

13 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Dolomite beach, dinagsa na naman

Published 1 hour ago on June 13, 2022 05:40 AM

By [Sebastian Navarro](#)



Sa muling pagbubukas ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach nitong Linggo, dumagsa na naman ang mga bumibisita rito matapos itong isara para dumaan sa ikalawang phase ng rehabilitasyon.

Ang karamihan sa kanila, kasa-kasama ang kanilang pamilya at alas-4 pa ng madaling araw dumating.

Bagama't sinabi ng mga guwardiya sa mga tao na hapon pa ito magbubukas at wala pang katiyakan kung kailan makapagpapasok ng mga tao, ang sabi ng ilan, matiyaga silang maghihintay ilang oras man ang abutin.

Ginanap ang inagurasyon sa dolomite beach alas-4 ng hapon Linggo.

Samantala, mAHIGPIT pa ring ipinagbabawal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagligo o paglangoy sa Dolomite Beach kasabay ng pagbubukas nito ngayong araw.

Sinabi ni DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna na delikado pa sa kalusugan ng tao ang kalidad ng tubig sa nasabing baybayin kaya hindi pa dapat itong pagliguan at paglanguyan.

Dadgag niya, hindi pa naaabot ng kalidad ng tubig sa Dolomite Beach ang standard fecal coliform level para maging ligtas ito sa publiko.

Bubuksan aniya ito sa publiko para pasyalan lang at hindi para maging venue ng outing o swimming.





## Mga namamasyal dagsa sa Dolomite Beach sa Araw ng Kalayaan



June 12, 2022 @ 1:15 PM 18 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Bagama't mamayang hapon pa muling bubuksan ang Dolomite beach sa publiko ngunit dagsa na ang mga namamasyal na nag-aabang para sa pagbubukas nito kasabay na rin ng pagdiriwang ng ika-124 Araw ng Kalayaan ngayong araw.

Maaalala na isinara ang Dolomite beach para sa ikalawang yugto ng rehabilitasyon.

Napag-alaman na gaganapin ang inagurasyon sa dolomite beach alas-4 ng hapon, Linggo.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR, sa pagbubukas muli ng Dolomite Beach ay mahigpit pa ring paiiralin ng health protocols kontra COVID-19.

Una nang nagpaalala ang DENR sa publiko na magsuot pa rin ng face mask, at hangga't maaari ay fully vaccinated na.

Aabot lamang sa 1,500 hanggang 3,500 na katao ang maaaring makapasok sa Dolomite beach sa tukoy na mga oras. Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden







## Dolomite Beach dinagsa

By Abante News Last updated Jun 12, 2022



Dinagsa ng mga tao ang pagbubukas ng Manila Bay Dolomite Beach kasabay sa pagdiriwang ng ika-124 taong anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kalayaan kahapon.

Ganap na alas-kuwatro ng hapon nang muling pasinayaan sa publiko ang nasabing baybayin matapos itong isara sa publiko noong Nobyembre ng nakaraang taon para sa ikalawang yugto ng rehabilitasyon.

Ayon sa mga dumagsang bisita, alas-kuwatro pa lang ng umaga ay nasa lugar na sila para magkaroon ng magandang puwesto sa pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach.

Samantala, sinabi naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pasyalan lang at hindi puwedeng maging venue ng swimming ang artipisyal na 'white sand beach' dahil hindi pa ligtas sa kalusugan ng tao ang kalidad ng tubig sa baybayin. (Sherrylou Nemis)





# Pagbubukas uli ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, dinagsa

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | June 12, 2022



"Maganda na ang tanawin ay makakatipid pa." Ginanap ang inagurasyon ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach ng alas-4:00 ng hapon, June 12, 2022, araw ng Linggo. Photo: Circulated / SS / CTTO

Dinagsa ng mga tao ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, na nasa labas pa lamang at naghihintay ng pagbubukas nito, ngayong Linggo, Hunyo 12, kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Kalayaan.

Una nang inanunsiyo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nakatakdang pagbubukas muli sa publiko ng artificial "white sand beach" ngayong araw, makaraang isara ito upang dumaan sa ikalawang phase ng kailangang rehabilitasyon.

Karamihan sa kanila ay pami-pamilya na pumunta roon ng alas-4:00 pa lamang ng madaling-araw. May iba na naglatag na lamang ng tela at nag-picnic sa labas ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach habang matiyagang naghihintay na magbukas at makapasok sa loob.

Kahit na inabisuhan na ang mga ito ng mga guwardiya na hapon pa magbubukas ang dolomite beach at walang katiyakan kung kailan sila magpapapasok, maghihintay pa rin anila sila ilang oras man o gaano katagal ito abutin.

Marami kasi sa mga ito, ang gustong doon na magdiwang ng kanilang kaarawan dahil sa anila, maganda na ang tanawin ay makakatipid pa. Ginanap ang inagurasyon ng Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach ng alas-4:00 ng hapon ngayong Linggo.



# Dolomite Beach will be re-opened in the celebration of Independence Day

by [Village Connect](#) a day ago



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach will be reopened to the public on June 12 coinciding with the country's celebration of Independence Day.

Initially scheduled to reopen in May, the DENR has moved the date as some infrastructures have yet to be finished in the area.

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



According to DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones, the 500-meter beach nourishment project, which started in 2020, has withstood rains, typhoons and floods yet remains intact.

*"This proves that the dolomite beach, thanks to the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the other agencies, is stable and will prevail,"* he added.

Leones bared that the opening of the dolomite beach beside the US Embassy in Manila will be held with the unveiling of the World War II Heritage Cannon in the Remedios area *"to encourage patriotism among the public and to signify that the battle to cleanup Manila Bay is not yet over."*

The Heritage Cannon is one of the original World War II cannons from Fort Drum Island situated at the mouth of Manila Bay.

Even after the current administration, Leones said the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach will remain part of the rehabilitation approach in cleaning Manila Bay in accordance with the writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.



Meanwhile, Manila Bay Coordinating Office Executive Director Jacob F. Meimban clarified that the beach reopening is only for visitation, walking, and sunset viewing, and not yet for swimming as water quality is still not within the 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL) standard fecal coliform level.

Meimban is positive that the water quality will further improve by the end of the year as one station in the dolomite beach is already at 920 MPN/100 mL coliform level, as of May 13.

Before the start of the rehabilitation efforts, waters near the Manila Baywalk have registered an average coliform level of 5.75 million MPN/100 mL, based on the MBCO's data in 2019.

Once it reopens, the DENR will allow 1,500 to 3,500 persons at a given time inside the 500-meter span of the dolomite beach to ensure that the minimum health protocols are strictly followed.

Meimban added that online pre-registration is not needed under Alert Level 1, but encouraged visitors to be fully vaccinated before their visit.





# TO THE BEACH

June 13, 2022



People flock to the Dolomite Beach in Manila, which was reopened on Sunday, June 12, 2022, coinciding with the observance of the country's 124th Independence Day. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



## Local tourists visit Manila Baywalk Dolomite beach

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 12 2022 09:55 PM



Local tourists visit the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach in Manila as it reopens to the public on Sunday, Independence Day. The dolomite beach will be open from 6AM to 6 PM starting June 13, Monday.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/06/12/22/manila-baywalk-dolomite-beach-reopens>



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### Dolomite Beach open again to the public

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People visit the Dolomite Beach along Manila Bay, Manila which was opened anew on June 12, 2022, after its rehabilitation. (MB Video by Ali Vicoy)

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Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9u0N\\_CUUa8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9u0N_CUUa8)





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Muli nang bubuksan sa publiko ang Dolomite Beach bukas, June 11 kasabay ng paggunits ng Araw ng Kalayaan.

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Bukas na muli ang Dolomite Beach sa Maynila. Kasabay niyan, pinasinayaan din ang bagong atraksyon sa Baywalk na ginamit pa noong World War II. | Jun. 12, 2022



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People flock to the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, which has been reopened to the public this afternoon.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will allow 1,500 to 3,500 people at a given time inside the artificial white sand beach. (via #MoJo/Pamela Vasquez)



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ONE News  
17h

People are already flocking to the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach on Sunday early afternoon. The man-made beach will be reopened to the public later at 4:00 p.m. (via #MoJo/Pamela Vazquez)



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# DENR celebrates 35th year re-organization



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (File Photo)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA June 12, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrated its 35th year reorganization on June 10.

The DENR regional office hosted a thanksgiving mass for its 35th anniversary celebration.

This year's celebration is themed, "Pistang Pamilyang DENR para sa Tuloy-tuloy na Pagkakaisa at Tagumpay."

This highlights the triumph, hope, and strong camaraderie of its officials and employees in the fulfillment of the agency's duties and responsibilities during these complex and uncertain times.

The DENR was reorganized on June 10, 1987, by virtue of Executive Order No. 192. It is the primary agency of the government responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources.



## Public urged to dispose waste properly, segregate



COASTAL CLEAN UP (DENR photo)

June 12, 2022

PEOPLE in Central Luzon are being asked to dispose and segregate waste properly due to the accumulation of used face masks and other personal protective equipment which are mostly non-biodegradable as the pandemic goes on.

According to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Regional Director for Management Services Laudemir Salac, daily wastes generated nationwide reached about 5.59 million kilos, thus the need to segregate trash.

"Data from the Environmental Management Bureau shows that in the previous year, Of these mixed wastes, about 3.91 million kilos composed of both biodegradable and non-biodegradables; 1.39 million kilos are being disposed; while 279,920 kilos are residual wastes which should be disposed in sanitary landfill areas," he said.

With this amount of garbage generated daily, Salac stressed the negative impacts it can cause to the environment if these wastes were not properly disposed and segregated.

"One of these is water pollution, which can result if wastes will be dumped in creeks and estuaries and go down to the major river systems like Manila Bay, and ultimately down to the coastal areas," he said.

When this happens, Salac said marine resources will be contaminated and may die. In addition, this can also increase the risk of flooding if drainages get clogged with garbage.

"There is also air pollution in cases of open dumpsite, where wastes just piled up and not segregated. In the process of decomposition of unmanaged waste, it produces methane gas which is one of the greenhouse gases that affects the ozone layer and contributes to global warming. Also, during this process, carbon dioxide is produced which can also contribute to a rise in atmospheric temperature," he said.

With these negative impacts to the environment, Salac urged the public to start proper waste management and disposal at home.

He said people should be reminded of proper segregation, and the need to intensify recycling.

"We should avoid single-use plastics. We don't want bottled mineral water anymore. We advocate the use of tumblers. We need to beef up our recycling program in the Philippines since it is not yet very efficient. We keep on producing these PET bottles and this one-time use plastics like straws in fast foods that will just accumulate after use. However, we should start using alternatives to those," Salac said.





Salac cited the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle by transforming one product into another useful product; and refusing to use Styrofoams, and instead opt for biodegradable containers like those made of starch.

The DENR also urged municipal government to establish their own materials recovery facility and create compost pit for fertilizers.

Salac assured that DENR will continue to strengthen public awareness through conduct of dialogues with barangay officials and their counterparts in the local government units to provide technical assistance and monitor their compliance to ecological solid waste management.

“We will also continue with our information, education, and communication program to involve the community to further develop their behavior towards proper waste management,” he said. (JTD)



# Angeles mayor orders Material Recovery Facility shutdown

CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB

June 12, 2022

ANGELES City Mayor Carmelo “Pogi” Lazatin Jr. ordered to completely close down the temporary Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Barangay Mining beginning June 15, 2022.

Lazatin said this during his meeting with Chief Adviser and Tactician IC Calaguas, City Engineer and concurrent Environmental Management System Head Donato Dizon, and Pipo Soliman of MRF.

Lazatin said the city will no longer use an MRF, instead, all of the waste that will be collected will go straight to the sanitary landfill in Porac town.

“We will no longer use an MRF. Nakipag-coordinate na po tayo sa Porac para rito,” Lazatin said.

Dizon said dump trucks will head straight to the landfill on the same day as the garbage collection.

“Bale ang arrangement po, kung ano po ang araw ng kolekta ng truck sa barangay, iyon din po ang araw na dadalhin nila ang nakolektang basura sa Porac landfill,” Dizon said.

“Ang utos po ni Mayor Lazatin, hindi na gagamitin ang MRF,” he added.

Lazatin continues to encourage Angeleños to practice proper waste segregation.

Aside from this, the “Walang Plastikan: Plastik Palit Bigas Project” launched by Mayor Lazatin continues to operate via schedule in the 33 barangays.

The city, through the efforts of Lazatin, also acquired a Bilis Walis truck and plastic shredding machines, both a first in Pampanga.



# Mine firm fears \$6-M loss over 'squatting' row

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

June 13, 2022

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: A national government-sanctioned British mining corporation in Barangay Runruno here over the weekend said it has suffered losses and is on the verge of losing \$6.2 million (P328 million) more this month as a result of its failure to access part of its contract area claimed by "surface occupants" and others tagged as "illegal settlers."

FCF Minerals Corp. said it cannot fully operate and exercise its mining rights over the mining contract area as the company is being prevented by occupants who claim to have a right over the area and are entitled to just compensation.

"Also because the company does not have full access to the area due to resistance from surface occupants, there is already an instability against the slope of the remaining knob, which might fail both sides of the slope due to lack of buttressing and anchoring," FCF Minerals said in a statement.

These and other factors, according to the company, are also creating a threat to the safety of the people working within the area.

As surface occupants of the mine contract area, some members of the Guillao family in Runruno and other illegal settlers also claim to be holders of a tenurial instrument as members of an indigenous cultural community.

They said FCF Minerals should secure the free prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the tribal migrants of the village.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), however, noted that the project area of MTL Philippines or FCF Minerals Corp. which is situated in Runruno village, particularly in the subvillages of Tayab and Malilibeg, "does not fall within, contains the whole, nor overlaps a portion of an ancestral domain."

As early as Nov. 16, 2007, the NCIP has already decided in a case filed by the Runruno Landowners Association Inc. against FCF Mining Corp. that an FPIC is not applicable as the mining contract area is not part of an ancestral domain of any tribal group in the area.

The association then petitioned the NCIP for injunction and prohibition with preliminary injunction with prayer of temporary restraining order against respondent FCF Minerals, among others, but was dismissed for lack of merit.

"Respondent [FCF Minerals Corp. et. al] cannot be directed to secure the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the tribal migrants of Runruno, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya, who [do] not own an ancestral domain," the NCIP stated in its decision.

This was also confirmed by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources sub-office in Bayombong town in this province, which issued a certification dated March 22, 2022, that the subject property in the mining area claimed by the Guillao family members and others is found to be within timberland, and thus, owned by the state and not private property.

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) headed by Director Mario Ancheta, FCF Minerals Corp. is a holder of a financial or technical assistance agreement (FTAA) issued in 2009 giving it the exclusive right over the mine contract area consisting of more than 3,000 hectares located at Runruno village.





Ancheta explained that the FTAA, which FCF entered into with the government as a mining contractor, gave the company the right to enter the subject property for purposes of mining for the government.

Meanwhile, FCF Minerals said because the company is now in the commercial operation period of its FTAA, it needs to use additional portions of the contract area for the expansion of its mining operations.

It added that as early as 2015, it commenced negotiations with the Guillao family members, among others, for the compensation of their improvement and their other surface rights in the area but they demanded exorbitant values for the property they occupied.

Because of the failure of the negotiations, FCF Minerals in the same year requested the MGB Region 2 to allow its entry into the subject untitled property to conduct its mining operations.

It also applied for the bond to enter by posting the amount of P500,000, and on Jan. 8, 2019, MGB Region 2 approved the company's application for bond to enter public land, allowing FCF entry to operate within the subject forest land occupied by the Guillao family and other illegal settlers.

Based on the MGB's Mine Management Division assessment report dated Aug. 3, 2015, which provided that the value of the property found in the subject area is worth P320,010, the approved bond amounting to P500,000 shows that it is more than enough to cover the possible damage over the improvements.

FCF Minerals said despite compliance with all the requirements by the company allowing it to enter the lands within the contract area under its FTAA, the Guillao family, among other settlers, still refuses to vacate, thus delaying an economic development project of the government of which it is the contractor.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



# Kanselasyon ng quarrying ipinanawagan kay Pangulong Duterte

[Doris Franche](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon June 13, 2022 | 12:00am



Ang panawagan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ay kasunod ng kabiguan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna na kanselahin at sa halip ay sinuspinde lamang ang mga Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) ng sister quarry companies na Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group, gayundin ang sa Quimson Limestone Inc.

[twitter.com / DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

MANILA, Philippines — Pinapakansela ng iba't ibang grupo ng mga eksperto at mamamayan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang quarrying agreements na napapaloob sa Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape at Masungi Geopark Project bago siya bumaba sa puwesto.

Ang panawagan kay Duterte ay kasunod ng kabiguan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna na kanselahin at sa halip ay sinuspinde lamang ang mga Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) ng sister quarry companies na Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group, gayundin ang sa Quimson Limestone Inc.

Ang tatlong kumpanya ay mayroong mga MPSA na sumasaklaw sa higit sa 1,300 ektarya ng mga protektadong lugar at wildlife sanctuaries.

Pangamba pa ng mga grupo na maaaring tanggalin ang mga suspensyon anumang oras, kung kayat giit ng mga ito na ang tamang aksyon ay ang pagkansela ng mga MPSA.

Ayon sa batas, ang protektadong lugar at mga pambansang parke ay sarado sa pagmimina. Paliwanag pa ng mga eksperto na pinoprotektahan ng watershed ang Metro Manila at ang lalawigan ng Rizal mula sa mapaminsalang pagbaha.

Paliwanag naman ng mga katutubong Dumagat-Remontando, maglalaho ang bundok at matutuyo ang tubig sa patuloy na quarrying.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/06/13/2188022/kanselasyon-ng-quarrying-ipinanawagan-kay-pangulong-duterte>



# 'It will erase the sacred mountain': Dumagats plead Duterte to cancel quarry pacts in Masungi

Published June 12, 2022, 2:41 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

A group of indigenous people (IP) once again prodded President Duterte to cancel the large-scale quarrying agreements found within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Masungi Geopark Project before he steps down from office on June 30.



(File photo courtesy of Masungi Georeserve Facebook page)

The Dumagat-Remontado tribe in Antipolo, Rizal warned that the quarrying will erase the “sacred mountain” that have protected the people against devastating typhoons for many years.

“Kung matutuloy ang quarrying ay maglalaho ang ang sagradong bundok dahil miminahin ang bato at papatagin ito. Ang mga ilog at tubig ay matutuyot (If the quarrying continues, the sacred mountain will be erased because they will mine and flatten the rocks. The water will also dry up),” they said in a statement on Sunday, June 15.

The Dumagat-Remontado tribe made the appeal as they expressed discontent with the suspension of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) imposed by Department of Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna against the Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation, Quarry Rock Group, and Quimson Limestone Inc.

In April, more than 30 renowned experts including lawyer-advocate Antonio Oposa Jr., environmental champion and former Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Science Dean Rey Papa, and Manila Observatory Head Ft. Jett Villarín called for the cancellation of the MPSAs of the three sister quarry companies which, according to them, cover more than 1,300 hectares of protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

The Dumagat-Remontado tribe and the advocates said the suspension order “can be lifted any time” so the “threat of quarrying remains.”

They said the “correct action” should be the cancellation of the MPSAs since “the law is clear that protected areas and national parks are closed to mining.”

The watershed’s forests and biodiversity protects Metro Manila and Rizal Province from disastrous flooding and other harmful effects of the climate crisis.

According to a recent National Museum of the Philippines report, major land and hydrologic disturbances in and around Masungi, such as quarrying, can have expensive consequences to life, property, and the economy.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/12/it-will-erase-the-sacred-mountain-dumagats-plead-duterte-to-cancel-quarry-pacts-in-masungi/>





## Kanselasyon ng Masungi quarrying hinirit

By Abante News Last updated Jun 12, 2022



Umapela kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga environmentalist group na tuluyan ng kanselahin ang quarrying agreements sa Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape at Masungi Geopark Project sa Rizal bago ito bumaba sa puwesto sa Hunyo 30.

Ito'y matapos na suspendihin lang ng DENR ang mga Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) ng Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group gayundin ang Quimson Limestone Inc. na sumasaklaw sa mahigit 1,300 ektarya ng mga protektadong lugar at wildlife sanctuary sa bansa.

Anila, maaaring tanggalin ang suspensiyon anumang oras para matuloy ang proyekto gayung labag sa batas ang pagmimina sa mga protektadong lugar at mga pambansang parke. Pinoprotektahan umano ng watershed ang Metro Manila at lalawigan ng Rizal mula sa pagbaha at maaaring makapinsala sa buhay, ari-arian at ekonomiya ng bansa ang pag-quarry sa loob at paligid ng Masungi.

Nababahala rin ang mga katutubong Dumagat-Remontando sa posibleng pagkawala ng sagradong bundok dahil sa pagmimina ng bato, pagpatag ng bundok at pagtuyo ng mga ilog. Nitong Abril, naglabas ng open letter ang mahigit 30 eksperto kabilang sina Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., Edward Hagedorn, UST Science Dean Rey Papa at Manila Observatory Head Fr. Jett Villarin para sa kanselasyon ng MPSA.

Samantala, iginiit ng nasabing mga kompanya na ang lugar na sakop ng mga MPSA ay naging 'private lands' at hindi pag-aari ng estado. Gayunman, walang naibigay na patunay ang mga ito na pag-aari ng mga quarry sa lupa. (Dolly Cabreza)



# Intra-Asean exchange for climate programs eyed

By [Mayvelin U. Caraballo](#) June 13, 2022



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd is proposing the establishment of an intra-Association of Southeast Asian Nations exchange of information on climate action projects. PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BALDEMOR

FINANCE Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd is proposing an intra-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) exchange of information on climate action projects backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Dominguez asked the ADB to lead the initiative that would let regional organization's member-nations to share knowledge and best practices on localized climate adaptation and mitigation projects, the agency announced in a statement released over the weekend.

It said Dominguez stressed that his proposal is a better alternative rather than depending entirely on international fora like the annual United Nations Conference of the Parties, which focuses on the larger picture in solving the climate catastrophe and sometimes overlooks solutions best-suited to local communities.

"Climate change might be a global problem. The issue, however, exhibits itself most starkly in our smallest communities. I am sure that the ADB will be ready to help us promote the exchange of climate change action and adaptation practices among the Asean countries," he was quoted as saying.

The Department of Finance (DoF) said Dominguez made this request while the Philippines exchanged documents with the ADB to mark the signing of two loan agreements. One loan agreement is the \$250-million policy-based loan for the Climate Change Action Program, Subprogram 1 (CCAP1), which aims to promote the country's climate action agenda.

The signing of the loan agreement for the CCAP1 makes the Philippines one of the region's pioneers in climate policy development funding, the DoF underscored, as this is the ADB's first climate change policy-based credit.

"This initiative will hopefully encourage other countries to design and accelerate the implementation of their own climate programs. This sends a very strong signal to the international community that the Philippines is fully committed to deliver on our climate ambitions," Dominguez said.

"We hope to inspire other emerging economies not only with our determination but also with innovative financial systems," he added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/13/business/top-business/intra-asean-exchange-for-climate-programs-eyed/1847175>



# Disaster reduction and insurance

## *INSURANCE INSIGHTS*

By [Herminia Jacinto](#) June 13, 2022

RECENT events in the country and elsewhere in the world have highlighted the serious problems brought about by climate change. Typhoons and floods are events that have become ordinary happenings in the Philippines. But of late, we have had more serious ones such as storm surges, heavy flooding and landslides, caused by nonstop strong rains. Earthquakes have come more frequently than before, and it looks like the dormant volcanoes have suddenly awakened. The latest was the mild eruption of Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon, which had been inactive for a long time. Pagasa has declared that the rainy season has officially started, and true to form, the "announcement" came with thunderstorms and rains almost everyday.

There is no way by which these events can be stopped or controlled. So, all that can be done is to reduce the impact of these disasters if and when they happen. All over the world, governments and the private sector are collaborating to mitigate the negative results of these disasters. Measures to protect property, people and the environment are the subject of various discussions in conferences and meetings among experts on the subject.

What are we doing in the Philippines? It will be good for the public to know that protection is being thought of and steps are being taken to protect them from these catastrophes or disasters. Both the government and the private sector have to join forces to have a scientific and concerted approach to the problems brought about by climate change.

The Climate Change Commission, which was created under the Office of the President, is the sole policy making body tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the programs and action plans of the government relating to climate change pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Climate Change Act (RA 9729), also known as the "Climate Change Act of 2009." The President of the Philippines is the chairman of the commission with three commissioners assisting him. It is the local government units which are the frontline agencies in the implementation of the action plans as determined by the commission. The other government agencies with which the commission has to coordinate and work closely with are the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). We are signatories to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, an international document adopted by the United Nations member states at the world conference held in Sendai Japan in March 2015. The Sendai Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years.

The private sector has established Arise-Philippines, the Local Network of Arise (the private sector alliance for disaster-resilient societies). The partnership between SM Prime Holdings and UNDRR paved the way for the creation of Arise-Philippines. To date, the network has 88 private sector organizations as members that share the vision of a resilient, prosperous future where fewer lives are lost to disasters, capital assets, and investments are risk informed, and infrastructure is resilient to natural and man-made hazards. Arise-Philippines is co-chaired by Hans Sy, chairman of the executive committee of SM Prime Holdings and (ret.) vice admiral Alexander P. Pama, consultant for disaster risk resilience.

Another private sector initiative to increase the country's financial resilience against natural disasters is the Philippine Catastrophe Insurance Facility, with the full support of our Insurance Commission and the Department of Finance. This facility will allow nonlife insurers to cede their catastrophe risks to this pool or facility. The risks will be divided among the members which will





allow more capacity, sustainable premium rates, thus providing the insuring public wider access to insurance protection.

For a better appreciation of the disaster reduction initiatives of the government and the private sector, especially the nonlife insurance industry, we invite the public to attend the 2nd Virtual Summit on Climate Change on June 22 to 23, 2022, mornings only. This summit is hosted by the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific and Insurance Philippines. Speakers, both local and foreign, who are very knowledgeable about risks and risk reduction will share their expertise with us.

# Nations are pledging to create ocean preserves—how do those promises add up?

BY THE CONVERSATION JUNE 12, 2022



By Kirsten Grorud-Colvert | *Oregon State University*  
**The Conversation**

Billions of people around the world rely on the ocean for food, income and cultural identity. But climate change, overfishing and habitat destruction are unraveling ocean ecosystems.

As a marine ecologist, I study ways to improve ocean conservation and management by protecting key areas of the ocean. Many nations have created or promised to create marine protected areas – zones that may restrict activities like fishing, shipping and aquaculture. But decades of research have shown that not all marine protected areas are created equal, and that the most effective preserves restrict damaging activities.

## Tallying pledges

Many governing bodies around the world have responded to the ocean crisis by pledging to protect swaths of ocean within their territories. To see how these commitments added up, my colleagues and I recently evaluated ocean conservation commitments announced from 2014 through 2019 at the yearly Our Ocean Conferences—high-level international meetings initiated by the US State Department. (More recent meetings were canceled during the Covid-19 pandemic.)

A number of countries have made ambitious commitments. At the Our Ocean Conferences from 2014 through 2019, 62 countries pledged to protect areas of their ocean. Fourteen nations, including the Seychelles and Chile, committed to protect more than 38,000 square miles (100,000 square kilometers) within their waters.

Unfortunately, even if all of these commitments are fully implemented, they will protect only 4 percent of the world's ocean. Adding in all other protected areas and outstanding commitments made in other forums raises that figure to 8.9 percent.

The number is likely to rise as additional countries join in. For example, on May 30, 2022, the South Pacific island nation of Niue pledged to protect 100 percent of its national waters. They cover 122,000 square miles (317,500 square kilometers)—an area roughly the size of Vietnam.

Most recently, the Biden administration proposed on June 8, 2022, to designate Hudson Canyon, which lies southeast of New York City in the Atlantic and is one of the largest underwater canyons in the world, as a national marine sanctuary. The canyon provides habitat for sperm whales, sea turtles, deep-sea corals and other sensitive species.



Adding urgency to this effort, negotiations at the United Nations continue around a proposed target to protect at least 30 percent of Earth's land and sea areas by 2030. More than 90 countries, including the US, have endorsed this goal.

Clearly this is strong progress, but much work remains. Nations have failed to carry out past international conservation pledges. And meaningful marine protection involves more than stating high-level commitments.

### **Promises, promises**

Today some marine protected areas offer significant protection for fish and other sea life, but others exist mainly on paper.

For example, the Southern Ocean around Antarctica is one of the least-altered marine zones on Earth, but fishing is expanding there, and only 5 percent of it is currently protected. Deliberations over two proposed protected areas there, in the East Antarctic and the Weddell Sea, have continued for years.

In many protected areas, damaging activities are permitted. For example, the Habitat Protection Zones of Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park allow multiple types of fishing.

I served on an international team that published a broad framework for planning and assessing marine protected areas in 2021. Our key message was that effectively conserving ocean habitats and marine life will require working together with local communities and governments to create more marine protected areas and set tighter curbs on destructive activities.

We designed this guide to provide an accurate, science-based picture of how much actual conservation these protected areas will deliver. It complements the International Union for Conservation of Nature's well-established categories for protected areas—guidelines that the United Nations and many national governments use for defining protected areas.

The IUCN categories describe types of management at various sites. For example, a Category II national park sets aside large swaths of land or sea. But the categories don't specify what kinds of activities are allowed there or describe their impact. Our guide adds four new elements that are particularly relevant for tracking and decision-making.

First, it identifies whether a protected area is simply a concept, an operational area with effective governance and regulations, or something in between. This is important, because it can take years to move from drafting a proposal to actually conserving a swath of ocean.

Second, the guide outlines four levels of protection: 1) fully protected, with no destructive activities allowed; 2) highly protected, with only minimal human impacts; 3) lightly protected, with moderate impacts; 4) minimally protected, with destructive activities allowed.

This last category can still qualify as a protected area if conserving biodiversity is its primary goal and no industrial activities, like mining and drilling, are permitted.

Third, successful marine protected areas must be planned, designed and managed equitably. An open process is crucial to earn public support. This includes co-managing and incorporating traditional knowledge from Indigenous peoples and the experience of local fishers and other people who use the area.

Finally, once a marine protected area is established, it needs to receive adequate political support and financing, particularly for projects that rely on international investment.





## Raising the bar

Applying these criteria will help policymakers develop more effective marine protections and assess what existing protected areas are accomplishing. For instance, measured by these standards, we found that only 3 percent of all existing and pledged marine protected areas from Our Ocean Conferences would be considered fully or highly protected.

Experts in Canada, Indonesia, the US, and other countries are already using this guide to evaluate existing marine protected areas so that communities and governments can make informed decisions and adjust policies accordingly.

While ocean protection has far to go, I see reason for optimism. At the most recent Our Ocean Conference, in the Pacific island nation of Palau in April 2022, nations made more than 400 new commitments to take steps including creating new protected areas and reducing marine pollution and illegal and unregulated fishing.

These pledges involved some \$16.35 billion in funding, on top of \$91.4 billion already committed at previous conferences. I believe that if nations use these resources to create the kind of high-quality protected areas described in our guide, there is great hope for conserving ocean life.

Vanessa Constant, associate program officer with the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, contributed to this article.

*This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/nations-are-pledging-to-create-ocean-preserves-how-do-those-promises-add-up-180756>.*

Image credits: [SKYPIXEL | DREAMSTIME.COM](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/12/nations-are-pledging-to-create-ocean-preserves-how-do-those-promises-add-up/>



# Climate change a bigger threat than war, Fiji tells security summit

Published 15 hours ago



GETTY IMAGES

Fiji's Nananu-I-Ra island: Many Pacific states are low-lying and prone to flooding

**Fiji has told an Asian security summit that climate change is a bigger threat to the Pacific than military tensions.**

"Machine guns, fighter jets... are not our primary security concern. The single greatest threat to our very existence is climate change," Fiji Defence Minister Inia Seruiratu said.

He was addressing a summit in Singapore which has focused on China-US tensions and the Ukraine war.

Cyclones have repeatedly battered Fiji and other low-lying Pacific countries.

"It threatens our very hopes and dreams of prosperity. Human-induced, devastating climate change," Mr Seruiratu told the forum, called the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Floods in Fiji caused by tropic cyclones have displaced thousands of people in recent years and wrought economic havoc.

Pacific states have urged advanced industrialised nations to do more to combat climate change.

"Waves are crashing at our doorsteps, winds are battering our homes, we are being assaulted by this enemy from many angles," Mr Seruiratu told delegates.

The world is now about 1.2C warmer than it was in the 19th Century - the result of humans burning fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases, mostly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

But much attention has focused on China's growing challenge to Western strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

In April China signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands, causing concern in Australia, New Zealand and the US. The details of it were not disclosed.

Besides the Solomons, Pacific island nations have not so far reached consensus on China's proposal for a new regional trade and security pact.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-61774473>



13 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





## DENR NANAWAGAN NA IPATUPAD ANG "NO SEGREGATION, NO COLLECTION POLICY"

**NANAWAGAN** ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa local chief executives na mahigpit na ipatupad ang "No Segregation, No Collection" policy sa mga lungsod at munisipalidad upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang lumalaking problema sa basura.

Hinimok ni DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, Local Government Units Concerns and Attached Agencies Benny de Leon ang local government units

(LGUs) na mahigpit na ipatupad ang Section 24 ng RA 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act na nagsasaad ng mga kinakailangan para sa pag-transport ng solid waste.

"We noted that some residents are practicing waste segregation at source in their homes, but the segregated wastes are mixed by the waste collection crew in dump trucks. This is a clear violation of RA 9003," saad ni de Leon.

Ayon kay EMB Director at concurrent Executive Director ng National Solid Waste



REMATY OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

Management Commission Engr. William P. Cufiada, habang ang karamihan sa LGUs ay nagpapatupad ng tamang paraan sa ecological solid waste management (ESWM), reobserbahan pa rin sa isinagawang inspeksyon ng EMB Regional Offices na ang ibang local solid waste collectors at private haulers ay kumukuha pa rin ng magkakahalong basura.

Upang mabigyan ito ng solusyon, pinaalalahanan ni Cufiada ang mga lokal na opisyal na maglaan ng hiwale na truck para sa pagkolekta ng recyclables, biodegradable, residual at hazardous waste upang maiwasan ang kontaminasyon.

Hinikayat din ang local governments na ipatupad ang color coding ng waste bags. Ang Green para sa biodegradable wastes; Blue para sa recyclables; Black para sa non-recyclables; Red para sa household hazardous wastes o special waste; at Yellow para sa household in-

fectious/COVID-19 wastes.

"You are also advised to notify your residents and establishments that no collection will be done if solid wastes are not properly segregated at source. You may assign your City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers to ensure LGU compliance with this provision," dagdag ni Cufiada.

Maaari namang masampahan ng kasong administratibo ang mga opisyal ng local government at government agencies na hindi nakasunud sa pagpapatupad ng rules and regulations, ayon na rin sa nakasaad sa Section 50 ng RA 9003.

Ang lehat ng EMB Regional Directors ay maglalabas ng Notices of Violations sa pasaway na local government units (LGU). Isasampa ang kaso sa Department of the Interior and Local Government at sa Ombudsman kapag ang LGU ay hindi nakatupad sa mga probisyon ng batas.



## PHL firms may now register online via CRS-DENR exec

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**C**OMPANIES operating in the Philippines may now register online via the Company Registration System (CRS) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB).

Registration in the CRS online is a requirement to access the EMB Online Permitting and Monitoring System (OPMS) for permits and clearances, an official of the DENR said in a news release.

Launched in 2020, the CRS was enhanced continuously to fully automate the online processing of permits and registration of companies, making it more responsive, transparent, and efficient.

"Once registered in the CRS, companies will gain access to other OPMS services such as online applications for Environmental Compliance Certificate, Permit to Operate, Wastewater Discharge Permit, Importation Clearances, and submission of reports, among others. They can access the system anywhere, anytime, 24/7," EMB Director William P. Cuñado was quoted as saying.

A total of 77,577 companies are currently registered in the system.

To register, the user must log in to <https://client.emb.gov.ph/crs/login>. Each user must provide an active e-mail account to receive all CRS notifications.

Each user will be asked to provide

their location and establishment name on the establishment registration. If not provided on the list, they will be asked to manually key in the name of the company, location, and approved permits.

The EMB has assigned personnel in each region where the establishment is located that will verify the request. After verification, updates will be sent to the registered email. Companies can also track the status of their CRS registration through the dashboard. Users can likewise update their profile and permits issued by EMB to reflect in the system.

Cuñado added that the EMB has continuously upgraded the OPMS since 2015.

He said the agency has developed and operationalized an improved version of some permitting and clearance systems to further strengthen the delivery of our services.

"All permitting transactions and payments can be done online. Evaluation and processing of permits can be done from practically anywhere with an internet connection," Cuñado said.

Included in the new and improved OPMS is the processing of the following: environmental compliance certificate; permit to operate for sources of air pollution; registration and importation of cyanide; registration and importation of polymer; online hazardous waste manifest system; self-monitoring report online reporting system; CMR online reporting system; and, CNC online self-service system.





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## NEWS BRIEF

### Dolomite Beach dinagsa

DINAGSA ng mga tao ang pagbubukas ng Manila Bay Dolomite Beach kasabay sa pagdiriwang ng Ika-124 taong anibersaryo ng Araw ng Kalayaan kahapon.

Ganap na alas-kuwatro ng hapon nang muling pasinayaan sa publiko ang nasabing baybayin matapos itong isara sa publiko noong Nobyembre ng nakaraang taon para sa ikalawang yugto ng rehabilitasyon.

Ayon sa mga dumagsang bisita, alas-kuwatro pa

lang ng umaga ay nasa lugar na sila para magkaroon ng magandang puwesto sa pagbubukas ng Dolomite Beach.

Samantala, sinabi naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na pasyalan lang at hindi puwedeng maging venue ng swimming ang artipisyal na 'white sand beach' dahil hindi pa ligtas sa kalusugan ng tao ang kalidad ng tubig sa baybayin. (Sheerylou Nemis)



**PINALAGAN** ng mga empleyado ng Land Bank of the Philippines ang planong pagtaas ng suweldo ng mga top executives habang kakarampot sa mga rank and file.



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### Pagbubukas ng Dolomite beach, dinagsa

Dinagsa ng mga tao ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach na muling binuksan kahapon, kasabay ng pagdinweng ng Araw ng Kalayaan.

Ang naturang artificial "white sand beach" ay muling binuksan matapos itong matagal na isara para dumaan sa kalawang

phase ng rehabilitasyon. Nabatid na alas-4:00 pa lang ng madaling araw ay marami nang tao ang naghihintay sa labas ng beach at nag-aabang sa pagbubukas nito.

Ang karamihan sa kapila ay kasama ang kanilang pamilya nang magtungo sa beach.

Dakong alas-4:00 naman ng hapon nang gapin ang inagurasyon sa dolomite beach.

Samantala, pinasinayaan din naman ng Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force kahapon ang Heritage Cannon sa Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach. (Mer Layson)





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# The Manila Times

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# The Manila Times

MONDAY June 13, 2022

Trusted since 1898



**TO THE BEACH** People flocked to the Diliman Beach in...  
what was reported on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Activities at the beach were...  
country's 114th Independence Day. (PHOTO BY JAMES LEE)



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## Gov't urged to cancel 'suspended' quarrying deals

Environmentalists and experts urged the

### ENVIRO WATCH

government to conclusively cancel the large-scale quarrying agreements within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Masungi Geopark Project.

The groups renewed their call after DENR merely issued "suspension" orders to sister quarry companies Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation and Quarry Rock Group, as well as Quimson Limestone Inc. Altogether, the three companies hold Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) covering more than 1,300 hectares of protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.

According to concerned groups, the suspensions can be lifted any time and the threat of quarrying remains.

They said the "appropriate" action should be the cancellation of the MPSAs since the law is clear that protected areas and national parks are closed to mining, adding that prior rights, if existing, cannot be exempt from the prohibitions of the law.

The watershed's forests and biodiversity protects Metro Manila and Rizal Province from disastrous flooding and other harmful effects of the climate crisis, experts said.

According to a recent National Museum of the Philippines report, major land and hydrologic disturbances in

and around Masungi, such as quarrying, can have expensive consequences to life, property, and the economy.

Among the many groups calling for the immediate cancellation of the MPSAs are the indigenous Dumagat-Remontado tribe.

"Kung matutuloy ang quarrying ay maglalaho ang ang sagradong bundok dahil miminahin ang bato at papatagin ito. Ang mga ilong at tubig ay matutuyot," they said in a statement. In April 2022, more than 30 renowned experts including Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., Edward Hagedorn, UST College of Science Dean Rey Papa, and Manila Observatory Head Ft. Jett Villarin also called for the MPSA's cancellation.

A letter from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 4-A Director Dondi Sarmiento obtained by this paper stated that the MGB Central Office has not acted on the cancellation of the MPSAs, more than a year after issuing show cause orders to the quarry companies in view of "gross violations constituting breach in their contracts and the Philippine Mining Act."

He did not provide any proof or title for such a claim.

Environmentalists say this is disturbing since the area is mountainous forest land owned by the state and has been protected by multiple laws and policies issued in 1904, 1977, 1993, and 2011.





## Masungi quarrying pinakakansela kay PRRD

NANAWAGAN ang iba't ibang grupo ng mga eksperto at mamamayan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na tuluyan nang kanselahin ang quarrying agreements na napapaloob sa Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape at Masungi Geopark Project bago siya bumaba sa pwesto.

Muling nanawagan ang mga grupo matapos susperdihin ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampaña ang mga Mineral Production Sharing Agreement ng sister quarry companies na Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group, gayundin ang sa Quimson Limestone Inc.

Ang tatlong kompanya ay mayroong mga MPSA na sumasaklaw sa higit sa 1,300 hektarya ng mga protektadong lugar at wildlife sanctuaries. Pangamba pa ng mga grupo na maaaring tangalin ang mga suspensyon anomang oras, kung kayat git ng mga ito na ang tamang aksyon ay ang pagkansela ng mga MPSA. Sinabi rin nito na hindi maaaring maging dahilan ang prior rights upang lumabag sa batas. Ayon sa batas, ang protektadong lugar at mga pambansang parke ay sarado sa pagmimina.

Paliwanag pa ng mga eksperto na pinoprotektahan ng watershed ang Metro Manila at ang lawagan ng Rizal ngula sa mapaminsalang pagbaha.

Ayon pa sa mga dalubhasa ng National Museum of the Philippines, ang malaking pekikielem sa lupa sa loob at paligid ng Masungi, tulad ng pag-quarry, ay maaaring magkaroon ng malaking pinsala sa buhay, ani-arian, at ekonomiya.

Paliwanag naman ng mga katubong Dumagat-Remontando, "Kung matuloy ang quarrying ay maglaleho ang ating sagradong bundok dahil miminahin ang bato at patapatin ang bundok. Ang mga ilog at tubig ay matutuyot."

Noong Abril 2022, mahigit sa 30 na eksperto kabilang na sina Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., Edward Hagedorn, UST Science Dean Rey Papa, at Manila Observatory Head Fr. Jett Vilarin ay ang naglabas ng open letter para sa pagkansela ng mga MPSA.

Ayon sa isang liham mula sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 4-A, Director Dondi Samiento higit sa isang taon nang hindi inaakusahan ng MGB Central Office ang pagkansela ng mga MPSA pagkatapos nitong mag-isyu ng mga Show Cause order sa mga kompanya dahil sa mga "gross violations constituting breach in their contracts and the Philippine Mining Act."

Sinabi rin ni Samiento na ang lugar na sakop ng mga MPSA ay naging "private lands" at hindi raw pag-aari ng estado. Ngunit hindi naman siya nagbigay ng titulo o anomang patunay ng pag-aari ng mga quarry sa lupa.

Sinabi ng mga environmentalist na ito ay lubos na nakababahaya dahil ang matawag na lugar ay kagubatan na pag-aari ng estado ng Pilipinas at protektado ng iba't ibang batas at panukala noong 1904, 1977, 1993, at 2011.

JAN SIMOCRUZ





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## Kanselasyon ng Masungi quarrying hinirit

UMAPELA kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga environmentalist group na tuluyan ng kanselahin ang quarrying agreements sa Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape at Masungi Geopark Project sa Rizal bago ito bumaba sa puwesto sa Hunyo 30.

Ito'y matapos na suspendihin lang ng DENR ang mga Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) ng Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group gayundin ang Quimson Limestone Inc. na sumasaklaw sa mahigit 1,300 ektarya ng mga protektadong lugar at wildlife sanctuary sa bansa.

Anila, maaaring tanggalin ang suspensiyon anumang oras para matuloy ang proyekto gayung labag sa batas ang pagmimina sa mga protektadong lugar at mga pambansang parke. Pinoprotektahan umano ng watershed ang Metro

Manila at lalawigan ng Rizal mula sa pagbaha at maaaring makapinsala sa buhay, ari-arian at ekonomiya ng bansa ang pag-quarry sa loob at paligid ng Masungi.

Nababahala rin ang mga katutubong Dumagat-Remontando sa posibleng pagkawala ng sagradong bundok dahil sa pagmimina ng bato, pagpatag ng bundok at pagtuyo ng mga ilog. Nitong Abril, naglabas ng open letter ang mahigit 30 eksperto kabilang sina Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., Edward Hagedorn, UST Science Dean Rey Papa at Manila Observatory Head Fr. Jett Villarin para sa kanselasyon ng MPSA.

Samantala, iginilit ng nasabing mga kompanya na ang lugar na sakop ng mga MPSA ay naging 'private lands' at hindi pag-aari ng estado. Gayunman, wulang naibigay na patunay ang mga ito na pag-aari ng mga quarry sa lupa. (Dolly Cabreza)



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# LAGUNA MAYOR, GROUPS CONDEMN ARREST OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER

LUCENA CITY—The mayor of Pakil town in Laguna province and environmental groups condemned the arrest of a 68-year-old woman in the town on Saturday over a 14-year-old rebellion case.

Mayor Vince Soriano decried the arrest of Vertrudéz Macapanpan, a known environmental defender in the town, as she was nabbed based

on vague charges.

On Sunday, the Quezon police reported that a team of policemen and Army soldiers arrested Macapanpan in the village of Burgos in Pakil around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

They came armed with an arrest warrant for a rebellion case pending at the Regional Trial Court Branch 65 in Infanta, Quezon, since May 23, 2008,

and the revised version of the complaint dated March 4, 2013, police said.

### 'Overkill'

The police report tagged Macapanpan as an alleged member of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines. She was placed in the custody of the police in

General Nakar, Quezon.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator for Kalikasan PNE, said Macapanpan's arrest was overkill: "Why send around 40 members of the Special Action Force to arrest a 68-year-old woman? That's overkill. This is a clear reprisal against her for standing up against a potentially destructive dam project."

—DELFIN T. MAJLARI JR., INQ





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## PH PUSHES ADB-LED ASEAN INFO EXCHANGE ON CLIMATE ACTION

By Ben O. de Vera  
@bendeveraINQ

The Philippines is pushing for a regional information exchange on climate action, pitched to be overseen by the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In a statement on Sunday, the Department of Finance (DOF) said Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, who chairs the Climate Change Commission (CCC), recently urged ADB to "spearhead an Asean-wide initiative that would enable member-countries of the regional organization to exchange information and best practices on localized climate adaptation and mitigation programs."

"Climate change might be a global problem. The issue, however, exhibits itself most starkly in our smallest communities. I am sure that the ADB will be ready to help us promote the exchange of climate change action and adaptation practices among the Asean countries," Dominguez said on June 3 when the Philippine government and ADB had an exchange of documents for two loan agreements.

One of ADB's two newest loans for its host country was the \$250-million financing for the Philippines' climate change action program (subprogram 1)—

the bank's first-of-its-kind climate policy-based loan, making the country among the pioneers in climate-related development financing.

Dominguez said his proposal for an intra-Asean climate information exchange was "a better option than relying solely on international fora such as the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP), which focuses on the big picture in tackling the climate crisis, and usually overlooks solutions tailor-fit for local communities."

Following his attendance at last year's COP26 in Glasgow in the United Kingdom, Dominguez had lamented that rich and industrialized countries who have been polluting the planet more remained slow in fulfilling their climate finance commitments to ease the burden from developing nations like the Philippines.

One of the countries considered to be the most vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines had ambitiously pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

Besides the ADB lending, the Philippines also tapped a 150-million euro loan from the French government's aid arm Agence Française de Développement, for its climate change action program. INQ





## Climate change: The missing agenda item

**A**mid the noise and clutter of the just concluded election campaign, one urgent national — indeed global — issue went unnoticed: climate change.

Hardly surprising. Talking about climate change in a political rally is like delivering a speech with marbles in your mouth. The subject is complicated. It won't win you votes.

Politicians prefer to talk about creating jobs, raising incomes, building homes, or providing free medical care. But unless we deal with climate change, those glossy promises will soon lose their glitter.

The urgency of climate change action was highlighted by the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.

Released on April 4, the IPCC report warned that the world was running out of time. It said that unless countries acted quickly to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 will soon be beyond reach. Global temperatures will rise beyond the target range of 1.5° to 2° centigrade. This will result in severe changes in the climate.

Translation: Think of having more Typhoon Yolanda and Odette every year. Or, the water level at Angat Dam regularly falling below critical levels. Or, more crops being devastated either by floods or droughts. Or, coral reefs being destroyed and fish stocks depleted. Or, coastal communities being flooded by rising sea levels.

### SEA LEVEL RISE

The consequences of climate change can be so calamitous. Take sea level rise.

According to the IPCC, sea-level rise globally is speeding up. It rose from 1.4 millimeters per year in most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 2.6 millimeters per year from 2006 to 2015. It added that the population exposed to a 100-

### YELLOW PAD RAMON ISBERTO

year coastal flood may rise to about 20% if the global sea level rises further.

This is bad news — particularly for the Philippines which has more than 7,640 islands. About 60% of Filipinos live at or near coastal areas. What's more, the sea level is rising much faster in this country than elsewhere. According to a 2016 study, sea levels in the Philippines are rising at five times the global average due to regional variations in the impact of climate change on the oceans.

The Philippine government has been ringing alarm bells. At the United Nations (UN) meeting on Oceans and the Law of the Sea in June 2021, Director John Francis Herrera of the Department of Foreign Affairs warned that the future survival of the country is "at risk if sea level rise is allowed to go on unabated."

The question is: What actions are being taken? This comes to mind when you hear about new reclamation projects being planned for in Manila, Cebu City, and Davao. How can such plans fare given the rising sea levels?

What can be done to face such a problem? There are no easy answers. But some of our neighboring countries are already taking action.

In January 2022, Indonesia's Parliament passed a law to relocate the nation's capital, from Jakarta to a jungled area of Kalimantan on Borneo island. The relocation program will cost \$32 billion and will start sometime between 2022 and 2024. A megacity of 10 million people, Jakarta suffers from chronic congestion, air pollution, and floods due to the combined impact of sea level rise and land subsidence.

Can you imagine the Philippine Congress debating a law to transfer the capital from Manila to the elevated plateau of Bukidnon in Mindanao?

Well, what can the Philippines do to deal with climate change and still pursue development? There are many things. Let's just take a look at two.

### SHIFT TO GREEN ENERGY

First, shift from coal to renewable energy. In this way, the Philippines can help in implementing what experts consider a key action item in the climate agenda: cutting down the use of fossil fuels in power generation.

Right now, coal accounts for nearly 60% of the Philippines' total energy mix. It has 28 operating coal-fired power plants and 22 more approved for construction by the Department of Energy. Coal is preferred because it is cheap. However, among fossil fuels, coal is the dirtiest. It is No. 1 in the global hit list for decommissioning.

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland last year, the Philippines conditionally pledged to phase out coal in the coming decades. Conditionally, because it is asking for financial help to make that transition.

In line with this, the Philippines and Indonesia have signed a deal with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under which retiring coal power plants will be retired and replaced by renewable energy facilities. The ADB's target is to retire half of Southeast Asia's coal plants over the next 10 to 15 years to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 200 million tons a year.

This transition to green energy will not be easy. Many of the country's existing coal-fired plants are relatively new. This raises resistance to retiring them early. Moreover, the shift to renewables will also require redesigning and re-equipping the power grid to handle the variable power generated by renewable energy facilities like solar and wind.

Can the Philippines make this shift to renewables? The reward for this effort will be a new, efficient and sustainable power



industry that will help reduce our climate change woes. The cost of failure: we will be left behind — again.

### CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

Another urgent action agenda item is agriculture. To adapt to changing weather patterns, the Philippines must make its farmers not only more productive but also more climate resilient.

It may help that agriculture is sexy for our politicians. Many candidates in the last elections pledged to help the country's farmers in various ways. Incoming President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. said that giving agriculture a boost will be one of his top priorities to make the country food-secure and resilient.

For that to happen, farming advocates say the new President will have to reverse what they call the government's decades-long bias against agriculture. For many years, they say, the government's agriculture budget has been underfunded.

What complicates the situation is the food crisis that the world faces today. The global food system has been hit hard by COVID-19, the global energy shock, and the war in Ukraine. Price

jumps and supply shortages of petroleum products have made fertilizers more scarce and expensive. In many countries, this forced farmers to cut back on fertilizers and feeds, which in turn is reducing their output and raising the cost of crops and livestock.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has disrupted supplies of vital food items. Russia and Ukraine account for 28% of globally traded wheat, 29% of barley, and 15% of maize. The longer the war lasts, the larger the impact on global food supplies will be.

Meanwhile, bad weather is taking a heavy toll on farm output. China, the world's largest wheat producer, has warned that its harvest this year will be its worst ever after major floods delayed planting last year. India, the world's second largest wheat producer, has suspended wheat exports due to a severe drought. Dry weather has also hit other major wheat producing countries in North America, Europe, and Africa.

While supplies of rice and other key crops remain adequate, the overall food situation is volatile. Over 20 food producing countries have imposed restric-

tions on food exports. More than one-fifth of the world's fertilizer exports have been constricted. UN officials warn that countries which rely on food imports may suffer shortages and high prices. The most vulnerable face possible famine.

For now, the Philippines has to play a balancing act of trying to keep local food crop and livestock production from falling while maintaining access to vital food imports. In the longer term, the country must invest heavily to make local agriculture not only more productive but also more climate resilient.

How can Philippine agriculture be made more climate resilient? The many ways this can be done have been spelled out in the "Compendium of Climate-Resilient Agriculture Technologies and Approaches in the Philippines" which was published in 2020.

This report provides a long checklist of action items. These range from using stress-tolerant varieties of rice, corn, and other major crops, to crop diversification and the use of agroforestry in rainfed lowlands, to multi-story cropping, livestock integration, and soil conservation in upland farms.

The Compendium also recommends the use of digital technologies such as mobile apps for remote, real-time pest and disease monitoring and reporting, and the deployment of automated weather stations and drone aircraft to provide farmers with real-time weather information.

All this will take time, money, and sustained effort. The cost of inaction will be much more painful. With climate change, development cannot be sustained if it is not climate resilient. ■

RAMON "NON" ISBERTO is a former journalist and public affairs officer of PLDT and Smart, and upon retirement, is now associated with Action for Economic Reform.





## UN climate champion urges new administration to boost commitment to tackling climate change

**By Arjay L. Balinbin**  
Senior Reporter

MADRID, Spain — President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos, Jr. should strengthen the country’s commitment to tackling climate change to avoid putting it at greater risk, a United Nations (UN) climate champion said.

“Well, I would say to your president (Mr. Marcos) that this is an absolute urgent agenda. It’s an agenda that brings

a lot of opportunities as well as many risks if you don’t follow the agenda and integrate it into your policies and the way you run the country,” Gonzalo Muñoz, chairman of the board for the UN climate champions, told *BusinessWorld* at the recent South Summit 2022, a global business summit in Madrid co-organized by the IE University.

“We cannot allow...the Philippines to be out of the center of the climate action agenda,” he added.

Mr. Muñoz served as the UN’s high-level climate action champion for

COP25, or the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2019.

“There’s no doubt that, in this moment, climate and the environment are strategic and competitive elements for every country in the world. If you don’t embrace the agenda, you are probably putting your nation at a higher risk.”

Climate Reality Project Philippines, a climate advocacy group, said in a statement in May that it expects the Marcos administration to “elevate the Philippines’ position as a formidable champion of climate-vulnerable countries in this

critical decade for climate and environmental action,” as the new government’s “success or failure in implementing climate policies will decide who survives and thrives in this country.”

“The new president’s success or failure in leading the country’s transition to a renewable energy system will determine whether or not the Filipino people will finally enjoy cleaner air, healthier communities, and access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity,” it added.

*Climate change, S1/11*

### Climate change, from S1/1

The group noted that the Philippines experiences “escalating losses” every year due to natural disasters, especially typhoons.

“This cycle of destruction and rehabilitation can only be addressed by deploying science and evidence-based solutions and by ensuring that the global community follows through with its commitment to limit global warming to the critical limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.”

According to Mr. Muñoz, there is “a big moment” for Southeast Asian countries like the Philippines due to the attention that oceans are gaining.

“The oceans will be much more central to climate discussions... We need to integrate oceans in this moment into both environmental and social solutions.”

“We should have in the second semester of the year the Asia-Pacific Climate week, then I should be going there definitely; and if that allows me to visit the Philippines, I would be delighted,” he added.

The Department of Finance said last year that climate-related hazards have caused P506.1 billion (around \$10 billion) in losses and damage to the Philippines over the past decade despite the country contributing only 0.3% of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions.

Annual average losses of P48.9 billion from climate events represent 0.33% of each year’s average gross domestic product, it noted.

For Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua, climate change adaptation and mitigation must be placed at the center of socioeconom-

ic planning for the Philippines to realize its 2040 goal of eradicating extreme poverty.

“Addressing the triple planetary crisis [of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution] has become our top development challenge. If we are to eradicate extreme poverty in the Philippines by 2040 and hand down a better planet to our children and grandchildren, climate change adaptation and mitigation need to be placed at the heart of socioeconomic planning,” Mr. Chua was quoted as saying in a statement on June 7.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority, the government has formulated an action plan for sustainable consumption and production aimed at providing the guiding framework towards the shift to sustainable and climate-smart practices and behaviors across sectors.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) also recently approved a \$250-million policy-based loan to help boost the country’s climate change efforts, noting that the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranked the Philippines fourth among countries most affected by extreme weather globally from 2000 to 2019.

“The pandemic has heightened the country’s vulnerability to the economic impact of severe weather events,” it said in a statement.

The ADB said the new program targets policy reforms and is expected to help the country build planning, financing, and institutional systems to scale up climate action. It also aims to improve the resilience of farmers and fisherfolk through sustainable solutions.





# EU pushes carbon reduction in traded goods

THE European Union (EU) is committed to pass a suite of policies and regulations that aims to cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 to address climate change issues, a commitment its trading partners should pay close attention to and prepare for as early as now, according to an international expert.

In a recent technical briefing prepared for the International Trade Center, development economist Aaron Cosby said that the European Commission has committed to establish a carbon border adjustment mechanism

(CBAM) to enable the EU to impose a high carbon price, via its emissions trading system (ETS), on its energy-intensive trade-exposed industries like steel, aluminum, fertilizers and cement. Aside from these four, electricity is also covered.

The commission published in July 2021 its proposal to create the CBAM, part of the Fit for 55 climate policy package under the EU Green Deal. The Fit for 55 is a proposed measure that seeks to deliver the EU's 2030 climate target by reducing emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 from 1990 levels

on the way to climate neutrality by 2050.

The EU emissions trading system requires GHG-emitting industries to buy allowances for every ton of carbon produced. The CBAM requires importers to purchase emissions allowances for imported goods as if those goods had been produced domestically and subjected to the EU ETS. This is to prevent high domestic carbon prices from simply shifting emissions to other countries as EU producers compete with foreign producers that are not subject to a carbon price.

The CBAM has not yet been passed into law. Before that happens, the EU Council and the EU Parliament will negotiate to produce final legislation. This negotiation is supposed to be completed in time for the CBAM to come into effect by Jan. 1, 2023, but it seems likely to be delayed, said Cosby.

The commission proposal would see a three-year period during which data is required but no charges imposed, with charges starting in 2026, he added.





## What is 'committed warming'? A climate scientist explains why global warming can continue long after emissions end

BY JULIEN EMILE-GEAY

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

### The Conversation

**B**Y now, few people question the reality that humans are altering Earth's climate. The real question is: How quickly can we halt, even reverse, the damage?

Part of the answer to this question lies in the concept of "committed warming," also known as "pipeline warming."

It refers to future increases in global temperatures that will be caused by greenhouse gases that have already been emitted. In other words, if the clean energy transition happened overnight, how much warming would still ensue?

### Earth's energy budget is out of balance

HUMANS cause global warming when their activities emit greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the lower atmosphere, preventing it from escaping out to space.

Before people began burning fossil fuels to power factories and vehicles and raising methane-emitting cattle in nearly every arable region, Earth's energy budget was roughly in balance. About the same amount of energy was coming in from the Sun as was leaving.

Today, rising carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are more than 50 percent higher than they were at the dawn of the industrial age, and they're trapping more of that energy.

Those carbon dioxide emissions, together with other greenhouse gases such as methane, and offset by some aspects of aerosol air pollution, are trapping energy equivalent to the detonation of five Hiroshima-style atomic bombs per second.

With more energy coming in than leaving, Earth's thermal energy increases, raising the temperature of land, oceans and air and melting ice.

### Warming in the pipeline

THE effects of tampering with Earth's energy balance take time to show up. Think of what happens when you turn the hot water faucet all the way up on a cold winter day: The pipes are full of cold water, so it takes time for the warm water to get to you—hence the term "pipeline warming." The warming hasn't been felt yet, but it is in the pipeline.

There are three major reasons Earth's climate is expected to continue warming after emissions stop.

First, the leading contributors to global warming—carbon dioxide and methane—lin-

ger in the atmosphere for a long time: about 10 years on average for methane, and a whopping 400 years for carbon dioxide, with some molecules sticking around for up to millennia. So, turning off emissions doesn't translate into instant reductions in the amount of these heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

Second, part of this warming has been offset by man-made emissions of another form of pollution: sulfate aerosols, tiny particles emitted by fossil fuel burning, that reflect sunlight out to space. Over the past century, this global dimming has been masking the warming effect of greenhouse emissions. But these and other man-made aerosols also harm human health and the biosphere. Removing those and short-lived greenhouse gases translates to a few tenths of a degree of additional warming over about a decade, before reaching a new equilibrium.

Finally, Earth's climate takes time to adjust to any change in energy balance. About two-thirds of Earth's surface is made of water, sometimes very deep water, which is slow to take up the excess carbon and heat. So far, over 97 percent of the heat added by human activities, and about a quarter of the excess carbon, have gone into the oceans. While land-dwellers may be grateful for this buffer, the extra heat contributes to sea level rise through thermal expansion and also marine heat waves, while the extra carbon makes the ocean more corrosive to many shelled organisms, which can disrupt the ocean food chain.

Earth's surface temperature, driven by the imbalance of radiant energy at the top of the atmosphere, and modulated by the enormous thermal inertia of its oceans, is still playing catch up with its biggest control knob: carbon dioxide concentration.

### How much warming?

SO, how much committed warming are we in for? There isn't a clear answer.

The world has already warmed more than 1.1 degrees Celsius (2°F) compared to pre-industrial levels. Nations worldwide agreed in 2015 to try to prevent the global average from rising more than 1.5°C (2.7°F) to limit the damage, but the world has been slow to react.

Determining the amount of warming ahead is complicated. Several recent studies use climate models to estimate future warming. A study of 18 Earth system models found that when emissions were cut off, some continued warming for decades to hundreds of years, while others began cooling quickly. Another study, published in June 2022, found a 42-percent chance that the world is already committed to 1.5 degrees.

The amount of warming matters because

the dangerous consequences of global warming don't simply rise in proportion to global temperature; they typically increase exponentially, particularly for food production at risk from heat, drought and storms.

Further, Earth has tipping points that could trigger irreversible changes to fragile parts of the Earth system, like glaciers or ecosystems. We won't necessarily know right away when the planet has passed a tipping point, because those changes are often slow to show up. This and other climate-sensitive systems are the basis for the precautionary principle of limiting warming under 2°C (3.6°F), and preferably, 1.5°C.

The heart of the climate problem, embedded in this idea of committed warming, is that there are long delays between changes in human behavior and changes in the climate. While the precise amount of committed warming is still a matter of some contention, evidence shows the safest route forward is to urgently transition to a carbon-free, more equitable economy that generates far less greenhouse gas emissions.

*This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/what-is-committed-warming-a-climate-scientist-explains-why-global-warming-can-continue-long-after-emissions-end-184374>.*





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## 'Geopolitical reality' facing Marcos in West Philippine Sea

**I**NCOMING President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s limited exposure in pre-polls debates and the absence of "foreign policy" initiatives on his official web site are causing uneasiness among international community observers.

Marcos Jr.'s public flip-flopping on the West Philippine Sea (WPS) issue only added to their discomfort. For instance, in an ambush interview before the May 9 polls, Marcos Jr. said that the International Tribunal Ruling on the WPS is unenforceable as only one state recognized it.

Yet, oddly, on his proclamation day, he suddenly became combative, saying the Philippines will honor the international arbitration ruling and will not surrender 1 millimeter of the nation's sovereign land to anyone.

But Professor Carlyle Thayer, professor emeritus of the Australian Defense Force University, in a recent virtual international webinar, is worried that Marcos Jr.'s limited exposure in the Senate (in foreign policy) and his "small town" mentality as governor and congressman of Ilocos Norte may create personal blind spots on the WPS issue.

Dr. Horiyasu Akutsu, professor at Heisei International University, on the other hand, says Japan is worried about the joint China-Russia military exercises, North Korea's recent aggressive missile launches and China's aggressiveness in the WPS. Thus, allies and Japan's "Free and Open Indo Pacific" program are meant to short-circuit China's Greater BRI Strategy and its "Island Chain Strategy"—aiming to build islands surrounding China for her protection and to deny access to the seas by other nations.

The Philippines and the US have a Mutual Defense Treaty, which says that "an attack on one is an attack on the other."

But pragmatists, however, had warned that the intense days of the US playing global Robocop to restore



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Zoilo 'Bingo' Dejaresco III

order internationally, in a long gone with ex-president Donald Trump's "America First" policy. No more warm bodies of American soldiers to export US's war. *By*

In fact, when President Joe Biden assumed office, one of his first acts was to completely withdraw America's support and personnel from Afghanistan after spending \$3 trillion and committing soldiers there. In the Ukraine-Russia war, aside from the economic sanctions and billions of dollars worth of military supplies in aid, the US has kept its physical distance from the conflict. **Lame commitment to democracy?**

Other analysts say not to trust "too much" the word of the US, even when it comes to signed mutual defense treaties, because it will have to move in a calibrated way to suit American interests. Marcos Jr. may have to ask the Philippine Congress to review and propose amendments to the dated Mutual Defense Pact with America to ensure the security of the nation from foreign aggressors.

Moreover, one must also realize that the International Court of Justice had diluted America's intervention powers in the affairs of other nations by its ruling on Nicaragua (1986) and Iran (2003). It ruled that the US had no right to attack the country or fund paramilitary units in Nicaragua against its govern-

**Incoming President Marcos will be truly "walking a tightrope" in dealing with the US and China. Will he be up to the challenge?**

ment and bomb Iran's oil military platform. What about Marcos Jr. do?

"If you want peace, you must prepare for war" is the unorthodox sage opinion of Dr. Bhanushan Dewan, president of Shri Dhara University of India. His thesis is that smaller nations must refuse to be the pawn of superpowers.

The long-term solution is to be able to design and manufacture one's own military equipment to strengthen one's defense capabilities without depending on anyone for protection. An example would be for Japan to provide technology and/or financing to the smaller nations like India, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia, and all of the latter become a specialist in producing specific parts of war goods—and develop their capabilities by acquiring know-how and manufacturing technology from more advanced nations.

Independence is the main, nay the only anchor for "free foreign policy" and politics.

That is why even in the Cold War, both the main protagonists Russia and the US were not just thinking of military superiority but economic and cultural edge over the other. Today, China, with its awesome foreign reserves, had exported capital and loans to major regions in the world. It had this "leverage advantage" as the Military and Science Department of the University of Hawaii says.

From faraway Africa to remote places in Latin America, China has extended its financial clout, which will necessarily bear some political weight in its clutches. Even in the Philippines, the next administration must be wary that too much dependence on China for our GDP growth

and infrastructure build-up will not be in our best national interest.

For America, on the other hand, to introduce itself as an "economical alternative," it must be willing to bring its risk capital and investments at the same magnitude and attitudinal enthusiasm as the Chinese.

Incoming President Marcos will be truly "walking a tightrope" in dealing with the US and China.

Recall that America, for a good part, supported Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s "Martial Law" regime and provided political sanctuary for the family in Hawaii during Edsa One under President Ronald Reagan. The Marcos family, however, has pending court cases there. And the Democrats like US President Biden do not look kindly at regimes abetting or protecting violators of human rights—now and in the past.

China had helped outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte with massive loans, vaccines and technical aid in infrastructure building. However, it had clearly violated international law by building islands in disputed territories in the WPS and starving off our fishermen and depriving them of decent livelihood and fish for the teeming hungry Filipinos. Where would Marcos Jr. position himself between the two?

Maybe, he can take a slew of cues from the history of Cuba, an island country near the United States. During the Cold War, Cuba alternately flirted with both the US and the USSR to survive.

To survive, likewise, the Philippines must learn to similarly play its ace well and deal deftly with both sides. Will President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. be up to the challenge?

*Zoilo Dejaresco, a former banker, is a financial consultant and media practitioner. He is a life and media member of Finex. His views here, however, are personal and do not necessarily reflect those of Finex. Dejarescozingo@yahoo.com. Know more about FINEXPhix through www.finex.org.ph.*





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## Duterte hopes for 'ride' on Coast Guard ship in WPS 'as a civilian'

BY BERNADETTE D. NICOLAS

✉ @BNicolasBM

**P**RESIDENT Duterte on Sunday said he wants to ride with the Philippine Coast Guard to the West Philippine Sea as a civilian someday in a bid to assert "what is ours."

Speaking at the commissioning of the brand-new BRP *Melchora Aquino* on Independence Day, Duterte said he does not see any consequence with this move since he is no longer in office.

The commissioning of BRP *Melchora Aquino*, which is said to be one of the two largest white ships acquired by the Department of Transportation for the Philippine Coast Guard, is expected to beef up its capability of conducting patrols in the country's maritime jurisdictions, including the West Philippine Sea and Philippine Rise.

"Someday I could maybe ride with the Coast Guard to see. Even if [I may be a civilian by then, I hope you'll give me just that small courtesy]—I do not expect more—that you can invite me to ride with you.... It does not have any ramifications because [by then I'll be a] civilian. And I could maybe ride with you in the West Philippine Sea. It is a gamble," Duterte said, partly in Filipino.

"But you know you have at one time in our national life that we have to assert the—what is ours," he added.

To recall, Duterte made a bold promise, as a candidate in a televised presidential debate back in 2016, to

ride a jet ski to the West Philippine Sea to assert the country's sovereignty. However, he later dismissed this pledge as a "pure campaign joke."

Despite this, Duterte said on Sunday that he has already made it clear to Chinese President Xi Jinping on several instances that the Philippines cannot give up its sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), stressing that it is "vital for our national life."

However, he also defended the government's diplomatic tack in dealing with the maritime issue, saying the country cannot afford to go to war with China.

"That is why [we here in the Philippines] vis-à-vis with China—I'm glad that they have also adopted the same behavior—we continue to talk. If there is any—[just not] gray ships—Coast Guard, well Coast Guard to Coast Guard [is fine]. We do not send gray ships there because [those ships are for going to war]. It would project a different picture for everybody," he said.

"But we cannot afford fighting with China. We cannot win and we will lose and the population will suffer," he added.

The Duterte administration has since been criticized for taking a "softer approach" in dealing with China on the maritime dispute in exchange for investments and funding for infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, the labor group Federation of Free Workers (FFW) on Sunday backed the recent filing of a

diplomatic protest against China over the maritime incidents in Ayungin Shoal, which is within the country's EEZ and continental shelf.

In the same statement, FFW also called on the incoming Marcos administration to "be more assertive" in drawing attention of the world community to China's new and repeated breaches of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), to which China and the Philippines are among the signatories.

"FFW agrees with the need to continue filing diplomatic protest, as incoming NSA [National Security Adviser] Clarita Carlos suggested, and that war is not an option as there are other peaceful means. The Philippines may bring the issue of the 2016 arbitral ruling for compliance before the UN General Assembly," FFW President Atty. Sonny Matula said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. earlier vowed to keep filing diplomatic protests, even daily if need be, to continuously protest China's incursions into Philippine waters. Asked in a TV interview last week if she backed this approach, Carlos said yes, because a country must never be seen as having slept on its rights.

Apart from the commissioning of BRP *Melchora Aquino*, Duterte also led on Sunday the 124th anniversary of the Philippine Independence Day proclamation in Rizal Park in Manila and the lowering of the tunnel boring machine and inspection of the subway depot in Valenzuela City.





# BULUSAN ERUPTS ANEW

## Hundreds flee homes

By MARTIN SADONGDONG

The Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon province erupted anew yesterday morning, forcing 103 families composed of 438 individuals to flee their homes.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said ashfall incidents were recorded in three municipalities namely Juban, Casiguran, and Irosin after the latest phreatic eruption

of Bulusan Volcano at 3:37 a.m.

The eruption lasted for 18 minutes.

(Turn to Page 2)

## Bulusan ...

(From Page 1)

"We are coordinating with our regional counterparts. There is an ongoing evacuation right now and we received a report that 103 families / 438 [persons] were evacuated in Juban alone," the NDRRMC said.

Arian Aguallo, public information officer of Juban municipal DRRM office, said the latest eruption spewed more ash compared to the June 5 phreatic eruption.

"Medyo scattered po ang bagsak ng ashfall so hindi lang

concentrated sa ilang barangay. Halos buong munisipyo po may traces of ashfall, at may selected barangays na heavily affected," Aguallo said over radio 1zBB.

There were at least eight affected barangays in Juban namely Brgys. Anog, Puting Sapa, Bacolod, Buraburan, Catanusan, Calateo, Aroroy, and Rangas.

Personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, and Bureau of Fire Protection returned to Juban days after it was cleared of ashfall to clear the area anew.

"Naka-deploy na ang ating mga tropa para sa clearing operations," Aguallo said.

BULUSAN volcano is seen spewing ash in this photo taken yesterday from Irosin, Sorsogon. (AFP)








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**NOTICE OF BIDDING  
FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Changago City will accept oral or written bids not later than (10:30 AM ) on July 27, 2022 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

**Location** : Brgy. San Isidro, Cabanjan, Zamboanga

**Description** : Plan F3-03-038527  
Beginning at a point marked "1" of Plan F3-03-038527, being N 53°01'W, 2,608.20m. from BLLM1, PLS 488-D to corner 1;

**Thereof** :

Line 1-2: 542.64 E, 17.17 m., Line 2-3: S86°13'W, 20.28 m.,  
Line 3-4: N12°58'W, 17.87 m., Line 4-1: N87°06'E, 20.34 m.,

**Boundaries** :

North : Forestland  
East : West Philippine Sea  
South : Forestland  
West : Savage Zone

**Area** : 348.0 square meters

**Appraised** : Land : P 8,798.00

**Value of** : Proposed/Existing Improvements : None

**Applied for by** : MARTIN GABRIEL A. TIÑO

**Approved Annual Rental** : P8,798.00

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

(SGD.) JOWELL F. DELLOBA  
CENR Officer

MT - May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27 & July 4, 2022



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### NOTICE

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

Location	: Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas
Description	: Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-4-A
Area	: 39,289 sqm.
Applied for by	: Holcim Mining and Development Corp. represented by Renato A. Beja

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

MAY 5, 2022  
Date

*[Signature]*  
ISAGUO AMATORIO  
CENR Officer



13 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Philippines confirms 308 new COVID-19 cases, highest since April 20

ABS-CBN News Posted at Jun 13 2022 12:05 AM



Commuters wait for a ride along EDSA southbound in Makati City on June 9, 2022. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - The Philippines recorded 308 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed.

This is the highest daily tally in almost two months, or since April 20, ABS-CBN Data Analytics Team head Edson Guido said.

The number of active COVID cases in the country is 2,918. Of the fresh infections, 153 are from Metro Manila.

The country's total cases has climbed to 3,693,222.

The positivity rate from June 5 to 11 is at 1.9 percent, higher than the 1.2 percent recorded the previous week, Guido added.

**Edson C. Guido** (@EdsonCGuido)

**BREAKING: DOH reports 308 new cases today, the highest daily tally in almost two months or since April 20.**

DOH also reports 0 new deaths.

NCR with 153 new cases today.

The positivity rate for the week of June 5 to 11 is 1.9%, higher than the 1.2% recorded the previous week.

**Nationwide Cases Data**

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recovered	Deceased
3,693,222	2,918	3,629,849	60,461

**Weekly Cases by Date of Onset of Illness**

7:02 PM · Jun 12, 2022

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The first confirmed coronavirus infection in the Philippines was reported on January 30, 2020, involving a Chinese woman who arrived from Wuhan City, China where the disease is believed to have first emerged.

DOH Data from the Department of Health showed the number of deaths at 60,461, with no new death recorded Sunday. The total recoveries also reached 3,629,843.

From May 30 to June 5, the country recorded 1,295 new COVID-19 cases or an average of 185 per day, which is 1.4 percent lower than the cases reported from the previous week, the DOH said.

The DOH earlier announced the detection of the highly transmissible omicron BA.4 subvariant from a Filipino who traveled from the Middle East earlier in May.

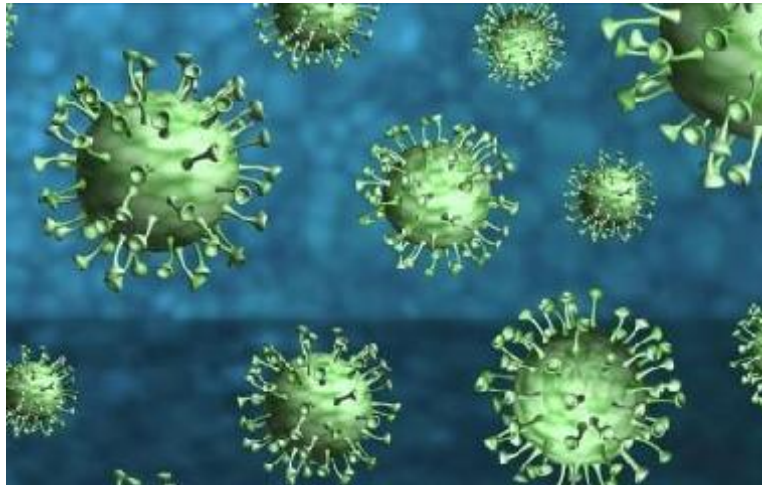
Some 69.5 million or 77.24 percent of the target 90 million people in the country have been fully vaccinated against the respiratory disease. Of those who received their primary series, 14 million have received their booster shots.





## QC sees possible spike in Covid-19 cases in next 2 weeks

June 12, 2022, 8:06 pm



**MANILA** – The Quezon City local government raised its Covid-19 early warning level to “yellow” status after it recorded an average of 26 cases per day the past week.

According to the QC Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (QCESU) on Sunday, aside from the jump in average daily cases, two other indicators were also observed as of June 9.

The average positivity rate doubled to 3.10 percent from 1.50 percent from May 27 to June 2.

In addition, the estimated reproduction number climbed to 3.4 percent from 1.1 percent last week.

QCESU chief Dr. Rolando Cruz said in a news release that there is a possibility that cases will spike further within the next two weeks under the current yellow status.

Cruz said their locally developed monitoring system is used for internal reporting only and should not be confused with the official alert levels issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

Under QC’s system, the white status is raised when Covid-19 cases are below average and all data indicators are considered stable. No surge of cases is expected in the next 14 days; yellow when cases are seen increasing compared to the previous week and when three of four indicators have increased from normal to above normal. There is a possibility of a surge within the next 14 days; and red when cases continue to rise and all other indicators remain high or have breached the indicated threshold. This indicates the start of a surge.

“Our local early warning system is helpful in assessing the pandemic within our city only. It aids our department as well as our city officials in the systematic monitoring of new cases, analysis of trends, and recommendation of strategic measures to prevent the further spread of infections. Official alert level announcements and general guidelines will still come from the IATF,” Cruz said.

As of this writing, Quezon City remains under Alert Level 1 according to the IATF, and is classified as “low risk” by the Department of Health.

Mayor Joy Belmonte reminded citizens to continue observing preventive measures such as wearing of masks as well as getting vaccinated and boosted.



“We have come a long way but the virus is still with us. Again, we call on our residents to remain vigilant,” Belmonte said in a statement.

She called on those who have yet to get their COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot to do so by visiting the nearest barangay health center or by registering online via <https://qceservices.quezoncity.gov.ph/qcvaxeasy>.

In April, the city government rolled out the second booster shots of Covid-19 vaccines for immunocompromised adults, senior citizens, and health care workers.

As of June 4, the city has 123 active Covid-19 infections while as of June 10, a total of 2,472,573 are already fully vaccinated -- 926,037 of them with either the first or second booster shots. **(PR)**



13 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



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
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