

14 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Hundreds visit dolomite beach

[Rhodina Villanueva](#), [Marc Jayson Cayabyab](#) - The Philippine Star June 14, 2022 | 12:00am



Visitors take photos at the dolomite beach in Manila Bay yesterday. The DENR said up to 3,500 people would be allowed to enter the 500-meter artificial beach stretch from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — At least 300 people visited the Manila Bay dolomite beach as it reopened on Sunday, coinciding with the Independence Day celebration.

The visitors lined up as early as 3:30 p.m. to be on the beach for the afternoon opening, according to Manila Police District director Brig. Gen. Leo Francisco.

He said 160 police personnel were deployed to secure the opening of the artificial beach project.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna, former environment chief Roy Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año attended the opening of the beach, with the unveiling of a replica of a cannon at Fort Drum, a concrete fort shaped like a battleship in the channel of Manila Bay near Corregidor.

Manila Bay Coordinating Office executive director Jacob Meimban Jr. said the opening of the dolomite beach was successful.

The 500-meter artificial beach stretch is open daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Swimming remains prohibited even as the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay has significantly improved from millions of most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters, Meimban said.

“Our water monitoring on June 6 showed that the coliform level is now at 920 mpn,” he said.

“We are confident that in due time, swimming in Manila Bay will be allowed,” he added.

The dolomite beach was shut down following a COVID super-spreader event in October last year when thousands visited the beach despite the threat posed by the pandemic.



LOOK: Manila Bay Dolomite Beach reopens to public

Christhel Cuazon 13 June 2022

The infamous Manila Bay Dolomite Beach has officially reopened to the public on Sunday evening, June 12 following the rehabilitation of its water quality.

The reopening was initially scheduled for May 20 but was moved to June 3, and eventually moved to Independence Day, June 12.



The reopening was attended by Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna, former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

President Rodrigo Duterte was a no-show at the event despite the expected appearance.

People were seen flocking the infamous beach just hours before it was officially opened over the weekend.



At present the public is not allowed to swim, smoke, spit, and collect dolomite sand in the area. Pets are also banned from entry.

DENR also reminded its visitors to bring their vaccination cards, wear face masks, and always observe social distancing.



PTV

Philippines state-controlled media · 17h · 🌐

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TINGNAN: Dagsa ang mga tao na gustong makita ang Manila Bay Walk Dolomite Beach. Pero kasabay nito, naglitawan ang mga basura na basta na lamang itinatapon sa beach, tulad ng pinag-inuman ng tubig at pinagkainan.

Nanawagan si DENR Usec. Jonas Leones na panatilihin ang linis at ganda ng lugar.

Paglabag din sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act ang maling pagtatapon ng basura. | via Clay Pardilla



👍👎👤 13K

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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02EyC3x54iPPcP1zEVJecBGsdjq8R3rhguM2ThpVFiYLGjDngeNsGifztTgnJWr3Yol&id=100067118364824



Dolomite beach reopening

[Danny Pata](#) and [Norman Cruz](#) June 12, 2022, 11:36 pm



People flock to the dolomite beach in Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard during the reopening of the area on Sunday. People are still not allowed to swim in the area.



Visitors celebrate Philippine Independence Day along the dolomite beach during its opening day on Sunday, as part of the country's celebration of Independence Day.



GRAB THE CHANCE TO SEE WHITE DOLOMITE SANDS

JUN 13, 2022, 2:34 PM

Mike Taboy Photographer

While it is sunny, families grab the chance to bask in the sun and enjoy the still white (dolomite) sand, which would turn murky and gray when rains and tides mix them with earth from underneath the Manila Bay water.

The whole rock exhibited on Manila Bay is where the white sand came from.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/grab-the-chance-to-see-white-dolomite-sands?fbclid=IwAR2g-SGZrOx-7lbUblIzwlYgTGLG9CO75dtsNLF7vIA5Mmfat0j72nN5aLQ>



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Rangers na magbabantay sa kalinisan ng Manila Bay dolomite beach, ipinakalat ng DENR

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Ngayong bukas na muli sa publiko ang Manila Bay dolomite beach, muling nagpaalala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa mga bisita na sundin ang mga panuntunan upang mapanatili ang kalinisan sa lugar.

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The Manila Times
June 12 at 11:01 PM · 🌐

...

TO THE BEACH 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. PHOTOS BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



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Muling pagbubukas ng Manila bay dolomite beach, dinagsa ng ating mga kababayan

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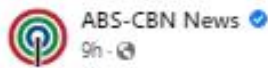
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Muling pagbubukas ng Manila bay dolomite beach, dinagsa ng ating mga kababayan; DENR, nagpaalala sa publiko sa mga lpinagbabawal sa dolomite beach

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Dagsa ang mga bumibisita sa Dolomite Beach. Matapos itong dumugin noong unang araw ng muling pagbubukas, siniguro ng mga awtoridad na mas makokontrol na ang dagsa ng mga tao at maipatutupad ang panuntunan kontra #COVID19.



98

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LITTERS AT MANILA BAY WHITE SANDS

JUN 13, 2022, 8:15 PM

Mike Taboy Photographer

After the government opened to the public the artificial white sands of Manila Bay, families who strolled and picnicked at the sands left litters.

Various kinds of garbage were collected from the dolomite sands and the water.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/litters-at-manila-bay-white-sands?fbclid=IwAR25UgLdQaMWj4bodOLuLQViDpjIIsreDDcKMKtHb2eexJFdYT8_BynRFF8



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Manila Dolomite Beach, mailalapit sa kasaysayan ang mga Pilipino – SILG

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Dinagsa ng mga namamasyal ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach matapos itong buksan sa publiko alas 5:00 ng hapon kahapon, Hunyo 12.

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‘Sarangani’ released back to habitat after 18 months recuperation

By Richelyn Gubalani June 13, 2022, 5:28 pm



EAGLE FLIES FREE. The Philippine Eagle “Sarangani” is finally back home at Mt. Busa, a local conservation area in Barangay Upo, Maitum, Sarangani, Monday (June 13, 2022). The bird was freed after 18 months of recuperating at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City. *(Photo courtesy Maitum LGU)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Philippine eagle named “Sarangani” was returned to the wild after its release in the hinterlands of Maitum, Sarangani province, Monday.

“Sarangani survived an injury inflicted on its wing by illegal hunters for more than a year in the forests of the province,” Abdul Cariga, head of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Kiamba town, said in an interview.

Cariga witnessed the release of Sarangani to its natural habitat in the mountain after 18 months of recovery at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City.

Sarangani, a male Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) for rehabilitation after a farmer found it trapped in the wild.

PEF has partnered with Alsons Power Group’s Sarangani Energy Corporation and Siguil Hydro Power Corporation to ensure the protection of the Mt. Busa key biodiversity area where a subpopulation of Philippine Eagles dwell.

The release of “Sarangani” (previously named “Salagbanog”) highlighted the culmination of the Philippine Eagle Week 2022 celebration from June 6 until 13.

According to PEF, they have already rescued 12 eagles since the start of the pandemic, many of which were either shot or trapped by hunters in the uplands.

On January 8 last year, a T’boli farmer found the raptor trapped in thorny rattan vines after hunting a monkey near Salagbanog Falls located in Barangay Ticulab of Maitum municipality. **(PNA)**



Sarangani Eagle flies back to wildlife after getting rescued from gun wounds last year

Published June 13, 2022 6:46pm



Members of the Philippine Eagle Foundation released the "Sarangani Eagle Salagbanog" on Monday, June 13, 2022, in Maitum Sarangani, where he was rescued late last year and discovered with pellet gun wounds. An electronic tracker will allow the Philippine Eagle Foundation and Alison's Power to follow the progress of eagle for the next two years. **DANNY PATA**

The "Sarangani Eagle" has been freed back to wildlife after it was rescued from gun wounds last year.

On Monday, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) shared the good news with a video of the Philippine Eagle flying freely to its forest home in Maitum, Sarangani Province.

Prior to the bird's release, the PEF ensured that "extensive mobilizations" were done to ensure its safety.

Apart from checkups for the Sarangani Eagle, meetings with Barangay Ticulab volunteer forest guards, and community education and public awareness campaigns were also conducted.

Local officials have also ensured that they will take extra measures to care for eagles and other species.

The Sarangani Eagle was rescued in January 2021 and was found to have a marble projectile on one of its shoulders, as well as an air gun pellet at the base of its neck.

A surgery was done to save its life. The eagle also underwent a year of rehabilitation for its recovery.

—**Franchesca Viernes/MGP, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/834792/sarangani-eagle-flies-back-to-wildlife-after-getting-rescued-from-gun-wounds-last-year/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0p4abZH6idGT3nnC9_IBZC6g691nKWVrfvxx9tSzDne9rPVoAPMlurLls



Philippine Eagle, pinakawalan sa Sarangani

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 13 2022 01:35 PM

MANILA -- Isang araw matapos ang ika-124 na Araw ng Kalayaan ng Pilipinas, isang Philippine Eagle ang pinakawalan muli sa natural nitong tahanan sa Mount Busa sa Maitum, Sarangani Province ngayong Lunes, Hunyo 13.

Si "Sarangani eagle" ay isang lalaking Philippine Eagle na nasa 3-4 taong gulang. Nasagip ito noong Enero 2021.

Nakabaon ang isang marble sa balikat ng agila matapos tamaan ng airgun pellet.

Sumailalim ito sa isang taong rehabilitation, kabilang ang matagumpay na surgery.

Pinalakas ng Philippine Eagle Foundation at ng iba't ibang sektor ang kampanya para maproteksyonan ang mga Philippine Eagle sa pamamagitan ng community education, public awareness campaign, at volunteer forest guards training.

Ayon sa International Union for Conservation, maituturing na critically endangered na hayop ang Philippine Eagle.

-- ulat ni **Hernel Tocmo**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/13/22/philippine-eagle-pinakawalan-sa-sarangani?fbclid=IwAR25dsL6WKZdPph_35ZOeSyh4LeeEiqjaxMCN_dpnaSvQ4fiH4gEm9AXROg



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SOAR HIGH 🦅

WATCH: The Philippine Eagle "Salagbanog" was released at Mt. Busa in Maitum, Sarangani on Monday, June 13. | 📺 DENR Soccsksargen/Facebook



  Sef Villaflor, Jayjay Magcamit and 25K others

326 Comments 2.1K Shares



ONE News ✓
12h · 🌐

Around P500,000 worth of endangered species supposed to be illegally sold in Metro Manila and other provinces were rescued by the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources and law enforcers from a seller in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

These included the Tariktik Hornbill, lawin or Brahminy Kite, and Martinez birds. (via Cris Sansano)



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8 Shares



'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/?fbclid=IwAR0aCEfPyE4yYCD0jQqbxhhgmOaLfgCnGNVOZ3-jbpRtzwQa5CosOCm3Pcw>



Quarrying ng Masungi, ipinakakansela kay PRRD

Almar Danguilan June 13, 2022 Front Page, Gov't/Politics, News

MULING nanawagan ang grupo ng katutubo 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 puwesto sa 30 Hunyo 2022.

Nanawagan ang mga katutubo kay Duterte dahil hindi kinansela bagkus ay sinuspende lamang ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) ng sister quarry companies na Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation at Quarry Rock Group, gayondin ang sa Quimson Limestone Inc.

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

Pangamba ng katutubong Dumagat-Remontado sa Tanay, Rizal, maaaring tanggalin kahit anong oras ang suspensiyon, kaya iginigiit nila ang kanselasyon ng mga MPSA.

Ayon sa batas, ang protektadong lugar at mga pambansang parke ay sarado sa pagmimina.

Paliwanag ng mga eksperto, pinoprotektahan ng watershed ang Metro Manila at ang lalawigan ng Rizal mula sa mapaminsalang pagbaha.

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

“Kung matutuloy ang quarrying, maglalaho ang aming sagradong bundok dahil miminahin ang bato at papatagin ang bundok. Ang mga ilog at tubig ay matutuyot,” pangamba ng mga katutubo.



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

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

(ALMAR DANGUILAN)



Mindoro extends mining moratorium

By [Ire Joe Laurente](#) June 14, 2022

CALAPAN CITY: Anti-mining activists and environmentalists in Oriental Mindoro lauded the passage of a resolution before the Sangguniang Panlalawigan extending the mining moratorium for another 25 years for large-scale mining and 15 years for small-scale mining in the province.

Fr. Edwin Gariguez of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, in a statement sent to The Manila Times on Monday, said that the mining moratorium which was first approved in 2002 for large-scale mining and 2013 for small-scale mining is a result of the public outcry from the people of Mindoro, who oppose destructive mining at critical watersheds in the province.

"We thank the Sangguniang Panlalawigan under the leadership of Vice Gov. Antonio Perez Jr. for continually respecting the voice of the people of Mindoro and in ensuring through an ordinance that we have a strong stand against mining in our island-province," Gariguez said in his statement, which he also posted on his social media page.

On Thursday, June 9, the provincial board passed a resolution on mass motion for the extension of the "Large-scale and Small-scale Mining Moratorium in the Province of Oriental Mindoro, as provided for under Provincial Ordinance No. 01-2002 and Provincial Ordinance No. 28-2013, for twenty-five years or covering the period from year 2027 to 2052."

In a text message to The Times on Sunday afternoon, Perez said that when he became vice governor in 2019, the Board passed a resolution affirming the legality of the mining moratorium when it was reported that the ordinance is set to be challenged by mining companies before the courts.

"I just want to protect our natural resources for the next generation," said Perez, who is also the author of the provincial ordinance that extended the moratorium.

Evelyn Cacha, convenor and volunteer of Alayansa Laban sa Mina, one of the anti-mining groups that led the opposition to the Mindoro Nickel Project said, in a separate message, that "the renewal of the mining moratorium ordinance gives us Mindorens renewed hope on the leaders of our province, notably the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, to continue protecting the welfare of its constituents."

Several foreign mining companies had attempted to mine the mountainous 11,315-hectare area in the central part of Mindoro island straddling the towns of Victoria in the eastern side and Sablayan on the western side. Satellite images provided by the Norwegian-based Intex Resources ASA, the latest mining company that applied for exploration in the area, showed that the area is rich in nickel and cobalt.

All the companies put up their offices and started their scoping and sampling operations in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. A mineral production sharing agreement was approved during the time of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but was rescinded during the time of the late Environment and Natural Resources secretary Gina Lopez under the Duterte administration.

Opposition to the planned mining is strong in the province led by the church, academe, business groups, farmers and indigenous peoples groups.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/14/news/regions/mindoro-extends-mining-moratorium/1847281>



Diocese asks next admin to declare Marinduque as ‘mining-free’ zone

By CBCP News - June 13, 2022 - 10:37 AM



The Mogpog River in Marinduque province is one of the few tributaries of Mogpog town’s main watershed area. The river has suffered from recurring floods due to siltation caused by the collapse of the Marcopper Mining Corporation’s Maguilaguila siltation dam in 1993. (Photo courtesy of Alyansa Tigil Mina)

A Catholic bishop hinted his diocese will appeal to the incoming government to declare the island province of Marinduque a mining-free zone.

Bishop Marcelino Antonio Maralit Jr. of Boac said the plan is to write to the Marcos administration to help them in their campaign to protect the island’s environment and communities.

“Then we will ask the national government to declare the province of Marinduque as mining-free,” Maralit said in a video interview with Caritas Philippines.

According to him, about 83 percent of the small island is “mineable”. “And if we let the miners in, nothing will be left of the island,” he said.

Marinduque is known as a cautionary tale about the environmental ravages of mining.

After the Marcopper mining tragedy in 1993, Mogpog River has been considered biologically dead, which, prior to the disaster, was valuable natural resource to villages along the river.

Heavily silted with mine tailings, Boac River also suffered the same fate in 1996.

Last month, a local court ordered the Marcopper Mining Corp. to pay damages claimed by persons affected by the country’s worst mining disaster.

The mining firm was directed to pay P200,000 as temperate damages, P100,000 moral damages, and P1 million as exemplary damages to at least 30 plaintiffs.

But the bishop called it only a ‘small victory’, adding that more cases against Marcopper remain pending for many years now.

“There is still a long way to go for a total victory,” Maralit said.”But this small victory gives courage for all those who advocate for environmental justice.”

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2022/06/13/219330/diocese-asks-next-admin-to-declare-marinduque-as-mining-free-zone/>

Towards sustainable mining

[MIKE ABOUT TOWN](#) - [Atty. Mike Toledo](#) - The Philippine Star June 14, 2022 | 12:00am



A virtual meeting of Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) verification service providers.

As the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte comes to a resounding close, let me share with you an anecdote.

A week after the then-Davao mayor won the presidency in the 2016 national elections, Philex Mining Corp. chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan and I met him in Davao City where he, among other things, iterated his challenge to the mining industry to adhere to strict international standards, particularly that of Australia and Canada.

Philex Mining had already established itself as a right and principled mining company, one of the oldest and largest gold and copper producers in Southeast Asia.

Long before the DENR required mining companies to obtain ISO certification, Philex Mining already had its Integrated Management System (IMS) certification, which incorporated both ISO 14001:2004 on environmental management system and OHSAS 18001:2007 for occupational health and safety management.

Philex Mining came across the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC), which the latter launched in 2004. It was mandatory for all MAC members in their respective Canadian operations, but many of them also applied it to their international projects.



The author at a TSM overview session.



TSM is a set of indicators to drive the performance of operating mines and ensure that key mining risks are managed responsibly, and best practices are used at members' facilities. The success of this self-assessment system is such that it is emerging as the global standard for best practices in sustainable mining.

Because TSM can only be adopted as a standard by a national mining association such as the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), Philex president and CEO Euls Austin Jr. proposed it to the then-COMP board of directors. The COMP board approved it, and the movement towards its adoption started.

On Dec. 19, 2017, the COMP, under its chairman, then Nickel Asia Corp. president and CEO Jerry Brimo, signed the mutual cooperation and licensing agreement with the MAC, as represented by its president and CEO, Pierre Gratton, who, together with MAC VP Ben Chalmers, flew all the way to Manila from Canada not just to sign the agreement but to also conduct a two-day training to select representatives from COMP member companies on the TSM. The signing was also witnessed by my good friend, then Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines John Holmes.

Fast forward to a little more than four years later and the implementation of TSM in the Chamber of Mines is in full swing.

Just recently, COMP has named 13 newly accredited verification service providers (VSPs) who will critically review the performance ratings of its members following the measurement tools prescribed by the TSM program.

The VSPs are experienced independent experts in social, environmental, as well as mining and other related sciences who will vigorously apply the TSM protocols. They were all vetted and approved by the multi-sector TSM Community of Interest (COI) Advisory Panel.

Where required, the VSPs can change companies' self-assessed ratings to ensure they accurately reflect the mining operations' management practices and performance.

In my welcome remarks as the incumbent chairman of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines at the start of the VSPs' Orientation Sessions, I mentioned that enhancing the environment, social, and governance (ESG) performance of COMP member companies beyond the word of the law is our goal with TSM.

The VSPs will be one of the pillars that will help us achieve that. They will perform an indispensable role in helping our members adhere to TSM's Guiding Principles, hinged on accountability, transparency, and credibility.

I've mentioned before that it ironically took a pandemic for the importance of mining to be recognized. It still is a viable driver for the economy and for recovery if allowed to flourish.

It is ironic indeed that the mining industry, once dubbed "a pariah for ages due to its massive environmental impact... is about to turn into the one indispensable industry for the energy transition."

It is against this backdrop that ESG has anchored itself as a mainstream aspect of business and will remain top-of-mind in the boardroom for years to come. It has become central in terms of both attracting investors and holding a social license to operate.

The Chamber of Mines is determined to be a strong partner in nation building — one with a strong focus on social development, minimizing the impact of our operations on the environment, and ensuring a fair division of the economic and financial benefits of mining.



Metro Pacific Investment Corp.'s chief finance officer, chief risk officer and chief sustainability officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla, the only winner from the Philippines as 2022 Sustainability Leader in the Women Leading Change Awards for Asia-Pacific.

And, speaking of ESG, my heartfelt congratulations to Chaye Cabal-Revilla, Metro Pacific Investment Corp.'s indefatigable EVP, chief finance officer, chief risk officer and chief sustainability officer for being the only winner from the Philippines as 2022 Sustainability Leader in the Women Leading Change Awards for Asia-Pacific. None can be more deserving than Chaye in this regard. Padayon gud, Chaye!

My sincerest birthday greetings, too, to Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, who celebrates his birthday today. Malipayong pagsaulog sa imong adlaw nga natawhan, Senator Bong! Amping!



Marcos gets invite to UN climate change talks in Egypt

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 13, 2022 | 2:30pm



Philippine president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (C) waves to supporters as he arrives for his proclamation as the country's president at the House of Representatives in Quezon City suburban Manila on May 25, 2022.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Egypt's envoy to the Philippines invited president-elect Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. to attend the United Nations climate change conference there in November.

Egypt will host the climate change summit—known as COP27 (Conference of the Parties) — in the resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"This topic we talked about how the international community [can] respond to the challenges of climate change," Egyptian Ambassador to the Philippines Ahmed Shehabeldin said in a briefing after visiting Marcos in his Mandaluyong City headquarters.

"He believes in climate change issues and to be closely just following what would be the way forward," he added.

In Sharm el-Sheikh, nations will focus on discussing the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement in their home countries, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change said. The operational details of the said pact were finalized at COP26 in Glasgow last year.

The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius and drive efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In a report released in April, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stressed that capping warming to just 1.5 degrees Celsius involves "rapid and deep and in most cases immediate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors."

Lawyer Vicente Yu, a negotiator for developing countries, earlier told Philstar.com that global action on adaptation, finance, and loss and damage from climate change should remain high on the agenda of COP27.

Green transition

The Egyptian envoy also said that the northeastern African nation is "keen" on developing bilateral relations with Manila.



"We are looking forward to developing many areas of cooperation since we are agricultural countries and we can work for tourism and many aspects of cooperation," Shehabeldin said.

Marcos also met with Danish Ambassador Grete Sillasen, who said the meeting focused on green transition.

"The greenest, cheapest, and cleanest energy is one that we do not use and this was what the president-elect and I talked much about—how Denmark managed to double its gross domestic product without increasing our consumption of energy, water, and without increasing our carbon dioxide emissions," Sillasen said.

The Danish envoy added that Marcos is looking into increasing the contribution of wind energy to the power mix, but said that there are "no actual plans as such."

"More on dedication to seeing that sustainable and renewable energy is the way we need to look," she said.

Environment, energy issues top Marcos talks with envoys

June 13, 2022 | 8:11 pm



BONGBONG MARCOS FB PAGE

ENERGY, whether green or otherwise, was front and center in President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s discussions with members of the diplomatic corps, according to statements issued and briefings conducted by the ambassadors.

Mr. Marcos met on Monday with Ambassadors Grete Sillasen of Denmark, Marat Pavlov of Russia, Ahmed Shehabeldin of Egypt, and Ilan Fluss of Israel.

He also met with Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa, who pledged to support the Philippines' climate agenda.

Ms. Sillasen said she and Mr. Marcos focused "to a high degree on the green transition that all countries have to go through these days and these years that are coming."

"We had a focus on talking about sustainability which is partly the sustainable use of energies so we have green energies and fossil energies but also very importantly, be efficient with the energy we are using," she said at a news conference.

"The greenest and cheapest and energy is one that we do not use and this was what he and I talked much about," Ms. Sillasen said, noting that Mr. Marcos recognized how Denmark managed to double its economic output "without increasing our consumption of energy, water, and without increasing our carbon emissions."

Denmark is a major producer of turbines used in wind power.

"While we looked into how the increase of wind power can go into the mix, [he didn't lay down] actual plan yet as such," she said. "It was more on a dedication to seeing that sustainable and renewable energy is the way we need to look at."

In 2011, Denmark set a goal of becoming a carbon neutral country by 2050, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Copenhagen's 2011 goal of sourcing 30% of its energy from renewables by 2020 was met ahead of schedule in 2016, it added.

Countries relying on traditional sources of energy have been rocked by the Russia-Ukraine war, which took much Russian energy off the market due to sanctions, increasing demand for energy produced elsewhere.



Mr. Pavlov of Russia offered to help the Philippines deal with rising oil prices.

“During the meeting, we found out that in this turbulent period of our life, the Russian Federation could extend its hand to help the Philippines in much needed oil, gas and other sources of energy,” he said.

When asked to elaborate on the potential cooperation between Russia and the Philippines on energy security, Mr. Pavlov said: “We are ready to cooperate with the Philippines and extend our helping hand to satisfy the needs in sources of energy.”

Mr. Pavlov said he and Mr. Marcos also discussed the situation in Ukraine “very briefly.... As far as I understand, he would like to continue his independent policy.”

The ADB’s Mr. Asakawa gave assurances of support for Philippine climate projects and to facilitate “a resilient and green economic recovery.”

The ADB will also help the Philippines transition to climate-smart transportation and fund its social protection programs, Mr. Asakawa said in a statement issued after his visit with Mr. Marcos.

Mr. Asakawa said Mr. Marcos was invited to ADB’s 55th annual meeting, which will be held in the Philippines in September.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shehabeldin of Egypt said he invited Mr. Marcos to attend the 27th session of the United Nations-backed Climate Change Conference (COP 27), which will be held in Egypt in November.

“We talked about how the international community should respond to the challenges of climate change,” he said. “We both agreed that we are different in geography and climate, but we share the same concerns.”

Egypt is finalizing a national climate change strategy to support its 2030 sustainable development agenda, the World Bank said in April.

Mr. Marcos has yet to outline his plans for tackling climate change.

Climate-related hazards have caused P506.1 billion in losses and damage to the Philippines over the past decade, the Department of Finance said last year.

Mr. Fluss of Israel said his meeting with Mr. Marcos touched on agriculture, food security and employment.

Potential defense cooperation was also discussed but there were “no any specific deals,” he said at a news conference. “It is much too early and we’re not on that level yet, but certainly we discussed cooperation in many areas, including defense.” — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**



Marcos invited to Egypt climate change conference

June 13, 2022, 4:54 pm



CLIMATE CHANGE. Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim pays a courtesy call to incoming President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. at the BBM campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City on Monday (June 13, 2022). Ibrahim invited Marcos to the UN Climate Change Conference’s 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) in Egypt in November this year (*Photo from BBM Media Bureau*)

MANILA – Incoming President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is seriously considering an invitation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference’s 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) in Egypt in November this year.

Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim of Egypt invited Marcos during his courtesy call Monday.

“Today I had the pleasure to meet his Excellency, President-Elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and I submitted to him an official congratulations from the Egyptian President, his Excellency Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El – Sisi... I also took this opportunity to extend the invitation of his Excellency...to take part in November COP27,” he said in a press briefing.

If his schedule would allow it, Marcos, a staunch advocate of protecting and preserving the environment, could attend the conference.

The meeting could be the most significant as delegates are expected to tackle subjects designed to most effectively respond to the climate change crisis.

The meet will also primarily focus on implementation, with nations expected to show how they will, through legislation, policies, and programs, begin putting the Paris Agreement into practice, at home.

The ambassador further said Egypt is also keen on strengthening relations with the Philippines by developing other areas of cooperation between the two countries, such as agriculture and tourism, as well as climate change response.

Russia assistance

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador Marat Pavlov, in a separate courtesy call on Monday, assured Marcos that Russia is willing to extend assistance to the Philippines with its energy resources amid the spike in oil prices due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

“It is a sovereign period, we are ready to cooperate with the Filipino side, and to extend our helping hands, to satisfy the needs in the sources of energy,” he said.



Oil and gas prices have surged over Russian energy supplies and soaring inflation brought by the Russian-Ukraine war that started in February of this year.

Pavlov also conveyed Russia's willingness to expand areas of cooperation with the Philippines.

For his part, the President-elect also said the Philippines will cooperate with the Russian Federation but he will maintain his independent policy in connection with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

ADB's support

In a related development, Asian Development Bank President Masatsugu Asakawa also paid a courtesy call to Marcos and assured him of the ADB's strong commitment to supporting his incoming administration's development priorities.

Asakawa added that just as the ADB supports infrastructure investment, including projects under the Duterte administration's "Build, Build, Build" program, supports agricultural development and food security, and invests in Filipinos' welfare, the ADB will explore opportunities with the Marcos administration's priorities on climate change action to support a resilient and green economic recovery, climate-smart transportation, and continuing investments in education, vocational skills training, employment programs, health promotion, and social protection.

He also invited Marcos to be the guest of honor at the ADB's 55th Annual Meeting in September.

Aside from the envoys from Russia and Egypt, Ambassadors Grete Sillasen of Denmark and Ilan Fluss of Israel also held separate courtesy calls on the same day. **(PR)**



Marcos, imbitado sa Climate Change Conference sa Egypt sa Nobyembre

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pang-masa June 14, 2022 | 12:00am



Binanggit ni Egypt Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim ang bagay na ito sa press briefing matapos mag-courtesy call kahapon kay Marcos.

The STAR/Boy Santos, file

MANILA, Philippines — Ikinukonsidera ni incoming President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr., ang imbitasyon sa kanya na dumalo sa “United Nations Climate Change Conference’s 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27)” na gaganapin sa Egypt sa Nobyembre.

Binanggit ni Egypt Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim ang bagay na ito sa press briefing matapos mag-courtesy call kahapon kay Marcos.

“I also took this opportunity to extend the invitation of His Excellency the President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to his HE to take part in November in COP27,” ayon kay Ibrahim.

“This topic we talked about how just the international community to respond to the challenges of climate change and both share just probably we are different in geography and climate nature, however, we share the main concerns,” dagdag na pahayag nito.

Sinabi rin ni Ibrahim na pinag-usapan nilang dalawa ni Marcos ang kani-kanilang pananaw ukol sa “prospects of developing the bilateral relations between Egypt and the Philippines since we are looking forward to develop many areas of cooperation.”

“It was really fruitful and we will follow up with that and Egypt is really keen to develop the bilateral relations with the PH being one of the key spots of international relations,” ani Ibrahim. Ayon sa kampo ni Marcos, kung papayagan ng kanyang iskedyul ay dadalo ang incoming president.



ADB vows to support Marcos admin's development, climate change initiatives

Published June 13, 2022, 4:38 PM

by [Seth Cabanban](#)

The Asian Development Bank has vowed to support President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and his administration’s initiatives after ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa met with him on Monday, June 13.



(Screenshot from Facebook live)

“The Philippines is a key partner for ADB. We have worked together to promote the country’s development since the founding of ADB in 1966 and our relationship stretches beyond the Philippines. We are grateful to the government and the Filipino people for hosting the ADB headquarters for more than five decades and supporting our efforts across the Asia and Pacific Region. I assured President-elect Marcos of ADB’s strong commitment to supporting his administration’s development policies,” said Asakawa in a statement on June 13, following his courtesy call with Marcos.

While the ADB has 42 field offices throughout Asia, and representative offices in Washington, Frankfurt, Tokyo, and Sydney, its headquarters is based in Mandaluyong City.

The ADB vowed to support the ‘Build, Build, Build’ initiative which Marcos has also adopted as a platform; food security; Filipino welfare; and pro-environmental initiatives.

“ADB is working closely with the government, development partners, and the private sector to support infrastructure investment, including projects under the government’s ‘Build, Build, Build’ program; promote sustainable agriculture development and food security; and invest in Filipinos’ welfare. As we prepare our next country partnership strategy for 2024-29, we will be exploring opportunities with the incoming administration’s priorities on climate change action to support a resilient and green economic recovery, climate-smart transportation, and continuing investments in education, vocational skills training, employment programs, health promotion, and social protections,” he continued.

ADB’s President added that Marcos had been invited to the ADB’s 55th Annual Meeting as a guest of honor.

“ADB’s 55th Annual Meeting will be held at our headquarters in Ortigas Center at the end of September with the participation of finance ministers, central bank governors, and other senior officials from ADB’s 68 members. I expressed my appreciation to President-elect Marcos for the Philippine government’s support in preparing for the Annual Meeting and invited him to attend as a guest of honor. We look forward to working closely with the new administration to



ensure the meeting is an effective venue for proactive, solutions-oriented discussion around the key development challenges and opportunities in our region,” concluded Asakawa in his statement.



War guns replica: ‘Total distortion of history’

By: [Frances Mangosing, Jane Bautista](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM June 14, 2022



BAYWALK ATTRACTION | The statue of former Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson seems to watch over the World War II cannons unveiled on June 12 as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project. A historian, however, says these artifacts should have not been removed from their original location on Corregidor Island. (Photo by MARIANNE BERMUDEZ / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines — “A total distortion of history” was how a University of the Philippines (UP) history professor described the transfer of two World War II gun barrels from [Corregidor Island](#) to Baywalk near dolomite beach in Manila Bay to create a replica of Fort Drum and its heritage cannons.

Ricardo Jose, the country’s foremost scholar on World War II in the Philippines and Asia-Pacific, told the Inquirer in an interview on Monday that the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) project unveiled on June 12 was “meaningless and a waste of time, effort and money.”

According to him, the cannons unveiled at the beach were two different gun barrels that came from separate artillery batteries in Corregidor — Battery Hearn and Battery Cheney, according to the project marker—and placed in a turret.

“The fact that they are spare barrels and they are not being used does not mean that they could just be taken away like that,” the historian said, noting that these were historical relics that should not have been touched.

“They were used during World War II and are signs of courage on the American and Philippine sides,” he added.

Taking the barrels away from Corregidor and placing them in Manila—which did not have any batteries during World War II—was a “senseless” transfer that took away the context of the historical artifacts, according to Jose.

“There never was a turret there in Manila Bay [so there is] no historical significance. It’s a total distortion of history,” he said.

Fort Drum, otherwise known as El Fraile Island, was one of four islands located at the mouth of Manila Bay that served as a line of defense protecting the City of Manila from naval invasion from Spanish colonial rule until World War II.



On top of the heavily reinforced and battleship-shaped island, four 14-inch, 356mm, and model 1909 guns were placed on turrets. On the other hand, the spare barrels taken from Corregidor were 12-inch, 305mm guns, model 1895.

Enticing visitors

In a text message, Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) defended the project, saying there was no historical distortion.

“Only the spare barrels, which have been rusting and covered by foliage already, have been refurbished and brought to Baywalk for the people to see and appreciate,” he said.

According to the PVAO official, since the Spanish period, all attempts to invade Manila were through Manila Bay so colonial powers that occupied the country’s capital improved their harbor defenses by placing guns, cannons and mortars on surrounding islands, including El Fraile (Fort Drum’s original name), and Caballo.

“However, very few Filipinos are able to visit these islands to see and appreciate the historical role of these guns in the defense of Manila,” Carolina said.

By bringing the two spare barrels and mounting them along the Baywalk area, “hopefully, tourists, both local and foreign, would be enticed to visit the islands with their children and see the many other guns and cannons,” he added.

But Jose said that if the government was trying to develop interest in Corregidor, all it had to do was develop the tourist route going to the island, have a replica gun in Manila Bay and say: “If you want to see more of this, go to Corregidor.”

“The people who moved it there do not have a sense of historical accuracy... it’s so expensive to move those original guns, taking them out of context and then putting them in a place where there’s no meaning at all,” he said.



WAR RELICS | A replica of Fort Drum’s heritage cannons has been put up along Manila Bay for people to appreciate the role of these guns in the defense of Manila. A historian, however, says the project is “meaningless and a waste of time, effort and money.” (Photo by MARIANNE BERMUDEZ / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

“In Singapore, they have restructured the remains of an old fort into a tourist attraction but they did not touch the guns themselves and they have been maintained in their historical position,” Jose pointed out.

Badly conceived idea

For another military historian, the DENR project “was a badly conceived idea which disregards the historical significance of the guns and creates a myth that does not accurately depict what the guns really [were] about.”



“It is ironic that at a time the country and people are reeling from massive inflation and economic hardship that this wasteful, expensive and yet totally ill-conceived project was undertaken by rank amateurs who know nothing of history and historical preservation,” Jose Custodio, former curator of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum, told the Inquirer.

“Instead of restoring how it should look like, they made a mythical thing to make it appear that the guns are from Fort Drum, which is not. This is like historical distortion,” Custodio said.

Former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who came up with the idea to build a replica of Fort Drum, said at the unveiling that he wanted to let people know of its existence.

“It doesn’t get visitors so it is not seen. And there was a memorandum of agreement between the DENR and Department of National Defense to bring extra [barrels from Corregidor] because they are not of use there,” said Cimatu, a former AFP chief of staff.

“That’s why they are here today. It’s a manifestation of the nationalism and patriotism of Filipinos,” he said, adding that the project also represented the continuing “Battle for Manila Bay.”

In 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Administrative Order No. 16 to speed up the bay’s cleanup. Of the P397 million estimated cost of the rehabilitation project, around P28 million was allotted for the controversial dolomite beach that was first opened to the public in September 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The beach was criticized with concerned groups and individuals calling it a waste of public funds and a possible health hazard.

This prompted an assurance from the Department of Health that “no untoward incidents [would] occur as a result of the endeavor.”

Other environmental watchdog groups such as Greenpeace Philippines also raised concern about the project being a waste of money because backwash would carry the synthetic sand into the bay, while fishermen’s group Pamalakaya denounced it as “whitewashing the government’s failure to rehabilitate Manila Bay.”

In November 2021, the beach was temporarily closed for further rehabilitation until its reopening on June 12.

—WITH A REPORT FROM INQUIRER RESEARCH

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1610395/war-guns-replica-total-distortion-of-history?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2JSbeAfXPZKijCGIHiOfKqSkstlwb3rAmamGwScWfx7RbFZVUE5vubK0Y#Echobox=1655158609



Customs foils smuggling of tarantulas

By Benjamin L. Vergara June 13, 2022



Some of the rare tarantulas seized by the Bureau of Customs. PHOTO BY BOC-NAIA

Personnel of the Bureau of Customs (BoC) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) foiled an attempt to smuggle out of the country 198 various species of tarantulas.

The BoC-NAIA on Monday said the rare live tarantulas of different sizes were declared as "Thermos Mug" but were seized when the bureau learned that the shipment had no permit.

The shipment was bound for Italy.

"The package was subjected to x-ray and 100 percent physical examination which led to the discovery of the live animals. The package was examined by the Customs examiner from the NAIA Export Division, with the presence of representatives from X-ray Inspection Project (XIP), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), DHL Express, and Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD)," BoC-NAIA said in a statement.

Exporting the arachnids without permit is a violation of Sections 117 and 1113 of Republic Act 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The hairy spiders were turned over to the Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Tarantulas look scary and intimidating, but they can become docile once used to their environment. Some people consider tarantulas to be the simplest of pets.



Customs foils smuggling of tarantulas

JUN 13, 2022, 8:13 PM

Benjamin Lim
Writer

Customs foils attempt to smuggle tarantulas to Italy

The Bureau of Customs (BoC) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) foiled an attempt to smuggle out of the country 198 various species of tarantulas.

The BoC-NAIA on Monday said the rare live tarantulas of different sizes were misdeclared as "Thermos Mug" but were seized when the bureau learned that the shipment has no required permits.

The outbound shipment was about to be sent by a sender from Pasay City to a recipient in Italy, the BoC-NAIA said.

The shipment was intercepted at the DHL Express Warehouse on June 7, 2022.

"The package was subjected to X-ray and 100 percent physical examination which led to the discovery of the live animals. The package was examined by the Customs examiner from the NAIA Export Division, with the presence of representatives from X-ray Inspection Project (XIP), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), DHL Express, and Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD)," BoC-NAIA said in a statement.

Exporting the arachnids without the required permits is a violation of Sections 117 and 1113 of the Republic Act 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The hairy spiders were turned over to the Wildlife Enforcement Officer from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for proper handling.

According to a website, the tarantulas look scary and intimidating, but they are incredibly calm and become docile once used to the environment. Some people consider tarantulas to be the simplest of pets.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/customs-foils-smuggling-of-tarantulas?fbclid=IwAR0mC8Czp5InEWjgi4AFpH1UyqLXQcPsmLYpCFA_P55B94L8_Orc4haiwM0



198 buhay na tarantula, buking sa thermos mug

By Abante News Last updated Jun 13, 2022



Naharang ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) ang tangkang pagpupuslit ng mga buhay na tarantula sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) patungo sa Italy kahapon.

Wala umanong kaukulang export permit ang outbound shipment ng 198 piraso ng iba't ibang species ng tarantula na idineklara bilang "Thermos Mug" ng isang taga-Pasay City para maipadala ito sa Italy.

Natuklasan ang ilegal na kargamento matapos itong dumaan sa physical examination ng mga customs examiner ng export division.

Sumailalim na sa seizure and forfeiture proceedings ang kargamento dahil sa paglabag nito sa Republic Act 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act at RA 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources conservation and Protection Act. Nasa pangangalaga na ng Department of Environment and natural Resources (DENR) ang mga tarantula. (Otto Osorio)



Customs-NAIA intercepts 198 various species of rare Tarantulas

June 13, 2022 3 min read

MANILA — As part of the Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of Ninoy Aquino International Airport's mandate to secure the country's border against the import and export of prohibited, regulated, and restricted goods, the Port of NAIA intercepted 198 various species of Tarantulas of different sizes, without the required permits, misdeclared as "Thermos Mug" at BOC-DHL Express Warehouse recently.

The outbound shipment was about to be sent by a sender from Pasay City to a recipient in Italy.

The package was subjected to an X-ray and 100% physical examination which led to the discovery of the live animals. The package was examined by the Customs Examiner from the NAIA Export Division, with the presence of representatives from X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), DHL Express, and Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD).

The seized Tarantulas shall be the subject of corresponding seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Sections 117 and 1113 of the Republic Act 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.



The seized tarantulas were immediately turned over to the Wildlife Enforcement Officer from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for proper handling and monitoring pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 10-2020.



Over the years, the Port of NAIA received several commendations from the Southeast Asia TRAFFIC for its tremendous efforts in intercepting illegal wildlife trade.

“Our heartfelt congratulations to BOC-NAIA’s successful wildlife seizures, which prevented the trafficking of endemic and exotic species” Kanitha Krishnasamy, Director of Southeast Asia TRAFFIC said in the organization’s most recent letter to the Port of NAIA.



TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The BOC under the leadership of Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, the Port of NAIA headed by Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, with the DENR, continue to have a strong collaboration against the wildlife smuggling and together, remain vigilant in protecting the borders to ensure that both import and export transactions of animals, especially those critical and endangered species, are monitored.

(Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)



Worldwide 'Clean World Movement' held

June 14, 2022



WeLoveU Foundation members as well as their families, friends and neighbors help to rid the Philippines of environmental pollutants. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEING a nongovernment organization, associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UN DGC), the International WeLoveU Foundation (WeLoveU), led by Chairman Zahng Gil-Jah, has been carrying out the "Clean World Movement."

"Clean World Movement" by WeLoveU has been an environmental initiative that has raised awareness on environmental protection by purifying streets, parks, mountains, seas and rivers in various locations worldwide, strengthening the relationship between Earth's environment and human welfare. Through this, WeLoveU has aimed to actively participate in achieving UN SDGs, a common goal of the global society.

It would also be carried out nationwide, including Tanza Marine Tree Park in Metro Manila, Divisoria in Cagayan de Oro and Padsan River in Laoag. On June 9, the "Clean World Movement" in Navotas, Metro Manila was attended by over 520 participants, including WeLoveU members and their families, friends and neighbors.

From 7 a.m., the volunteers gathered in Tanza Marine Tree Park, observing Covid-19 protocols, and carried out the activity for an hour and a half. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed the activity and provided the trash bags for the volunteers. Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian also provided gloves and 400 sacks for the event.



Angeles mayor orders Material Recovery Facility shutdown



File Photo

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.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1931782/pampanga/angeles-mayor-orders-material-recovery-facility-shutdown>

Republic Cement, Colgate-Palmolive Philippines renew partnership in the fight against plastic pollution

The Philippine Star June 14, 2022 | 12:00am



Leaders from Republic Cement and Colgate-Palmolive Philippines come together to renew partnership and mark the occasion with a ceremonial tree planting activity at Republic Cement's Bulacan Plant. From left to right: Republic Cement Bulacan Plant Manager Rogelio Leonardo, Manufacturing Vice President Lloyd Vicente, CEO Roman Menz, Colgate-Palmolive Arvind Sachdev, Legal Director and Chief Marketing Counsel Atty Remy Garcia, and Sustainability Lead Nymia Raagas.

Norzagaray, Bulacan, Philippines — Republic Cement, a leading construction solutions provider in the Philippines, and Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, a personal health and hygiene products company, renewed their partnership that aims to alleviate the pervasive plastic waste problem in the country.

The Philippines is one of the biggest contributors of marine plastic pollution, generating a staggering 2.7 million tons of plastic waste each year. Colgate-Palmolive Philippines' partnership with Republic Cement is a step towards addressing the plastic waste crisis, which also aligns with Republic Cement's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Having worked together since signing the first Memorandum of Agreement in December 2020, both companies pledged to continue their partnership through ecoloop at an event held at Republic Cement's Bulacan Plant. ecoloop is Republic's resource recovery arm, which co-processes plastic waste and diverts it from landfills and waterways. "Colgate-Palmolive Philippines is committed to contribute to the betterment of the environment," said Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev.



Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev and Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz seal the renewal of its partnership against plastic waste through a ceremonial tree planting activity.

“We are very proud to be part of this system and part of the solution and are happy to have found such a strong partnership with Colgate-Palmolive Philippines,” said

Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz. Republic Cement has been at the forefront of innovative waste management for nearly two decades. As the pioneer of co-processing in the Philippines, Republic Cement has the expertise and equipment for managing pre- and post-consumer waste.

Through ecoloop, the recovery of thermal and mineral properties of qualified waste materials and the manufacture of cement are combined in a single operation. This involves using plastic waste as an alternative fuel, thereby also cutting down the reliance on fossil fuels like coal. Moreover, the co-processing method completely breaks down the organic molecules in the waste materials, thus reducing carbon emissions. Any by-product, such as ash, is fully integrated into the production of clinker, which is a key ingredient of cement. Thus, co-processing completely closes the lifecycle loop of plastic waste, preventing them from being leaked back into the environment in any way, whether through land, water, or air.



Republic Cement CEO Roman Menz and Bulacan Plant Manager Rogelio Leonardo participate in the tree-planting activity

With a license issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic Cement is fully capable and authorized to use and dispose of qualified waste through the co-processing method. Republic Cement understands its environmental responsibility and is careful to operate in compliance with DENR standards.

To further bolster their partnership, the two companies participated in a ceremonial tree planting activity. The renewed agreement signifies both companies' dedication to creating a healthier and more sustainable environment for future generations.

Through this partnership with Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Republic Cement strives ever more earnestly towards building a greener, Stronger Republic.





Groups call for release of environmental defender in Laguna

Philstar.com June 13, 2022 | 10:49am



Satellite image shows Pakil town in Laguna.

MANILA, Philippines — Groups called on authorities to investigate the arrest of an environmental defender in Laguna and release her from detention.

Philippine National Police-Special Action Force arrested Daisy Macapanpan on Saturday in Pakil town, according to groups Defend Southern Tagalog and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment.

Macapanpan was reportedly arrested after she delivered a speech protesting the construction of the Ahunan Pumped-Storage Hydropower Project in Pakil. She was seen in a [video](#) being apprehended by personnel in full battle gear.

Kalikasan PNE called the warrant of arrest — for a rebellion case in 2008 — used against Macapanpan “highly questionable.” It urged Pakil Mayor Vicente Soriano to order a probe into the incident and recall the arrest, citing the local chief executive’s supervisory power over the local police.

“Dapat palayain ang nasabing environmental defender at gawaran nang buo ang kanyang mga karapatan at remedyo na naaayon sa batas,” said Charm Maranan, spokesperson of Defend Southern Tagalog.

(The said environmental defender should be released and be granted in full her rights and remedies in accordance with the law.)

Crackdown vs envi defenders

Groups said the arrest of Macapanpan is an example of the crackdown against rights and environmental defenders.

In recent years, human rights advocates reported to facing warrant of arrests of cases from years ago or from far away areas, that they claim they know nothing about.

The PNE, in its statement, did not elaborate on the case Macapangan is supposedly facing.

“This is a clear reprisal against her for standing up against a potentially destructive dam project,” said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

“There is nothing wrong with airing disapproval and explaining opinions on why the Ahunan Hydropower Project should be shelved. The purpose of such discussions that locals have is to raise awareness and discourse over the matters at hand.



The 1,400-megawatt pumped-storage hydropower plant is estimated to cover 299.4 hectares of land in the barangays of Baño, Burgos, Rizal and Taft in Pakil. In a [document](#) submitted to the environment department for public scoping, proponent Ahunan Power Inc. said most of the project area is “sparsely populated and covered by a mix of medium-sized trees and tall shrubs.”

Ahunan Power Inc. is the joint venture of tycoon Enrique Razon’s Prime Metro Power Holdings Corp. and JBD Water Power Inc. — Gaea Katreena Cabico



CA affirms jail terms of duo illegally transporting lumber

By Benjamin Pulta June 13, 2022, 1:57 pm



MANILA – The Court of Appeals (CA) denied the appeal of two men to reverse a Baguio court ruling that sentenced them up to 10 years in prison for illegal possession of lumber 12 years ago.

The appellate court's Thirteenth Division on June 10 affirmed the Baguio City Regional Trial Court Branch 5 decision on Jan. 13, 2019 that found Ben Cagan Jr. and Marcelino Kidit in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

The two were charged with possessing 2,274 board feet of newly sawn Benguet Pinewoods valued at PHP63,672, loaded on a truck without the necessary documents when flagged by police at a Commission on Elections checkpoint on May 17, 2010.

Police noted the back portion was concealed by a tent-like material.

Cagan, whose license has expired, claimed he was asked to drive the truck without knowing its contents.

On the other hand, Kidit said he just hitched a ride since Cagan was a relative and that he did not know they were illegally transporting lumber.

The CA said the denial was “unlikely” and the warrantless search by the apprehending officers was valid.

“Consequently, the forest products seized are admissible as evidence,” the CA ruled.

Under Section 80 of PD 705, an offender may be arrested without warrant if the offense is committed in the authority’s presence. The tools and equipment used in committing the offense and the forest products cut, gathered or taken by the offender in the process of committing the offense will be seized, to be delivered within six hours from the time of arrest. **(PNA)**



Climate change: The missing agenda item

June 12, 2022 | 5:04 pm

Yellow Pad By Ramon Isberto



FREEPIK

Amid 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 glitzy 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 Yolandas and Odettes 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 20th century to 3.6 millimeters per year from 2006 to 2015. It added that the population exposed to a 100-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 Dumaguete. 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 existing 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 restrictions 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 famines.

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 "Mon" Isberto is a former journalist and public affairs officer of PLDT and Smart, and upon retirement, is now associated with Action for Economic Reforms.

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2022/06/12/454311/climate-change-the-missing-agenda-item/>

14 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEY SANCHEZ MENDOZA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE www.tribuneonline.org
VISITORS of the Dolomite Beach at the Manila Bay are taking advantage of the shade provided by the giant gold marble at the center of beach in Roxas Boulevard.



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BusinessMirror

A broader look at current business



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PEOPLE stand on the service road area along Roxas Boulevard as they wait for the reopening of the Manila Baywalk Dolemita beach at the weekend. Besides regulating the pedestrian traffic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the department has to ensure the cleanliness and safety of the water in Manila Bay before the reopening. ROYDOMINGO



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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

FREEDOM FLIGHT:

Rescued Philippine Eagle Selagbanog, also known as Sarangani Eagle, is released back to the wild yesterday near the area where he was found trapped in the thorns of ratan vines on Selagbanog Falls in Matium, Sarangani on Jan. 9, 2021. An X-ray during rehabilitation showed the eagle was shot with improvised guns. An electronic tracker will allow the Philippine Eagle Foundation and Aisans Power Group's Sarangani Energy Corp. to follow the progress of the eagle for the next two years.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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FREE IN THE WILD – Philippine Eagle 'Sarangani' is released in the hinterlands of Maitum, Sarangani on June 13, 2022. Sarangani was trapped in the wild and rescued by a farmer and was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation for rehabilitation. (Keith Bacongco)



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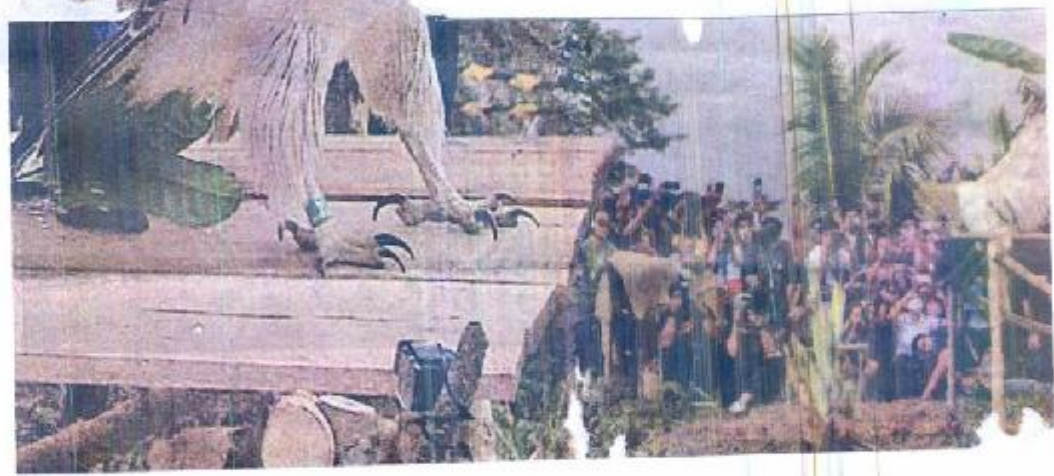
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FREE TO FLY.

Sarangani Eagle Salagbanog is freed by members of the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Malum, Sarangani - where it was also rescued late last year - to a throng of photographers and locals (inset) on Monday. With the aid of Alsons Power Group's Sarangani Energy Corp., the eagle watchers commit to preserve and protect the Mt. Busi Key Biodiversity Area, Salagbanog's home. Daney Pata and Marwan Dejeo/ABS-CBN News





Pinakawalan na ng Philippine Eagle Foundation si "Sarangani Eagle Salagbanog" sa bahagi ng Mount Busa, Sarangani. Ang naturang agila ay na-rescue noong nakaraang taon na may tama ng pellet gun. Isang electronic tracker ang kinabit kay Salagbanog para mamonitor ang kanyang kalagayan sa susunod na 2 taon. (Jeremy Piniola)



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TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022

VOL. 38 NO. 159 ISSN 0116-3973

NEWS IN A FLASH

P10.00

Tempo



PHILIPPINE Eagle "Sarangani" is released back to the wild in the hinterland of Maitum in Sarangani province after undergoing rehabilitation for one year and six months at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City. Sarangani was rescued by a farmer after it was trapped in the wild. (Keith Bacongco)



Halos 200 tarantula, nasabat ng BOC

NASABAT ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of NAIA ang nasa 198 iba't ibang uri ng tarantula na pawang walang kaukulang dokumento o permit sa BOC-DHL Express Warehouse nilong Hunyo 07, 2022.

Nabatid sa BOC, ang nasabing kargamento ay dinoklara bilang "thermos mug" na ipadadala sana papuntang Italy ng isang sender na nagmula naman sa Pasay City.

Isinailalim ang package sa x-ray at 100% physical examination na nagresulta sa

pagkakadiskubre sa mga buhay na tarantula.

Ang package ay sinuri ng Customs Examiner mula sa NAIA Export Division, kasama ang presensya ng mga kinatawan mula sa X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP), Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF).

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), DHL Express, at Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD).

Ang mga nasamsam na tarantula ay isasailalim sa

kaukulang seizure at forfeiture proceedings dahil sa paglabag sa Sections 117 at 1113 ng Republic Act 10863 o ang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act kaugnay ng RA9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Agad itong itinum-over sa Wildlife Enforcement Officer mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa tamang paghawak at pagsu-baybay alinsunod sa Customs Administrative Order No. 10-2020. **JAY REYES**



198 buhay na tarantula, buking sa thermos mug

NAHARANG ng mga tauban ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) ang tangkang pagpupuslit ng mga buhay na tarantula sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) patungo sa Italy kahapon.

Wala umanong karukulang export permit ang outbound shipment ng 198 piraso ng iba't ibang species ng tarantula na idineklara bilang "Thermos Mug" ng isang taga-Pasay City para maipadala ito sa Italy.

Natuklasan ang ilegal na kargamen-

to matapos itong dumaan sa physical examination ng mga customs examiner ng export division.

Sumailalim na sa seizure and forfeiture proceedings ang kargamento dahil sa paglabag nito sa Republic Act 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act at RA 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. Nasa pangangalaga na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga tarantula. (Otto Osorio)



High court OKs bay reclamation project

BY JOMAR CANLAS

THE Supreme Court has dismissed the petition of Sen. Cynthia Villar to stop the planned reclamation of 635.14 hectares of the Manila Bay along the coastline of Bacoor, Cavite, and the cities of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

The high court en banc upheld a Court of Appeals ruling in a resolution dated April 26 but was released recently.

The court said there were no new substantial arguments presented to warrant the reversal of its previous ruling.

The earlier ruling denied Villar's petition for a writ of kalikasan to stop the reclamation because it will block the flow of rivers in the Las Piñas-Zapote-Parañaque area and expose several villages to flooding.

Villar, who filed the petition in 2013, named the Public Reclamation Authority (PRA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR), Environmental Management Bureau, the city government of Las Piñas and Alltech Contractors Inc. as respondents.

Based on documents in the case, Alltech in 2009 proposed the reclamation project to the cities of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

The city councils of Las Piñas and Parañaque then issued resolutions authorizing their mayors to study if the proposal is viable as a joint venture agreement (JVA).

The two cities eventually accepted Alltech's proposal, and the JVAs were signed.

The PRA, the agency authorized to approve reclamation projects, also approved the project.

Villar, who was then a congresswoman of Las Piñas, launched a signature drive opposing the project. The drive collected 315,849 signatures of Las Piñas residents.

On March 16, 2012, Villar petitioned for a writ of kalikasan with the Court of Appeals, attaching the signatures. When the appellate court rejected her request, she brought her case before the high tribunal, reiterating her constituents' right to a balanced and healthful ecology.

The high court voted 11-2 in favor of the reclamation project, arguing that "there is no sufficient basis to hold that the proposed project will impinge on the viability and sustainability of LPPCHEA (Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area)."

It added that the project does not encroach on the LPPCHEA, based on the geographical illustrations submitted by Alltech and its consultants.

"Even the Tricore report Villar commissioned acknowledged that LPPCHEA was located adjacent to the project site," the court ruled.

It stated that "while the court acknowledges the international responsibilities of the Philippines, as a Contracting Party of the Convention on Wetlands, for the wise use of all designated wetlands of international importance in the country, this does not mean that a reclamation project alongside or adjacent a designated wetland is absolutely prohibited."

"It is clear that the classification of an area as a wetland of international importance does not diminish the control the government exercises over the wetlands and adjacent areas within its territory," it said.

The court stated that the government "may continue to utilize these areas as it may deem beneficial for all its stakeholders. Here, the government, through the DENR, found Alltech's proposal and studies conducted sufficient to allay the concerns of the stakeholders."



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'RESPECTING VOICE OF MINDOREÑOS'

EXTENSION OF MINING MORATORIUM IN ORIENTAL MINDORO HAILED

CITY OF CALAPAN—An environmentalist priest here has lauded the passage of an ordinance extending the mining moratorium in Oriental Mindoro province for 15 years starting in 2027.

In a statement on Sunday, Fr. Edwin Gariguez, director of the Diocesan Social Action Center of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, said the large scale and small-scale mining moratorium was "a result of the public outcry of the people of Mindoro opposing the destructive mining in our critical watersheds."

Authored by outgoing Vice Gov. Antonio Perez Jr., the provincial board's presiding officer, the proposed ordinance was passed by the provincial board on final reading on June 9. The moratorium was first passed in 2002, under Provincial Ordinance No. 01-2002.

Gariguez thanked Perez



RICH IN RESOURCES Mt. Halcon, the highest mountain on Mindoro Island rising 2,586 meters above sea level, is rich in natural resources, has numerous rivers and waterfalls, and is home to an array of flora and fauna that locals want to protect from mining activities. —PHOTO COURTESY OF MINDORO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION INC.

and the provincial board for "continually respecting the voice of the Mindoreños."

He said the local ordinance reflected the residents' "strong stand" against mining in the province.

Gariguez, cofounder of

the advocacy group Alliance Against Mining in Mindoro, joined the 11-day hunger strike of about 25 protesters, mostly Mangyans and farmers from Oriental Mindoro in 2009.

They camped out in front of the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR) office until it agreed to conduct an investigation into the nickel project of Norwegian mining company Intex Resources in Mindoro, which was granted an environmental clearance certificate. The DENR indefinitely revoked the permit of Intex.

Protests

Among the grounds for the protests against the project was the location of its 12,000-hectare site, which is within a watershed and an ancestral domain area.

Gariguez helped bring the advocacy to the international community and was recognized in 2012 when he was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize.

The recently passed ordinance is subject to the approval of reelected Gov. Humerlito Dolor. —MADONNA T. VIOLA INQ



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CLIMATE CHANGE DAPAT SERYOSOHIN AYON SA NEDA

KINILALA ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) na pinamumunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga makabuluhang hakbang na ginawa para sa mas higit na "climate resilient Philippines" sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Sa ginanap na Duterte Legacy Summit: The Final Report to the People noong Mayo 30, sinabi ni CCAM-

DRR at DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sempulna na malaki ang nagawa ng Pangulo tungo sa institutionalizing the centrality of environment to the country's development.

"The Duterte administration espoused that a healthy environment is the foundation for economic and social development," saad ni Sempulna at binigyang-diin pa nito na ang Duterte presidency ay nanatiling nasa tamang daan sa "Climate Action Pathway" nito bilang istratehiya upang magkaroon ng katatagan at makaangkop ang ecosystem at mga komunidad na nasa panganib ng pinsala.

Para kay outgoing socio-economic planner, secretary Karl Chus, nararapet na seryosohin at isapuso ang kahandaansa epekto ng climate change sa bansa sa pag-



sasagawa ng economic planning.

Malaki umano ang matutulong nilo para maabot ng bansa ang "Ambisyon Natin 2040" na siyang pangmatalagalang adhikain ng Pilipinas.

Kaya payo niya sa mga susunod na economic planners, patuloy na tutukin ang "triple planetary crisis" na climate change, biodiversity loss, at pollution.

Ang mga ito aniya ay may malaking epekto sa ekonomiya at seguridad ng mga mamamayan.

Mungkehi niya, ang susunod na Philippine Development Plan ay dapat na nasa

teme ng "saving our planet, saving our country".

Sinimulan na ito sa ilalim ng Duterte administration sa pamamagitan ng Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production na nagtatakda ng guiding framework para sa sustainable and climate-smart practices and behaviors.

Naka-angkla ito sa pag-sasagawa ng mga "green recovery" gamit ang circular economy approaches at sustainable development goals.

Kaya kinakailangan umangonong matugunan ang malaking pagitan ng mga mayayaman at mahirap sa bansa.



Bongbong invited to Egypt climate change confab

BY MICHELLE GUILLANG
@tribunephil_nish

President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has been invited to attend the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference's 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to be held in Egypt from 6 to 18 November.

Marcos's office said the incoming Philippine leader is "seriously considering" the invitation conveyed to him by Egypt Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim during his courtesy call on Monday.

"Today I had the pleasure to meet his Excellency, President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and I submitted to him an official congratulations from the Egyptian President, his Excellency Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khallil El-Sisi... I also took this opportunity to extend the invitation of his Excellency... to take part in November COP 27," Shehabeldin said in a press briefing at Marcos's headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

"This topic, we talked about how the international community responds to the challenges of climate change. We may be different in geography, climate and nature. However, we share the main concerns."

Shehabeldin said while Marcos did not give his word about attending the event, he said he was told that the latter will "work hard", in order to do so.

"He will work hard. He will consider it hard to be there because he already visited the chargés d'affaires but it was a private visit before but he would like to be there," he disclosed.

Marcos's office said he will attend the conference, where delegates are expected to discuss systems to address the climate change crisis, "if his schedule would allow it."

Shehabeldin further told the press that Egypt is also keen on strengthening relations with the Philippines by developing other areas of cooperation between the two countries, such as agriculture, tourism, and climate change response.

Russia

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador Marat Pavlov, in a separate courtesy call on Monday, assured Marcos that Russia is willing to extend assistance to the Philippines with its energy resources amid the spike in oil prices due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"It is a sovereign period, we are ready to cooperate with the Filipino side, and to extend our helping hands, to satisfy the needs in the sources of energy," he told reporters.

Oil and gas prices have surged over Russian energy supplies and soaring inflation brought by the Russian-Ukraine war that started in February of this year.

Pavlov also conveyed Russia's willingness to expand areas of cooperation with the Philippines.

For his part, Marcos said the Philippines will cooperate with the Russian Federation but he will maintain his independent policy in connection with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.



Marcos invited to UN Climate Change meet

PRESIDENT-ELECT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has been invited to attend the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP27, to be held in November.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi extended his invitation to the incoming leader. The invitation was relayed by Egypt's envoy to the Philippines, Ahmed Shehabeldin, during his courtesy call on Monday.

"On this topic, we talked about how the international community [can] respond to the challenges of climate change. We are different in geography, climate and nature. However, we share the same concerns," he said.

Prior to this, Marcos has confirmed his attendance at the

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Thailand, also in November. Moreover, he is also said to be "very keen" in attending the United Nations General Assembly in the United States in September.

Shehabeldin also discussed with Marcos future partnerships his country and the Philippines can explore.

This includes "the prospects of developing the bilateral relations between Egypt and the Philippines, since we are looking forward to developing many areas of cooperation."

To be held on November 6 to 18, the climate change conference is an annual event where "all states that are parties to the convention are represented" to

"review the implementation of the convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements," according to its official website.

The Philippines is one of the developing countries most vocal about the effects of global warming, being one the nations that bear the brunt of the effects of climate change.

Earlier this month, the government's Climate Change Commission participated in the Stockholm+50 International Meeting in Sweden. It called for more accountability from the so-called powerhouse nations

for failing to reduce their carbon emissions that contribute to environmental damage.

Marcos during his campaign discussed his advocacy for the protection of the environment, one of them being the development of renewable energy sources to address the problem of high power costs in the country.

He reiterated the urgency for the government to reexamine the various alternative energy sources that will help the Filipinos.

"We will use natural sources of energy. We will no longer use coal. We will no longer use fossil fuel. We should have alternative [sources of energy] and renewables are [always] available," he said in one of his interviews.

KRISTINA MARALIT



ADB vows support for Marcos admin's development projects, climate change initiatives

By SETH CABANBAN

The Asian Development Bank has vowed to support President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his administration's initiatives.

"The Philippines is a key partner for ADB. We have worked together to promote the country's development since the founding of ADB in 1966 and our relationship stretches beyond the Philippines. We are grateful to the government and the Filipino people for hosting the ADB headquarters for more than five decades and supporting our efforts across the Asia and Pacific Region. I assured President-elect Marcos of ADB's strong commitment to supporting his administration's development policies," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa in a statement on June 13, following his courtesy call on Marcos Jr.

While the ADB has 42 field offices throughout Asia, and representative

offices in Washington, Frankfurt, Tokyo, and Sydney, its headquarters is based in Mandaluyong City.

The ADB vowed to support the 'Build, Build, Build' initiative which Marcos Jr. adopted as a platform; food security; Filipino welfare; and pro-environmental initiatives.

"ADB is working closely with the government, development partners, and the private sector to support infrastructure investment, including projects under the government's 'Build, Build, Build' program; promote sustainable agriculture development and food security; and invest in Filipinos' welfare. As we prepare our next country partnership strategy for 2024-29, we will be exploring opportunities with the incoming administration's priorities on climate change action to support a resilient and green economic recovery, climate-smart transportation, and continuing investments in education, vocational skills training, employment pro-

grams, health promotion, and social protections," he added.

Asakawa said he invited Marcos Jr. to the ADB's 55th Annual Meeting as guest of honor.

"ADB's 55th Annual Meeting will be held at our headquarters in Ortigas Center at the end of September with the participation of finance ministers, central bank governors, and other senior officials from ADB's 68 members. I expressed my appreciation to President-elect Marcos for the Philippine government's support in preparing for the Annual Meeting and invited him to attend as a guest of honor. We look forward to working closely with the new administration to ensure the meeting is an effective venue for proactive, solutions-oriented discussion around the key development challenges and opportunities in our region," Asakawa said in a statement.



PBBM INVITED TO EGYPT CLIMATE CHANGE CONFAB

By RYAN PONCE PACPACO

INCOMING President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. is seriously considering an invitation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference's 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) which will be held in Egypt this November. **Page 15**

PBBM

FROM PAGE

Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim of Egypt invited Marcos during his courtesy call Monday.

"Today I had the pleasure to meet his Excellency, President-Elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and I submitted to him an official congratulations from the Egyptian President, his Excellency Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El - Sisi... I also took this opportunity to extend the invitation of his Excellency... to take part in November COP27," he said in a press briefing.

If his schedule would allow it, Marcos, a staunch advocate of protecting and preserving the environment, could attend the conference.

The meeting could be the most significant as delegates are expected to tackle subjects designed to

most effectively respond to the climate change crisis.

The meet will also primarily focus on implementation, with nations expected to show how they will, through legislation, policies, and programs, begin putting the Paris Agreement into practice, at home.

The ambassador further said that Egypt is also keen on strengthening relations with the Philippines by developing other areas of cooperation between the two countries, such as agriculture and tourism, as well as climate change response.

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador Marat Pavlov, in a separate courtesy call on Monday, assured Marcos that Russia is willing to extend assistance to the Philippines with its energy resources amid the spike in oil prices due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

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Pavlov also conveyed Russia's willingness to expand areas of cooperation with the Philippines.

For his part, the President-elect also said the Philippines will cooperate with the Russian Federation but he will maintain his independent policy in connection with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

In a related development, Asian Development Bank President Masatsugu Asakawa also paid a courtesy call to Marcos and assured him of the ADB's strong commitment to supporting his incoming administration's development priorities.

Asakawa added that

just as the ADB supports infrastructure investment, including projects under the Duterte administration's Build, Build, Build program, supports agricultural development and food security, and invests in Filipinos' welfare, the ADB will explore opportunities with the Marcos administration's priorities on climate change action to support a resilient and green economic recovery, climate smart transportation, and continuing investments in education, vocational skills training, employment programs, health promotion, and social protection.

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Aside from the envoys from Russia and Egypt, Ambassadors Grete Sillassen, of Denmark, and Ilan Fluss, of Israel, also held separate courtesy calls on the same day.



Marcos invited to UN climate change talks

By Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

INCOMING President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. is seriously considering an invitation to attend the UN Climate Change Conference's 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) which will be held in Egypt this November.

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Marcos inimitahan ng Egypt sa climate change conference

kinokonsidera ni incoming President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. ang imbitasyon sa kanya na dumalo sa "United Nations Climate Change Conference's 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27)" na gagana sa Egypt sa Nobyembre.

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Ayon sa kampo ni Marcos, kung papayagan ng kanyang iskedyul ay dadalo ang incoming president.

Sinabi pa ng ambassador na masigasig din ang Egypt na palakasin ang relasyon sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng pagpapaulat ng iba pang larangan ng kooperasyon ng dalawang bansa, tulad ng agrikultura at turismo, gayundin ang pagtugon sa pagbabago ng klima. *(Mark Escudero)*



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PBBM imbitado sa climate change conference sa Egypt

INANYAYAHAN ng Egypt para sa climate change conference si President-Elect Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr.

Ang imbitasyon sa nasabing event sa Nobyembre ay ipinaabot ni Ambassador Ahmed Shehabeldin Ibrahim matapos mag-courtesy-call kay Marcos.

Bukod dito, tinutukan nina Marcos at Ibrahim ang mga pananaw ng dalawang bansa hinggil sa mga usaping may kinalaman sa pagpapaligat sa bilateral relations ng Pilipinas at Egypt.

Ayon kay Ibrahim, naging mabunga ang kanilang paghaharap ni Marcos kung saan ipinaabot niya rin na ang Pilipinas ang isa sa itinuturing nilang key sports ng international relations.

(Vanz Fernandez)



Nestlé seeks passage of law on responsible plastic use

NESTLÉ Philippines, Inc. pressed Malacañang to sign the consolidated legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR) to help sustainability efforts in the country.

In a statement on Monday, the company said it is hoping that President Rodrigo R. Duterte will sign the law, adding that EPR seeks to establish a circular economy, which seeks to produce minimal waste.

"As the country's first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company to achieve plastic neutrality — recovering plastic waste equivalent to what it puts out in the market — Nestlé Philippines fully supports the consolidated legislation on EPR for plastic waste, and hopes it will be signed into law by President Duterte," the company said.

"We congratulate the authors and sponsors of this EPR legislation which we have consistently advocated. Its enactment into law will be a major step in building a waste-free future and a circular economy. Our vision is that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfills, oceans, lakes, or rivers, or as litter," Nestlé Philippines Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Kais Marzouki said.

In May, Congress ratified the consolidated version of House Bill 10696 and Senate Bill 2425 as the working draft for the bill seeking to hold enterprises accountable for the life cycle of their products, especially in its post-consumer or end-of-life stage. The bill is currently awaiting the signature of Mr. Duterte.

The bill also seeks to manage plastic packaging waste such as sachets, labels,

laminates, and other flexible plastic packaging products, whether single or multi-layered; rigid plastic packaging products; plastic bags for carrying or transporting of goods and provided or utilized at the point of sale; and polystyrene.

According to Nestlé Philippines, it seeks to make its packaging fully recyclable or reusable by 2025. The company is utilizing a holistic approach to plastic waste, which has three focus areas, namely: developing the packaging for the future via packaging and delivery innovation and plastic reduction; assisting to shape a waste-free future with increased collection and recycling; and driving new behaviors and understanding through solid waste management (SWM) education.

Nestlé Philippines also collected 48 million kilograms of plastic waste

from August 2020 to May 2022, adding that the company transitioned to paper straws for its locally manufactured ready-to-drink products.

It also developed the first SWM education modules to be distributed across 20,000 public schools across the country.

"Even as we pursue economic, social and environmental sustainability, Nestlé has embarked on a journey of regeneration: to help protect, renew and restore the environment, improve the livelihoods of farmers, and enhance the resilience and well-being of communities and consumers. Putting into practice EPR on plastic waste will be a landmark development for sustainability and regeneration," Mr. Marzouki said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



Nestlé PH: Signing of EPR law on plastic waste will be a major step forward

AS the country's first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company to achieve plastic neutrality - recovering plastic waste equivalent to what it puts out in the market - Nestlé Philippines fully supports the consolidated legislation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic waste, and hopes it will be signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Nestlé PH Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki said: "We congratulate the authors and sponsors of this EPR legislation which we have consistently advocated. Its enactment into law will be a major step in building a waste-free future and a circular economy. Our vision is that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfills, oceans, lakes, or rivers, or as litter."

The legislation defines EPR as the environmental policy approach and practice that requires producers to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of a product, especially its post-consumer or end-of-life stage. Coverage will encompass large enterprises. Plastic packaging refers to products utilized to carry, protector pack goods for transportation, distribution and sale. These include: sachets, labels, laminates and other flexible plastic packaging products; whether single or multi-layered; rigid plastic packaging products; plastic bags for carrying or transporting of goods and provided or utilized at point of sale; and polystyrene.

EPR seeks to establish a circular economy. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation: "In our current economy, we take materials from the Earth, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste - the process is linear. In a circular economy, by contrast, we stop waste being produced in the first place. The circular economy is based on three principles, driven by design - eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature. It is underpinned by a transition to

renewable energy and materials. A circular economy decouples economic activity from the consumption of finite resources. It is a resilient system that is good for business, people and the environment."

With plastic waste as one of the world's most pressing environmental problems, tackling it is a top priority for Nestlé which globally aims to make its packaging 100% recyclable or reusable by 2025. The company is implementing a holistic approach to plastic waste, accelerating initiatives across three focus areas: (1) developing the packaging for the future, through packaging and delivery innovation and plastic reduction; (2) helping to shape a waste-free future through increased collection and recycling; and (3) driving new behaviors and understanding through solid waste management (SWM) education.

Apart from its plastic neutrality milestone, collecting 48 million kilograms of plastic waste from August 2020 to May 2022, Nestlé PH has transitioned to paper straws for its locally manufactured ready-to-drink products, the country's first F and B manufacturer to do so. Among its initiatives to raise consumer awareness and behavior on plastic waste, the company developed the country's first SWM education modules to be rolled out in 20,000 public schools nationwide. The modules, as part of the Nestlé Wellness Campus program, are reaching millions of Grades 1 to 10 students. Separate SWM modules have been created and are being shared with parents, teens and local government units.

Mr. Marzouki said: "Even as we pursue economic, social and environmental sustainability, Nestlé has embarked on a journey of regeneration: to help protect, renew and restore the environment, improve the livelihoods of farmers, and enhance the resilience and well-being of communities and consumers. Putting into practice EPR on plastic waste will be a landmark development for sustainability and regeneration."



Alaska Milk readies plastic upcycling facility in Rizal

ALASKA Milk Corp. (AMC) on Monday said it began the construction of a multi-layered plastic upcycling facility in Antipolo, Rizal as part of its net zero plastic waste goal by the end of the year.

The project is in collaboration with D&G Pacific Corp., BePurpose, Inc., and the local government of Antipolo City.

Tarang Gupta, AMC managing director, said the partnership with D&G Pacific to build an upcycling facility "is our way of staying relevant: offering solutions to our consumers, helping the environment, and contributing to nation-building as a whole."

The move comes as sustainability continues to be a top priority of the company, industries, and governments here and abroad, the official added.

The facility will produce WoW boards, which are sturdy panels or sheets that are a direct replacement for particle boards, medium-density fiberboards, and plyboards.

"This plastic upcycling facility uses the TrashBot technology imported from TrashCon Laboratory in India that turns

plastics and non-degradable materials that are otherwise dumped or burnt. This prevents the dumping of plastics and helps the environment by preventing trees from being cut," AMC said.

D&G Pacific President Edmund M. Dimalanta said that aside from minimizing the volume of discarded materials and waste being sent to landfills each year, the facility also reduces the need for production using new or raw materials.

The reduction means cutting air and water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and often conservation of global resources.

"This initiative by AMC and D&G Pacific is a forward-thinking approach that the private sector can emulate," Antipolo City Environment and Waste Management Officer Violeta S. Faiyaz said.

"We hope to be the best practice example to other cities looking into partnering with the private sector to help reduce plastic waste that is often thrown back to oceans and landfills," she added.

— **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Joenson**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



06-14-22

FILE:

PAGE

DATE

COMPLIANT WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

337 ESTABLISHMENTS IN BORACAY GET DOT ACCREDITATION

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Tourism (DOT-6) in Western Visayas has accredited 337 accommodation establishments on Boracay Island as domestic tourists continue to flock to the island-resort.

Business owners and the local government of Aklan province and Malay town, where the popular destination is located, were also preparing for international chartered direct flights set to resume this month.

The 337 establishments that were given accreditation as of June 9 included hotels,

resorts and other businesses offering accommodation services, according to the DOT-6, which posted the list on its website.

Surge of tourists

These businesses were compliant with health and safety protocols, the regional tourism office said.

The island has been experiencing a surge of domestic tourists after two years of COVID-19 travel and quarantine restrictions.

Domestic tourist arriv-

als reached a record-high of 193,298 in May, or around 96 percent of the total tourists arrivals of 201,368.

It exceeded the pre-pandemic numbers of leisure travelers, which were 149,292 in April 2017 and the 135,543 in May 2019.

From June 1 to June 10 this year, tourist arrivals reached 66,215 or an average of 6,621 daily. Domestic tourists accounted for 63,571 or 96 percent of the arrivals.

Foreign tourists in May reached 4,268 and 1,524 for the

first 10 days of this month.

Visitors from the United States were the top foreign arrivals on the island in May, at 862, followed by the United Kingdom (404), Korea (367), Australia (322) and Canada (185).

Businesses and local governments have also started to prepare for an expected rise in foreign tourist arrivals with the direct chartered flights from Incheon, South Korea, to Kalibo International Airport, located in Aklan's capital town of Kalibo, scheduled on June 17 and June 22. —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR. (INQ)

14 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH logs 1,682 new COVID-19 cases in past week; daily average up 30.4%

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 13, 2022 | 4:54pm



Daily commuters pay for their jeepney fare in Marikina on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines recorded an average of 240 cases from June 6 to 12, a 30.4% increase from a week before, the Department of Health said Monday.

According to DOH's latest weekly bulletin, a total of 1,682 additional cases were logged last week. Of those, eight had severe and critical illness.

There are currently 498 severe and critical admissions, which represent 12.9% of total COVID-19 patients in hospitals.

Data from the DOH showed that 16.6% of 2,078 beds in intensive care units nationwide have been occupied, while 20.3% of 15,706 non-ICU beds have been used.

In a message to reporters, the agency said that continued increases in COVID-19 cases might lead to the escalation of alert levels.

"As long as the admissions and severity of cases in the hospitals do not affect our healthcare utilization rate, Alert Level 1 is still in effect," it said as it reminded the public to continue following health protocols and get protected through vaccination and boosters.

Most parts of the country, including Metro Manila, are under Alert Level 1.

The DOH also verified five deaths during the past week.

The Philippines has confirmed over 3.69 million COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, with 60,461 deaths.

More than 69 million Filipinos — or 77.51% of the target population — have completed vaccination against COVID-19. Of the figure, only 14.5 million individuals have gotten booster doses.



DOH: No cause yet to raise alert level in Metro Manila, but stricter restrictions possible

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Jun 13, 2022 1:00:25 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 13) — A health official said on Monday there is no basis yet for Metro Manila to be placed under the stricter Alert Level 2 despite the [majority of cities recording increases](#) in COVID-19 cases.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that although 14 out of the 17 cities and municipality in the National Capital Region saw more COVID-19 cases last week, it has not yet translated to more severe cases, significant rise, or more hospital admissions.

"We are not considering at this point. Because as we all know, we have metrics that we use for alert level system. The metrics we use not only includes numbers, but also hospital admissions and other factors," she told CNN Philippines.

However, Vergeire did not discount the possibility that Metro Manila could move from the current Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 2 if cases and healthcare utilization show significant increases.

"Ang posibilidad naandyan kung magtutuloy-tuloy ang pagtaas ng kaso," the DOH official said.

[Translation: The possibility is there if cases continue to rise.]

"For NCR to be escalated to Alert Level 2, it needs to be classified under moderate risk classification in lieu of the current low risk total bed utilization," the DOH later said.

To move into the moderate risk classification, DOH said an area should have positive two-week growth rate (TWGR) and average daily attack rate (ADAR) of at least six cases per day per 100,000 population.

"As of June 10, 2022 while NCR shows positive TWGR, its ADAR is still below six at less than 1 case per 100,000 population," explained DOH.

ADAR refers to the average number of new cases per day per 100,000 people, while TWGR measures increases in virus transmission based on two-week growth rates.

OCTA Research fellow Guido David said the healthcare utilization rate in Metro Manila slightly increased from 21% from the previous week to 23%, but the small increase is unsurprising since cases are expected to rise first before hospitals start to see more COVID-19 patients.

OCTA is projecting that new cases in Metro Manila could rise to 300 to 400 per day by end of June if the current trend continues.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/6/13/Metro-Manila-alert-level-COVID-19-DOH.html>

14 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



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