wind and solar energy, which will provide reliable and cheap electricity to Filipinos.

07 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

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Malabon LGU receive trash collector from DENR, DOST

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has recently turned a P7.6-million automatic trash rake facility to the local government unit (LGU) of Malabon City.

The Malabon City Engineering Department and DOST Metals Industry Research and Development Center designed the ATR facility, which was installed at Letre Creek along P. Aquino Avenue in Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon City.

It features a better trash collection rate and can lift large-sized trash along the creek, unclog drainage systems, boost waste management capabilities, and collect wastes in waterways faster and easier, especially during the rainy season.

Unclogging of drainage systems are often done manually and requires manpower, and will still take days, if not weeks or months to do the job.

In a news statement, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the facility serves as an "alternative measure to improve flood control operation through better trash collection rate with the capability of lifting large-sized trash along creeks and unclog drainage systems."

The ATR facility will keep floating debris, leaves, and other solid waste from entering the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros or MaNaTuTi River System, while supporting the ongoing Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program or the "Battle for Manila Bay."

During the turnover ceremony held on May 27, Sampulna underscored the valuable contribution of strategic partnerships with other government agencies to successfully implement various environmental programs and policies in the country.

"We have to protect our countrymen and act with urgency. This is the very reason the DENR has been constantly pushing for sustainable projects and forging a strategic partnership with various government agencies like the DOST," Sampulna said. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



DENR, DoST turnover P7.6-M worth of trash rake to Malabon City

WITH the onset of rainy season, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sees a better garbage collection and an improved flood control in Malabon City - thanks to the P7.6 million automatic trash rake (ATR) facility the local government acquired.

The DENR and the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) recently led the ceremonial turnover of the facility just in time when summer has just passed.

According to Environment Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, the facility serves as an alternative measure to improve flood control operations through better trash collection rate since it is capable of lifting large-sized garbage along creeks and at the same time declog drainage systems.

He said the ATR would keep floating debris, leaves, and other solid waste from entering the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros or MaNaTuTi River System, while supporting the ongoing Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program or the "Battle for Manila Bay."

During the turnover ceremony, Sampulna underscored the valuable contribution of strategic partnerships with other government agencies for the successful implementation of various environmental programs and policies in the country.

"We have to protect our countrymen and act with urgency. This is the very reason the DENR has been constantly pushing for sustainable projects and forging a strategic partnership with various government agencies like the DoST," the DENR acting chief said.

Installed at the Letre Creek along P. Aquino Ave., in Brgy Tonsuya, the ATR facility was designed by the Malabon City Engineering Department and DoST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center.

Joel dela Torre



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DENR confirms sightings of 'missing' Philippine Eagle

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The celebration of Philippine Eagle Week has renewed hope in Central Luzon following sightings of a raptor that has been missing following its release in the forests of Aurora.

The celebration of Philippine Eagle Week runs from June 4 to 10.

Based on the monitoring of the conservation and development division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the eagle named *Agawid* could still be alive, but could not be located as its radio transmitter could have malfunctioned, Lorie Gene Cruz-Gaba, DENR-Central Luzon information officer, said.

Alfredo Collado, provincial and environment and natural resources officer of DENR-Aurora, told **The STAR** that there has been no conclusive report on whether *Agawid* is still alive or has died.

Collado said there were sightings of a Philippine Eagle on Mt. Mangan in Dipaculao town.

In June 2016, a farmer found a Philippine Eagle trapped in a snare for monkeys at the Aurora Memorial National Park (AMNP).

The eagle, later named *Agawid*, was nurtured back to health and released in the forests of the AMNP in October 2017.

– Ramon Efren Lazaro



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SMC ramps up Pasig River cleanup

As more equipment from Japan's NYK arrive

SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) is ramping up its multi-billion Pasig River rehabilitation initiative amid the rainy season following Japan shipping giant NYK Line's donation of powerful, high-capacity excavators as part of its \$1.5 million donation to the conglomerate's initiative.

SMC President and CEO Ramon S. Ang formally accepted the two new equipment from NYK President Hitoshi Nagasawa in a ceremony attended by Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa, and

Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines (DENR) undersecretary Jonas Leones at the project's staging area in Pandacan, Manila.

"We are deeply honored and thankful to receive this donation to boost our river rehabilitation operations at a time when heavy rains and typhoons threaten most Metro Manila cities with severe flooding," Ang said.

SMC marks the first year since it started the Pasig cleanup effort in July 2021.

"This cooperation highlights the same mindset that San Miguel and NYK have

in expanding our sustainability initiatives, particularly in conserving water resources. We hope that this will encourage other companies in the country to cooperate with each other in aggressively pursuing initiatives that will benefit future generations," he added.

SMC's P2-billion Pasig River initiative, along with the ongoing P1-billion Tullahan river rehabilitation, are both in support of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program that started in 2019.

To date, SMC's dredging teams have extracted a total of 437,890 metric



Photo shows (from L) DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, NYK President Hitoshi Nagasawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa, San Miguel Corporation President and CEO Ramon S. Ang, Overall Project Manager Jimmy Lu and Field Project Manager Capt. Benito Arta. tons of silt and waste from Pasig River while the company recently reached its 1 million metric ton target at the Tullahan River. The Tullahan output currently

stands at 1,009,382 metric tons.

For his part, Nagasawa thanked Ang for giving NYK the opportunity to participate in the program. Aside from the Pasig River equipment donation, NYK also has initiatives in support of Filipino seafarers.

"I am optimistic that our newfound relationship

with San Miguel Corporation will lead to deeper communication and allow us to seek more opportunities for the benefit of Filipinos and the Philippines," Nagasawa said.

San Miguel and NYK, in the presence of the DENR, formalized the donation agreement last year.

Aside from the donation, NYK will handle the maintenance costs of the said equipment, which has a bucket capacity of 3 to 4.5 cubic meters.

On top of NYK's donation, Ang said the company is also set to take delivery of five new excavators it recently acquired, in the coming weeks.



SMC arangkada sa Pasig River rehab

Lalo pang pinaigting ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) ang rehabilitation project nito sa Pasig River ngayong pumasok na ang tag-ulan matapos dumating ang donasyon ng Japan shipping giant NYK Line na mga high-capacity excavator.

Bahagi ang mga naturang kagamitan ng \$1.5 milyong donasyon ng NYK Line sa ginagawang paglilinis ng SMC sa Pasig River.

Pormal na tinanggap ni SMC president at chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang ang dalawang bagong kagamitan mula kay NYK president Hitoshi Nagasawa sa isang seremonya na dinaluhan nina Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones sa project staging area sa Pandacan, Maynila.

"We are deeply honored and thankful to receive this donation to boost our river rehabilitation operations at a time when heavy rains and typhoons threaten most Metro Manila cities with severe flooding," sabi ni Ang.

Matatandaang Hulyo 2021 sinimulan ng SMC ang P2 billion Pasig River rehabilitation project kasabay ang P1 billion Tullahan River clean-up project bilang suporta ng kompanya sa Manila Bay rehabilitation program na inumpisahan noong 2019.

"This cooperation highlights the same mindset that San Miguel and NYK have in expanding our sustainability initiatives, particularly in conserving water resources. We hope that this will encourage other companies in the country to cooperate with each other in aggressively pursuing initiatives that will benefit future generations," ayon pa kay Ang.



PEZA, NCIP agree on ecozone development

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the utilization of ancestral domains and lands as economic zones.

PEZA Director General Charito B. Plaza said the agreement is in compliance with the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process. The MOA also supports Administrative Order No. 18, which directs investors to locate in the regions than in Metro Manila to enjoy more tax incentives and decongest the metropolis.

Under the agreement, PEZA and NCIP Chairman Allen Capuyan agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the identification, creation, development, implementation and operation of ancestral domains/lands as special economic zones for the greater good of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

"PEZA, as the only authorized agency to register land and buildings to become economic

zones, will remain steadfast in our plans to create different types of green, sustainable and smart ecozones and attract various industries facilitating environment-friendly industrialization," said Plaza.

For his part, Capuyan noted that "The development of the ancestral domains as a special economic zone will not just give positive look to the socio-economic aspect of the communities but also increase the basic services as well as sufficient food, education, health, environmental protection, justice, human rights, security, and good governance."

For decades, Plaza said "IPs have become victims of exploitation with the utilization of their ancestral domains and lands by some unscrupulous entities without just and fair compensation or due regard to their traditional territorial and resource rights."

With this, the PEZA Chief suggested that PEZA should empower and capacitate all sectors of the country most especially the so-called marginalized like the IPs to participate in an inclusive economy to bring out the best of our countries' potentials and vibrant economy.



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Ancestral domains to be converted into ecozones

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has tapped ancestral domains and lands in the development of economic zones.

PEZA and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on June 3 signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the joint utilization of the ancestral domains and lands as ecozones in compliance with the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

Charito Plaza, PEZA director-general, investment promotion agencies (IPAs) will provide just compensation to IP communities when their lands are affected by ecozone developments.

Both parties will pursue measures for the identification, creation, development, implementation and operation of ancestral domains/lands as special ecozones for indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and indigenous peoples (IPs).

"We (will ensure) compliance

to IPRA and social justice when ancestral lands will be tapped for ecozone development," Plaza added.

Allan Capuyan, chairman of the NCIP said the development of the ancestral domains as a special ecozones will increase the basic services as well as sufficient food, education, health, environmental protection, justice, human rights, security, and good governance.

"We aim to replicate the multiplier effects that our zones created in the regions because we believe that ecozones will serve as economic drivers among ICCs/IPs," said Plaza.

PEZA also recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to identify and develop ecozones in the regions using the unutilized public lands under DENR's jurisdiction and provide investor-locator choices of location nationwide.

- Irma Isip



On World Environment Day, Lazada and Shopee told to cut plastic waste

MARKING the celebration of the World Environment Day on June 5, EcoWaste Coalition, a waste and pollution watchdog called two of the leading e-commerce firms in the Philippines to cut back on the use of disposable plastics for their packaging and deliveries.

"Lazada and Shopee will again hold a mid-year grand sale starting June 6 which will add to more packaging and the plastic waste being burned or dumped into our environ-

ment. We urge these companies to implement a genuine plastic use reduction scheme and to support their sellers and logistic providers to implement similar measures," Coleen Salamat, Plastic Solutions Campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition said in a news statement.

The rapid growth of e-commerce was observed during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the sector is valued at P1.2 trillion, which is equivalent to 5.5 percent of

the country's economy in 2022.

Plastic waste generated from e-commerce packaging adds an unnecessary burden to cities and communities that are already having a hard time coping with increased solid waste brought by the pandemic, EcoWaste lamented.

"Lazada and Shopee should be responsible for the waste that they help create and support global efforts to save our climate and environment. Cutting back on their

plastic waste should be a very simple step for these multimillion companies. Let us stop sacrificing our environment for profit," said Salamat.

Last October 2021, more than 15,000 individuals signed a petition by Youth Strike for Climate Philippines and Greenpeace demanding Lazada and Shopee to reduce unnecessary plastics such as bubble wraps, and multi-layer plastics used in packages and deliveries. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



Asia's developing nations contribute most to global plastic waste

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Developing economies in Asia are seen consuming and contributing most to global plastic waste in the decades to come.

In a report, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said global plastic waste would likely triple in the next 38 years or by 2060.

Global plastics consumption is expected to rise to 1.23 billion metric tons (MT) in 2060 from the 2019 level of 460 million MT if bold policies are not implemented.

"Growth will be fastest in developing and emerging countries in Africa and Asia, although OECD countries will still produce much more

plastic waste per person," the OECD said.

The OECD study did not list specific countries in Asia that would contribute most to plastic wastes.

But a previous study by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank showed that 60 percent of plastic waste entering the oceans comes from five Asian countries namely China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Philippines is also the world's third biggest plastic polluter.

Similarly, the OECD said plastic leakage to the environment is seen doubling while the build-up of plastics in lakes, rivers and oceans will more than triple. This as plastic waste will

balloon to 1.014 billion MT by 2060.

The OECD said the rise in plastic consumption and waste would come despite an expected increase in the use of recycled plastic in manufacturing new goods and other technological advances.

"Without radical action to curb demand, increase product lifespans and improve waste management and recyclability, plastic pollution will rise in tandem with an almost threefold increase in plastics use driven by rising populations and incomes," the OECD said.

"Almost two-thirds of plastic waste in 2060 will be from short-lived items such as packaging, low-cost prod-

ucts and textiles," it said.

OECD secretary general Mathias Cormann maintained that governments need to take more stringent and globally coordinated action to address the worsening plastic problem.

The OECD said policies to reduce the environmental impacts of plastics and encourage a more circular use of them include taxes on plastics, including on plastic packaging, incentives to reuse and repair plastic items, and targets for recycled content in new plastic products.

Also included are extended producer responsibility schemes, improved waste management infrastructure, and increased litter collection rates.



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PH DOCU ON PLASTIC WASTE TO BE SCREENED IN FLORENCE, ITALY



London International Film Festival awardee "Alon" (Wave), a documentary on plastic waste, will be screened at the fifth European Philippine International Film Festival (Epiff) in Florence, Italy.

Spearheaded by the Islands Stream Cultural Association of Florence, Italy, founded by Filipino Italian actor-director Ruben Maria Soriquez with Italian filmmakers Maurizio Baldini and Lorenzo Galanti, Epiff aims to strengthen the cultural relations between the Philippines and Europe through cinema.

The fest uses the creative platform to showcase the complexity, richness and diversity of our culture through the works of promising Filipino filmmakers around the world. It likewise serves as a venue to connect them with European producers and distributors.

Written and directed by the late award-winning filmmaker and educator Gabriel Fernandez

Local surfer as eco-warrior in "Alon"

and produced by De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, "Alon" was selected by the festival curator to be part of Epiff 2022.

The documentary aims to create awareness on the immense impact of plastic pollution by presenting the contrast between the wonders of the Philippines' growing surf tourism and the looming environmental problem.

It projects the issue through the lenses of local surfers as eco-warriors who strive to help save the environment. It features breathtaking views of the six leading surfing communities in the country, namely Siargao, La Union, Baler, Mati in Davao, Gubat in Sorsogon and Sabang Daguitan in Leyte, where pieces of plastic trash from packaged commodities frequently resurface.

The National Commission

for Culture and the Arts granted "Alon" the prestigious Aning Dangal Award (Harvest of Honors), a recognition that pays tribute to the Filipino artists whose talent and craftsmanship have earned international accolades and brought pride to the country, after it took home the sought-after Science and Education Award from the 2020 London International Film Festival.

"Alon" was likewise nominated as the best foreign language documentary and best director of foreign language documentary in the UK competition. It was also nominated for best documentary film at the 2021 World Cinema Milan and was an Official Selection at the 2020 Amsterdam Lift-Off Film Festival.

Epiff will be held June 10-12, with both on-site and online screening.



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TECH TAPPED TO IMPROVE FARMERS' LIVES

MADALI NANG
MAG-MINE
NG KAWAYAN!



App eyed to help sell bamboo products

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

There's an online marketplace being developed for products made from the not so lowly bamboo—that huge variety of grass for which the country has a thriving industry.

Filipinos can help support bamboo farmers through the "Bamboost" app—a "mobile marketplace" being developed by the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines-Cagayan de Oro (USTP-CDO).

A "user testing" of the app was held on **A4**

FROM A1

May 24 at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

According to USTP-CDO, the event also served as a soft launching of Bamboost, which is just in its initial stage.

But the bamboo farmers who took part in the user testing were "excited to try out the app," according to the university.

Fred Dinoro, one of the 12 participants, said the app would be "a big help for us farmers."

He added that "if this gets developed well in the future, someday we will have a better economy."

Speaking in Cebuano, he said the participants, at first, were thinking about how the app could be of help to their community. But they realized soon enough that it could have "a wider scope of the market."

'Target clients'

USTP-CDO said in a statement: "The user testing is meant to introduce the Bamboost App to bamboo farmers, processors and entrepreneurs who will eventually be the target clients once it is already up and running."

Apart from Iligan City, Bukidnon and Iloilo provinces are the other "initial target sites of the [Bamboost] project where the app is to be adopted," USTP-CDO said.

According to the project's leader, associate professor Love Jhoye Raboy of USTP-CDO's Department of Information Tech-

nology, the app will have another user testing in Iloilo this month.

The Bamboost project is funded and supported by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD).

USTP-CDO said the project was developed from the "thesis output" of Analiza Diaz, a staff member of the DOST-PCAARRD's Technology Transfer and Promotion Division, for her master's program at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

Versatile material

"We believe that the successful implementation of the project—from the creation, launching and mainstreaming of the Bamboost App, [to] its IP registration and introduction to farming communities producing various bamboo products—will eventually lead to its commercialization in the years to come," said Jose Tomas Cabagay, assistant director of the said division.

The bamboo is one of the most economically significant nontimber forest products globally. It is considered a high-value crop and a versatile material for many products, such as wood furniture, wall panels, bicycles, utensils, handicrafts and bamboo-based food and beverages.

The Philippines is among the top exporters of bamboo, ranking 6th worldwide, according to the DOST-PCAARRD.

—WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ



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Pangangalaga sa kapaligiran, tiniyak ng QC LGU

Nangako ang Quezon City government na higit na pangangalagaan ang kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng ipatutupad na dagdag na mga polisiya at batas sa lungsod hinggil dito.

Ito ay bilang pakikiisa ng lokal na pamahalaan ng QC sa pagdiriwang sa 'Environment Day'.

Kaugnay nito ay lumikha ang QC LGU ng ibat-ibang pamamaraan tulad ng pagtatayo ng 93-kilometer protected bike lane network para mai-promote ang active transport at urban mobility upang maibsan ang problema sa pagdumi ng hangin.

"It is the city government's responsibility to protect its residents from the threats brought

by a warming planet. Through our collective effort with stakeholders and residents, we hope to become the lead city in advancing an inclusive, ambitious, evidence-based, innovative and transformative climate action in the Philippines," ayon kay QC Vice Mayor Gian Sotto.

Ang mga programa at inisyatiba ng QC LGU para sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran ay alinsunod sa QC Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (Enhanced LCCAP) 2021-2050 para sa pagkakaroon ng isang resilient, carbon neutral, advanced green economic development, liveable at quality community.

Para maiwasan ang pagtatapon ng mga plastic na ba-

sura ay nakipagkasundo ang lokal na pamahalaan sa stakeholders sa pagtataguyod sa 'Trash to Cashback program' na ang mga recyclables ay maipalit ng mga basic commodities at magamit na pambayad ng bills.

Inayos din ng lokal na pamahalaan ang mga public parks at open spaces, at bumuo ng protected walkways tulad ng 5.39 kilometer-Green Open Reclaimed Access (GORA Lane) pedestrian-oriented promenade sa Dona Hemady Ave., Scout Tobias, at Mother Ignacia para mai-promote ang walkability at active recreational activities para sa mga taga-QC. (Angie dela Cruz)



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Economic team completes crisis playbook

By **BIANCA CUARESMA**
@BcuaresmaBM

ECONOMIC managers have finished the country's so-called "systemic risk crisis management" (SRCM) framework, a guideline that will serve as the country's playbook on how to assess, handle and resolve potential crises that will hit the country.

In an event held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Manila, Financial Stability Coordination Council (FSCC) launched the SRCM framework in an effort to prepare the country by identifying risks, anticipating shocks and constantly enhancing the system's resilience against them before they happen.

"We have seen over the past three decades the Asian Financial Crisis, the Global

Financial Crisis and more recently the Covid-induced global recession. Although these have happened at nearly a decade's interval between them, regulators as well as the public do not take comfort when the unexpected happens. This is the nature of crises. They are unexpected but create significant disruptions as they unfold," BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said.

"As we move forward towards full recovery, now is the opportune time to look ahead, recognizing lessons from the past while anticipating the possibilities of the future," he added.

The framework highlights five key parts, including coverage and basic protocols, arrangement during normal times, specific risks that can

cause systemic dislocations, arrangement during crisis times and transitions to post-crisis protocols.

"The SRCM is a strategic document that highlights how ongoing tasks contribute to crisis management and identifying initiatives which we believe are needed moving forward. As we develop the tactical plans that underpin this strategic document, the SRCM is thus a living document that evolves with the market and the needs of its stakeholders," Diokno said.

Also defined in the SRCM framework are the arrangements or roles among the FSCC agencies in the anticipation of potential systemic risks to "best organize" the economic response of the country under stressed conditions.

The FSCC is an interagency council composed of the BSP, the Department of Finance, the Insurance Commission, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Under the framework, the FSCC also identified two specific risks that could potentially cause systemic dislocations in the local economy. These are Cyber Events and Climate-Related Risks.

"Sometimes, we see all the gains of better days but we may be overlooking the underlying signs of vulnerabilities being built up. While it is virtually impossible to forecast the next crisis, its timing and its specific nature, this should not stop us from being prepared," Diokno said.



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Environmental scientist shifts to banking to drive sustainability transformation

FOR a lot of us, celebrating and engaging in environment-related projects only happen during events such as Earth Day or Earth Month. However, for environmental scientist-turned-sustainability practitioner Jeanne Nicole B. Lizares, driving initiatives that contribute to saving the world is a daily routine.

Lizares is Sustainability Head of Se-

curity Bank Corp.—ensuring the bank incorporates sustainability into its programs and operations, as aligned with its mission to enrich lives, empower businesses, and build communities.

Lizares joined a global bank's corporate sustainability team just before Covid-19 hit. Like many people during the height of the pandemic, she went through a lot of introspection. Detached from her

island roots, she felt that corporate practice may not be the path for her.

"I thought about quitting my job, moving to the beach, and taking up marine biology—a childhood dream of mine," she shared. But it seemed there were other plans in store.

"Call it serendipity or divine providence, but the very next day after I made the decision to quit, somebody from Se-

curity Bank called me and said, 'We're looking for someone to help us on our sustainability journey.'" Lizares's Sustainability team reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer and aligns with respective Board Committees. The support given to her team and their initiatives and shows the Bank's commitment to furthering its sustainability imperative.

"My goal, though, is that someday my

role will no longer be needed because sustainability has been deeply ingrained in everything we do," she concludes.

With Lizares's help, Security Bank has implemented an Environmental and Social Risk Management System—a framework that guides the Bank in assessing its lending and investment activities through a lens of environmental and social risks such as climate change,

energy transition, health, and safety.

Lizares emphasizes that sustainability is not a realm reserved for scientists. Advocates and experts in the business, finance, and public policy sectors are also needed. She is keen to tell stories and share her own, with the hope that young people are empowered knowing there is something they can do to contribute and become sustainability advocates.



Climate talks in Bonn test global resolve on warming

PARIS (AFP) – Negotiators from almost 200 countries will meet in Bonn Monday for climate talks tasked with reigniting momentum on tackling global warming, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine overshadows the threat from rising emissions.

The conference will set the stage for a fresh round of major United Nations talks later this year in Egypt.

It will also be a chance to test the resolve of nations facing a catalogue of crises, including escalating climate impacts, geopolitical tensions, bloodshed in Ukraine and the threat of a devastating global food crisis.

"Climate change is not an agenda we can afford to push back on our global schedule," said outgoing UN climate change chief Patricia Espinosa ahead of the meeting.

She said it is imperative that nations arrive at the UN COP27 meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh in November prepared to show they are taking "bold, concrete steps – backed by specific plans – to deliver the urgent and transformational climate ambition we simply must see before it's too late."

Governments have already accepted that climate change is a grave threat to humanity and the planet, and have advocated immediate action to cut fossil fuel emissions and prepare for the accelerating impacts of warming.

The summary to this year's landmark climate report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that any further delay in action "will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."

But as things are going, the

world is unlikely to be able to meet the Paris climate deal's commitment to limit warming "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

"There is this disconnect between the scientific evidence of global crisis in the making, of potentially rushing towards unmanageable climate impact, versus the lack of action," Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, told AFP.

"This is a deep worry."

The world has warmed nearly 1.2C so far – enough to usher in a crescendo of deadly heatwaves, floods and storm surges made worse by rising seas.

Funding focus

While the June 6 to 16 conference in Bonn is a largely technical meeting aimed at preparing for Egypt, there are a number of key issues up for debate.

A particular focus will be funding from rich polluters to help vulnerable developing nations least responsible for global heating to cope with its increasingly ferocious consequences.

A promise of \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help them adapt to a warming world has still not been met.

Meanwhile, there are growing calls for "loss and damage" funding for countries already struck by devastating climate impacts, with a specific dialogue on the subject slated for this week.

The Alliance of Small Island States has warned that the Bonn conference must not be "just another talk shop", calling for a "clear view" on when and how this financing will be put in place.

'Fragile' world

UN Secretary General Anto-

nio Guterres last week warned that Russia's invasion of Ukraine risked slowing action to combat the climate crisis.

"But I think this war has demonstrated one thing: how fragile the world is in its dependence to fossil fuels," he added.

The invasion has prompted countries, particularly in Europe, to scramble to shore up energy supplies. It has also caused wheat and fertilizer prices to soar.

Fears of a food crisis have intensified in recent weeks, with India moving to ban wheat exports after the hottest March and April on record – blamed largely on climate change – hit harvests.

One opportunity for exhibiting political will comes on Wednesday when the European Parliament votes several hotly debated planks of the bloc's sprawling "Fit for 55" climate plan.

EU member states have set themselves the target of reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, and achieving carbon neutrality for the continent by 2050.

In May, an analysis from non-profit groups found that countries in the G20 group of major economies have yet to strengthen greenhouse gas reduction goals, despite agreeing to revisit their plans.

Last year in Glasgow, countries made new pledges to slash methane emissions, stop deforestation and other measures that – in addition to existing national carbon cutting pledges – could theoretically cap warming under 2C, said Rockstrom.

But that means the focus at this year's meetings needs to be on "accountability," he added.

"We are now in the delivery phase."



Gov't workers free to choose flexi-time plan

FLEXIBLE work arrangements for government employees will now become permanent starting June 15.

Resolution No. 2200209 of the Civil Service Commission makes the alternative work arrangement permanent, subject to the discretion of the head of agency on the condition that all stakeholders are assured of continuous delivery of services from 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.

The flexible work arrangement guidelines cover 1.7 million government employees regardless of the status of appointment, the CSC said.

"This will certainly change the landscape of work in the country. The CSC is confident that greater flexibility will lead to increased productivity as the work environment becomes more responsive to employees' unique individual needs," it added in a statement.

Prior to this, alternative and flexible work arrangements were only allowed

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Gov't...

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during a state of public health emergency, which is set to end by September this year.

"The CSC seeks to institutionalize flexible work arrangements as part of the nationwide effort to transition from a state of public health emergency to the new normal. It serves as a preventive measure to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of government officials and employees while ensuring the government's continued operations and

efficient delivery of public services," the CSC said.

Based on the CSC resolution, flexible work arrangements include the following:

- Flexiplace, wherein officials and employees may be authorized to render services away from their office;
- Compressed work week, in which the 40-hour work week is compressed into four days or less, instead of five;
- Skeleton workforce, where a minimum number of personnel will be required to report to the office when full staffing is not possible;
- Work shifting for agencies required

by law to operate 24/7 or agencies required to observe workplace health and safety protocols;

- Flexitime, where employees are allowed to report between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. provided they complete the required 40-hour workweek; and
- Combination of flexible work arrangements that may be adopted by an agency according to what is appropriate or applicable to its mandate and functions.

The adoption of flexible work arrangements may be allowed on a regular or recurring basis, situational, or for medical reasons.



Mt. Bulusan, tuloy ang pag-aalbuoto: 29 volcanic quakes naitala - Phivolcs

Tuluy-tuloy pa rin ang pag-aalbuoto ng Mt. Bulusan sa Sorsogon matapos makapagtala ito ng 29 volcanic earthquakes sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

NI ANGIE DELA CRUZ

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), nakapagtala rin sila ng isang phreatic explosion sa Mt. Bulusan na may 17 minuto ang haba at isang phreatic na pagputok na may 17 minuto ang haba at nagkaroon din ng malakas na pagsingaw na may 150 metrong

taas na napadpad sa hilagang-kanluran.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, nitong nakalipas na linggo ay namamaga ang bulkan at nakataas pa rin ito sa Alert Level 1 status.

Dulot nito, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ng Phivolcs ang pagpasok ng sinuman sa apat na kilometrong (4 km) radius Perma-

nent Danger Zone o PDZ at pagpasok nang walang pag-iingat sa 2 kilometrong Extended Danger Zone o EDZ sa gawing timog-silangan.

Pinagbabawal din ng Phivolcs ang paglipad ng anumang eroplano o aircraft malapit sa tuktok ng bulkan dahil sa inaasahang biglaang pagputok ng steam o phreatic explosions.



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Bulkang Bulusan, Alert Level 1 pa rin

NANANATILING nakataas ang Alert Level 1 sa Bulkang Bulusan sa Sorsogon.

Nakapagtala kasi ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology ng patuloy na seismic activity ng nasabing bulkan.

Bukod pa sa nagkaroon ng phreatic eruption ang bulkang Bulusan sa Sorsogon, Linggo ng umaga sanhi para itaas ng Phivolcs ang alert status nito sa Alert Level 1 o low-level unrest, mula sa dating 0 lang o normal.

"Alert Level 1 status is now raised over Bulusan Volcano, which means that it is currently in an abnormal condition," ayon sa Phivolcs.

Sinabi naman ni Phivolcs Director and Science Under-

secretary Renato Solidum Jr., ang phreatic eruption ay nag-simula alas-10:37 ng umaga at nagtagal ng 16 na minuto.

Samantala, sa ipinalabas namang namang bulletin ng Phivolcs, sinabi nito na nagtagal ng 17 minuto ang pagputok ng bulkan at naobserbahan umano ang steam-rich grey plume na umabot sa hanggang isang kilometro ang taas, mula sa munisipalidad ng Juban, bago ito tinangay ng hanging patungong kanluran.

Dahil dito, kusang nilisan na ng ilang residente sa mga bayang nakapaligid sa Mount Bulusan ang kanilang mga tahanan, lalo't umabot na sa ilang komunidad ang ashfall.

May mga naiulat ding ashfall sa Juban at Casigu-

ran, gayundin sa apat na barangay ng Irosin.

Ligtas at agad namang nakababa sa bulkan ang 14

mountainers mula sa Calabarzon area at Metro Manila kasama ang apat na local tour guide na umakyat galing sa bayan ng Barcelona.

Sa ngayon, hindi pa nagpapatupad ng forced evacuation sa lugar subalit naglibot naman ang mga tauhan ng Barangay Cogon sa Irosin para mamahagi ng face mask at

tinututukan na rin ang sitwasyon. Sinasabing naobserbahan din nila ang pagdami ng volcanic earthquakes sa bulkan nitong nakalipas na magdamag na umabot sa 77.

Samantala, pinaalalahanan naman ni Solidum ang mga residente na iwasan ang four-kilometer radius ng permanent danger zone. **KRIS J**



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Republic of the Philippines
LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2022 - 07

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE SPEEDY DISPOSITION OF CASES PENDING BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE

In the interest of service and in order to facilitate prompt disposition of cases pending before the Authority, consistent with its thrust to achieve zero backlog, the following rules are hereby adopted:

I. COVERAGE

These guidelines shall apply to all cases pending before the Public Hearing Committee (PHC)—with specific reference to non-compliance with LLDA Clearance (LC) and Discharge Permit (DP) requirements, Refusal of Entry, and Water Pollution—in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 4566 as amended, as well as LLDA Board Resolution No. 192, Series of 2004, and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

II. LEGAL ORDERS ISSUED BY THE PHC

1. **ORDERS:** issued while the case is still ongoing, non-final in nature, may be modified or rescinded upon sufficient grounds shown at any time before final judgment, and therefore do not finally dispose of a case. These orders include, among others: granting/denying of extension of time to file a motion; requiring submission of documents; resolution of other non-litigious matters; and/or issuance of other directives, as may be deemed necessary in the course of proceedings.

2. **RESOLUTIONS:** issued as dispositions for litigious matters, after the issues have been joined—either directing the payment of fines and penalties; setting of final and extendible period to comply; resolution of Motion for Reconsideration; and other matters, which must be decided according to the merits of the case.

3. **DECISIONS:** issued for the purpose of finally disposing the case—in case of compliance with permit requirements; conformance to effluent standards and payment of accumulated daily penalties; and/or payment of fines or meritorious determination in refusal of entry cases; termination of proceedings by virtue of cessation of business and endorsement for court legal action.

III. POLICY GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVE CASES

A. Evaluation and Resolution of WATER POLLUTION Cases

1. **Disposition upon respondent's conformance to effluent standards, failure to pay the total accumulated penalty.** Once the respondent has conformed with the effluent standards, a Resolution to Pay shall be issued based on the prevailing daily penalty rate and number of discharging days. Said Resolution to Pay shall be considered as the first proper demand embodied in Section 3, Rule X of LLDA Board Resolution No. 192, Series of 2004.

Should respondent fail to pay the total accumulated penalty within the period stated in the Resolution to Pay, a Demand Letter shall be issued by the Public Hearing Committee.

If after the lapse of ten (10) days and no action (i.e. payment, request for staggered payment, motion for reconsideration, appeal, etc.) has been made by the respondent, the PHC shall issue and cause the implementation of a Cease and Desist Order.

In cases wherein respondent still failed to comply with this Authority's legal orders after having been duly served with CDO, shall have its pending case be referred to termination of proceedings and shall be referred to LAD's CLA for filing of appropriate case before the regular courts.

2. **Respondent's manifestation of willingness to pay.** Pending the approval of Resolution directing the payment of fines and penalties, respondents who manifested willingness to pay in full the imposable amount as may be initially assessed shall be accommodated; and such amount so tendered shall be accepted subject to the issuance of acknowledgment receipt that the payment is received as an advance payment only and shall remain subject to the full satisfaction (payment) of the amount as may be stated in the subsequently signed resolution.

In case of full settlement of the imposable penalty in the subsequently signed resolution, the case shall be dismissed through the issuance of a signed Decision, which will result in the processing of the DP by the CPD.

3. **Request for staggered payment.** In the payment of penalties, respondents have the option of settling the imposable penalty in full, or under staggered payment scheme, subject to the compliance with the requirements under Memorandum Circular No. 2005-3 or the "Guidelines in the Approval of Request for Staggered Payment of Daily Penalties."

The DP can be renewed annually/revalidated for CPD records purposes, but the release shall be held in abeyance until after dismissal of the case.

In staggered payment scheme, the Decision dismissing the case shall be issued only after full settlement of the imposable penalty.

4. **Application for Temporary Lifting Order (TLO).** Motion for the issuance of TLO is resolved in accordance with Section 77, Rule VII of B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004.

The dismissal of the case under TLO is subject to compliance with the standard parameters and the full payment (less the initial twenty-five percent (25%) paid for the processing of TLO) of the total accumulated daily penalty.

5. **For Closed Establishments / Ceased Operations.** Proceedings for Water Pollution cases with respondents, whose operations have ceased, shall be terminated and endorsed to LAD's Corporate Legal Affairs (CLA) for filing of appropriate action¹ before the regular court of law.

An establishment is deemed to have ceased operations (and is ripe for termination of proceedings for referral to LAD's CLA) upon satisfaction of any of the following documentary requirements:

- Certification (i.e. Provincial, City, Municipal, or Barangay, Municipal) attesting to the fact that the business in question has ceased its operations, as of date of issuance;
- Inspection or Evaluation Report, returned with annotations "closed / shutdown / not operational." Said report shall be substantiated by an (1) After-Activity Report, with hand-written inscriptions and duly signed by the ERD representative; (2) Notarized Affidavit of Service / Non-Service, as well as (3) Pictures showing the current state of the establishment, or Certificate/Affidavit, duly signed by a barangay official and stamped with office dry seal; or
- Submission of other acceptable documents from verifiable sources substantiating cessation of business (i.e. government agency certifications, clippings from newspaper of general circulation, etc.).

The case, as regards collection of accumulated daily penalty as against the respondent, shall be proceeded with in regular courts of law as prescribed under R.A. No. 4566².

6. **Reduction of Penalties.** Penalties may be reduced only in meritorious cases and upon submission of documents that may warrant reduction (i.e. Duly Notarized Affidavit/Certification on Non-Operational or Non-Discharging Days as supported by Hauling Receipts, Water Billing Statements, etc.) The PHC, through its Hearing Officers, may guide the respondent and provide ample time, not exceeding fifteen (15) working days, to prepare the necessary documents.

No Motion for Reduction of Penalty may be entertained once a Writ of Execution has already been issued by the PHC.

B. Evaluation and Resolution of LC/DP Cases

1. **Disposition after issuance of resolution, failure to apply for LC/DP.** Once a resolution has been issued giving the respondent a final and inextendible period of fifteen (15) days to submit its application for LLDA Clearance and/or Discharge Permit, and none has been made, a Certificate of Finality³ shall be issued simultaneously with a Demand Letter pursuant to Section 3, Rule X of LLDA Board Resolution No. 192, Series of 2004.

If after the lapse of ten (10) days and no action (i.e. motion for reconsideration, appeal, etc.) has been made by the respondent, the PHC shall issue and cause the implementation of a Cease and Desist Order.

In cases wherein, respondent still failed to comply with this Authority's legal orders after having been duly served with CDO, shall have its pending case be subject to termination of proceedings and shall be referred to LAD's CLA for filing of appropriate case before the regular courts.

2. **For computation of Fines and Penalties.** An administrative fine is imposed per year of operating without LC/DP. There is a need to establish the date of operating without the NOV to determine the reckoning period for the imposition of fine. In case of failure to establish the reckoning period of NOV receipt, the imposition of administrative fine shall be based on the year when the establishment was inspected, as per inspection report, or other relevant documents.

If a violation was brought about by the issuance of an Environmental Citation Ticket, the reckoning period shall be date of its issuance; and the penalty shall accrue from the year when the ticket was issued until the year when respondent submitted its application.

The release of LC/DP in favor of the respondent (and its subsequent notification to the PHC) shall mean that all fees, fines, and penalties relative to its application have been paid and settled in full. In this case, the PHC shall automatically dismiss the case.

In case of underassessment of penalties, the pending case shall proceed independently and shall be dismissed based on the approved LC/DP. Any outstanding administrative fines for previous years, shall be collected upon renewal of subject LC/DP. A copy of the signed decision shall be provided to the Clearance and Permits Division for appropriate action.

3. **For Closed Establishments / Ceased Operation.** Proceedings for LC/DP/Refusal of Entry cases shall be DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE to the filing of another case against respondent, in case of resumption of its operations, or against a new occupant whose activity/operation in the area is found to be violating the rules and regulations of this Authority.

An establishment is deemed to have ceased operations (and subject to dismissal without prejudice) upon satisfaction of any of the following documentary requirements:

- Certification (i.e. Provincial, City, Municipal, or Barangay, Municipal) attesting to the fact that the business in question had ceased its operations, as of date of issuance;
- Inspection or Evaluation Report, returned with annotations "closed / shutdown / not operational." Said report shall be substantiated by an (1) After-Activity Report, with hand-written inscriptions and duly signed by the ERD representative; (2) Notarized Affidavit of Service / Non-Service, as well as (3) Pictures showing the current state of the establishment, or Certificate/Affidavit, duly signed by a barangay official and stamped with office dry seal; or
- Submission of other acceptable documents from verifiable sources substantiating cessation of business (i.e. government agency certifications, clippings from newspaper of general circulation, etc.).

4. **Dismissal due to Compliance.** A case shall be dismissed once the respondent has complied with the requirements of LC/DP, as substantiated by the submission to the PHC any of the following documents:

- LC/DP application, as submitted to and accepted by the Clearance and Permits Division (CPD) with copy of Official Receipt of the subject application;
- Copy of the issued LC and updated DP;
- Copy of the LC Exemption;
- Copy of DP, in lieu of DP Exemption, in accordance with B.R. No. 322, Series of 2007, and DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-09;
- Generated Industry Profile Report of compliance in the CPD database with proof of payment.

Industries with under-assessed administrative fines, traced from earlier receipt of NOV, shall not affect the proceedings under the PHC where cases proceed accordingly. The CPD, on this note, is bound to collect the balance for said under-assessed administrative fines, and only in case of actual payments shall the LC and DP be released to the applicant-Industry. For those with previously issued LC and DP, any under-assessment may be collected during the renewal of DP.

C. Evaluation and Resolution of Refusal of Entry Cases

1. **Penalties for Refusal of Entry.** An administrative fine of Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) is imposed for refusal of entry at one instance. Subsequent refusal by the same respondent constitutes second offenses, wherein said respondent may be subjected to Cease and Desist Order (CDO) with payment of administrative fine.

2. **Disposition after issuance of Ex-Parte Order.** Once an Ex-Parte Order has been issued (giving the respondent a final and inextendible period of fifteen (15) days to explain its side for unreasonably refusing entry to bona fide LLDA inspectors) and none has been made, a resinspection⁴ shall be conducted.

Should the respondent still refuse to allow entry of bona fide LLDA inspectors to conduct inspection at its premises, a Cease and Desist Order⁵ shall be issued. If the respondent fails to appear and address the issue before the PHC after the lapse of period stated in the CDO, the same shall constitute as contempt⁶ ripe for referral to LAD's CLA for filing of appropriate case before the regular courts.

IV. Remedies for Resolutions/Orders/Decisions issued by the PHC

1. **Motion for Reconsideration.** Pursuant to Section 1, Rule VIII, B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004, the respondent may move for reconsideration of an Order, Resolution, or Decision of the PHC by filing an appropriate motion specifically indicating the grounds therefore, within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof. Only one Motion for Reconsideration shall be allowed and shall suspend the running of the period to appeal.

2. **Appeals.** Pursuant to Section 1, Rule XII, B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004, any party not satisfied with the Order, Resolution, or Decision of the PHC may, within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof, file a Notice of Appeal, stating therein that it is appealing the case to the Office of the Secretary-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (OSEC-DENR) or directly to the Office of the President (OP). No simultaneous appeals shall be allowed.

The Order, Resolution, or Decision of the PHC shall be immediately executory, notwithstanding the appeal, unless an order from the OSEC-DENR or OP is issued enjoining the implementation or execution of the questioned Order, Resolution, or Decision.

V. **Compliance, by virtue of enforced CDO.** Industries whose establishments were closed by virtue of CDO, but have already complied unreasonably refusing entry to bona fide LLDA inspectors) and none has been made, a resinspection⁴ shall be conducted.

Should the respondent still refuse to allow entry of bona fide LLDA inspectors to conduct inspection at its premises, a Cease and Desist Order⁵ shall be issued. If the respondent fails to appear and address the issue before the PHC after the lapse of period stated in the CDO, the same shall constitute as contempt⁶ ripe for referral to LAD's CLA for filing of appropriate case before the regular courts.

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V. **Compliance, by virtue of enforced CDO.** Industries whose establishments were closed by virtue of CDO, but have already complied with the requirements of a previously issued PHC Resolution, may request for the removal of the signage/tarpaulins and outflow seals, by themselves, subject to the following conditions:

- Written consent by the ERD Head, allowing the respondent to remove the signage and outflow seal by themselves;
- Full documentation (via photos and videos) prior to and after the removal. Photos and videos must clearly show that the signage and seals are intact, prior to removal; and
- Submission of the photos and videos, in jpeg and mp4 formats, via email to LAD at lad@llda.gov.ph and ED at ed@llda.gov.ph.

Non-compliance to any of the above-mentioned conditions shall render the removal of the signage/tarpaulins and outflow seals invalid, and shall cause the reinstatement of CDO until the issuance of a duly-signed PHC Resolution.

Respondents are encouraged to seek guidance from the ED via teleconferencing, while undertaking the removal of signage and outflow seals.

VI. Resolution of Cases against the Government

Cases against government (i.e. agencies, departments, bureaus, attached agencies, etc.) shall be dismissed with prejudice consistent with the principle of Non-Suitability of the State⁷.

Violations shall be resolved through conferences and compromise agreements assisted by LAD with the technical expertise of the ERD.

VII. Conduct of Hearings and Drafting of Resolution

Hearings are encouraged to be set online, in coordination with the Policy, Planning, and Information Management Division, which is tasked to provide venue (i.e. Zoom Link) and record the entire meeting.

A hearing shall be conducted at least twice: first, within fifteen (15) days from receipt by the LAD of the Result of Laboratory Analysis (ROLA) or Inspection Report (IR) reflecting failure in any of the effluent parameters; and second, within fifteen (15) days from receipt by the LAD of the ROLA or IR reflecting full conformance to all effluent parameters.

Minutes of the hearing shall be prepared and shall contain a detailed record of all averments, discussions, and agreements made by the parties.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation and registration in the Office of the National Administrative Register and shall remain in force unless otherwise revoked, amended or superseded.

JAMIE V. MEDINA
General Manager

¹ Section 3, Rule X of B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004, Non-Payment of Fines and Penalties. In case the respondent failed to pay its accumulated fines and/or penalties despite proper demand, the Public Hearing Committee may, after ten (10) days from service of second and final demand letter, recommend the issuance of Cease and Desist Order for operating without valid clearance/permit. The Authority may require proper officer to whom it is directed to enforce the Cease and Desist Order, s.s.x

² Section 3, Rule X of B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004, Non-Payment of Fines and Penalties. s.s.x The PHC may allow the respondent to pay his account on a staggered basis upon submission of a proposal with schedule of payment, subject to the approval of the General Manager.

³ Section 7, Rule VII of B.R. No. 192, Series of 2004, Requirements for the Issuance of Temporary Lifting Order. -No Temporary Order (TLO) shall be issued unless the respondent submits the following:

- A Notarized undertaking signed by the respondent or its duly empowered managing head, to comply with the conditions set by the Committee;
- A comprehensive pollution control program, with proof of approved budget and the timeliness of activities for the construction or rehabilitation of its pollution control facility;
- A detailed description of the interim remedial measures to be instituted to mitigate pollution pending the completion of the pollution control program;
- Immediate payment of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the accumulated daily penalty and the remaining balance shall be paid within six (6) months from initial payment or upon compliance with the effluent standards, whichever comes first;
- File application for discharge permit and assessment of the Environmental User Fees as may be determined by the Pollution Control Division;
- Appointment of a Pollution Control Officer for the accreditation by the Authority; and
- Submission of a monthly Self-Monitoring Report/Progress Report on the status of its improvement works.

Such other condition which the Committee may deem appropriate under the circumstances.

⁴ Section 35-A, Republic Act No. 4850, as amended.

⁵ Section 39-A, Republic Act No. 4850, as amended, *Arrest and Civil Liability Clause.* Any person, natural or juridical, who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any rules or regulation promulgated by the Authority pursuant thereto shall be liable to imprisonment of not exceeding three years or to a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos or both at the discretion of the Court.

If the violator be a corporation, partnership or association, the officer or officers of the organization concerned shall be liable therefor.

The Authority is hereby authorized to pursue separate civil actions for damages resulting from infractions of the provisions of this Act or any rules or regulation promulgated by the Authority.

⁶ Section 1, Rule II, *Heardly of Orders, Resolutions, or Decisions.* -Subject to the provisions of the preceding rule, except for the CDO, any order, resolution, or decision of the Committee shall be final and executory after fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt thereof, unless a motion for reconsideration is filed or an appeal is perfected within said period.

⁷ Approving the Modification of Certain Provisions of the Environmental User Fee System (Wastewater Charge System) in the Laguna de Bay Region.

⁸ Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016.

⁹ IAC No. 2015-01/577.

¹⁰ IAC No. 2015-01/577.

¹¹ IAC No. 2015-01/577.

07 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



1,295 new COVID-19 cases from May 30 to June 5, daily cases average 185

Philstar.com June 6, 2022 | 6:21pm



People queue to receive COVID-19 vaccine at a drugstore along Bayan-Bayan Ave. in Marikina City during the pilot implementation of the government's "Resbakuna sa mga Botika" program on Jan. 20, 2022.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Latest data from the Department of Health on Monday showed that a total of 1,295 new infections were logged from May 30 to June 5 with an average of 185 daily cases, 1.4% lower than the daily infections logged in the previous week.

Of the reported number, 16 are reportedly patients with severe and critical conditions. The country now has 599 cases considered severe and critical out of the 2,479 active COVID-19 cases.

However, local health authorities said only 14.7% or 386 of 2,632 ICU beds across the country are in use, while only 18.1% of 22,245 non-ICU beds are occupied. One death was also recorded but the DOH said it occurred on January 2021.

“Pinapaalalalahan ang lahat na huwag maging kampante sa banta ng COVID-19. Bagkus, dapat natin ipagpatuloy ang tamang pagsunod sa minimum public health standards sa ilalim ng Alert Level 1,” the DOH said in a statement.

(We are reminding everyone to not be complacent about the threats of COVID-19. We must continue to properly adhere to minimum public health standards under Alert Level 1.)

The Philippines has so far inoculated over 69 million individuals, translating to 77.2% of its target population of 90.005 million, while 14.3 million individuals have already received booster shots.

It added that 77.33% of its target A2 population of 8.721 million are vaccinated, meaning 6.7 million senior citizens have already received their primary COVID-19 vaccines.

Japanese news outfit Nikkei [ranked the Philippines at the 33rd spot of its COVID-19 Recovering Index](#), noting Manila's improving pandemic response amid lower COVID-19 infections and increased mobility. The country previously ranked at the last place at 121. — **Kaycee Valmonte with a report from Xave Gregorio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/06/2186497/1295-new-covid-19-cases-may-30-june-5-daily-cases-average-185>



PH 33rd in Covid-19 management, vax rollout: Japan study

By Lade Jean Kabagani [June 6, 2022, 8:48 pm](#)



Arrival of 2,400 doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, June 1, 2022 (Photo courtesy of MIAA)

MANILA – The Philippines' ranking of No. 33 out of 121 nations in Nikkei Asia's Recovery Index report for May 2022 is a clear indication that the country is moving toward pandemic recovery and Filipinos adhere to minimum public health standards, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer, said on Monday.

In a statement, Galvez reported the ranking is based on infection management, vaccine rollout, and social mobility.

The country was at the bottom half in September 2021.

In the latest report, the Philippines outranked several developed countries, including Italy (34), Switzerland (38), Israel (44), Japan (53), United Kingdom (58), Canada (60), Australia (71), New Zealand (75), Singapore (79), United States (89), China (93), and Russia (111).

Qatar, Cambodia, and the United Arab Emirates occupied the top three spots while Rwanda and Kuwait tied for fourth and fifth places.

Vietnam was the best-performing Southeast Asian nation, sharing 14th to 17th places with Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, and Mauritius.

"The Philippines' current position in the Nikkei Asia's Recovery Index report for May 2022 is a clear indication that the Philippines has found its footing and is now on the path towards recovering from the pandemic," Galvez said.

The Nikkei Recovery Index report showed the Philippines moved up 40 spots due to a consistent decrease in daily Covid-19 cases, averaging below 200 with low to no fatalities in recent weeks.

The report recognized the country's easing of restrictions for fully vaccinated international tourists since February and the last weeks' removal of the negative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction requirement for foreigners with booster shots.

Galvez said the easing of restrictions led to the high record number of tourist arrivals over the past few months.



The Philippines' impressive performance in the latest Recovery Index of the Tokyo-based magazine can be attributed to the national government's aggressive efforts to build an "immunity wall" across the country through the national vaccination program, he added.

"This shows that the Philippines' vaccination program is on the right track, and a testament of the effective implementation of the country's National Action Plan which is anchored on the Prevention-Detection-Isolation-Treatment-Reintegration-Vaccination strategy," Galvez said, attributing the success to the government's science-based policies and data-driven decisions putting that put premium on public health and the economy.

The NTF recognized the hard work and dedication of medical front-liners and volunteers who tirelessly ensured that Filipinos have greater access to testing, treatment and vaccination.

"With this, we reiterate the government's position that wearing of face masks will continue to be enforced at least until the end of the term of President [Rodrigo] Duterte," he said.

Galvez urged all unvaccinated Filipinos to get protected against Covid-19 and avail of booster shots. **(PNA)**

07 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



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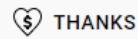
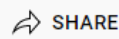
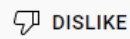
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