

09 JUNE 2022, THURSDAY



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR backs int'l effort to prohibit export of hazardous waste to developing countries

Published June 8, 2022, 9:57 AM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed support on the move to prohibit the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed to developing countries.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna said the prohibition is stipulated in the Basel Ban Amendment which the Philippine government fully supports.



photo: DENR

The Philippines is Party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The treaty was ratified by Congress on October 21, 1993, and entered into force on January 19, 1994, but the country has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.

“In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again,” said Sampilna.

In 2019, President Duterte ordered the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada, which were illegally imported to the Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

The Philippine government also repatriated 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes in Misamis Oriental to South Korea in 2020.

The Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention, would restrain the member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Liechtenstein, from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment, or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

Among the wastes covered in the Ban Amendment include those listed in Annex I, Annex II and Annex VIII (List A) of the Basel Convention such as used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic equipment and metal-bearing sludges.



Sampulna explained that the Philippines and other non-OECD countries are allowed to export hazardous wastes to OECD countries if it has no existing capacity to treat and dispose the specific hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner.

He said the DENR-EMB may request to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention that the national version of the Ban Amendment will exempt certain hazardous wastes such as used lead-acid batteries which are being utilized by the local recycling industry.



DENR backs call to ban hazardous waste exports

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 8, 2022 | 11:25am



Shipping containers of garbage from container ship Anna Maersk are loaded on to trucks and stacked for holding at Global Container Terminals, at Deltaport in Tsawwassen, BC, Canada June 29, 2019. Sixty nine containers were first sent to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 and were returned to Canada. Pool Picture by Canadian Press. Tonnes of Canadian garbage left in the Philippines for years arrived back home on June 29, putting an end to a festering diplomatic row that highlighted how Asian nations have grown tired of being the world's trash dump.

Darryl Dyck/POOL/AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Wednesday that it supports the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment that prohibits the export of hazardous waste from developed countries to developing nations.

Acting environment chief Jim Sampulna said in a release that the Basel Ban Amendment would protect the country from illegal traffic of imported waste.

“In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again,” Sampulna said.

The Philippines is party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Congress ratified the treaty in October 1993 and it entered into force in January 1994. The country, however, has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.

Last month, EcoWaste Coalition urged President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to prioritize the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment “to uphold environmental health and justice.”

The entry of waste labeled for recycling is allowed under current Philippine laws. But there were cases of waste shipments purportedly for recycling that have been found to be mixed municipal waste or highly contaminated.

In May 2019, the Philippines returned 69 shipping containers full of waste, which had been mislabeled as plastics for recycling, to Canada. The row over garbage exports tested the diplomatic ties between Manila and Ottawa amid threats from outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte.

The government also returned 6,400 metric tons of mixed waste to South Korea.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/06/08/2186933/denr-backs-call-ban-hazardous-waste-exports>



DENR backs call for Basel Ban Amendment approval

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 8, 2022

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna on Wednesday threw his support behind calls for the ratification of the Basel Amendment to prohibit the dumping of hazardous waste from developed countries to developing countries like the Philippines.

Sampulna believes that once ratified, it would effectively address the illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste into the Philippines.

On Tuesday, the group Ban Toxics warned that the Philippines continue to risk becoming the world's dumping ground unless it ratifies the Basel Ban Amendment. The statement was issued following the commencement of the second segment of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions' Triple Conference of Parties, hoping to press the government to act with dispatch and finally ratify the amendment to the treaty.

"In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again," Sampulna said in a news statement.

In 2019, the DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) had successfully coordinated the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada, which were illegally imported to the Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

The DENR-EMB, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs, had also successfully repatriated 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes in Misamis Oriental to South Korea in 2020.

The Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention, would restrain the member-states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Liechtenstein, from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment, or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

The Philippines is a Party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The treaty was ratified by Congress on October 21, 1993, and entered into force on January 19, 1994, but the country has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.

Among the wastes covered in the Ban Amendment include those listed in Annex I, Annex II, and Annex VIII (List A) of the Basel Convention such as used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, and metal-bearing sludge.

Non-OECD countries such as the Philippines are allowed to export hazardous wastes to OECD countries if it has no existing capacity to treat and dispose of the specific hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner.

The DENR-EMB may request to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention that the national version of the Ban Amendment will exempt certain hazardous wastes such as used lead-acid batteries, which are being utilized by the local recycling industry.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/08/denr-backs-call-for-basel-ban-amendment-approval/>



DENR backs ban on export of hazardous waste

By **Jed Macapagal** - June 9, 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) expressed support to the country's ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment, which would prohibit the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed to developing countries.

The Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention, would restrain the member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Liechtenstein from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment, or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

The Philippines is party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The treaty was ratified by Congress on October 1993 and entered into force on January 1994 but the Philippines has yet to ratify it.

At present, non-OECD countries such as the Philippines are allowed to export hazardous wastes to OECD countries if it has no existing capacity to treat and dispose the specific hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner.

"In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again," said Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, in a statement.

In 2019, DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), coordinated the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada which were illegally imported to the Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

The DENR and EMB, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs, also repatriated 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes in Misamis Oriental to South Korea in 2020.

Among the wastes covered in the Basel Ban Amendment includes used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic equipment and metal-bearing sludges.

However, the DENR said it may request to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention that the national version of the Basel Ban Amendment will exempt certain hazardous wastes such as used lead-acid batteries which are being utilized by the local recycling industry.



DENR eyes approval of Basel Ban accord

by [Rio N. Araja](#) June 8, 2022, 10:10 pm

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bats for the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment prohibiting the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed to developing countries.

DENR Secretary Sampulna said the Basel Ban Amendment would address the illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste into the Philippines. "In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again," he added.

In 2019, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau successfully worked for the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada, which were illegally imported to the Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

The DENR-EMB, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs, also repatriated 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes in Misamis Oriental to South Korea in 2020. Rio N. Araja

The Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention, would restrain the member-states of the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Liechtenstein from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

The Philippines was party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The treaty was ratified by Congress on Oct. 21, 1993, and entered into force on Jan. 19, 1994, but the country has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.

Those in the Ban Amendment included those listed in Annex I, Annex II and Annex VIII (List A) of the Basel Convention, such as used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic equipment and metal-bearing sludge.

Non-OECD countries, such as the Philippines, are allowed to export hazardous wastes to OECD countries if it has no existing capacity to treat and dispose the specific hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner.



DENR lauds Basel Amendment on ban of hazardous waste exports

June 8, 2022 min read

By Tracy Cabrera

Environment and natural resources acting secretary Jim Sampulna. (Photo: DENR PIO)

MANILA — Expressing its utmost support for the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment which would prohibit the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed to developing countries, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has underscored the significance of this development as it would address the illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste into the Philippines.

“In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again,” environment and natural resources acting secretary Jim Sampulna noted.

Sampulna added that it was in 2019 that the DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) had successfully coordinated the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada, which were illegally imported to the Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

In addition, the DENR-EMB, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs (BoC), was also successful in repatriating some 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes that was delivered in Misamis Oriental back to its source of origin in South Korea in 2020.

Under the Basel Ban Amendment, which has been adopted by all parties to the Basel Convention, member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Liechtenstein would be effectively restrained from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

The Philippines is party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The treaty that was agreed upon in the convention was ratified by Congress in 1993 and entered into force the following year, but despite this, Manila has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment. (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2022/06/08/denr-lauds-basel-amendment-on-ban-of-hazardous-waste-exports/?fbclid=IwAR1h-7aioIOFax2cBYh2ryATb-MJvQa_SI_EFJFt4vBVnwOD3enq4LKaSgg



‘Build Right at First Sight’ vs climate crisis pushed

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star June 9, 2022 | 12:00am



Thick smog envelops the cityscape of Metro Manila as seen from Antipolo, Rizal on January 1, 2022 before dawn as a result of the fireworks used during the festive New Year celebration.

Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has called on nations to go beyond “Build Back Better” and choose to “Build Right at First Sight” to effectively address the climate crisis.

At the plenary session of the Stockholm+50 International Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 3, Climate Change Secretary Robert Borje pointed out that global resources committed to climate change adaptation available for developing nations were diminishing and necessitated a change in approach.

Borje stressed that to optimize limited financial resources, there is a need to prevent disasters, thus it is important to get efforts right at “first sight.”

“We must go beyond build-back-better. With limited resources available, let us choose to Build Right at First Sight: Avert disasters. Work smart, have adequate resources and anchor policies and programs on universally accessible climate science and technology,” Borje said.

He also called for ramped up assistance by industrialized countries as developing nations like the Philippines continue to grapple with the impacts of climate change.

“For those who are most responsible for climate change, with the most resources, you need to do more. This is climate justice,” said Borje.

“Let me say this loudly and clearly – this should not be a choice but an obligation. Justice requires this. Our collective moral fiber should be outraged if we cannot deliver climate justice,” he underscored.

“Our call today: unlock climate finance for the developing world. Unlock it now before it is too late. We don’t ask for handouts. We call for urgent responsible partnership because the environment clock is ticking,” he said.

Borje headed the Philippine delegation comprising Philippine Ambassador to Sweden Maria Lumen Isleta, National Economic and Development Authority Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla, Minister Leila Lora-Santos of the Philippine Mission to the UN in New York City, Deputy Permanent Representative Maria Rossana Josue of the Philippine embassy in Nairobi and representatives from the Department of Finance and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



Borje earlier said the Philippines incurred P506.1-billion losses in the past decade due to climate change hazards and geological hazards.

Hazardous waste exports

Meanwhile, the DENR has supported the call for Congress to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which would prohibit the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed countries to the Philippines.

In a press statement issued yesterday, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the ratification of the amended Basel Ban Convention would effectively address the illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste to the country, which the DENR has been combating for years.

“In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites. Ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes again,” said Sampulna.

The Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, prohibits the export of hazardous wastes for recycling or disposal from member-states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Liechtenstein to all other countries, especially developing countries with economies in transition.



EMB awards LGUs, stakeholders in WV

Published on: June 07, 2022

By Lilibeth French

ILOILO CITY (PIA) -- The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) VI of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cited local government units (LGUs) and stakeholders in the private sector in Western Visayas, June 7, for their efforts, outstanding practices and innovations in Solid Waste Management.



The awardees, particularly the LGUs, demonstrated how they are implementing Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act through their innovations and best practices that include operations of Materials Recovery Facilities, Composting, Sanitary Landfill as well as upcycling and crafts production, and the rehabilitation of dumpsites, among others.

DENR Undersecretary Benito Antonio de Leon led the awarding of plaques during the Recognition of Stakeholders with Best Ecological Solid Waste Management held in Iloilo City. He was assisted by EMB Director Engr. William Cuñado, EMB Asst. Director Vizmindia Osorio and EMB 6 EMED Chief Vicente Losbanes.

The 26 LGU awardees are the Province of Iloilo and its six municipalities, namely, Alimodian, Ajuy, Lambunao, Carles, Concepcion, Oton and the cities of Iloilo and Passi for Iloilo; the municipalities of Bugasong, Sibalom, Patnongon for Antique; Province of Capiz and its four towns, namely, Ivisan, Dumarao, Dao and Panay; Province of Negros Occidental as well as Sipalay, Kabankalan, Pulupandan, Brgy. Mambulac, Silay City, San Carlos City and Talisay; Buruanga for Aklan province; and the Province of Guimaras.

Another awardee was the Central Philippine University for its outstanding practice on reduction of plastic wastes in Iloilo City through sustainable consumption, production and waste management of plastics and its alternatives funded by German Agency for International Cooperation.



Also recognized was the Basic Environmental System and Technologies, Inc. in Passi City for its outstanding practices in sanitary landfill operations.

The awarding coincided with the regional launch of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter while the country observes Environment Month this June.

This year's Environment Month celebration takes on the challenge "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo" that calls for collective action to celebrate, protect, and restore planet Earth.

"Today, we will draw attention to these transformative actions by honoring our stakeholders who stepped up and took on the challenge of creating a better world for future generations," said Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna, in his message read by Usec. de Leon. (JBG/laf/PIA6-Iloilo)



DENR, Army unite for CL forest protection

By [Jerry M. Hernandez](#) June 9, 2022

TO boost forest protection and greening programs in Central Luzon, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Army's (PA) 3rd Regional Community Defense Group (3RCDG) signed a partnership agreement to realize the plan.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said the partnership will be fundamental in the quest to conserve the country's natural resources, particularly in the enrichment of existing plantations and in the rehabilitation and protection of forestlands.

He said the PA has been one of the department's steady and reliable partners in environmental stewardship through their consistent support that serves as a big boost not only in the DENR's anti-illegal logging campaign but in the conservation efforts as well.

Joan Lagunda, DENR assistant secretary for administration and legislative affairs, noted the PA's support in the DENR system of defending the country's natural resources against environmental crimes that grew bolder over time.

"Criminal elements have become bolder, and our ecological wealth, if left undefended, is an easy target for unscrupulous groups. Hence, we must keep watch and continue to act against environmental threats with the help of the Army," he said.

Under the said agreement, Ready Reserve Units (RRUs) of the 3RCDG will adopt a non-contiguous 20-hectare existing plantation in each of the region's seven provinces.

These areas identified by the DENR provincial and community offices will be planted with endemic species while the RRUs are tasked with the maintenance and protection of the plantations.

Maj. Gen. Fernando Felipe, army reserve commander, vowed to continuously support the DENR in its programs, noting that achieving environmental sustainability is paramount to realizing just and lasting peace.

Notably, the DENR forest protection activities in Central Luzon, in collaboration with security forces, have resulted in the apprehension of about P2.5 million worth of suspected illegal forest products and filed cases against over 40 individuals.



Groups sign pact for greening, forest protection in Central Luzon



PARTNERSHIP. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources signed a Memorandum of Partnership Agreement with the Army 3rd Regional Community Defense Group to boost forest protection and greening programs in Central Luzon. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

June 08, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here signed a Memorandum of Partnership (MOPA) with the 3rd Regional Community Defense Group (3RCDG) of the Philippine Army (PA) to boost forest protection and greening programs in Central Luzon.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. stressed that the newly-minted partnership would be fundamental in the government’s quest to conserve the country’s natural resources, particularly in the enrichment of existing plantations and in the rehabilitation and protection of forestlands in the region.

“The Army has been among our steady and reliable partners in environmental stewardship. Their consistent support is a big boost not only in our anti-illegal logging campaign but in our conservation efforts as well,” Moreno said.

On the other hand, DENR Assistant Secretary for Administration and Legislative Affairs Joan Lagunda explained that the Army served as a strong support system of the DENR in defending the country’s natural resources against environmental crimes which have grown bolder over time.

“Criminal elements have become bolder, and our ecological wealth, if left undefended, is an easy target for unscrupulous groups. Hence, we must keep watch and continue to act against environmental threats with the help of the Army,” Lagunda said.

To mark the partnership, DENR Assistant Secretary Lagunda, DENR Regional Executive Director Moreno, Army Reserve Commander Major General Fernando Felipe, and 3RCDG Commander Col. Roberto Sarmiento led the ceremonial signing of the MOPA.

Under the MOPA, the Ready Reserve Units (RRU) of the 3RCDG will adopt a non-contiguous 20-hectare existing plantation in each province.



These areas identified by provincial and community offices of the DENR here will be planted with endemic species, and the RRU shall be in charge of its maintenance and protection needs.

For his part, Major General Felipe vowed to continuously support the DENR in its environmental protection programs, noting that achieving environmental sustainability is paramount to realizing just and lasting peace.

In Central Luzon, forest protection activities have been successfully done in collaboration with the Army and other law enforcement agencies, which has resulted in the apprehension of over 2.5 million pesos-worth of suspected illegal forest products and the filing of cases against over 40 individuals allegedly involved in these illegal activities.



PH celebrates Eagle Week

Published on: June 07, 2022 By Alice Sicat



QUEZON CITY (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) calls for a collective action and active stewardship of eagles and other wildlife in the forest as it leads the commemoration of the Philippine Eagle Week.

The event is being celebrated from June 4 to 10 with the theme “Peace and Freedom: The Eagle and the People, Related”.

It aims to raise awareness, love, and concern for all Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) which serves as the country's national bird that symbolizes peace and freedom as a nation.

It also aims to emphasize the relationship between the eagle and other creatures. The continuing decline in the number of eagles in the forests has a negative impact on humans.

The annual celebration is in accordance to Presidential Proclamation No. 79, series of 1999 declaring June 4th to 10th of every year as Philippine Eagle week. (Photos by DENR) (PIA-NCR)







DENR joins Philippine Eagle Week celebration



AGAWID. The juvenile eagle named "Agawid" was found and rescued along the slope of Sierra Madre Mountains in San Luis town of Aurora in Central Luzon. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

June 08, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Luzon is one with other regions in the country in the celebration of the Philippine Eagle Week this June 4 to 10.

This year's theme, "Kapayapaan at Kalayaan: Ang Agila at Mamamayan, May Kaugnayan," according to DENR, is a reminder of the shared link that we have with our precious haribon. The DENR said that the theme is upholding public participation in the protection of our environment that provides habitat to our wildlife.

In Central Luzon, a juvenile Philippine eagle was rescued in 2016 and freed in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range (SMMR) in Aurora, confirming decades-long stories of sightings of the country's national bird in the region.

The rescued raptor was named "Agawid," an Ilocano word meaning "to go home." Its rescue and release coincided with the confirmation of former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. Before it was released back into to the Sierra Madre mountains, Agawid was fitted with a radio transmitter to help monitor its movements.

The discovery of Agawid paved the way for a more intensive scrutiny and protection of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. In fact, since 2016, two more Philippine Eagle nesting sites have been found in the SMMR, portions of Gabaldon and Bongabon in Nueva Ecija.

SMMR, the mountain range that homes our country's most valued raptor, also serves as Central Luzon's primary shelter and shield against oncoming typhoons, further underscoring the relationship between the Filipino people and the Philippine Eagle.

"Caring for our forests and mountains is caring for the Philippine Eagle and caring for ourselves. Sama-sama, tulong-tulong sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan, dahil ikaw, ako, #TayoAngKalikasan!," the DENR said.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931307/pampanga/local-news/denr-joins-philippine-eagle-week-celebration>



Luzon's Missing Philippine Eagle Could Still Be Alive

Agawid's rescue in 2017 proved Philippine eagles still inhabit the Sierra Madre.



IMAGE SHUTTERSTOCK

Agawid is a female Philippine Eagle that was rescued in 2016. A farmer found the Philippine eagle trapped in one of the snares or *silo* used for catching monkeys in the Aurora Memorial National Park within the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Agawid was found to have no injuries from the trap.

Agawid's rescue is very significant because it is the first confirmation of the presence of Philippine eagles in the Sierra Madre. She was brought to the DENR Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City for treatment and care before being transferred to several rescue centers in the country.

After spending 17 months in captivity, rescuers decided to release Agawid back into the wild, somewhere in the forests of Aurora Province, but not before attaching a radio transmitter so she can be tracked.

Philippine Eagle, the World's Rarest Eagle

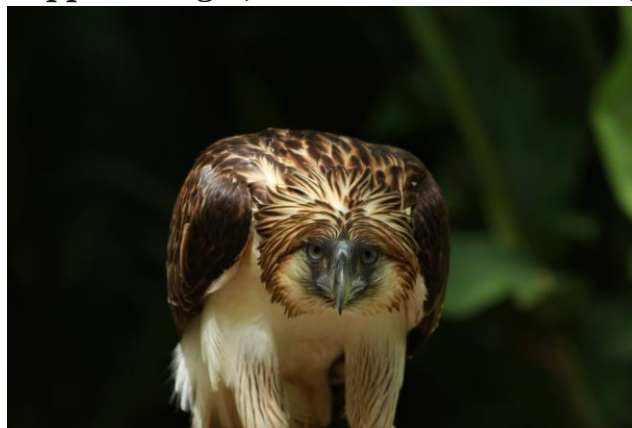


PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK.



PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK.



PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK.

In 2020, Agawid the Philippine Eagle was Reported Missing.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the last sighting of Agawid was on July 31, 2019 within Lamig Creek in Aurora Memorial National Park. After that sighting, the Philippine eagle's transmitter has not emitted signals on Agawid's location. In 2022, Alfredo Collado, provincial and environment and natural resources officer of DENR-Aurora, told [The Star](#) that there is a Philippine eagle sighted within Mt. Mangan in Dipaculao, a town adjacent to the Aurora Memorial National Park where the Philippine eagle was released.

Agawid Could Still Be Alive.

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

The Philippine Eagle is Not Exclusive to Mindanao

The Philippine eagle can be found in all three major island groups of the Philippines: Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

In Mindanao, known habitats of the Philippine eagle include Mt. Kitanglad Range, Mt. Apo Natural Park, Allah Valley Watershed Forest Reserve, Pasonanca Natural Park, and Mt. Malindang Natural Park.

In the Visayas, the Philippine eagle has been sighted in Samar Island Natural Park. In Luzon, the Philippine eagle inhabits the eastern border where the Sierra Madre Mountain Range is largely untouched.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the eagle as **critically endangered**—which is a step away from becoming extinct in the wild. There are only 400 pairs of Philippine eagles left in the world, and the Philippine Eagle Foundation is the only organization working to keep it from becoming extinct.

Source: https://www.esquiremag.ph/politics/news/agawid-philippine-eagle-esquire-a00293-20220608?utm_source=Facebook-Esquire&utm_medium=Ownshare&utm_campaign=20220608-fbnp-politics-agawid-philippine-eagle-esquire-a00293-20220608-fbfirst&fbclid=IwAR27p8vdh3x1CZeL6uRsmoIoFJHjgRLb3VwNumeeoVPpQ0sEr4iKM41BNnc



24K tree, mangrove species planted in Zambo Peninsula

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. June 8, 2022, 6:46 pm



MASSIVE TREE-PLANTING. Some 1,500 volunteers participate in the simultaneous tree planting Wednesday (June 8, 2022) across the Zamboanga Peninsula in line with the celebration of World Environment Month. Volunteers planted some 24,000 seedlings of various tree and mangrove species. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-9)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Volunteers throughout the Zamboanga Peninsula planted at least 24,000 seedlings of various tree and mangrove species Wednesday in celebration of World Environment Month.

Rosevirico Tan, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources -Zamboanga Peninsula (DENR-9) information officer, said 1,500 volunteers joined the simultaneous tree planting organized by DENR in 12 sites across the region.

“This activity participated by various government and private entities is in celebration of the World Environment Month and the DENR anniversary on June 10,” Tan said.

He said the celebration aims to instill awareness that everyone should take action in their way to help protect and conserve Mother Earth.

“We all know that our planet is suffering, and it's only through our citizens here on this planet that we can join hands to initiate actions for its conservation and its protection,” he said.

“There is no other planet in the solar system that can harbor life except planet earth, we need to protect this planet,” he added.

Tan said Zamboanga Peninsula residents are still lucky since it is rich in natural resources.

Tan said Region-9 has 12 established protected areas, the highest in the entire country, and “these areas exhibit high bio-diversity content as well as aesthetic value”.

However, Tan said there is a need for a concerted effort to protect the areas which are threatened by land conversion, deforestation, and climate change. **(PNA)**



PH joins celebration of World Oceans Day

June 8, 2022



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay)

By Katrina Gracia Consebido

The Philippines is among the countries around the world that celebrate World Oceans Day on Wednesday, June 8.

The United Nations considers oceans as “essential to food security and the health and survival of all life, power our climate and are a critical part of the biosphere.”

“The official designation of World Oceans Day is an opportunity to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans,” it stated.

Through resolution 63/111, paragraph 171, the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 designated June 8 as World Oceans Day.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, there are five to seven existing species of marine turtles, 28 marine mammals, and 168 cartilaginous fishes dwelling in Philippines seas.

There are also 648 species of mollusks, 1,755 reef-associated fishes, 1,062 seaweed, and 820 species of algae that serve the underwater as their home.

Various astounding native fish species reside in the Philippine sea, including Speckled Goby that inhabits the tidal zones of rivers; Bangus Milkfish which is also the national fish of the Philippines, dwelling in the tropical offshore marine waters; and Manila Sea Catfish, an endemic marine fish which can be found in waters of Manila, Laguna, Bataan, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna de Bay, and Pasig River.

Among others are the Picturesque Dragonet, Tikos Rough Triggerfish, White Sardine, Bloch’s Gizzard Shad, Longspine Ponyfish, and Philippine Luminous Rough.

In a statement on June 8, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. called for the further protection of “marine biodiversity especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction.”

“For many Filipinos, the sea is livelihood and life; for all Filipinos as a nation, it is our definition as such. We are a people of water. We are a maritime and archipelagic country, with more than half our population living and making a living in coastal zones,” he said.



“The threat of the loss of the oceans and its bounties are not just existential in the broad sense; rather they are day-to-day crises that spell out how much of a decent life is at all possible,” he added.

Locsin cited climate change, global warming, overfishing, and microplastics and mismanaged coastal development as threats to oceans, as well as “artificial island-building and drilling activities” in regional disputes. – ag

PCG, DENR intensify cooperation in upholding marine environmental protection

June 8, 2022



(Photo courtesy of Pixabay)

In celebration of World Oceans Day 2022, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR – BMB) intensified their cooperation in upholding marine environmental protection through the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) Wednesday, June 8.

Gracing the MOA signing ceremony were PCG Commandant, CG Admiral Artemio M Abu, and DENR – BMB Officer-in-Charge, Director Natividad Bernardino.

In his speech, CG Admiral Abu expressed the PCG’s commitment to develop and implement policies that will serve as a legal framework for the preservation and conservation of the country’s marine environment for sustainable marine biodiversity.

“As we speak, some reports made headlines that factors contributing to the degradation of the marine ecosystem were identified, such as overfishing, destructive fishing methods, and climate change are the challenges confronting our oceans,” the PCG Commandant shared.

“With this MOA, we pledge long-term systematic monitoring and strategic management practices of our marine protected areas. This agreement will strengthen our partnership, provide a lot of capacity-building initiatives, and will serve as an instrument to test our capabilities and commitment to protecting the marine environment,” CG Admiral Abu added.

For her part, Director Bernardino said the PCG and DENR – BMP partnership is a great win for the Philippine oceans by uniting government instrumentalities with mandates over the vast bodies of water surrounding the country’s archipelago to work together for a better and sustained management of the Philippine marine environment.

“We assure our partners from the PCG that we will be proactive and ensure our strong collective action towards the ocean. We will strengthen this partnership by crafting the operational plan anchored on the stipulations of the MOA. We will also ensure the funding complementation between our agencies for the smooth implementation of the agreement,” the DENR – BMB OIC furthered.

Based on the MOA, the PCG and DENR – BMB will exchange information and technical expertise to carry out marine environmental protection activities, such as boundary demarcation and marker buoy installation in the National Integrated Protected Area System – Marine Protected Areas (NIPAS–MPAS).

The two parties will also conduct joint activities or complementation of technical assistance on law enforcement, marine scientific research, and water quality monitoring, among others.



The PCG and DENR – BMB will also develop coordination and reporting mechanisms on marine vessel-related incidences, including oil spill, ship grounding, marine pollution, and search and rescue (SAR).

Finally, they committed to conducting capacity-building exercises; sharing equipment, facilities, and vessels; and performing other activities related to marine environmental protection.

CG Rear Admiral Robert Patrimonio, Commander of the PCG Marine Environmental Protection Command; CG Rear Admiral Joseph Coyme, Commander of the PCG Maritime Safety Services Command; CG Commodore Hostillo Arturo Cornelio, Commander of the PCG District NCR – Central Luzon; and CG Commodore Armand Balilo, Commander of the Coast Guard Public Affairs, also joined the MOA signing ceremony. **(PR)** – *gb*



World Oceans Day: Dolphins namataan sa ilang bahagi ng Davao Region

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 08 2022 03:24 PM

Namataan ang ilang pod ng dolphins sa ilang bahagi ng Davao Region kamakailan.

Nakuhanan ng video ni municipal environment and natural resources officer Paul Arbiol ang maraming dolphin na tumatalon sa dagat ng Sarangani sa Davao Occidental noong Mayo 31.

Ayon kay Arbiol, regular na nakikita sa naturang dagat ang mga nasabing marine mammal tuwing high tide.

Nakuhanan din ng video ni Enen Donaire Quesada ang ilang dolphins na sumasabay sa kanilang bangka sa Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte noong Lunes, Hunyo 6.

Ngayong araw, Hunyo 8, ipinagdiriwang ang World Oceans Day bilang pagkilala sa kahalagahan ng karagatan sa mamamayan at bawat nilalang na umaasa rito.

Hinikayat naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang publiko na suportahan ang proteksyon at pangangalaga ng marine ecosystem.

—ulat ni **Hernel Tocmo**



Incoming Albay gov to complete mining site rehab

By Emmanuel Solis [June 8, 2022, 6:20 pm](#)



Mining site on Rapu-Rapu island, Albay province. (Photo by Emmanuel Solis)

LEGAZPI CITY – Albay Governor-elect Noel Rosal said part of the agenda of his incoming administration is to look at and monitor the accomplishments in the rehabilitation of mining sites to make sure these are safe and beneficial to the surrounding communities.

In an interview on Wednesday, he said once he assumes the post, the provincial government of Albay would coordinate with the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) about the status of the rehabilitation of the closed mining site on Rapu-Rapu island that is being implemented by Rapu Rapu Mining Company.

“We only want to know the progress of rehabilitation but the provincial government has no jurisdiction in the rehab implementation because it is under the jurisdiction of MGB,” Rosal added.

It was earlier reported that the mining site rehabilitation has been dragging for several years now after the mining company ceased operations in 2013.

Guillermo Molina IV, MGB director for Bicol, in a separate interview, said the mining company has accomplished 84 percent of its rehabilitation work including the planting of pine trees, cogon grass, and other endemic plants, and the road construction in urban areas connecting to the mining site.

He said the mining firm has deposited in the government depository bank PHP309 million for the rehabilitation and other improvements of the place.

“We will give the mining company at least five years to finish the rehabilitation work in order for the government to plan what is the best thing to do for the place to be more beneficial to the people,” Molina added.

He said the DENR has approved the planned conversion of the mining site into eco-tourism and agro-tourism areas.

Molina said more infrastructure such as roads and bridges have to be built in the closed mining site, as well as sustainable power and water distribution facilities.

Under rehabilitation in Rapu-Rapu are the villages of Pagcolbong, Malobago, and Binosawan, covering over 101 hectares, including 26 hectares of the open pit, 24 hectares of tailing facilities, five hectares of the processing plant, and 26 hectares of tailing storage enhancement.



The mining operation in the area was started in 2005 by the Lafayette mining firm but it was stopped in 2013 due to alleged environmental law violations.

The Rapu Rapu Mining Company then took over and was given 10 years by the DENR to rehabilitate the site. **(PNA)**



Panindigan, veto sa Tampakan open-pit mining project

[QUESEJODA](#) - [Butch M. Quejada](#) - Pang-masa June 9, 2022 | 12:00am

NANAWAGAN ngayon ang environmental activist group na Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) ng "decisive follow-up" matapos i-veto kahapon ni South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. ang iba't ibang permit na inisyu sa Tampakan open-pit mining project.

"Ang pag-veto ni Tamayo sa tangkang pagtanggap ng open-pit mine ban ay isang tagumpay para sa libu-libong nagprotesta sa mga lansangan. Hinihimok namin ngayon ang Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng South Cotabato na igalang ang kagustuhan ng mga tao sa pamamagitan ng pagtataguyod sa environment code at pag-aksyon laban sa iba't ibang permit na inisyu sa Tampakan open-pit mine sa kabila ng pagiging ilegal nito," sabi ni Leon Dulce, National Coordinator ng Kalikasan PNE.

Ang kampanya ay pinangunahan ng mga lokal na alyansa sa rehiyon ng SOCCSKSARGEN tulad ng Defend Tampakan at Tampakan Forum. Dalawang beses na kumikilos ang mga pormasyon sa harap ng Kapitolyo sa South Cotabato, para ipanawagan ang pag-veto ng resolusyon para amyendahan ang environment code.

"Hinihikayat namin si Gov. Tamayo at ang pamahalaang panlalawigan na ipawalang-bisa ang anumang mga permit na inisyu ng pambansang pamahalaan sa minahan ng Tampakan at mag-isyu ng mga restraining order laban sa anumang aktibidad sa pagpapaunlad na sinimulan na ng Sagittarius Mines Inc. at iba pang mga tagapagtaguyod ng minahan," sabi ni Dulce.

Ang mga online, lokal at internasyonal na manifesto ay ipinakalat, na nagpapakita na ang Tampakan copper mine ay magiging isa sa pinakamalaki sa mundo kung ipagpapatuloy.

"Ang mga taga-Mindanao sa buong lugar ng Tampakan ay nakatuon sa kanilang pakikibaka upang ipagtanggol ang kanilang lupain, buhay, at kapaligiran. Dapat nating ipagpatuloy ang ating pagsisikap na iligtas ang Tampakan mula sa mapanirang malawakang pagmimina, at ipaalam sa ating mga opisyal ng gobyerno na tayo ay seryoso at nakatuon sa pakikipaglaban para rito," pagtatapos ni Dulce.



P34B loan sa ADB, nakalaan sa climate change adaptation and mitigation ng Pinas

Published on: June 08, 2022 By Alaine Allanigue

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) — Nakakuha ang Pilipinas ng kabuuang 650 milyong dolyar or 34.32 bilyong piso na loan commitments mula sa Asian Development Bank para suportahan ang mga programa ng Pilipinas sa climate change adaptation and mitigation.

May dalawang programang paglalaanan ang nasabing grant, ito ang Climate Change Action Program 1 (CCAP1) at Capital Market-Generated Infrastructure Financing Program, Subprogram 2 (CM-GIF2).

Ang CCAP1 na may \$250 milyon loan grant ay programang nagpapakita ng commitment ng Pilipinas na magbigay ng long-term attention sa climate crisis. Nagpakita ng inisyatiba ang Pilipinas bilang isa sa mga pinaka-unang bansa sa Asya-Pasipiko na magpatupad ng mga polisiya kaugnay sa climate change.

“We owe it to the Filipino people to build the nation’s resiliency against climate change. We cannot wait for the industrialized economies to break their inertia and accept the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing climate finance to vulnerable countries,” ayon kay Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission (CCC) Chair-Designate Carlos G. Dominguez.

Samantala, ang CM-GIF2 naman na may \$400 milyon loan grant ay susuporta sa mga inisyatiba ng pamahalaan sa pagpondo ng mga imprastraktura sa mas mababang gastos at paguugnay ng mga imprastraktura ng pribadong sektor sa capital markets.

Ayon kay CCC Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, ang nasabing suporta sa Pilipinas ay magpapaigting ng pambansang katatagan (national resiliency). Dagdag pa ni Borje na mahalaga ang kooperasyong bilateral at climate finance para matulungan ang mga developing at vulnerable na mga bansa na mapatatag ang kapasidad nito maka-adapt at mapagpatuloy ang pagunlad at paglago ng ekonomiya.

Ang policy-based lending modality ng ADB ay sumusuporta sa tuloy-tuloy na COVID-19 response obligations at sumusuporta din sa green, resilient, at inclusive development sa key priority sectors na magpapalakas sa post-pandemic growth momentum ng bansa.

“We, at the ADB, are honored and proud to partner with the Philippines, to partner with you, including also through these difficult times in the pandemic. We are fully committed to supporting the Philippines and improving the livelihoods of all the Filipinos and creating a stronger, green, and resilient economy,” ayon kay ADB Deputy Director General Winfried Wicklein.

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/06/08/p34b-loan-sa-adb-nakalaan-sa-climate-change-adaptation-and-mitigation-ng-pinas>



ADB commits \$650-M loan for climate change programs

BY [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#) JUNE 8, 2022

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted the Philippines a total of \$650 million or around P34.32 billion in loan commitments to support the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and to strengthen domestic capital markets, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) announced on Wednesday.

Department of Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission (CCC) Chair-Designate Carlos G. Dominguez and ADB Deputy Director General Winfried Wicklein exchanged loan documents for the Climate Change Action Program 1 (CCAP1) and Capital Market-Generated Infrastructure Financing Program, Subprogram 2 (CM-GIF2) in a ceremony held last Friday.

The CCAP1, amounting to \$250 million, is the ADB's first climate change policy-based loan program. It recognizes the Philippines as a pioneer in climate policy development finance and encourages other nations to design their own multi-sector climate programs.

In a news statement, the CCC said the program demonstrates the Philippines's commitment to provide long-term attention to the climate crisis, which has had a significant impact on the country. The Philippines has taken the initiative to be one of the first Asia-Pacific countries to implement climate- change policies.

"We owe it to the Filipino people to build the nation's resiliency against climate change. We cannot wait for the industrialized economies to break their inertia and accept the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing climate finance to vulnerable countries," Dominguez stressed.

Meanwhile, the CM-GIF2, amounting to \$400 million, supports the government's initiative of funding infrastructure at a lower relative cost and connecting private sector infrastructure to capital markets.

It builds on the accomplishments of Subprogram 1, which intended to increase the availability of long-term finance to support investments, as well as the ADB's decades-long engagement in the Philippines's capital market.



DOT 12 initiates 'SOX Dive Cleanup' in KaLePa, SK

Published on: June 07, 2022

By Voice of the Youth



GENERAL SANTOS CITY -- To help raise awareness on taking care of marine resources, the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 12 conducted a two-day SOCCSKSARGEN or SOX Dive Cleanup from June 1-2, 2022, in the municipalities of Kalamansig, Lebak and Palimbang (KaLePa), Sultan Kudarat province.

“Part of discovering new tourism sites in the region is doing this kind of activity. We need to raise awareness on how to take care of our environment. KaLePa has lots of natural resources and we need the community to help protect and preserve it,” OIC regional director Armin H. Hautea of DOT 12 said.

“We do not just instantly promote this emerging destination. There are lots of considerations, including the community preparation and setting up dive shops, as well as dive advocates,” he added.

The first cleanup drive organized by the DOT 12 was conducted at the coastal area of Barangay Medol, Palimbang. More than 40 kg of trash were collected during the activity. On the second day, a coastal and underwater cleanup were also held in Barangay Santa Clara, Kalamansig where a total of 325 kg of trash were collected and 476 crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) extracted from the coral garden of Kalamansig.

Leading the cleanup drive was the “Drive and Dive Sarangani” divers with other participating agencies in the region. The team also attended the culmination program held in the municipality of Lebak.



In Soccsksargen, there were COTS infestations recorded particularly in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape. The local governments and their communities particularly the coastal towns of Glan and Maasim have initiated the COTS extraction as one of the mitigating measures recently done to help combat the problem.

The crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*), is a large seastar that feeds upon hard, or stony coral polyps. Its name is derived from its venomous thorn-like spines that cover its upper surface. Dense aggregation of COTS can strip a reef 90% of its living coral tissues and this can indirectly affect fish populations that depend on coral reefs for habitat.

Factors that influence COTS outbreaks include excess nutrients from run-off in the ocean and overfishing or removal of their natural predators (e.g. Triton's trumpet, Napoleon wrasse, white-spotted pufferfish, and titan triggerfish), as well as the continuous rise in sea surface temperature due to climate change exacerbated by various anthropogenic activities (e.g. improper waste management, deforestation, agricultural land run-off, overfishing).

DOT 12 identified Kalamansig-Lebak-Palimbang or KaLePa as one of the tourism circuits and an emerging diving destination in the region. As part of DOT's future plans, tourism training programs will be conducted in KaLePa to support the growing dive industry in this area. The SOX dive cleanup was part of the Dive SOX campaign of DOT 12. It was launched on May 28 at Lemlunay Resort, Maasim, Sarangani province, in line with the celebration of the Sarangani Bay Festival 2022.

According to DOT 12, Dive SOX is a campaign established to sustain the diving industry in Soccsksargen as one of the economic drivers in terms of tourism. Hautea said the Dive SOX campaign started three years ago when the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving, in coordination with DOT 12, conducted a Rapid Exploratory Assessment in Maasim and Glan in Sarangani.

It was then followed by the development of Dive SOX logos of which the official logo today was chosen from and later adopted by the Regional Ecotourism Committee 12 as the logo to be used for any dive activity in the region. Thus, the Dive SOX campaign is introduced.

According to DOT 12, one of the main objectives of the Dive SOX Campaign is to take advantage of the opportunity to check on the current state of the coasts and their marine habitats. Included in the Dive SOX strategies and activities are Sarbay Exploratory Dive Assessments, Scuba Diving Awareness to Tourism Stakeholders, Dive SOX Branding Development, Tourism Stakeholders Open Water Dive Class and Training, among others.

The SOX dive cleanup activity was also in partnership with the municipal local government units of Kalamansig, Lebak and Palimbang; the barangay LGUs of Medol and Santa Clara; Bureau of Fire Protection; Philippine Coast Guard Southern Mindanao District; Sultan Kudarat Maritime Police; 2nd Sultan Kudarat Provincial Mobile Force Company; Kalamansig Coastguard Sub-Station; the municipal police stations of KaLePa and their community members; and the drivers of the Drive and Dive Sarangani. (Genory Vanz Alfasain, VOTY contributor)



PHL top diplomat says artificial islands, not just plastics, ‘devastating’ marine resources

June 8, 2022 | 6:28 pm



US NAVY HANDOUT VIA REUTERS FILE PHOTO

THE PHILIPPINE’S top diplomat called for cooperation among nations to protect marine resources from plastic pollution and other threats, including those in international waters, as the country joined the global celebration of World Ocean’s Day on June 8.

“Our response to this call for collective action is clear,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. said in a recorded video message posted on Youtube on Monday.

“We must stop the scourge of marine plastic pollution, protect marine biodiversity especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction (and) reaffirm our respect and common commitment to the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).”

Mr. Locsin said the world has yet to fully understand the threats of climate change, global warming, overfishing, microplastics, and mismanaged coastal development.

He further said maritime disputes also impact the world’s oceans, “with artificial island-building and drilling activities devastating coral reefs and pushing marine ecosystems over the brink.”

China has been constructing artificial islands in disputed waters in the South China Sea, including in areas declared as part of the West Philippine Sea.

It takes collective action to achieve genuine change, Mr. Locsin said, reaffirming the Philippines’ commitment to protect the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

A party-list in the Philippines, the Alliance of Groups Supporting Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM), said it was “high time that the people collectively seek accountability from the government’s criminal negligence on protecting the environment.”

In a statement on Wednesday, it said, “The people must reclaim the control, management and development of our oceans and its natural resources. Let us continue to defend them from the plunder and destruction of big capitalists and foreign encroachers.”



AGHAM said collective efforts must be strengthened to halt the destruction of marine protected areas, illegal fishing, reclamation activities, and fossil fuel burning.

“We must solidify our unity as Filipinos in guarding our national patrimony to secure a better future for the next generation to enjoy the country’s national resources,” it said. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



Two illegal loggers arrested in Nueva Vizcaya, retired DENR man escapes

Published June 8, 2022, 2:01 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

NUEVA VIZCAYA – Two loggers were arrested while one was able to escape after authorities caught them in the act of illegally cutting Gmelina trees in a mountainous area in Barangay Nagcuartelan, Aritao in this province on Tuesday afternoon.

Major Nova Lyn Aggasid, Information officer of Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Police Office (NVPPO), said that authorities actually witnessed the suspects as they cut down Gmelina trees near the dump site at the mountainous area located at Brgy Nagcuartelan.

The raiders proceeded to the area after a confidential informant reported the illegal activities of the three suspects, including a former forest ranger of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Unfortunately, the retired forest ranger identified as Ferdinand Alvaro, 62, of Brgy Banganan, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya managed to escape the authorities.

Two of his companions identified as Ismael Tibunsay, alias Boyet, 55, chainsaw operator and resident of Purok Pariir, Brgy Comon, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya and Joel Ramos y Biaganalias Tukol, 39, helper and resident of Purok Bagbag, Brgy Poblacion, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya were arrested.

Police said that upon learning of on-going illegal logging, operatives were immediately dispatched and raided the area, resulting in the arrest of the two suspects.

The raiders confiscated the chainsaw and seven pieces round logs of Gmelina trees.

The suspects failed to present any documents/ certification from the DENR that would allow them to cut trees. They also failed to show proof of registration of the chainsaw.

“Kaya naman malakas ang loob na magsagawa ng illegal logging dahil isang empleado dati ng DENR ang kasabwat,” a resident who requested not to be named said.

Police are looking into other possibilities that the former DENR employee is also involved in previous illegal logging in the mountainous area in Nueva Vizcaya.

The two suspects are now facing charges in violation of RA 9175, otherwise known as the Chainsaw Act of 2002, an act which regulates the ownership, possession, sale, importation and use of chain saws, penalizing violations thereof, and PD 705 (Revised Forestry Code).



Angono's women turn election trash into cash

Published June 8, 2022, 2:56 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

Instead of throwing election tarpaulins that were collected by street sweepers after the May 9 elections, a group of women in Angono, Rizal made use of the materials to make utility bags.



(Photo courtesy of Angono Municipal Government)

The utility bags, which are machine sewn, were made out of the campaign tarpaulins of local and national candidates.

Aris Maniaol of the Angono Municipal Tourism, Culture and Arts Office told Manila Bulletin that the town's Creative Center has produced some 1,500 bags so far.

The idea of making use of election trash was conceptualized by the office of Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon in line with the municipal government's "Zero Basura Program" (Zero Waste Program).

Maniaol said the utility bags, which are on display at the Creative Center, are on sale to provide additional means of livelihood to the members of the groups, PATAMABA or Pambansang Kalipunan ng Manggagawa Sa Bahay led by Nenie Amano and the Women Millenium Group in Palomo Association led by Mary Dela Cruz.

Aside from the tarpaulin bags, the Creative Center has also been producing rags, doormats, pot holders, keychains, and even gowns to help the town's unemployed housewives and women earn cash out of their skills.

Tourists are welcome to visit the Creative Center to buy locally-produced items made by the women's group, according to the mayor's office.



Trash to treasure: Trilogy in joyful sustainability

Published June 9, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Sonny Coloma](#)

Living as we do in a climate vulnerable country, Filipinos are accustomed to read and hear about sustainability as being equated with minimizing carbon dioxide emissions as a way of mitigating the harsh impact of global warming: destructive typhoons and floods that wreak havoc on lives and property.

Looking northward to Japan and tuning in to NHK World's highly educational online video programs enables us to gain fresh insights into how caring for the environment could be done in highly innovative — even heartwarming — ways.

Eatery Happiness Exchange, broadcast on NHK World on April 15, 2022, begins with this compelling statement: "A life force resides in all creation. Valuing and caring for the things that we use: a Zero Waste Life — pointing the way for better living for a new era."

This first story is on Suyama Kimi, an agriculture graduate who opted to become an entrepreneur by establishing her own small eatery in an off-farm site in Kami, Kochi prefecture in western Japan. Two years ago, she started offering evening food service delivered to homes — and this gained support from people in the area.

The enterprise is built on a simple proposition: to utilize perfectly edible farm produce that is not sold to mainline distributors due to substandard appearance. The features are often too subtle for the untrained observer to notice the so-called defects. For example, an oversized, 'giant' radish is shown being pulled out of the ground and turned over to Suyama, who gladly accepted it as she could convert it to a menu item for diners in her eatery.

Suyama goes off to her farm suppliers after lunch service in order to scout for raw materials. Farmers also visit her restaurant and bring in fresh supplies. Among her favorite raw materials are carrot leaves and daikon peels, similar to mild red radish, that are usually discarded, but which Suyama favors. She learned from her father that daikon peels are very delicious.

Every item on her menu sells for less than US\$7, or around ₱350. Diners' favorites include carrot leaf tempura and sweet and spicy fruit with daikon peel. She also has a special rice and soup combo that is offered on an eat-all-you-can basis, and this is a favorite among family diners with toddlers and young children.

Farmers from the area support her by turning over fresh produce and even donating small amounts to sustain her operations.

Inoue Hirito, 12 years old, helps her out in the eatery every Saturday — a practice that started at the height of the pandemic when she could not play soccer with friends. She says she enjoys talking with the diners.

In Jeans Genie, another episode of Zero Waste Life, Kawahara Takuya shares his unique story: "Old denim has history, a personality of its own. I keep that from being destroyed."



He operates from a warehouse in a quiet Tokyo neighborhood where he weaves his magic as a creative apparel director who transforms “damaged, not wearable, discarded as trash” denim into recycled and refashioned denim that is sold in department stores as attractive comfortable clothing. His partner, Yamasawa Ryoji brought in 20 tons of discarded jeans when he visited the United States. That marked the start of their partnership: Yamasawa as owner and Kawahara as designer.

Selected jeans are washed with soap and water to remove dirt. Then buttons, pockets, and sections of the pants or jackets that could be reused are picked. Yamasawa’s keen fashion sense and sensibility are evident. He says, “The paint spatter and such (on the fabric): you could feel the worker’s backbone,” as he imagines a customer relishing the experience of wearing a refashioned denim jacket. Holding another pair of discarded pants, he plans to repurpose it as a pair of baggy jeans that women like to wear — or a denim duffel bag, or even a tabletop doggy figurine.

“I never throw anything away; I want to preserve the feel of denim, it’s fun to handle the material,” he says smilingly.

From Rubbish to Rainbow is a third segment that depicts how clothes are dyed by using recycled onion skin and other discarded food such as pomegranate skin and defective coffee beans. As we noted earlier, discarded food is edible and useful, but this is usually “eliminated” by quality inspectors for minor, almost invisible defects or for being too big or too small in size for the intended finished product.

“It’s nice to wear fabric infused with energy, says social entrepreneur Komuro Maito, who works out of Tokyo’s Kuramae section as an independent artisan who inherited his father’s dyeing business. He goes to Ibaraki prefecture, an hour and a half drive, to get raw materials such as pruned branches from trees. Dogwood bark, for instance, produces interesting color after the trimmings incinerated in order to extract dye. Branches are also boiled for about 20 minutes and dyes are made from leaves.

Here’s Komuro’s quotable quote: “Don’t just label something as trash. That so-called trash could turn out to be treasure.”



WORLD WAR II CANNON

JUN 8, 2022, 4:35 PM

Mike Taboy
Photographer

Workers install this large World War II cannon in front of Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard in Manila

as part of the commemoration of Philippine Independence on June 12 and the swearing in of President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Source: https://opinyon.net/world/world-war-ii-cannon?fbclid=IwAR3us0iMvacGdCcSK5EfnRTWIHRuK40ZAihndKDH7t7LYbrQ7IZKOqyJR_s



Climate crisis costs up over 800% as UN donor nations fail to keep pace, report says

By Rachel Ramirez, CNN

Published Jun 8, 2022 6:42:54 AM



(CNN) — The amount of money needed to aid communities in the face of extreme weather-related emergencies has increased by more than 800% in the past two decades as the climate crisis also rapidly accelerated, new research shows.

The report, released Tuesday by Oxfam, found not only is the need for extreme weather-related UN humanitarian funding now sharply higher than 20 years ago, but donor nations are also failing to keep up with the staggering costs of the climate crisis.

In 2021, the economic toll of extreme weather events was roughly \$329 billion globally — the third highest year on record and almost double the total aid donated by wealthy nations to poorer countries that same year.

Between 2000 and 2002, the UN needed an average of \$1.6 billion in funding each year for humanitarian projects after extreme weather events. By 2019 through 2021, it was seeking an average of \$15.5 billion each year — an increase of more than 800%.

Additionally, the report shows that for every \$2 needed to address climate change-fueled disasters, wealthy donor countries are only providing half of that.

"Climate change is harming, and will continue to harm, Black, Indigenous, and people of color and other vulnerable communities first and worst — disrupting their livelihoods, culture, health, and way of life," Russell Armstrong, Oxfam America's senior climate policy adviser, told CNN.

"Even though the economic toll of climate change, estimated between \$300 billion and \$500 billion globally, is on par with government subsidies for fossil fuels, calls for solutions have gone unheard," he added.

Since 2017, roughly 54% of the developed countries responsible for the causes of the climate crisis today have met these UN humanitarian appeals, leaving a deficit of up to \$33 billion.

From addressing wars to food scarcity around the globe, researchers say the climate crisis is putting even more pressure on an already financially-strained UN humanitarian system.



Livestock are seen on the drought field in Kidemu sub-location in Kilifi County, Kenya, on March 23.

The impact of climate change-fueled disasters exacerbates inequalities already baked into a country's physical and social infrastructure, mostly hitting low-income nations the hardest.

Such countries typically lack the proper infrastructure and money needed to recover from disasters.

According to the report, the countries with the most recurring appeals regarding extreme weather crises include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, rich countries such as the United States continue to emit more of the emissions that fuel these extreme weather events.

As the biggest historical emitter of carbon pollution "the US has an obligation to the global community to prioritize the fight against climate change and help foot the bill on the costs of destruction from extreme weather," Armstrong said.

According to the report, the UN humanitarian appeals only cover a small fraction — roughly 7.5% or 474 million of the estimated 3.9 billion people — of low- and middle-income nations that have been plagued by climate change-fueled disasters since the beginning of this century.

The report was published as ministers meet in Bonn, Germany, for climate talks to discuss the issue of "loss and damage," essentially the payment of funds from the wealthy world to countries dealing with more severe impacts of the climate crisis.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Climate crisis costs up over 800% as UN donor nations fail to keep pace, report says](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2022/6/8/climate-emergencies-funds-un-report.html)"



UNTV News and Rescue ...
8h · 🌐

Countries collectively observe World Ocean Day today.
The United Nations said that its member countries "need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life."



YOUTUBE.COM
UN hosts World Ocean Day 2022
Countries collectively observe World Ocean Day today.The United Nations said that its membe...

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09 JUNE 2022, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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06-09-22

TITLE:

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DENR supports call to ban hazardous foreign wastes

By Joel dela Torre

ENVIRONMENT Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna is in favor of the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment which would prohibit the export of hazardous waste and other trash from developed to developing countries.

Sampulna believed that the Basel Ban Amendment would address the illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste into the Philippines.

He said ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will protect the Philippines from being a destination of hazardous wastes coming from foreign countries.

"In previous years, we have strongly fought against the import of hazardous wastes from countries who regarded our country as their dumpsites," said the acting Environment chief.

In 2019, DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) had successfully coordinated the return of 69 international container units of mixed wastes to Canada, which were illegally imported to the

Philippines after being declared as waste plastics for recycling.

The DENR-EMB, in cooperation with the Bureau of Customs, had successfully sent back some 6,400 metric tons of mixed wastes in Misamis Oriental to South Korea in 2020.

Basel Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention, would restrain the member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Liechtenstein, from exporting hazardous wastes either for recovery, treatment, or disposal to developing countries or countries with economies in transition.

Philippines is party to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The treaty was ratified by Congress on October 21, 1993, and entered into force on January 19, 1994, but the country has yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment.



**PEOPLE'S
VIEW**

PRECY F. LAZARO
lazarofrecy@yahoo.com

**PHILIPPINES
ENVIRONMENT MONTH
2022 IPAGDIRIWANG
NG DENR**

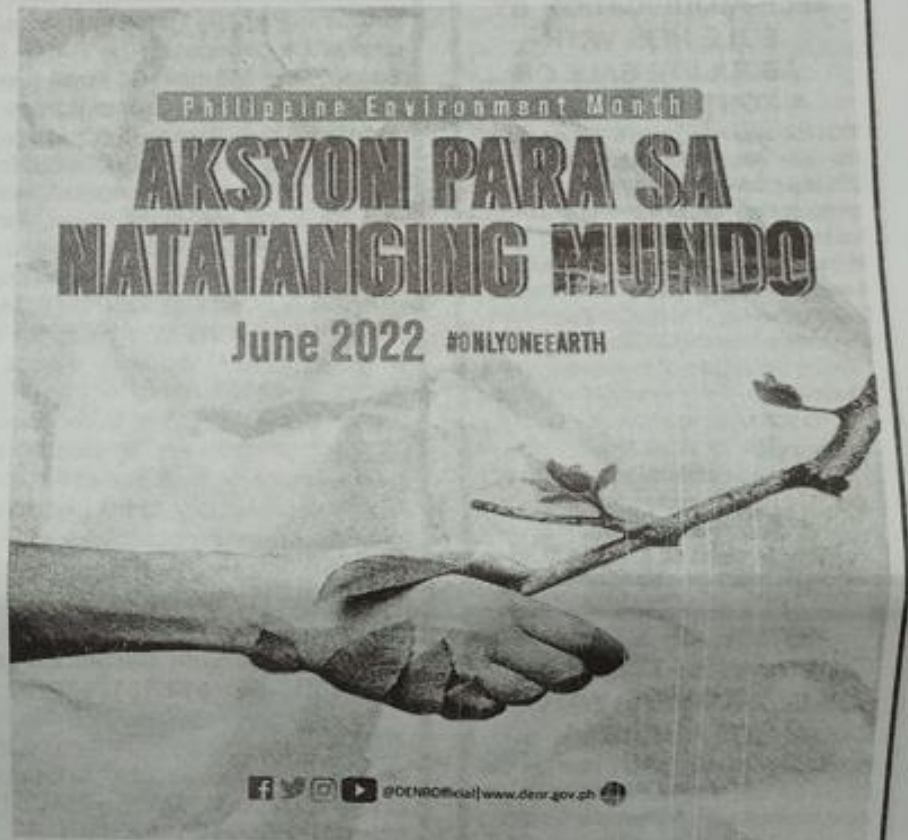
MITHIING mas lalong mapayabong ang pangangalaga ganun na din ang panatiliing maayos at kapakipakinabang sa paggamit ng likas na yaman ng bansa ang paggunita sa selebrasyon ng 2022 Philippine Environment Month ngayong buwan ng Hunyo. Tungo ito para sa pag proteksiyon at restorasyon ng ating planeta na may temang "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo," na bibigyang-pansin para sa national celebration ang #OnlyOneEarth campaign para sa World Environment Day 2022.

Sa pagdiriwang ngayong taon ng Philippine Environment Month ay dapat na "demonstration of the DENR's continued commitment to the environment and to the Filipinos that the mission to conserve and protect our natural resources remains despite the challenges we face," ayon kay DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna. Bubuksan aniya ang Manila Bay Dolomite Beach ngayong ika-12 ng Hunyo upang maipamalas ang tuloy tuloy na kapakipakinabang na mga aksyon upang ma protektahan ang buong yamang tubig at mapanatili ang kahalagahan ng biodiversity.

Ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay magsasagawa ng mga aktibidad kabilang na dito ang #RespectAndProtect (RAP) contest, na isang songwriting at rap contest para sa kapaligiran, na sinimulan kasabay ng selebrasyon ng Earth Day noong Abril 22 bilang bahagi ng Philippine Environment Month na iaanunsyo ang mga mananalo sa Hunyo 28. Naghahanap din sila ng nominasyon para sa Outstanding Women Organization Partners for Environment Award, na layunin na kilalanin ang mga nagawa ng women's organizations na may kinalaman sa environmental management projects ng DENR-EMB

partikular na ang tungkol sa planning, implementation at monitoring ng mga programa, proyekto at aktibidad ng EMB. Mithiin din daw nitong mas lalo pang makahikayat ng may mas higit pang partisipasyon ng mga kababaihan para sa environmental programs ng bansa kung saan sa Setyembre 2022 ipagkakaloob ang award.

Kahanga hanga talaga ang departamentong ito sa pagdiriwang kanilang 35th founding anniversary sa Hunyo 10, 2022 na may temang "Pistang Pamilyang DENR para sa Tuloy-Tuloy na Pagkakaisa at Tagumpay" kung saan halos isang dekada ko ding natunghayan at kabilang ako sa mga nag partisipa na isang kaibigan sa pamamahayag. Kabilang ngayong 2022 ng kanilang anibersaryo ay ang Recognizing Individuals/Institutions Towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers (R.I.V.E.R.S) for Life Awards para sa DENR regional offices at kanilang Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs/CENROs) na mayroong best interventions at aktibidad na isinagawa para sa kanilang nominadong ilog. Mithiin ng award na itaas ang antas ng kaalaman ng publiko sa kahalagahan ng proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng mga ilog sa bansa mula sa pagkakasira o degradation upang matiyak ang sustainability at improvement nito.



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A cannon for Manila Bay

On June 12, there will be a "Heritage Cannon" on the dolomite beach and it will most probably fire a deafening shot (sans projectile) to celebrate the 124th anniversary of our Independence. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aims "to encourage patriotism among the public and to signify that the battle to cleanup Manila Bay is not yet over," said Jonas R. Leones, Undersecretary for Policy Planning and International Affairs. The "Heritage Cannon," a relic of World War II, used to be on Fort Drum Island, also known as El Fraile, south of Corregidor.

On regular "Level One" days, the DENR allows as many as 3,500 (vaccinated) people into the enchanted confines of their 90-foot long, P389 million artificial beach. However, swimming is strictly prohibited. The Manila Bay Coordinating Office warns that bay water still has dangerous levels of fecal coliform, but by the end of year 2022, this will definitely improve. For now, "beach goers" can play games, saunter and romp on pulverized dolomite, or sit and relax while admiring the magnificent sunset of Manila Bay.

On Independence Day, the National His-

torical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) usually arranges simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies at the Rizal Park, Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Bonifacio's Monument in Balintawak, the Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolución at the North Ceremony, and in various military camps. In the past, sitting presidents have raised the flag at Rizal Park or at Aguinaldo's residence. I wonder if the DENR will steal NHCP'S thunder with the unveiling of its vintage cannon on the dolomite beach? Did both agencies talk about it? When I last looked, the Corregidor Foundation was attached to the Department of Tourism. Was this informed about the removal of the cannon?

No, the battle to clean Manila Bay is certainly not yet over, and dumping construction-quality dolomite defeats the purpose because that alien material contains heavy metals like lead, mercury and aluminum. We were informed by responsible media sources that dolomite is mined and extracted from one of the remaining forests of Cebu which is home to



LANDSCAPE

GEMMA CRUZ ARANETA

various endemic species of flora and fauna. The rehabilitation of one area should not be a threat to another.

The Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya, a federation of small fisherfolk) has consistently denounced this DENR project. I would too, in their place. Down to quick, aesthetic fixes; let us plant mangroves instead!

Have you heard that a hitherto unknown sardine species was recently found in Manila Bay? So, the bay, once cleaned, can actually be a reserve for the *Sardinella Pacifica*; I am a sardine-eater so I want this to happen in my lifetime.

There are coral reefs of the soft coral *xenia* type subsisting at the mouth of polluted Manila Bay, detected by no less than the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau of the DENR. These are feeble signs of hope.

Whatever happened to the Supreme Court Mandamus of Dec. 18, 2008? It directed 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to levels fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation. To complement this SC ruling, Pres. Rodrigo Duterte issued an Executive Order to speed up the rehabilitation. So, local government authorities have relocated thousands of urban poor residents and have begun planting mangroves while sponsoring various clean-up drives.

We heritage advocates are concerned about the 25 Manila Bay reclamation projects. Instead of implementing the Supreme Court Mandamus, it seems that

Manila Bay and all its pollution problems will be made to disappear through reclamation. No more Manila Bay, no more problems.

It can be argued that as early as the American colonial regime, reclamation was undertaken to construct Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard from Fort San Antonio Abad in Malate to the border of Cavite. The US embassy, Army Navy Club, Manila Hotel, Elks Club are all on reclaimed land. Of Manila Bay's 199,400 hectares, 660 hectares were reclaimed during the Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. regime to include 77 hectares for the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex. In President Diosdado Macapagal's administration, an American businessman, Harry Stonehill, profited from reclamation. At present there are at least 25 reclamation projects being offered to Manila, Pasay, Cavite and other local government units a whiffing distance from the historic bay.

The city government of Manila seems enthralled with "The City of Pearl—New Manila Bay International Community," 407 hectares of mixed-use "planned townships" proposed by the UAA Kinming for the BASECO area. Manila approved this in 2017.

Installing a cannon on the dolomite beach is DENR'S symbol that the battle to clean Manila Bay is not over. I cannot help but suspect that the fastest and most profitable way (for vested interests) to clean up Manila Bay is to reclaim land and dry out its pesky contaminated waters. The sunset will still be there but you'll have to live in a yacht or a mammoth hi-rise to even see it.

(ggc1898@gmail.com) gemmacruzaraneta.com



Braving disasters thru climate change resilience

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

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

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources highlighted some of the "life-saving" programs.

These programs were proven to mitigate disastrous climate impacts, not to mention the variety of challenges encountered by the Philippines including volcanic eruptions, coronavirus pandem-

ic, and typhoons.

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

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

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

"Our community depends on the mangroves, which are very abundant. We have a lot of fish then, and many

tourists visit us... We are earning almost P3,600 additional income per month, sometimes, during vacation season, we are earning as much as PHP1,000 a day," she said.

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

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

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

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



FIRING LINE

ROBERT B. ROQUE, JR.

Protect victory over Tampakan

"The battle for environmental protection and against open-pit mining methods in South Cotabato is not over."

This, folks, is what Marbel Bishop Cerilo Casicas said even after Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. vetoed on June 3 the Sangguniang Panlalawigan's amendment to the Environment Code that would have lifted the ban on open-pit mining.

The issue centers, of course, on the province's Tampakan Copper-Gold Project, touted to be worth \$5.9-billion or about

P300 billion.

In March, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampulna declared that the national government would respect the outcome of the public hearings conducted by the Provincial Board of South Cotabato. But the sly action of the SP, which railroaded its resolution right after the elections, had drawn thousands of outraged residents marching in the streets of Koronadal.

Had Gov. Tamayo not been

bombarded by the protests and calls from the church and various advocacy groups that included AGHAM and Defend Tampakan, the shameless and deliberate maneuver of the SP would have given Sagittarius Mines, Inc. or SMI the go-signal to extract minerals using the open-pit mining method.

In a recent post, my friend, former Mindanao Development Authority chairman Manny Pinol said the decision to allow such mining operations in Tampakan should not be

exclusive to the Provincial Board of South Cotabato since the issue transcends political boundaries.

"People have to understand that any environmental damage or mining accident caused by the mining operations will affect people living downstream, especially those whose livelihood depends on Lake Buluan, Liguasan Marsh, and the tributaries," Pinol pointed out.

Earlier, AGHAM said: "It bears emphasizing that thousands of residents would be displaced, five major rivers or tributaries would be contaminated, the only remaining canopy forest in the region would be destroyed, and at least 33,000 hectares of ricefields in Koronadal Valley would be affected."

Now that the governor has vetoed the measure on account of "being prejudicial to the public welfare and inimical to the overall interest of all South Cotabateños," Bishop Casicas wants it to stick.

On this matter, Firing Line amplifies the appeal of the prelate to legislators "not to override the veto" and not to allow themselves to be carried away by business and political pressures.

* * *

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



OCTA bares factors causing uptick of Covid cases in NCR

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

A combination of factors, including waning vaccine immunity and the entry of Omicron subvariants, is fueling the uptick of Covid-19 cases in Metro Manila, according to an expert of the OCTA Research.

In a televised public briefing on Wednesday, June 8, OCTA fellow Dr. Guido David said there are "multi-factor" reasons the National Capital Region (NCR) has been experiencing an uptick in cases.

"May factor yung nagiging kampante yung mga kababayan natin. May factor din yung waning immunity. May factor din yung nakapasok na Omicron subvariants (Complacency is one factor. Then there is the waning immunity and the entry of Omicron subvariants). It's a combination of these factors," David said. ▶6

RECOVERING — Dialysis patients recover at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKI) gymnasium in Quezon City on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, where they were transferred following the influx of Covid-19 patients in the hospital's emergency room. (Mark Balmores)

OCTA bares factors causing uptick of Covid cases in NCR 1◀

Citing OCTA's latest monitoring, David said Metro Manila's daily average of new Covid-19 cases has increased by 14 percent - from 79 cases per day last week to 90 cases per day this week.

Slowly increasing

"Yung pinakamababa natin was about three weeks ago na nag-aaverage tayo ng 63 cases per day. Unti-unting tumataas yung cases (Our lowest recorded number of cases was about three weeks ago, when we averaged 63 cases per day. The cases are gradually increasing)," he said.

Metro Manila's Covid-19 reproduction number was at 1.25, while positivity rate was at 1.6 percent.

Reproduction number refers to the average number of secondary infections by each infected individual, while positivity rate refers to the number of individuals who yielded positive results from among those who have been tested for Covid-19.

However, David pointed out that Metro Manila remains at "low-risk" for infections.

He said the number of cases is not that high yet, but the government and the public must remain

cautious as the number of cases is slightly increasing every week.

"Mabuti na na mag-ingat tayo kasi hindi natin masasabi with cer-

tainty na dahil nag-iiba ang anyo ng Covid dahil may subvariants. Alam natin mild siya pero hindi pa tayo ganun kasigurado kaya kailangan mag-iingat pa rin tayo (It's better to be careful as we can't tell with certainty what happens next as the coronavirus changes in form with every subvariant. What we know is it's mild though we're not so certain yet, so we still need to be careful)," he added.

Be vigilant

David reminded the public to remain vigilant and comply with minimum public health protocols, while those who have not been vaccinated or boosted yet should have themselves vaccinated, including boosters.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, who believes that the country has already contained the spread of the coronavirus, also called on the public not to let their guards down

He said the Covid-19 virus is "notorious for mutations and is capable of springing surprises."

Duque cited the Covid-19 situation in December 2021 in which the Philippines logged at least 200 cases per day. But a month later, the

country again experienced a surge in cases due to the Omicron variant. During that time, the Philippines recorded over 30,000 cases per day.

Currently, the average number of daily cases is 185.

Virus here to stay

"So we have to be realistic. We should temper our expectations. What is more important is the realization that the virus is here to stay," he said.

"The challenge here is the unpredictability of the virus. Hindi mo masabi kung ano ang kanyang mutation (You cannot predict its mutations)," he said.

Despite the country's low case trend currently, Duque advised the next administration to always be prepared for the worst-case scenario.

"This is also one piece of advice that I would like to get across with the next administration: despite the current stage of the pandemic right now, we must always be prepared for the worst scenario. That is very important," he said.

Duque said the next administration should study thoroughly the proposals to lift the state of calamity due to Covid-19.

"I hope the new President will assess the situation and if there is any plan to lift it, I hope they will really take time to study and to look at the metrics and what new information and science offer in terms of the evolving variants of concern," said Duque.

The validity of the Covid-19 state of calamity ends in September this year. (With a report from Analou de Vera)



5.2 quake hits Davao Oriental

A 5.2-magnitude earthquake offshore of Davao Oriental occurred at around 4:37 a.m. yesterday, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs traced the epicenter of the earthquake at 103 kilometers (km) southeast of Tarragona, Davao Oriental, and was shallow at a depth of 62 km.

It was initially measured as a magnitude 5.1 quake but Phivolcs

later revised it to magnitude 5.2.

The tremor was "moderately strong" at Intensity IV in Tarragona and Caraga, Davao Oriental.

Meanwhile, it was felt as a "weak" tremor at Intensity III in Manay, Davao Occidental.

Phivolcs' instruments also recorded the quake at Intensity II in Malungon, Sarangani and Intensity I in Tupi, South Cotabato and Nabunturan, Davao de Oro. (Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

JUN 01 2022

**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2022 - 13**

**SUBJECT : DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO APPROVE LAND
SURVEYS TO THE CHIEF OF SURVEYS AND
MAPPING DIVISION**

Pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018," and R.A. No. 8560, as amended, or the "Philippine Geodetic Engineering Act of 1998," the following guidelines are hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. Objective. This Order aims to improve the delivery of public service by streamlining the systems and procedures in the government transactions specifically the verification and approval of survey plans.

SECTION 2. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall cover all kinds of surveys of public and private lands submitted to the DENR Regional Offices for verification and approval.

SECTION 3. Authority to Approve Survey Plans. The Chief, Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) shall be the approving authority over all survey plans submitted to the DENR Regional Offices. The approval of these plans shall be upon the recommendation of the Assistant Chief, SMD, who shall be designated as such by the Regional Executive Director and should be a licensed Geodetic Engineer. Attached as Annex A is the revised format of the survey plan.

SECTION 4. Land Administration and Management System - Inspection, Verification and Approval of Surveys (LAMS-IVAS). Corresponding adjustment to the system of LAMS-IVAS shall be undertaken to conform to this Order.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All Orders, Memoranda and Circulars inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.

JIM O SAMPULNA, CESO I
Acting Secretary



SENRO62793

P.S. June 9, 2022



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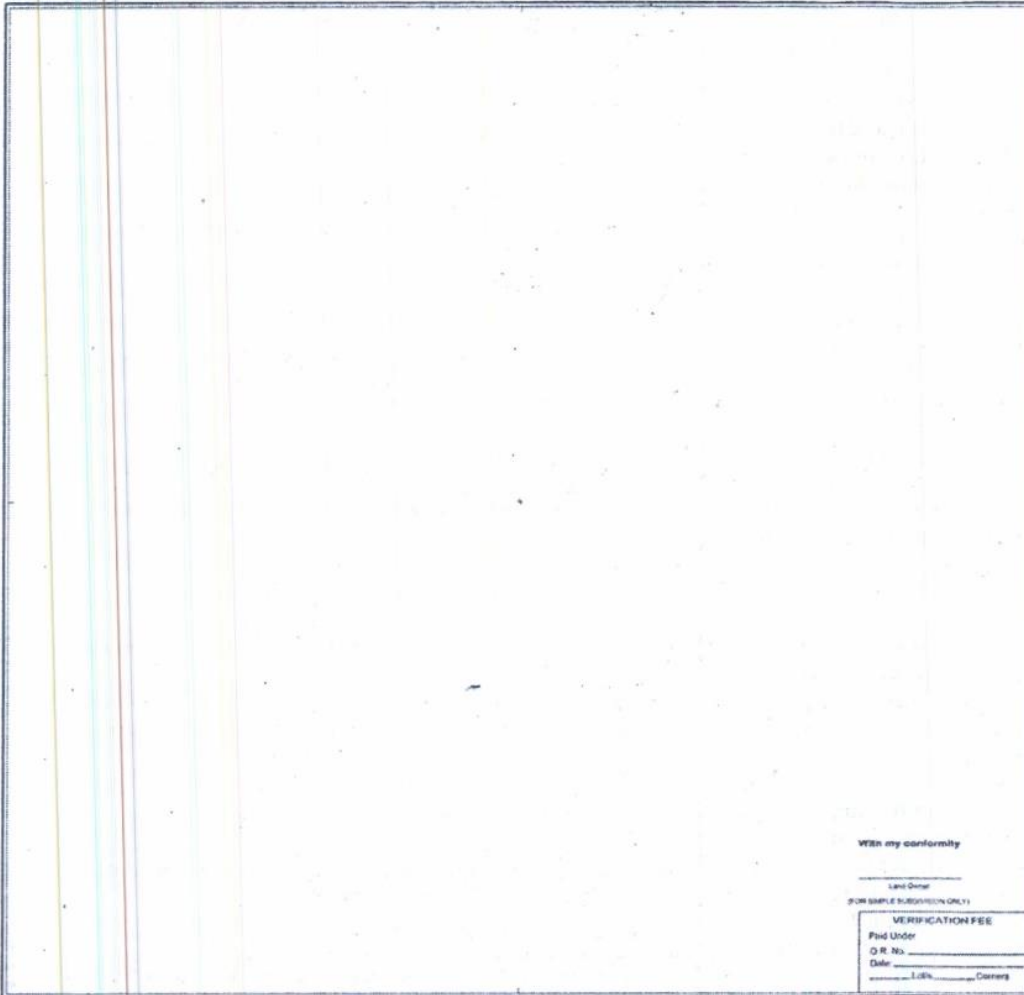
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TITLE: **DECL A-0 # 2022-13**

PAGE **2/9**

DATE

LMB Form No. GSD-C-3a (Revised 2/21)



N

ORIGINAL SURVEY	_____	Surveyed	_____	Approved	_____
COPY No.	_____				
Lot No.	_____	Section No.	_____	Date	_____
Decree No.	_____	Dist.	_____	LINE-LIN No. BA	_____
DCT No.	_____	Survey	_____	Issued by	_____
ECT No.	_____	Consol.	_____	Issued by	_____

PLAN OF LAND

AS SURVEYED FOR

SITUATED IN THE

RURBAN CODE: _____

BARANGAY OF: _____

MUN. / CITY OF: _____

PROVINCE OF: _____

ISLAND OF: _____

CONTAINING AN AREA OF: _____ SQ. M.

PTM-PBS 92 ZONE NO. _____

BEARINGS: _____

SCALE: _____

I hereby certify that this is a correct plan of the survey made by me personally or under my direct supervision in conformity with the provisions of the RMC, as amended, otherwise known as "The Geodetic Engineering Act of 1992" and the rules and regulations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

I further certify that this plan accurately indicates the boundaries of the property as pointed to me on the ground by the survey applicant or his authorized representative and/or based on the reliable legal and/or official technical documents and that I assume full responsibility for the factual correctness of the survey and accuracy of the monument setting.

Date of Survey: _____

Geodetic Engineer
P.E. No. _____
P.R. No. _____
The No. _____

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Regional Office _____

Surveys and Mapping Division

The survey platlet herein is found to be in order as per submitted copies returns of the Geodetic Engineer and therefore recommended for approval

Asst. Chief, Surveys and Mapping Division

The approved plan however, shall not be construed as title to the land

Date Approved: _____

Date Submitted for Submission	Date Received	Name	Signature

Platlet Verified by

Platlet checked by: _____

Preparer Computation checked by: _____

Administrative Computation checked by: _____

Plotted / Issue by: _____

Traced by: _____

Checked and Applied by: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AFTER DATE OF APPROVAL

Will my conformity

Land Owner: _____

VERIFICATION FEE

Paid Under _____

O.R. No. _____

Date: _____

_____ L.R.S. _____ Consent

09 JUNE 2022, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



OCTA urges next admin to continue centralized pandemic response

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora June 8, 2022, 3:20 pm



(PNA photo by Joey Razon)

MANILA – OCTA Research on Wednesday advised the incoming administration to keep its pandemic response centralized, similar to the current system implemented by the Duterte administration.

"Iyong One Health Command system maganda 'yang ipagpatuloy, 'yong medyo centralized 'yong response. Although medyo pahina na rin 'yong pandemic nandyan pa rin 'yong virus (The One Health Command system is a good measure to be kept, one where there is a centralized response. Although the pandemic is slowing down, the virus is still there)," OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David said in a Laging Handa briefing.

On top of this, he said President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. must focus on improving the country's contact tracing.

Months after the first local Covid-19 case was reported, the Duterte administration established the One Hospital Command Center, the main task of which is to ensure efficient health facility referral.

For David, the current administration managed its pandemic response "well", including the vaccination of the population.

He said the vaccine and booster rollout proved to be effective in minimizing the need to impose lockdowns in times of a surge.

"Ito'y napatunayan na na malaking tulong sa pag-manage ng pandemic kaya kahit noong January hindi tayo nagsarado, hindi tayo nag-lockdown. Iyan ang gusto natin na management na dahil bakunado na tayo hindi na natin kailangang maghigpit sa ngayon (This proved to be a great help in the pandemic response, which is why last January we did not resort to lockdowns. We want that kind of management where we would no longer require the strictest restriction since we're already vaccinated)," he said.

Metro Manila is at "low risk" classification, but David reported a slight uptick in its Covid-19 cases from an average of 79 per day in the past week to 90 at present.

The same goes for Region 4-A (Calabarzon), Western Visayas, and some areas in Central Luzon where Covid-19 infections are also seeing an increase, he said.

To prevent further rise in cases, David said the public must do its part and follow minimum public

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1176164>



DOH: COVID 'contained'

By [Gerard Naval](#) - June 9, 2022

But Duque warns against complacency

OVER two years since the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday said government has contained the virus.

In an online media forum, Duque said he is convinced that the Philippines has successfully controlled the spread of the virus, which hit countries worldwide in March 2020, "given our measures and interventions."

"It appears to be contained already. Data will support this claim," Duque said.

But the health secretary said Filipinos should still not be complacent because of the unpredictability of the virus and its capability to undergo mutations.

"We are realistic to accept the fact that this virus is notorious for mutations. It is capable of springing surprises... The challenge here is the unpredictability of the virus. You cannot predict what kind of mutation it will have," said Duque.

Because of this, Duque urged the next administration to be prepared in case the situation turns for the worse.

"This is one piece of advice that I would like to get across with the next administration: Despite the current stage of the pandemic right now, we must always be prepared for the worst scenario. That is very important," he said.

He said the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. should also carefully study proposals to already lift the state of calamity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I hope they will really take time to study and to look at the metrics and what new information and science offer in terms of the evolving variants of concern," he said, even as he cautioned that such a decision must not be hastily done and not without banking on scientific data.

'SLIGHT CONCERN'

As Duque made the assessment, OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David yesterday raised a "slight concern" over the continued increase in COVID-19 infections in Metro Manila after the daily average cases in the region went up by 14 percent, or an average of 90 cases per day.

David, during the Laging Handa public briefing, pointed out that the daily average cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) was at 10 percent on Tuesday with 79 cases, but went up to 14 percent with 90 cases per day on Wednesday.

"Kapag titingnan natin iyong seven-day average, actually kahapon (Tuesday), iyong 10 percent, ngayon ay 14 percent na. So, umabot na tayo sa 90 cases per day sa Metro Manila (If we look at the seven-day average, actually it was at 10 percent as of Tuesday, now it rose to 14 percent with 90 cases per day in Metro Manila)," David said, noting that the DOH has previously reported 63 cases per day.



He also said that Metro Manila's current reproduction number remained at 1.25 and the positivity rate at 1.6 percent.

"Hindi pa naman iyon mataas pero nandiyan iyong may slight concern na iyon nga kasi bahagyang tumataas kada linggo ang mga bilang ng kaso sa Metro Manila (It is not yet high but there is a slight concern because cases in Metro Manila increase every week)," he said.

David also said that OCTA has noted an increase in COVID-19 cases in Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Western Visayas, but these have not been consistent.

David said the uptick in cases does not warrant a stricter or higher alert level in the region especially since its classification remains at low risk.

He said factors that could have contributed to the uptrend in cases are public complacency, waning immunity, and the entry of subvariants.

"Paalala: Maganda ang sitwasyon natin sa COVID, mababa ang cases na nakikita natin since February pero nandyan pa din ang virus kaya hindi dapat maging kampante (Reminder: The COVID situation is good, the cases have been low since February but the virus is still there so we should not be complacent)," he said.

"Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagsunod sa health standards, ipatuloy pagsusuot ng mask, pagpapabakuna at pagpapa-booster. Mapipigilan natin ang surge kung magtutulong-tulong tayo (Let us continue to follow health standards and continue to wear masks, get vaccinated, get boosters. We can prevent a surge if we help each other)," he added. – **With Jocelyn Montemayor**

09 JUNE 2022, THURSDAY



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




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



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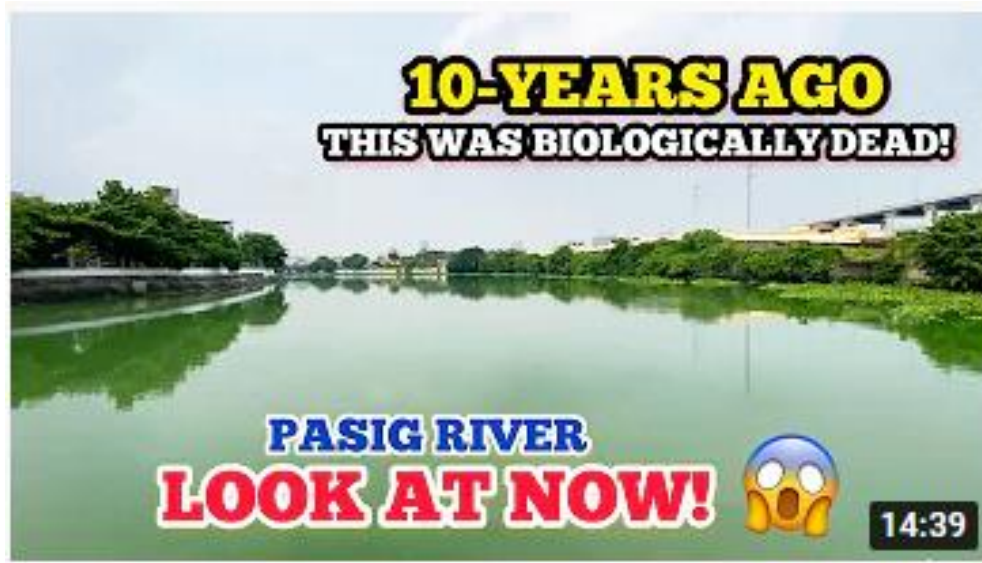
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