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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Aklan LGUs take over management of Boracay

By Perla Lena June 16, 2022, 10:05 pm



**TURNOVER.** Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna (left), chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), turns over to Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores the Boracay Coffee Table Book containing the transformation of the island during the culminating activity held Thursday (June 16, 2022) at the Balabag Wetland Park in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island in Malay. The task force also turned over the management of the island to the Aklan and Malay local government units as its mandate will end on June 30. *(Photo courtesy of DENR Western Visayas)*

**ILOILO CITY** – The leaders of the province of Aklan and the municipality of Malay on Thursday formally accepted the challenge to continue the rehabilitation of Boracay Island as the task force created to carry out the restoration will end its mandate on June 30.

Acting Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Jim Sampulna, chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), led the turnover to Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista during the culminating activity at the Balabag Wetland Park in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island in Malay.

"This turnover means our responsibility will be turned over to the local government unit. We are now turning over to you, the Boracay," he said in his message.

Sampulna added that Executive Order (EO) 53 which created the BIATF only lasted up to May 22, 2020 but was extended through EO 115 until May 8, 2021, and finally until June 30, 2022 through EO 147.

The challenge now is for the local government to maintain cleanliness and sanitation, including the discipline of the people, he said.

"The BIATF will be there to assist you but we will no longer be in the frontline," Sampulna added.

Miraflores, who will be stepping down as governor at the end of this month, vowed that the province will continue to preserve all the works implemented on the island.



## Aklan LGUs take over management of Boracay

"We accept the challenge of how to be able to sustain the gains of the island and we will assure you that as a senior adviser to the governor-elect Joen Miraflores, the continuity of our programs will be made sure in the coming years to come," Miraflores said. The incoming governor is Miraflores' son.

In his acceptance message, the outgoing governor acknowledged former environment secretary Roy Cimatu, whom he said had twice helped Boracay.

The first was when the latter as a colonel in the military helped eradicate insurgency in Aklan in the late 1980s, and the second was the restoration of Boracay to what it was before.

He said Cimatu, who was also present during the event, is Aklan's favorite son and will never be forgotten.

Bautista, in his message, said the people of Malay will be truly faithful to the programs left behind by the task force.

"We commit our responsibility, that we will see to it that it is maintained and will continue to serve its purpose for the people of Malay," he added.

Cimatu, who personally supervised the six months rehabilitation from April 26 to October 26, 2018, said the mayor who is entrusted with the responsibility for the island after June 30 is left with a demanding test.

The new president, he said, may leave the local government unit to manage Boracay, extend the term of the BIATF or wait for the outcome of the proposed Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA), which is now pending before Congress.

"Whatever happens, you have a tall order," he said, adding that BIATF is still ready if again be given the mandate. (PNA)



## DENR fetes five LGU

Congratulations to all the awardees



Published 5 hours ago  
on June 17, 2022 03:30 AM  
By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recognized five local government units (LGU) for their unwavering efforts in the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna feted the city governments of Balanga in Bataan and Palayan in Nueva Ecija; municipalities of Sasmuan in Pampanga and Marilao in Bulacan; and the Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Provincial Government of Pampanga.

Sampulna said that these LGU were given the “Manila BAYani Awards” for their significant efforts and contribution in the cleanup and rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

He awarded the certificates along with Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., former environment czar Roy Cimatu, Senator Cynthia Villar and Palawan 3rd District Representative Edward Hagedorn.

The acting DENR chief also lauded the efforts of LGU that exerted diligent effort to help the DENR in the massive cleanup of major river systems and tributaries in the Manila Bay.

“Congratulations to all the awardees. With your relentless support, we will ultimately win this battle for Manila Bay,” Sampulna said.



## DENR fetes five LGU

The Manila BAYani Awards aims to recognize LGU, groups and individuals that have shown exemplary and innovative strategies in the implementation of the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program.

For his part, DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. expressed his gratitude to partner LGU for their continued support in the Manila Bay rehabilitation program that led to the success of several initiatives in the region, such as daily cleanup drives, grubbing, trash trap installation and establishment of toilet facilities.

"It is through our strategic partnership and collective efforts that we have been able to execute activities that brought significant contributions and progress in our rehabilitation efforts," Moreno said.



## Lakas sa pagkakaisa at serbisyo, naging marka ng ika-35 anibersaryo ng DENR



June 16, 2022 @ 9:33 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Kalakasan sa pagkakaisa at serbisyo, ang tema ng pagdiriwang ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ika-35 anibersaryo nito noong Hunyo 10 kasama ang 33,000 kawani sa pamamagitan ng Zoom at Facebook para buong araw ng kasiyahan, cultural shows, pagpapahayag ng pasasalamat at paligsahan.

Kaugnay nito pinasinayanan ni DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang kaganapan na may temang “Pistang Pamilyang DENR, Para Tuloy-Tuloy na Pagkakaisa at Tagumpay” sa mensahe ng pasasalamat kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte at sa mga kawani ng ahensya.

“The President’s trust in DENR was not put to waste because we delivered,” ayon kay na kinilala ang tagumpay ng DENR sa rehabili tasyon ng Boracay at Manila Bay sa “confidence he has bestowed not only on me but the entire DENR in the past six years.”

“You have been a part of every single accomplishment we achieved,” saad ni Sampulna na binigyang diin ang pagpapahalaga sa kasipagan at dedikasyon ng bawa’t empleyado sa ilalim ng kanyang termino.

Sa press release kinilala ni Sampulna kung paanong nanatiling magkakasama at matatag ang DENR workforce sa gitna ng “difficulties and dangers, especially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.”



Nagkaroon din ng sabay-sabay na pagdiriwang sa DENR field offices kabilang na ang isang linggong pagdadaos ng “Palarong Pinoy” (June 13-17) kung saan nilaro ang mga tradisyonal na laro tulad ng Bato-bato Pik, Bunong Braso, Hampas Palayok, Kadang-Kadang, Luksong Lubid, Palo Sebo, Patintero, Piko, Sipa, Sungka Tumbang Preso at Pabitin.

Ibinalik din ni Sampulna ang HR@YourService na maglalapit ng serbisyo ng ibang ahensya ng gobyerno sa mga empleyado ng DENR at sa kanilang mga pamilya. Kabilang sa mga imbitado ang Philippine Statistics Authority, Land Transportation Office, National Bureau of Investigation at PAG-IBIG.

Si Sampulna ay isa sa apat na DENR secretaries “to have risen from the ranks” na nagsimula bilang tree marker sa dating Bureau of Forest Development nuong 1977.

Bilang pagkonsidera ni to na isa siya sa “pioneers” ng DENR, sinabi ni Sampulna na kung ang titimon sa DENR ay manggagaling sa loob, malaki ang magiging tulong nito sa kakayanan ng national leadership na isulong ang environmental agenda dahil sa mas maraming “institutional knowledge” at “executive expertise” na naipon nito sa loob ng ilang taon o maging sa dekadang pagtatrabaho.

Simula ng pagbuo ng ahensya nuong 1987 sa ilalim ng Executive Order (EO) 192, ang DENR ay pinamunuan ng 17 kalihim kung saan apat ay nagsimula sa mababang posisyon kabilang sina Ramon Paje (Hulyo 1, 2010-Hulyo 1, 2016), Horacio Ramos (Pebrero 12, 2010-Hunyo 30, 2010), at Ricardo Umali (Hulyo 1-Setyembre 7, 1992).

Ang EO 192 o Reorganization Act of the DENR ay pinirmahan ni dating pangulong Presidente Corazon C. Aquino nuong Hunyo 10, 1987 at binuo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *Santi Celario*

## MGB Region 5 Director Receives Exemplary Leadership Award

Thursday, June 16, 2022 Journal Online



Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Region 5 Director Guillermo A. Molina, Jr. (5th from left) receives a trophy and cash prize of P75,000 as the awardee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [Environmental Awards](#) for Governance and Leadership Excellence (DENR-EAGLE) for 2021. DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna hailed the EAGLE for assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of field officials in delivering their office functions. Handing the award are [DENR](#) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones and Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel T. Cuna (3rd and 4th from left).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/mgb-region-5-director-receives-exemplary-leadership-award/>



## Special Awards for Two-Time Eagle Awardees

Thursday, June 16, 2022 Journal Online



For their meritorious performance as regional directors in 2018 and 2020, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Western Mindanao Arleigh J. Adorable (top photo, 5th from left) and Environmental Management Bureau-Cordillera Administrative Region Director Ma. Victoria Abrera (bottom photo, 4th from right) are given the 2021 [EAGLE \(Environmental Awards for Governance and Leadership Excellence\) Special Award](#) as exemplary performers during the DENR Gabi ng Parangal at Pagpupugay held in Iloilo City on June 7, 2022. Adorable was then the regional executive director of [DENR](#) Region 10 while Abrera is regional director for Region 2. Acting DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna lauded both officials for their outstanding service to the agency.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/special-awards-for-two-time-eagle-awardees/>



## DENR Awards Best Performing EMB Regional Director for 2021

Thursday, June 16, 2022 Journal Online



Environmental Management Bureau-Region 1 Director Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe (7th from left) receives the [Environmental Awards](#) for Governance and Leadership Excellence or EAGLE for the Regional Director category in the 2021 EAGLE awarding ceremony held during the Leadership and Environmental Sustainability Summit held in Iloilo City on June 7, 2022. Presenting the award are [DENR](#) Undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, Local Government Units Concerns and Attached Agencies Benito Antonio T. de Leon and Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna and (6th and 8th from left, respectively).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-awards-best-performing-emb-regional-director-for-2021/>



## C. Luzon LGUs cited for efforts in Manila Bay rehab

By Zorayda Tecson June 16, 2022, 5:47 pm



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – Four local government units (LGUs) and one provincial government office in Central Luzon have been cited for their significant efforts and contribution to the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Recipients of the Manila BAYani award in the region are the city governments of Balanga, Bataan and Palayan, Nueva Ecija; municipalities of Sasmuan, Pampanga and Marilao, Bulacan; and the Environment and Natural Resources Office of Pampanga province.

The award recognized the LGUs, groups, and individuals that have shown exemplary and innovative strategies in the implementation of the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program.

Paquito Moreno Jr., regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), thanked their partner LGUs for their continued support in the Manila Bay rehabilitation program that led to the success of several initiatives in the region, such as daily cleanup drives, grubbing, trash trap installation, and establishment of toilet facilities.

"It is through our strategic partnership and collective efforts that we have been able to execute activities that brought significant contributions and progress in our rehabilitation efforts," Moreno said in a statement on Thursday.

For her part, Palayan City Mayor Adrienne Mae Cuevas said, "*Hangad natin ang maayos at malinis na kapaligiran hindi lamang sa Lungsod ng Palayan kundi maging sa ibang lugar kaya't sama samang nakikiisa ang mga mamamayan tungo sa magandang adhikain na ito* (We desire to make our surroundings orderly and clean not only in the City of Palayan but also in other areas. That is why the residents join together towards this good objective)."

Pampanga Governor Dennis Pineda thanked the DENR and other agencies for recognizing the efforts of the provincial government in helping to revive Manila Bay.

"*Ang Pampanga Bay at mga ilog nito na tumatapon sa Manila Bay ay inaalagaan natin dahil pinagkukunan ito ng pagkain, irigasyon at kabuhayan ng mga Kapampangan* (We are protecting the Pampanga Bay and the rivers going to the Manila Bay because this is the source of food, irrigation and livelihood of the Kapampangan)," Pineda said.



## C. Luzon LGUs cited for efforts in Manila Bay rehab

Since the massive cleanup of the Manila Bay started in 2019, over 280,000 tons of waste have been collected from more than 37,000 river and coastal cleanups conducted in Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac. (PNA)



## DENR distributes land titles in Cagayan Valley



By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

June 17, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has distributed a total of 2,383 patents to beneficiaries under the Malawakang Handog Titulo Program (MHTP).

The land titles were distributed all over Cagayan Valley, which comprises the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, Cagayan and the island province of Batanes, DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said.

The recently conducted MHTP series of awarding ceremonies was in collaboration with the Registry of Deeds (RoD) represented by lawyer Melba Niña Quinto in Nueva Vizcaya, lawyer Brenda Lyn Afalla in Quirino, lawyer Ariel Vallejo in Isabela, lawyer Herminio Sychangco Jr. in Cagayan and Maria Jocelyn Puriran in Batanes.

The DENR Region 2 said the activity was in support of the government program of the Duterte administration dubbed "Pamana sa Mamamayang Pilipino: A Duterte Legacy," which is also part of the government's land disposition program under Republic Act 10023 or the "Residential Free Patent Act."

Earlier, responding to DENR acting secretary Jim Sampulna directing field officials to facilitate the land titling process in the department, Bambalan moved to strengthen the land management disposition program in the region and created a regional committee.

Bambalan said the creation of the committee is meant to deliberate all environmental and administrative cases to fasttrack the resolution of land conflicts that are relevant to the speedy issuance of patents and that through the committee, the resolution of land cases is now being facilitated.

Meanwhile, Juan Miguel Cuna, DENR undersecretary for Field Operations for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, lauded the officials of the DENR, RoD and local government units (LGUs) for facilitating the patent processing and issuance of the land titles awarded.

Cuna encouraged the DENR and RoD officials to continue building partnerships with the LGUs to expedite not only the land titling process but also to facilitate the resolution of land conflicts.

Benito Antonio de Leon, undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, said the strong collaboration of the DENR with the different LGU partners and the RoD sustained its activities under the land administration and management program.

De Leon explained that the Handog Titulo program aims primarily to uplift the socioeconomic condition of farmer-beneficiaries by encouraging investments and empowering them through having the security of tenure over their property.



## DENR distributes land titles in Cagayan Valley

Bambalan has encouraged patent beneficiaries to make use of their land productively to uplift their livelihood and economic condition.

The patent awardees were also given seedlings as part of the DENR's environment month celebration.



## Over 600 Cagayanos receive land titles from DENR

Published on: June 16, 2022

By Jan Karl Coballes



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan (PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Region 2 (DENR-2) has recently awarded free patent land titles to more than 600 Cagayanos in a ceremony held in this city.

The activity is under the DENR-2's continuing Handog Titulo program, which is being implemented in partnership with the Registry of Deeds and the local government of Cagayan.

In a speech, Atty. Herminino Sychangco, Jr. of the Registry of Deeds reminded the recipients to give utmost importance and to strictly secure their new titles as these are proofs of their ownership of their lands and are required in relevant government transactions.

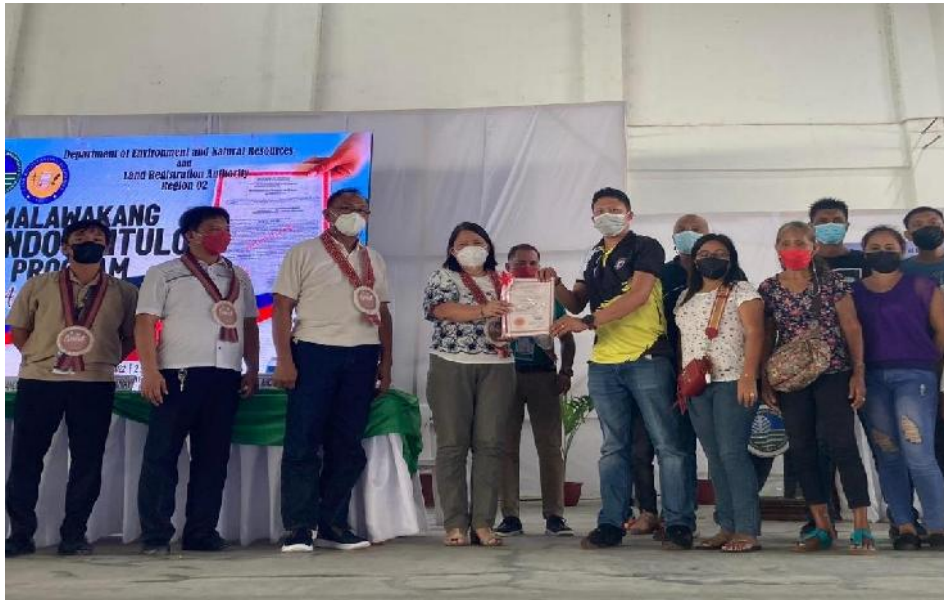
The Handog Titulo is part of the government's land disposition program through Republic Act No. 10023 or the Residential Free Patent Act, where it seeks to simplify the processing and issuance of public land patents to qualified landless beneficiaries.

Under the program, free patents are made available to Filipinos who occupied a residential land for at least 10 years, as long as the said land is alienable and disposable. The distribution of land titles is expected to fight poverty and stimulate economic progress in the long run.

(MDCT/JKC/PIA Region 2)



## Over 600 Cagayanos receive land titles from DENR



The DENR-2's Regional head, Exec. Dir. Gwendolyn Bambalan, and Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba, along with other officials formally award the land titles to the recipients.





## Pampanga hailed for helping in Manila Bay rehab



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (File Photo)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 16, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recognized Pampanga's efforts in the Manila Bay rehabilitation program as one of the Manila Bay-ani Award regional awardees.

The Pampanga was presented the award during a ceremony held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila this Tuesday, June 14.

The province obtained a high score in the assessment conducted by the agency on all local government units (LGUs) in the Manila Bay area.

The award was presented to provincial administrator Charlie Chua and provincial environment and natural resources officer Arthur Punzalan by Senator Cynthia Villar, Acting DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna, former DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Palawan 3rd District Rep. Edward Hagedorn, and Atty. Antonio Oposa, Jr.

According to Punzalan, the award is the result of the cooperation of officials in Pampanga, led by Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda and Vice Governor Lilia "Nanay" Pineda.

"Under the Pineda administration, we have had regular clean-up drives and we have further extended our waste management programs," Punzalan said.

The purpose of the Manila Bay-ani Award is to recognize the orderly and responsible performance of LGUs in their mandates and responsibilities under the environmental laws that support the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1932070/pampanga/local-news/pampanga-hailed-for-helping-in-manila-bay-rehab>



## Sibugay Coastal Wetlands to be nominated to Ramsar

June 12, 2022



Zamboanga Sibugay Wetlands. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE government will nominate the Sibugay Coastal Wetlands to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of [International Importance](#) as part of conserving its rich biodiversity and the cultural heritage of Zamboanga Sibugay's Subanens and other ethnic tribes.

The Sibugay Coastal Wetlands (SCW) will be [Philippines'](#) eighth on the Ramsar List when granted this recognition.

The listing will protect its rich wildlife which is home to 53 waterbird species — 37 migratory waterbirds and 11 threatened migratory waterbirds.

The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) is completing in the second quarter of 2022 the project "Establishing Knowledge on the International Importance of Sibugay Wetlands: A Means to Enhance Wise use of the Proposed Ramsar Site."

Sibugay Wetlands' 187,000-hectare area has been extensively planted with mangroves totaling 5,155 hectares. It has mudflats (bay mud) spanning 1,607 hectares.

"The mangrove forest plays a major role in the productivity of the wetland, especially for fisheries as well as roosting site for the largest Flying Fox population. Sibugay Wetlands serves as a staging, roosting, foraging and breeding grounds for various waterbirds including migratory species," according to DENR wildlife experts.

As part of the conservation plan, DENR will empower the local communities on the sustainable use of the wetland and its resources. That will give them livelihood to keep them away from destroying such environmental wonder.

SCW also supports threatened species such as marine turtles, whale shark, sea cow and saltwater crocodile. The vast mudflat is home to a variety of oysters, scallops and other mollusks.

Other Philippine wetlands on the Ramsar List are Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Las Piñas Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, Naujan Lake National Park, Negros Occidental, Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, and Tubataha Reefs Natural Park.

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/12/public-square/sibugay-coastal-wetlands-to-be-nominated-to-ramsar/1847037?fbclid=IwAR1BMJ0FYddWk\\_Qj4cK1R2KAL2NOdxUWkhoU4DGcg3ZiqdplJ8JMKNS3Se0](https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/12/public-square/sibugay-coastal-wetlands-to-be-nominated-to-ramsar/1847037?fbclid=IwAR1BMJ0FYddWk_Qj4cK1R2KAL2NOdxUWkhoU4DGcg3ZiqdplJ8JMKNS3Se0)

## PHL wins seat in UN continental shelf commission with NAMRIA's Carandang as rep

June 16, 2022 | 7:13 pm



NAMRIA.GOV.PH

THE PHILIPPINES has won a seat in an international commission tasked to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concerning the outer limits of a state's continental shelf.

The country will hold the position in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) from 2023 to 2028, according to a tweet by the Philippine Mission to the UN.

With 113 votes from 164 state parties, the Philippines reached the required majority after four rounds of voting during the 32<sup>nd</sup> UNCLOS meeting held in New York on Wednesday.

The Philippines competed with eight other candidates under the Asia-Pacific Group.

"To the countries that voted for the candidate of the Philippines which is the only one that studies to fight and win, on the merits, the rights of countries with continental shelves, I thank you," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. said in a tweet on Thursday.

He said this was "yet another victory" as it was "the end of cartelized choices in a universal institution."

"This is not a job but a mission."

Efren P. Carandang, deputy administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), will be representing the Philippines at the CLCS.

Mr. Locsin described Mr. Carandang as "the Philippines' foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea, which is to say that he is one of the very best in the world."

He has served in NAMRIA and its precursor agency for 38 years.

He was also part of the Philippine delegation that successfully submitted the relevant charts and coordinates of the outer limits of the Philippines' continental shelf with the International Seabed Authority.

This is the first time that the Philippines, an archipelagic state, will serve in the commission.



Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN Enrique A. Manalo has said that “the Philippine candidature to the CLCS is a demonstration of our consistent adherence to international law-based regime in maritime governance and the peaceful use of the world’s seas and oceans.”

“The outer limits established through this process become the fixed boundaries between the seabed areas within national jurisdictions and the international seabed areas, which are reserved for common heritage,” the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN said in an earlier statement. — Alyssa Nicole O. Tan



## Philippines elected to seat at UNCLOS implementing body

Philstar.com

June 16, 2022 | 6:38pm



Philippine candidate Deputy Administrator Efren P. Carandang speaks at the 32nd Meeting of the UNCLOS state parties.

### Philippine Mission to the UN

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines was elected to a seat at the United Nations body that implements guidelines establishing the limits of the continental shelf of coastal states.

On Thursday morning, Manila time, the Philippine Mission to the UN said Manila won a seat in the Asia-Pacific Group of the [Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf](#) (CLCS), which aims to implement the guidelines of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The UNCLOS provides that a coastal state's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles "from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured."

"Philippine candidate Deputy Administrator Efren P. Carandang is one of the country's most eminently qualified technical expert for the CLCS, with quality management skills," the Philippine Mission to the UN said in a [Twitter post](#).

The country won with a majority vote of 113 votes out of the 164 state parties present and voting "[after four tough rounds of voting](#)."

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teddy Locsin Jr. thanked China for casting a vote for the Philippines.

"We have differences, sure; we tried but failed to bridge them but the endeavor was sincere; we are patriots each of our respective causes; but we have a deep respect and genuine affection for each other," Locsin said in a [post on Thursday](#).

China has been dismissing a 2016 tribunal ruling that invalidated its nine-dash claim over the South China Sea, which includes an area of the West Philippine Sea.

However, Locsin earlier said he was "[extremely disappointed](#)" that Australia did not support the Philippines' bid for the CLCS seat.

It is the Philippines' first time to serve in the commission, with a term starting 2023 until 2028.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/16/2188844/philippines-elected-seat-unclos-implementing-body>



## P63-billion LNG power plant construction in Lapu-Lapu City faces rough sailing

[June 16, 2022](#) 2 min read

By Junex Doronio

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu — Stressing that public safety and environmental protection is his primordial concern, Mayor Junard “Ahong” Chan on Thursday clarified that there is no scheduled construction of a P63-billion 600-megawatt liquified natural gas (LNG) power plant proposed by the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Global Power in this city as he rescheduled its public hearing up to three months from now in the face of stiff opposition.

Several civic groups, including the newly-formed Maharlika Solidarity (MASO), have strongly opposed the construction of the power plant in Barangay Poblacion in this city, citing potential environmental hazards.

“Let’s be fair nga tagaan sa nato ang proponent og matubag nila ang mga issues and concerns sa mga tawo (and allow the proponent to answer issues and concerns of the people). So if dili makatao sa atong mga katawhan (it is not beneficial to the people), why not? Nganong ato mang ipadayon kon makadaot (Why would we continue if it is harmful),” the re-elected mayor said on Wednesday, June 15.

Maharlika TV gathered that San Miguel Corporation’s (SMC) power arm, SMC Global Power Holdings will invest in a 600-megawatt (MW) LNG power plant ostensibly to provide grid baseload power.

The project which cost will total between P47.2 billion to P63 billion will be constructed on a 26.16-hectare plot of land that has been leased from Keppel Cebu Shipyard Land, Inc. and the National Development Company.

But various groups claimed of alleged violations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2017-15 for its lack of information education campaign, focus group discussion, and other concerns on the project.

Chan said he already talked with the project proponent and he rescheduled the public hearing for about three months time.

He explained that the move was made to give time for the proponent, who were earlier unprepared during their presentation, to prepare themselves this time to answer the concerns of all stakeholders. (ai/mtvn)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064206931542/posts/pfbid0X7LrZW7PASW4kPq79o5DqRdY6PuSg2KsK3dtuKgCFXxJecZivgYMePOCSn5EnLZ9I/?app=fbl>



## Pro-environment groups urge BBM to choose right person for top DENR post

Published June 16, 2022, 3:14 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

At least seven environmental groups urged the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. to appoint a secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who has the capability to manage natural resources of the country.

In a statement, the groups said what the country needs is a transformative change that would benefit the entire country.

"It can no longer be business as usual. We only have 3% of our primary forests left. Every year, thousands suffer and die from floods and other harmful effects of the climate crisis. As one of the deadliest countries for environment defenders, forest and ocean guardians are at high risk of violence and intimidation from organized environment crime," the groups said in a statement.

The statement was signed by leaders of the Masungi Georeserve, Earth Island Institute, Manila Observatory, Kids for Kids, Kalikasan, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines and the Living Laudato Si Philippines.

"The appointment of a secretary who will be a singular voice for nature and people in the next cabinet will be a critical pillar in the modern governance of the incoming President," the statement read.

"More than being a regulator or bureaucrat, the environment secretary must be a fierce, progressive, and passionate champion of the conservation of forests and biodiversity, the protection of environment defenders, and the enforcement of environmental laws, over and above the interests of a few," it added.



**UNTV News and Rescue** ✓

11 hrs · 🌐

Naniniwala ang isang policy analyst na dapat nang pangalanan ni President-elect Bongbong Marcos ang mga susunod na mamumuno sa Departments of Agriculture, Health, Environment and Natural Resources at Transportation.

Kritikal umano ang mga kagawarang ito dahil sa mga kinakaharap na hamon ng bansa tulad ng food shortage at pandemya.



YOUTUBE.COM

**Mga mamumuno sa DA, DENR, DOTr, at DOH, dapat pangalanan na ni PBBM – analyst**

Naniniwala ang isang policy analyst na dapat nang pangalanan ni President-elect Bongbong Marcos ang...

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/187059061319515/posts/pfbid037RhLhuFoGMbSj41hvXMUFMCNSYhkUr89LdvdmsXcygg4nPgwrc4rR9Pxr3y4Sdil/?app=fbl>





## 7 porters yield for violating Mt. Kitanglad protection law

By Nef Luczon June 16, 2022, 6:30 pm



Google map of Bukidnon province.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Seven “porters” have surrendered in relation to charges of violating Republic Act (RA) 8978, or the Mount Kitanglad Range Protected Area Act.

In an interview Thursday, Major Jaemar Paguidopon, chief of police of Impasugong Police Station, said the respondents acted as guides and porters to the 26 mountaineers who climbed Mt. Kitanglad without proper clearance in December last year.

“They were hired by the mountaineers to help carry their belongings, and the prosecution found probable cause of their involvement,” he said.

Paguidopon said the accused surrendered Wednesday afternoon and immediately posted bail amounting to PHP30,000 each.

Those who surrendered were identified as Rhonz Frince Mitt Nere, 23; Glenn Tarroza, 23; Kirk Patrick Carpio, 25; Kady Valmorez, 18; Jheycore Pugoy, 22; Novenne Edward Lauga, 20; Vincent Philip Sinanggote, 22.

Paguidopon said the accused have standing warrant of arrest for the violation of RA 8978 signed by Hon. Jerlie Luis-Requerme, the presiding judge of Municipal Trial Court in Impasugong-Sumilao, Bukidnon, dated June 8, 2022.

The other mountaineers were also charged under the same law and have already posted bail. (PNA)

## Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle flies back to its forest home

Published on: June 16, 2022

By Sarangani Provincial Information Office



Photo by Martin Fernando Bernad Jr. of Sarangani Provincial Information Office during the release of Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle on June 13 at Barangay Ticulab, Maitum.

MAITUM, Sarangani -- The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) released Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle back to its original home at Mt. Busa in Barangay Ticulab here on June 13.

Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle was rescued on January 2021 after it was seen trapped in the thorny rattan vines in the vast forest of Salagbanog Falls in Ticulab.

Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle was then turned over to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-Kiamba) and Environmental Protection and Conservation Center (ECPC) Sarangani.



## Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle flies back to its forest home

According to PEC, Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle was examined and found with a "jolen" or marble lodged between its muscle and skin in its right shoulder.

It also had an air-gun pellet visible on the same shoulder closer to the neck.

PEC reported that no entry wound was seen for both the marble and the pellet, which means "the punctures have healed and that a long time has passed since the shooting."

The eagle underwent rehabilitation for one and a half years at the PEC in Davao City.

Before its release, a traditional Tboli ritual called "damsu" was conducted at the release site. "Damsu" is an offering done for abundant harvest, blessings, guidance and protection before the start of every occasion or meaningful undertaking.

During the release, the Alsons Power Group's Sarangani Energy Corporation (SEC) and Siguil Hydro Power Corporation have committed to preserve and protect the key biodiversity area of Mt. Busa in Sarangani Province which serves as home to a significant Philippine Eagle sub-population together with other 430 rare animals and birds.

SEC has provided the funding and logistical support for the tracking and protection of Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle for the next three years.

This involved the provision of an electronic tracker that will map the whereabouts of the eagle.

The said partnership is a manifestation of Alsons Power's brand promise to power with care by being a caring and responsible partner to the communities where it operates thru activities that foster the preservation of the environment.

Jayson Ibañez, director for research and conservation of the Philippine Eagle Foundation also urged the locals to be part of the advocacy in preserving and protecting the wild.

"What we have done is a platform for public awareness and ang mga tama ng improvised jolen guns dito kay Sarangani Eagle is a manifestation that this type of hunting is still popular in this area," Ibañez explained.

"Nananawagan po tayo dito sa ating locals na sana ay itigil na nila ang pag gamit ng jolen guns sa kanilang hunting activities dahil nakakasakit po ito and worst is namamatay yung ibang mga wildlife," he further appealed.

The release of Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle is the second in Sarangani Province after the release of Sarangani Pride in 2017.

Cornelio Ramirez, ECPC executive director said that the local government of Sarangani through the leadership of Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon, Deputy Speaker Congressman Rogelio Pacquiao, Vice Governor Elmer De Peralta and the rest of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan members will "continue its moves for the protection and conservation of the natural resources of Sarangani."

The release of Salagbanog/Sarangani Eagle was part of the celebration of the national eagle week which ran from June 4 to 10 and the 35th foundation anniversary of PEF. (Joshua John S. Pantonial/SARANGANI PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/06/16/salagbanogsarangani-eagle-flies-back-to-its-forest-home>



## Usa na 'Philippine Sambar' na inakalang extinct na sa Marinduque, muling nasilayan

Hunyo 15, 2022 9:50pm GMT+08:00

Mula pa noong 1990s, pinapaniwalaan na extinct o naubos na ang "Philippine Sambar," o Marinduque brown deer sa nabanggit na lalawigan. Pero ngayon, muling nagbalik ang naturang uri ng usa sa kabundukan ng Marinduque.

Sa ulat ni Dianne Loquillano sa GMA Regional TV Balitang Southern Tagalog nitong Miyerkules, sinabing isang residente ang nagbigay ng impormasyon na nakuha ng Marinduque Animal and Wildlife Rescue Emergency Response Team, tungkol sa usa na inakalang naubos na sa kabundukan ng lalawigan.

Nakita raw ng residente ang usa nang magawi ang hayop sa kanilang taniman sa kabunduan.

Ayon kay Dr. Jose M, Victoria, Provincial Veterinarian ng Mariduque, inakalang naglaho na sa lalawigan ang naturang uri ng usa kaya nakikiusap siya sa mga tao na huwag itong gagalawin at papatayin.

"Mula kalagitnaan ng 1990's hanggang sa huling bahagi ng 1990's, napaulat na extinct na raw yung ganyang uri ng hayop dito sa Marinduque," ani Voctoria.

"Iyan ay pagpapatunay na yung hinala nila na extinct na yung usa dito sa Marinduque ay kabaligtaran," dagdag niya.

Pinakiusapan ng Marinduque Animal and Wildlife Rescue Emergency Response Team, ang mga residente sa lugar na huwag huhulihin o sasaktan ang naturang hayop at bugawin lang ang mga ito palayo kapag nasa kanilang taniman.

Hindi rin ipinapayo na hulihin at ilipat sa ibang lugar ang usa dahil liliit umano ang tiyansa nitong mabuhay kapag inalis sila sa kanilang natural na tirahan.

"Kung maaari bugawin na lang. Hindi namin ina-advise na yung mga ganoong uri ng hayop ay hulihin at i-relocate. Kasi 'yon yung kanilang natural na pamahayan. Kung huhulihin sila, lumiliit yung tiyansa na mag-survive sila sa paglilipatan," paliwanag ni Victoria.

Nakipag-ugnayan na ang lokal na pamahalaan at DENR para magkaroon ng masusing pag-aaral sa lugar para mapangalagaan ang mga usa sa kabundukan ng Marinduque.

Ayon sa ilang nagmamalasakit na residente, may mga nanghuhuli ng usa sa ibang barangay kahit nasasakop ng wildlife sanctuary.

Kaya nanawagan si Victoria sa publiko na huwag hulihin o patayin ang anumang wildlife na makikita sa kabundukan ng Marique katulad ng nasabing mga usa, maging ang mga baboy ramo at mga hindi pagkaraniwang ibon gaya ng kalaw. --FRJ, GMA News

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/835049/usa-na-philippine-sambar-na-inakalang-extinct-na-sa-marinduque-muling-nasilayan/story/?fbclid=IwAR2BEWtae8JmG8zjMe9rDMw1IGxLv\\_BFdwMw\\_M4xoKghdnZM8-wpYjv\\_TEO](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/835049/usa-na-philippine-sambar-na-inakalang-extinct-na-sa-marinduque-muling-nasilayan/story/?fbclid=IwAR2BEWtae8JmG8zjMe9rDMw1IGxLv_BFdwMw_M4xoKghdnZM8-wpYjv_TEO)

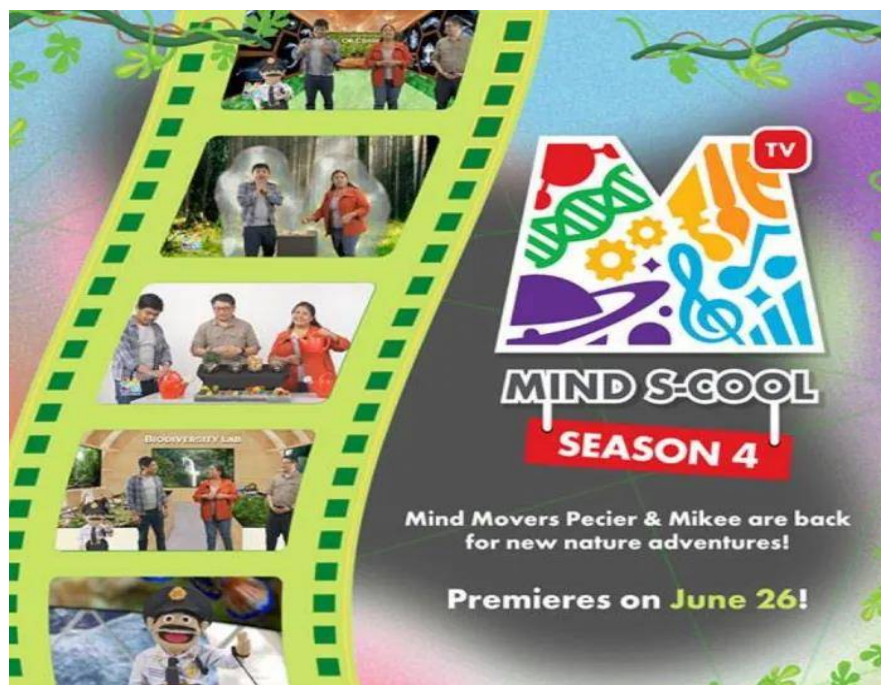


## Science show returns, focuses on PH biodiversity



By [Kaithreen Cruz](#)

June 16, 2022



USE WITH PERMISSION

TO bring science education closer to the Filipino youth and education stakeholders, "Mind S-Cool" is set to premiere its fourth season on biodiversity conservation with the message, "We are only OK if nature is OK."

The new set of six episodes will delve into what ails the Philippine biodiversity and how these affect Filipinos, as well as help its viewers discover treatments and cures to address those ailments.

"Mind S-Cool" aims to show its audience ways for them to save the country's biodiversity through powerful, creative and even fun ways which could be done with their families, friends and communities toward positive health for the Philippine biodiversity.

It also aims to promote citizen science initiatives and cooperation through technology for meaningful community participation in biodiversity conservation and promotion.

The program was developed by the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (BAFI) which operates The Mind Museum and the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) Arts Center, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development-Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (USAid-Sibol).



## Science show returns, focuses on PH biodiversity

"We may be splintered by many opinions in our politics and social lives, but no one will survive without nature. There should be no debate about that if you live, breathe and eat. Our health and lives are literally at stake if we do not have a shared understanding of how our human lives are intricately connected with biodiversity — which is the way nature is structured and how it works to serve our lives," BAFI Managing Director and curator Maria Isabel Garcia said.

USAid-Sibol Ecosystem Integration Specialist Dr. Aldrin Mallari recognized that lack of scientific information remained a problem and that the level of engagement on biodiversity is still low, which is why they hope the "Mind S-Cool" episodes could help bridge this gap, especially in the age of technology and an overly communicated world.

"We hope that the message of environmental conservation in oceans and landscapes facilitates a deeper understanding with a wider audience. We hope that they will value our biodiversity, oceans and landscapes and their inherent capacity to sustainably supply ecosystem services for their own benefit and the development of communities," Garcia added.

The fourth season of the science show premieres on June 26, Sunday, at 11 a.m. on Cignal TV's ONE PH with a same-day replay at 4:30 p.m. It runs until July 31.

It is also available for streaming at [youtube.com/c/MindSCoolPh](https://www.youtube.com/c/MindSCoolPh).

The third season has reached 2.2 million views and was the only science show in Nielsen's rating top 5 educational shows.

The "Mind S-Cool" team assured continued efforts to partner with organizations and government agencies to expand the reach of the program, by bringing it closer to learners, especially those in far-flung areas, and aiding in distance learning modalities.



## Tabuk bans use of plastic, styrofoam

By [Dexter A. See](#)

June 16, 2022

TABUK CITY, Kalinga: Starting July 1, 2022, the city will ban the use of plastic bags and styrofoam as packaging materials with the full implementation of City Ordinance 3, Series of 2021.

The ordinance was signed into law in June 2021. A six-month moratorium that began in December 2021 was given to vendors and establishments to use their remaining supply in preparation for the implementation of the ordinance.

The moratorium will end on June 30, 2022, after which vendors and establishments will be prohibited from selling and using cellophane and sando bags as secondary packaging materials as well as styrofoam products as containers for food and beverages.

Violators of the law will face the following fines and penalties: First offense – P500 fine and confiscation and destruction of prohibited materials. Second offense – P1,000 fine and confiscation and destruction of prohibited materials. Third offense – P3,000 fine, confiscation and destruction of prohibited materials and revocation of license to operate for business establishments.

Meanwhile, customers are advised to get into the habit of bringing reusable and recyclable alternatives such as cloth bags, net bags, eco bags, jute bags and other recyclable containers when shopping.

Implementing agencies led by the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) are preparing for the implementation of the ordinance, with the technical working group meeting today to finalize its implementing rules and regulations.

The Cenro said key stakeholders have also been notified and are all set for the implementation of the plastic ban by July 1.



## Activists stage lightning, artistic rally at ADB HQ as they press for clean, renewable energy

[June 16, 2022](#) 1 min read



Activists stage a lightning rally on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, in front of the Asian Development Bank headquarters in Mandaluyong as policymakers corporations, public financial institutions, and aid organizations held a virtual meeting of the 2022 Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF).



The protesters, who came complete with ornamental Sunflower cut-outs worn over their shoulders, demand 100 percent renewable energy before 2050. (Ieshua Jai-ren Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/06/16/activists-stage-lightning-artistic-rally-at-adb-hq-as-they-press-for-clean-renewable-energy/?fbclid=IwAR1Q1yQEcBkEdHuAJYwXUuomaD-ZsBLoGMwJE70BDOERNgPjeZzBo0aYCug>





**ABS-CBN News** ✓

11 hrs · 🌐

TINGNAN: Namumukadkad na ang mga amorphophallus o pungapong sa Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal. Ang naturang species ay isa sa pinakamalaking uri ng bulaklak sa mundo. (📷: Masungi Georeserve/Facebook)

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../look-flower-that-towers-over-8-f...>

LOOK: Amorphophallus or cicadas are already blooming at Masungi Georeserve in Rizal. Such species is one of the largest flower species in the world. (📷 : Helpers Georeserve/Facebook) READ the relevant report: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/life/06/16/20/look-flower-that-towers-over-8-feet-spotted-in-masungi-georeserve>

Translated



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/absbnNEWS/posts/pfbid023MoZKMvmR9jr9RdVPVgumKksKvn4CZ3tHesZXnja4By8s7zAcNACmtNpRHR61mQpl>



## Ensuring a resilient, sustainable tourism sector

By: [Bernadette Romulo-Puyat](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 03:45 AM June 15, 2022



The author at the Masungi Georeserve

*(Editor's note: Bernadette Romulo-Puyat leaves the Department of Tourism with an impeccable record and a long list of stellar achievements despite the spate of unprecedented challenges she faced during her term. We asked the outgoing Tourism Secretary, who was appointed earlier this month as a deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), to share with Inquirer the biggest milestones and accomplishments of the agency during her term, what's next for Philippine tourism, and her wishlist for the incoming administration and next DOT leaders)*

When I was appointed as the Secretary of Tourism back in May 2018, I advocated for creating a culture of sustainable tourism within the industry.

Coming from the rehabilitation of Boracay, we launched a refreshed campaign of the "It's More Fun in the Philippines" brand focusing on sustainability, diversity and patronizing our local culture and heritage.

### Tourism products

This manifested in our projects and programs, which strengthened the development of our 10 tourism products—Sun and Beach, Nature and Adventure, Cultural Heritage, Farm and Culinary, MICE, Leisure and Entertainment, Cruise, Dive, Health and Wellness, and Education—and put a spotlight on all 16 regions of the Philippines, especially the lesser-known destinations.

With my experience from the agricultural sector, we found it necessary to add Farm Tourism as the 10th tourism product to share the benefits of tourism to our farmers, providing them opportunities for additional income.



The author has long advocated for sustainability in tourism.

In support to this, the DOT launched Kain Na!, its flagship farm and food tourism program to generate awareness and interest in the culinary aspect of our country's regional destinations by featuring iconic dishes, local produce and interesting foodie experiences.

#### Convergence programs

The DOT believes that the enhancement of tourism infrastructure is a major stimulus in accelerating recovery. We engaged in convergence programs with the Department of Public Works and Highways for Tourism Roads Infrastructure (TRIP), to ensure better access and shorter travel time to tourist destinations.



Despite the pandemic, the author, pictured here at the Ili-Likha Artist Village in Baguio City, continues to visit and check on the country's tourism destinations.

The DOT also worked with the Department of Transportation and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines for the Institutionalized Leveraging Infrastructure Program for Airport Development (ILIPAD), which was aimed at providing a better experience for our tourists while in our airports.

## Recovery plan

The pandemic was something that none of us could have ever imagined, as its effects trickled down to the entire tourism value chain and manifested in the loss of jobs and livelihoods. In response to the crisis, the DOT had the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (TRRP).

The DOT led initiatives for the vaccination of 98 percent of our tourism workers, and established health and safety standards for tourist destinations, accommodation establishments, enterprises and tour operators to prepare for the eventual resumption of tourism under the new normal.

When the Philippines opened its borders to international leisure travel in February 10 this year, we were beyond prepared to welcome back foreign tourists, and we are happy to note that our efforts to boost traveler confidence paid off.

Since we reopened, the number of tourist arrivals in the country have already exceeded our expectations, with more than half a million (510,844 as of May 24) entries recorded. Our key destinations such as Boracay and Baguio have already reached their pre-pandemic numbers, indicating a robust domestic tourism economy.



At El Nido, Palawan

All throughout this crisis, the DOT has consistently stated that the goal is not just to get back to normal, but to pave the way for a better normal, rebuilding the nation's tourism industry in a way that will make it resilient, more sustainable and more inclusive.

## Wishlist

We hope that the next administration will continue promoting the principles of sustainability and resilience in the industry. We learned a lot from the most pressing instances these past four years, such as the rehabilitation of Boracay, typhoons and the pandemic. We fervently hope that the next administration will take our learnings to heart in order to ensure that the industry sustains its growth momentum.

We will be turning over the Revised National Tourism Development Plan (RNTDP) that aims to complement the programs to recover jobs and livelihood; deepen the roots for resilient, sustainable and inclusive recovery; and strengthen the foundations for stronger local tourism functions under DOT's leadership and guidance.

We hope that the next administration can continue operating in utmost accountability and transparency. We have received an "unqualified opinion" from the Commission on Audit (COA), the highest rating that indicates that all our financial statements are reported fairly and correctly, for two straight years.

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/350465/ensuring-a-resilient-sustainable-tourism-sector#ixzz7WPiXMXAR>



## Holding firm investing P25-B for renewable energy projects

By Kris Crismundo June 16, 2022, 5:02 pm



*Screenshot from Vivant Corp. virtual annual stockholders' meeting*

MANILA – Listed holding company Vivant Corp. has allotted PHP25 billion in capital expenditures (capex) for renewable energy projects from 2023 to 2026.

In its virtual annual stockholders' meeting Thursday, Vivant chief executive officer Arlo Sarmiento said this capex will be spent to build 196 megawatts of wind, 212 MW of solar, and 62 MW of hybrid wind and solar projects.

Vivant's target of increasing the share of renewables in its energy portfolio supports the government's goal of improving raising the renewable energy share in the country's energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and up to 50 percent by 2040.

With these renewable energy projects in the pipeline, Sarmiento said its energy portfolio in 2023 will reach 500 MW, 20 percent or 100MW of which is renewable energy.

"We have some projects in the pipeline that we expect either (by) acquisition by next year, or some solar projects that we can hit completion by next year as well," Vivant president Emil Andre Garcia said.

By 2030, the energy portfolio will increase to 1,000 MW, with renewable energy sharing 300 MW or 30 percent of its total portfolio.

Aside from renewable energy projects, Vivant allocated PHP5 billion for water infrastructure projects, particularly bulk water, water treatment, and water concession.

In 2021, Vivant closed the year with PHP1.8 billion in net income, higher by 23 percent from 2020 earnings of PHP1.4 billion. (PNA)

17 JUNE 2022, Friday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## DENR awards Mindanao river 2021 R.I.V.E.Rs For Life winner

THE Panlibutan River in Valencia, Bukidnon emerged the top winner in the 2021 R.I.V.E.Rs For Life Awards.

R.I.V.E.R.s stands for "Recognizing Institutions/Individuals Towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers."

According to Environment Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, the continuous recognition of most improved rivers is a testament that the DENR's men and women are consistent with

achieving the agency's vision and mission.

The DENR has chosen the Apayao-Abulug River in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Taguibo River in Butuan City as second and third placers respectively.

Launched in 2018, the R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Awards aims to bring out the best in the DENR's roster of executives in the field.

The award was established through DENR Special Order No. 2019-314.

Rivers that are potential entries to the award are those which are previously classified as Class C and became much cleaner through the constant efforts of DENR field offices.

Class C pertains to fishery water intended for propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources.  
*Joel dela Torre*



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## DENR SUPORTADO ANG PAGBABAWAL SA PAG-EXPORT NG MGA HAZARDOUS WASTE

**ISINUSULONG** ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ratipikasyon ng bansa sa Basel Ban Amendment na nagbabawal sa pag-export ng mga hazardous waste at iba pang basura mula sa mayayamang bansa patungo sa developing countries katulad ng Pilipinas.

Naniniwala si acting DENR secretary Jim Sampulna na ang amendment ay magiging solusyon sa nagaganap

na "illegal traffic of imported hazardous waste" sa bansa.

Matatandaan na noong 2019, naibalik ng EMB o Environmental Management Bureau ang 69 container units ng mixed waste sa bansang Canada matapos ilegal na makapasok sa Pilipinas ng ideklara bilang waste plastic for recycling noong taong 2013 at 2014.

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na ang nagbigay ng "ultimatum" sa Canadian government para kunin ang basurang itinapon nila sa bansa.

Katuwang naman ang Bureau of Customs, naibalik din sa South Korea mula Misamis Oriental ang 6,400 metric tons (MT) ng basura noong taong 2020.

Ang Basel Ban Amendment na sinang-ayunan ng mga bansang nakapaloob sa Basel Convention ay mag-



REMATE OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

babawal sa sinumang member States ng European Union, OECD o Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, at bansang Liechtenstein sa pag-export ng mga hazardous waste para sa recovery, treatment or disposal sa mga developing countries at sa mga bansang nasa "economies in transition".

Nilagdaan ng Pilipinas ang 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Niratipikahan ito ng Kongreso noong 1993 at nagkaroon ng bisa noong January 19, 1994. Pero hanggang sa ngayon ay hindi pa nararati-pikahan ang Basel Ban Amendment.

Kabilang sa mga basu-

rang nakapaloob sa ban amendment ay ang used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, at ang metal-bearing sludges.

Bilang isang non-OECD member country, pinapayagan ang Pilipinas na mag-export ng hazardous waste sa mga OECD countries kung wala itong kapasidad para sa treatment and disposal ng mga hazardous waste na katanggap-tanggap sa international standard and procedures.

Maaari namang sumulat ang EMB sa secretariat sa Belgium, Rotterdam at Stockholm para sa "exemption" ng ilang hazardous wastes katulad ng used lead-acid batteries na ginagamit sa local recycling industry.





## Namria exec voted in UN body on continental shelf

By MALOU TALOSIG-BARTOLOME

@maloutalosig

**T**HE Philippines was elected in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a United Nations body that facilitates the expansion of continental shelf of coastal states beyond the 200-nautical mile limit.

The Philippine candidate is Efrén A. Carandang, deputy administrator of National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) and one of the country's most eminent scholars on ocean governance.

"Efrén is the Philippines' foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea, which is to say that he is one of the very best in the world," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin said during a diplomatic reception at the UN headquarters in New York City last May.

A continental shelf is the part of the continent that is under water. It used to be part of the land during the ice ages of the glacial period. Under the constitution of the seas called the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), coastal states can claim up to 200 nautical miles of continental shelf.

According to the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, this is the first time that the Philippines, an archipelagic state, will serve in the commission.

UNCLOS state parties held the elections for CLCS candidates at the UN General Assembly last Wednesday, June 15.

TO ESTABLISH  
LASTING PEACE &  
PLENTY IN OUR SEAS  
FOR ALL AND FOR  
GENERATIONS TO COME,

**WE WILL  
DELVE  
DEEPER  
TOGETHER**

Efrén P. Carandang is one of the Philippines' foremost authorities on the technical aspects of the law of the sea, offering his deep, extensive experience in hydrography and its ramifications in international maritime law to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for 2023-2028.

Mr. Carandang advocates for the full and consistent application of international law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly on the determination of maritime entitlement, promotion of maritime order and delimitation of international maritime boundaries. He supports both bilateral and multilateral cooperation as a means to manage maritime disputes and address other concerns such as environmental safety and marine developmental practices.



EFREN P. CARANDANG

The Philippines won the seat in the Asia-Pacific Group.

"[The Philippines] competed with eight other candidates under the APG, and successfully reached the required majority of votes, with 113 votes from a total of 164 [UNCLOS] states present and voting, after four tough rounds of voting," the Mission said in a tweet.

Carandang will serve a five-year term, which will be from 2023 until 2028.

In 2009, Carandang is part of the core team that prepared the Philippine application to extend the continental shelf of the northeastern territory called Benham Rise or Philippine Rise. The CLCS approved the application in 2012.

The 13-million hectare Benham Rise is largely unexplored. Marine scientists believed it is potentially a rich source of natural gas and other resources such as heavy metals.



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## NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

### PHL wins seat in UN continental shelf commission with NAMRIA's Carandang as rep

THE PHILIPPINES has won a seat in an international commission tasked to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concerning the outer limits of a state's continental shelf.

The country will hold the position in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) from 2023 to 2028, according to a tweet by the Philippine Mission to the UN.

With 113 votes from 164 state parties, the Philippines reached the required majority after four rounds of voting during the 32<sup>nd</sup> UNCLOS meeting held in New York on Wednesday.

The Philippines competed with eight other candidates under the Asia-Pacific Group.

"To the countries that voted for the candidate of the Philippines which is the only one that studies to fight and win, on the merits, the rights of countries with continental shelves, I thank you," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. said in a tweet on Thursday.

He said this was "yet another victory" as it was "the end of cartelized choices in a universal institution."

"This is not a job but a mission."

Efren P. Carandang, deputy administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), will be representing the Philippines at the CLCS.

Mr. Locsin described Mr. Carandang as "the Philippines' foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea, which is to say that he is one of the very best in the world."

He has served in NAMRIA and its precursor agency for 38 years.

He was also part of the Philippine delegation that successfully submitted the relevant charts and coordinates of the outer limits of the Philippines'

continental shelf with the International Seabed Authority.

This is the first time that the Philippines, an archipelagic state, will serve in the commission.

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN Enrique A. Manalo has said that "the Philippine candidature to the CLCS is a demonstration of our consistent adherence to international law-based regime in maritime governance and the peaceful use of the world's seas and oceans."

"The outer limits established through this process become the fixed boundaries between the seabed areas within national jurisdictions and the international seabed areas, which are reserved for common heritage," the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN said in an earlier statement.

**Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



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# From mossy forests to vegetable farms

**B**aguio City—Yesterday, I climbed Mount Pulag once more, and for the first time since the pandemic started. I have lost count of all my hikes up Luzon's highest peak, from my first climb as a first-year UP student back in 2003, to my last visit as a first-year UP faculty in 2018, but I have had some memorable adventures across its different trails—Ambangeg, Akiki, Tawangang, Ambaguio, even a traverse from Mount Ugo.

This time around, I day-hiked the 2,922-meter mountain via the Akiki and Ambangeg trails—my third time to do such a compressed but exhilarating itinerary that involves ascending 1,800 meters in a span of several hours, across pine and mossy forests, as well as the mountain's famed summit of dwarf bamboo. For the most part, I enjoyed the hike: I had the company of longtime hiking buddies, we had great weather during the ascent, and I even spotted (what I believe to be) a cloud rat in the mossy forest.

Great was my dismay, however, when, as we were descending to Ambangeg, I saw that what was once mossy or pine forest had been turned into vegetable farms, encroaching on the very heart of the mountain itself. Indeed, almost as soon as we had reached the rough road from Camp 1, the distinctive, unpleasant odor of fertilizer made from chicken dung permeated the air.

The existence of vegetable farms on the slopes of Mount Pulag is nothing new, and I still have pictures of that 2003 hike walking past plots of carrot and cabbage. Equally longstanding are efforts to arrest the conversion of forests in Mount Pulag into vegetable farms. In 2012, for instance, Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials were already lamenting that "at least 24 percent" of the national park had been "converted into agricultural or residential purposes"; over the years, I would hear similar frustrations from park superintendent



## SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

Emerita Albas and other park officials whenever I would have the chance to talk to them.

The pandemic has only accelerated the encroachments in Mount Pulag, likely spurred by the lack of supervision and the loss of ecotourism, and other economic opportunities due to the lockdowns.

This is happening not just on Mount Pulag but all over the Cordilleras. A national park in its own right and habitat to unique rodent species, Mount Data further north has become so degraded—vegetable farms have taken over 70 percent of the park—that in 2016 the Protected Area Management Board itself recommended its downgrade from a protected area. Some of Luzon's other high points, like Mounts Timbak and Osdung, are likewise virtually vegetable farms.

This phenomenon is ultimately tied to the broader economy in which the Cordillera region serves as the "salad bowl" of the country. As Karlston Lapniten wrote in a Mongabay report in 2020, "half a century of toiling the land to feed millions across the country is leading to the slow decimation of forest cover and the soil's inevitable deterioration as farmers resort to chemical-heavy fertilizers to boost yields." Even as farmers turn



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their land into farms, however, their lives remain precarious, being at the mercy of, to quote Lapniten, "fluctuating vegetable prices and oversupply, which often leads to spoilage and losses."

The anthropologist Padmapani Perez, who conducted fieldwork in Mount Pulag in the early 2000s, warns us in "Green Entanglements" that we cannot romanticize indigenous peoples as "noble green primitives" and that their everyday needs cannot be ignored in environmental discourse. Mount Pulag may be home to my memories, and I would like to see it stay the same, but locals for whom the mountain is actually home may be impelled by more overriding material concerns.

Even so, beyond its impacts on biodiversity, the impending ecological disaster in Mount Pulag and elsewhere will ultimately affect those same communities, making them vulnerable to landslides and floods—and ever more dependent on fertilizers as soil quality degrades even further. Given that the Cordillera mountains are important watersheds, the continued resort to unsustainable farming will also imperil the water supply of thousands, if not millions, of people.

It is not too late to protect our mountains while preserving local communities' livelihoods, but it will require a multisectoral approach that involves expertise in sustainable agroforestry and agriculture; environmental science and engineering; leadership from local communities and local government; involvement from ecotourism and other sustainable forms of enterprise, and strong political will.

And of course, sustained activism and advocacy. Inspired by the courage of Macli-ing Dulag, can we recognize vegetable farms as an insidious but no less dangerous threat as a dam or a mining project?

glasco@inquirer.com.ph



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## Batangas town residents told not to drink tap water amid arsenic contamination

**MAYOR Edilberto Ponggos of Alitagtag in Batangas advised the town residents to avoid using tap water for drinking and cooking following reports of arsenic contamination.**

The mayor, in a Facebook post, said the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had conducted a comprehensive examination of Alitagtag's water and found it with high levels of arsenic.

"Lumabas sa pagsusuri na mataas ang lebel ng arsenic sa lahat ng water sources maliban sa pumping station ng Dominador West at Ping-as," the mayor said.

Ponggos said the water from Alitagtag Water District, Balibago Waterworks, and Barangay Waterworks in Alitagtag should not be consumed by humans and animals.

Meanwhile, he said the tap water could be used for bathing, washing clothes, and cleaning.

The mayor added that the local government would supply water to affected residents.

Earlier, the Department of Health warned residents in a city and eight towns in Batangas as groundwater has been found positive for arsenic.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergerie said that drinking the water contaminated by arsenic could affect one's health.

Vergerie said drinking water contaminated by arsenic can cause vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and numbness.

"Pwede rin po ang extreme cases, kung sakaling maraming nainom at hindi naagapan, maaaring ikamatay," she said.

The Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force on Arsenic-Taal Volcano Protected Landscape said the places positive for arsenic are Laurel, Balete, San Nicolas, Mataas na Kahoy, Alitagtag, Sta. Teresita, Lemery, Taal and Tanauan City.

According to experts, the level of arsenic in the said areas is higher than the standard or average level, which is 10 parts per billion.

Arsenic was first detected in water wells after Taal Volcano erupted in January 2020. It was also detected in the waters of Taal Lake.

Batangas Medical Center Toxicology chief Dr. Rhoda Reyes said arsenic can cause cancer and adverse effects on human skin.

Authorities are testing the water in other parts of Batangas to find out the extent of arsenic contamination in the province.

Experts are also checking the water sources in the province for radon, another dangerous chemical that may cause cancer.

Jane Eleda



## Tubig sa Batangas pumping station kontaminado ng arsenic

NAGPOSITIBO sa arsenic ang pito sa 17 water pumping station sa bayan ng Agoncillo sa Batangas.

Lumitaw sa pagsusuri nina Dr. Dave Gabriel Cadungog ng Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), John Francis Bilog, ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Emmylou De Chavez ng Agoncillo Rural Health Unit Sanitary Inspection na hindi ligtas inumin ang tubig sa mga apektadong pumping station matapos na umabot sa mahigit 10 parts per billion (PPB) ang level ng arsenic dito nitong Hunyo 14 at 15.

Ang 10 PPB ang itinakdang pamantayan ng World Health Organization at Philippine National Standards for Drinking

Water para masabing ligtas inumin ang tubig.

Kabilang sa mga lugar na nagpositibo sa arsenic ay ang mga Brgy. Banyaga, Bilibinwang, Pansipit, Subic Ilaya at Subic Ibaba.

Dahil diyan ay pinapayuhan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Agoncillo ang publiko na huwag munang inumin at gamitin sa pagluluto ang tubig sa mga lugar na sakop at malapit sa mga lugar na ito

Sinabi ni Batangas Medical Center Toxicology Center chief, Dr. Rhodora Reyes na posibleng magkaroon ng kanser sa baga at pantog, diabetes, altapresyon, stroke at atake sa puso ang mga nalalantad sa arsenic. **(Ronilo Dagos)**



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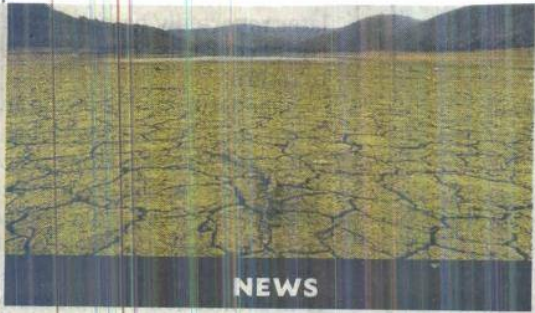
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## More climate change reporting, please

A global study showed that 52 percent of Filipinos polled online say they are interested in climate change news, the highest among media consumers in the Asia-Pacific market. The 2022 Digital News Project of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism and University of Oxford also found that more Filipino respondents believed that journalists should take a stand when reporting on the issue. —STORY BY KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING

A5

# Pinoys keen on climate change news and advocacy

By Krixia Subingsubing  
@krixiasINQ

More than half of the Filipino respondents in an online poll said they were interested in news about climate change and believe that media should take a stand when reporting on the issue, according to a global study on news consumption trends.

The results of the 2022 Digital News Project of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ) and the University of Oxford released on Wednesday showed that interest was highest in several Latin American, Southern European and Asia-Pacific markets.

The Philippines—an archipelagic country especially vulnerable to climate-related disasters—topped the Asia-Pacific market with 52 percent of respondents saying they were drawn to stories on climate change.

This was also the trend for more than half of the participants in Greece (53 percent), Portugal (53 percent) and Chile (52 percent).

In contrast, interest was lower in more developed countries like Canada (39 percent), the United States (30 percent), most of Western Europe and United Kingdom (42 percent), which led the global talks on climate change last year.

Craig Robertson of the RISJ said the high numbers could be because audiences “appear to be more interested in and pay more attention to climate change news in places where the negative effects are felt more acutely.”

According to him, audiences “express more interest, pay more attention to climate change news, and feel more inclined to support journalists taking a stand in places where the direct impacts of climate change are acutely felt.”



**Another finding was the public's growing preference for news outlets to take a clear activist stance on environmental issues, with a large number of respondents in the Philippines (42 percent), Portugal (48 percent) and Chile (58 percent) saying that journalists should advocate change**

conservatives view climate change as a politicized issue of the ‘left’ and disfavor newsrooms taking a stand.”

The study also found that most people across the world prefer to consume climate change news via documentaries (55 percent) rather than major news organizations (35 percent).

Robertson attributed the wide appeal of environmental documentaries to their clear stories and engaging visuals. He said that these narratives help audiences connect with what is a very large and sometimes abstract story—while not necessarily being ‘political.’”



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**Make a stand**

Another finding was the public's growing preference for news outlets to take a clear activist stance on environmental issues, with a large number of respondents in the Philippines (42 percent), Portugal (48 percent) and Chile (58 percent) saying that journalists should advocate change.

But for Robertson, while taking a clearer stance may be one way to increase interest or attention, "doing so risks running up against journalistic norms of impartiality adopted in many countries."

Commissioned by the RISJ, the 2022 Digital News Project was part of a broader survey that sought to understand how news was being consumed across the world. Around 93,000 respondents from 46 markets were polled online between January and February.

The samples numbering around 2,000 per country were chosen using nationally representative quotas for age, gender and region in every market. Education quotas were also applied in all markets except in several countries, including the Philippines. INQ

**Challenges**

But Robertson said that if "the very visible manifestations of climate change—fires, floods and droughts—are what draw attention, this raises a problem in itself. Action—and, therefore, credible information to inform it—is needed before disaster."

The study also discussed challenges and opportunities in climate change reporting, which could often be difficult to understand aside from being depressing for audiences.

It noted that interest in climate change news was higher in countries where there was less political polarization, with many on the political right ignoring such reports.

As a result, Robertson said that newsrooms must figure out how to engage this audience segment "particularly if





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# Phl wins seat in CLCS

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines won a seat in the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) 2023-2028, the first time the archipelagic state will serve in the commission, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York said yesterday.

In elections held during the 32nd Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the General Assembly in New York on June 15, the mission said the Philippines competed with eight other candidates under the APG, and successfully reached the required majority of votes.

Out of a total 164 states parties present and voting, the Philippines garnered 113 votes after four tough rounds.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the Philippines' candidate Deputy Administrator Efren Carandang is one of the country's most eminently qualified technical experts for the CLCS, with quality management skills.

"This is the first time that the Philippines, an archipelagic state, will serve in the Commission. Philippine election promotes the principle of rotation, inclusion, and representation among UNCLOS States," the Philippine Mission said in a post on Twitter.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. thanked countries that voted for

the Philippines' candidate as he called the victory the "voice" of law in the oceans and seas and the end of "cartelized" choices in the universal institution.

"To the countries that voted for the candidate of the Philippines which is the only one that studies to fight and win, on the merits, the rights of countries with continental shelves, I thank you," Locsin tweeted. "This is not a job but a mission."

The secretary also thanked China for voting for the Philippines' candidate despite differences.

"Thank you China for your vote. We have differences, sure; we tried but failed to bridge them but the endeavor was sincere; we are patriots each of our respective causes; but we have a deep respect and genuine affection for each other," he added.

Carandang, deputy administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, is one of the Philippines' foremost authorities on the technical aspects of the law of the sea, with extensive experience in hydrography.

The CLCS, an expert body established by the 1982 UNCLOS, is meant to facilitate the implementation of the convention in respect to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf.

On Wednesday, Locsin said he was "extremely disappointed" with Australia for not supporting the Philippines' candidature to the CLCS. He said he thought Australia was the Philippines' partner in upholding rules-based order in the maritime domain.



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# PH secures seat on UN continental shelf limits

By BETHENA V. UNITE

The Philippines has won a seat in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a United Nations' body that facilitates the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

According to the Philippine Mission to the UN, the Philippines was able to secure the seat in the commission after getting 113 votes from a total of 164 state-parties. **►8**

## PH secures seat on UN continental shelf limits **1◀**

"PH competed with eight other candidates under the APG (Asia-Pacific Group), and successfully reached the required majority of votes, with 113 votes from a total of 164 States Parties present and voting, after four tough rounds of voting," the Philippine Mission to the UN confirmed on Thursday, June 16.

The win marks the Philippines' maiden tour of duty as a member of the commission, represented by Philippine candidate Deputy Administrator Efrén Carandang.

Carandang, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., is the "Philippines' foremost authority on the technical intricacies of the law of the sea, which is to say that he is one of the very best in the world."

Carandang has served National Mapping and Resource Information Authority and its precursor agency for 38 years, leading two technical branches: the Hydrography Branch, and the Mapping and Geodesy Branch.

He has extensive experience in hydrography and its ramifications in international maritime law. He was also part of the Philippine delegation that successfully submitted the relevant charts/coordinates of the outer limits of the Philippines' continental shelf with the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

He was also included in the team that made the Benham Rise, now

officially called the Philippine Rise, submission in 2009.

"This is the first time that the Philippines, an archipelagic state, will serve in the Commission. (The) PH election promotes the principle of rotation, inclusion, and representation among UNCLOS States," the Philippine Mission to the UN said.

The election was held on June 15 during the 32nd Meeting of the States Parties to UNCLOS.

The Philippines will serve the Commission from 2023 to 2028.

The CLCS is tasked to examine and make recommendations on the coastal states' submissions for extended continental shelves. The outer limits established through this process become the fixed boundaries between the seabed areas within national jurisdictions and the international seabed areas, which are reserved for common heritage.

### China supported PH

Locsin thanked China for voting for the Philippines in the CLCS election, where the country won a seat by garnering 113 votes from 164 state parties.

He, however, vented out his disappointment over the non-backing of Australia in the country's bid.

The country's top diplomat said despite the differences, the Philippines and China have deep respect

and affection for each other. The two nations' ties under President Duterte were dubbed "friendly relations."

"Thank you, China, for your vote," Locsin said on Twitter Thursday, June 16.

"We have differences, sure; we tried but failed to bridge them, but the endeavor was sincere; we are patriots each of our respective causes, but we have a deep respect and genuine affection for each other," he added.

One of the constant "differences" between the two countries is the years-long maritime dispute in the West Philippine Sea.

This year alone, the Philippines had already lodged several diplomatic protests against China for alleged harassment incidents at sea, China's unilateral fishing ban, and the swarming of Chinese vessels within the country's maritime zones.

China, on the other hand, responded to each protest with affirmation that Chinese vessels spotted in the Philippine waters are an "exercise of the right of innocent passage."

China also said that the alleged harassment issues are being handled in a "friendly manner."

Locsin lamented taking a risk for the trilateral security pact among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS) after the development.

"I am extremely disappointed Australia cannot support our candidature to the CLCS. Stuck out my neck for AUKUS. Thought we were partners in upholding rules-based order in the maritime domain. Come through for us," Locsin said.



## Making up history

IN just two weeks, and not a moment too soon, we will bid farewell to the majority of the officials of the Duterte administration. Despite their efforts to publicly congratulate themselves for their "legacy," it seems that the parts of it that will continue to be remembered are either the painful ones, such as the disastrous state of transportation in and around Metro Manila, or the comical ones, such as the infamous beach made of kitty litter along Manila Bay, and its newest decoration, the "Fort Drum replica cannons."

The latter became a topic of conversation this week, largely thanks to a banner story in Wednesday's edition of the *Inquirer* quoting a couple of prominent Filipino historians who condemned the bizarrely out-of-place monument, which was formally unveiled on Independence Day, as a "total distortion of history."

The online debate went just about as one might expect, with critics pointing out that the project, along with the artificial beach, was a wasteful contrivance, while supporters of the administration — dubbed "DDS" by the former, for "Dolomite Defense Squad" (the artificial beach is made of crushed dolomite, which looks like cat litter) — asserted that it was not, and why do some people just hate nice things?

As I have said before, as far as the "dolomite beach" goes, it is a dubious feature in some respects, not the least of which being the questionable timing of the expenditure for it and the uncertainty of whether or not proper budget and other resources have been provided for the constant maintenance that it will require. However, it is an aesthetic improvement, and so long as the government and the public understand that it is just that and no more, it's probably not a hill worth dying on for anyone.

As for the "Fort Drum replica



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cannons," that is another matter. The two historians interviewed by the *Inquirer*, Professor Ricardo Jose of the University of the Philippines and Jose Custodio, the former curator of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum, were exactly right in the contempt they expressed for the "monument."

Professor Jose called the project "meaningless and a waste of time, effort and money," while Custodio added, "It is ironic that at a time the country and people are reeling from massive inflation and economic hardship, this wasteful, expensive and yet totally ill-conceived project was undertaken by rank amateurs who know nothing of history and historical preservation."

The only disagreement I would have with either of those two statements is that the creation of this ridiculous piece is not at all ironic, as it was the brainchild of the now-unemployed Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who spent most of his time at DENR apparently wishing he was the Tourism secretary — the kitty litter beach was his idea, too. At its unveiling on June 12, Cimatu said the purpose of the monument was to educate people about the existence of Fort Drum, as it is (and probably should remain) off-limits to visitors, and that it is "a manifestation of the nationalism and patriotism of Filipinos," despite the fact that the fort was an American installation for all of its useful life. Cimatu added that the monument also represented the "continuing battle for Manila Bay," meaning the court-ordered rehabilitation of the bay and its tributaries because, of course, a poor replica of an early 20th-



Fort Drum replica cannons on Baywalk — bogus monuments.  
**DENR TWITTER ACCOUNT**

century American shore battery is exactly the tool needed to reduce fecal coliform bacteria in the water.

The cardinal sin committed in the construction of the replica battery, as the two historians pointed out, is that another historical site was desecrated in order to build it. The guns mounted in the replica turret — which is not even a particularly accurate copy of the two gun emplacements that sit atop the real Fort Drum — were spare gun barrels (of a completely different type) taken from Battery Cheney and Battery Hearn on Corregidor Island; the latter even bearing pockmarks from bullets fired during one of the two fierce battles on that island in World War 2.

Fort Drum, also known as the "Concrete Battleship," was formerly a rocky islet known as El Fraile lying off the coast of Cavite. During the 1898 Battle of Manila Bay between the American fleet and the Spanish armada, a Spanish battery of a couple of guns placed on the island fired on the Americans, though with no effect. That gave the Americans the idea to build a stronger fortification, so they encased the entire island in thick concrete and mounted two twin-gun turrets with 14-inch guns (the ones stolen from Corregidor for the "replica" are 12-inch guns) atop it,

giving the island the appearance of an anchored battleship.

The only action Fort Drum ever saw was during the Japanese operation to capture Corregidor in 1942; the fort's guns caused some disarray among Japanese amphibious craft approaching the last stronghold of American and Filipino forces, but were unable to drive them off. After the American surrender of the Philippines, the Japanese occupied Fort Drum with a small detachment, but the fort would not figure in the war action again until the start of the operation to recapture Corregidor in 1945. A US Marine unit landed at Fort Drum and scaled to its topside, then expeditiously dispatched its Japanese defenders by pouring several hundred gallons of kerosene down the ventilation shafts and setting it on fire.

Except for occasional salvage hunters, who are usually chased away by the Philippine Coast Guard, Fort Drum remains unvisited, and for good reason. Not only is it difficult to access despite its proximity to the shore — it wouldn't be much of a fort otherwise — it is actually a war tomb for some number of Japanese soldiers who were incinerated by the Americans' final assault and whose bodies were never recovered.

That is an interesting story, and one that could have been effectively imparted to visitors with a nice plaque or similar historical marker, rather than an atrociously inaccurate model of a gun emplacement in a place where one never existed. Like the kitty litter beach, however, removing it may now be more trouble than it's worth, making it yet another useless and expensive piece of window-dressing in lieu of an actual productive "legacy" from the outgoing Duterte administration.

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Twitter: @benkritz



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## 'Fossil gas will not make our world better'

CONSUMERS, environmental and energy advocacy groups, and communities across the country slammed a food and beverages giant for its plans for new fossil gas power plants, telling that they forcing the burden of more dirty and costly energy on Filipinos goes against its credo for a 'world made better.'

In Mandaluyong City, groups led by the Power for People Coalition (P4P) and Protect VIP trooped to the headquarters carrying beer cans shaped into a fossil gas plant – noting that the country's biggest beverage and food company is no longer just iconic for its beer, but as the biggest developer of fossil gas in the Philippines and Southeast Asia with over 14 GW new fossil gas capacity it is proposing.

"Building dependence on fossil gas means dependence on imported fuels, exposure to volatile power supply and prices, leaving consumers to the constant threat of rising electricity rates,

### ENVIRO WATCH

and vulnerability to geopolitical shocks globally – on top of an already catastrophic climate crisis triggered by fossil fuels. This is the kind of future that this company is locking us in," said Gerry Arances, Convenor of P4P.

From a pre-dominantly coal-based power sector, the Philippines is looking to increase its use of fossil gas and LNG – the Department of Energy's new 'preferred fuel'.

Dubbed as a 'clean' alternative to coal, fossil gas and its supercooled form liquefied natural gas (LNG) is being touted as a 'transition' fuel amidst calls for a renewable energy shift in recent years due to global climate targets. While less carbon-intensive than coal, fossil gas and LNG emit methane throughout its value chain, a greenhouse gas with 80 times more heat-trapping capacity than CO2.

"Fossil gas technologies would operate for a minimum number of 25-35 years, effectively stalling the actual development of genuine renewable energy infrastructures in Negros Occidental and other islands, taking the Philippines on a detour away from a real clean energy transition amidst worsening climate impacts," said Bianca Montilla from Youth for Climate

Hope (Y4CH) in Negros Occidental, where SMC is seeking to build a 300 MW LNG plant. "Fossil gas technologies would operate for a minimum number of 25-35 years, effectively stalling the actual development of genuine renewable energy infrastructures in Negros Occidental and other islands, taking the Philippines on a detour away from a real clean energy transition amidst worsening climate impacts," said Bianca Montilla from Youth for Climate Hope (Y4CH) in Negros Occidental, where SMC is seeking to build a 300 MW LNG plant.



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## Eco groups pumalag sa fossil gas "FOSSIL gas will not make our world better!"

ITO ang ipinahayag ng consumers, environmental and energy advocacy groups, na sinasabing planong itayong fossil gas project sa bansa.

"Building dependence on fossil gas means dependence on imported fuels, exposure to volatile power supply and prices, leaving consumers to the constant

threat of rising electricity rates, and vulnerability to geopolitical shocks globally - on top of an already catastrophic climate crisis triggered by fossil fuels," pahayag ni Gerry Arances, Convenor of P4P.

Para sa P4P, Protect VIP, at mga kaalyadong grupo, ang fossil gas ay hindi rin mahusay gaya ng

coal kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang affordability, sustainability, o promotion of national energy security.

Kabilang sa mga grupong tumututol sa fossil gas ay ang ECOSILAK - Youth for VIP, na kabilang sa grupong Protect Verde Island Passage (Protect VIP) network,

PALAG Na! sa Ozamiz at Davao City sa Mindanao, Konyumer Negros, Youth for Climate Hope sa Negros Occidental, SM-ZOTO sa Navotas, Freedom from Debt Coalition sa Tabango, Leyte, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, KPML, Sanlakas, at Partido Lakas ng Masa sa Cebu.



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## Pagtatayo ng 'fossil gas' tinutulan ng environmental and energy advocacy groups

"FOSSIL gas will not make our world better!"

Ito ang ipinahayag ng consumers, environmental and energy advocacy groups, na sinasabing planong itayo umano ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) sa ginanap na Annual Stockholders meeting nitong Miyerkules.

Dahil dito ay lumusob ang grupong Power for People Coalition (P4P) at Protect VIP sa SMC headquarters na may dalang San Miguel beer cans na kinortehan ng 'fossil gas plant' upang ihayag na ang SMC ay hindi lamang 'iconic' sa kanilang beer, kundi sila rin ang biggest

developer ng fossil gas sa Pilipinas at Southeast Asia na may higit 14 GW new fossil gas kapasidad na kanilang iminumungkahi.

"Building dependence on fossil gas means dependence on imported fuels, exposure to volatile power supply and prices, leaving consumers to the constant threat of rising electricity rates, and vulnerability to geopolitical shocks globally – on top of an already catastrophic climate crisis triggered by fossil fuels. This is the kind of future that SMC is locking us in," pahayag ni Gerry Arances, Convenor ng P4P.

Para sa P4P, Protect VIP, at mga kaalyadong grupo, ang fossil gas ay hindi rin mahusay gaya ng coal kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang affordability, sustainability, o promotion of national energy security.

"As SMC's stockholders meet today, we wonder if the hardships they bring with their fossil gas projects ever figure in their discussions - or if SMC's rising revenues are all that matter. As one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines, SMC has the ability to influence the quality of life of Filipinos. They should be held accountable if they nega-

tively use it to promote detrimental and costly energy," dagdag ni Arances.

Binansagan bilang 'clean' na alternatibo sa coal, ang fossil gas at ang kaniyang supercooled form na liquefied natural gas (LNG) ay ipinagmamalaki bilang 'transition' fuel sa gitna ng mga panawagang palitan ng renewable energy dahil sa global climate targets.

"Fossil gas technologies would operate for a minimum number of 25-35 years, effectively stalling the actual development of genuine renewable energy infrastructures in Negros Occidental and other islands, taking the Philippines on a detour away from a real

clean energy transition amidst worsening climate impacts," pahayag naman ni Bianca Montilla ng Youth for Climate Hope (Y4CH) ng Negros Occidental, kung saan ay plano ng SMC na magtayo ng 300 MW LNG plant.

Kabilang sa mga grupong tumututo sa fossil gas ay ang ECOSILAK - Youth for VIP, na kabilang sa grupong Protect Verde Island Passage (Protect VIP) network, PALAG Na! sa Ozamiz at Davao City sa Mindanao, Konsyumer Negros, Youth for Climate Hope sa Negros Occidental, SM-ZOTO sa Navotas, Freedom from Debt Coalition sa Tabango, Leyte, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, KPML, Sanlakas, at Partido Lakas ng Masa sa Cebu.



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## Holding firm investing P25-B for renewable energy projects

MANILA – Listed holding company Vivant Corp. has allotted PHP25 billion in capital expenditures (capex) for renewable energy projects from 2023 to 2026.

In its virtual annual stockholders' meeting Thursday, Vivant chief executive officer Arlo Sarmiento said this capex will be spent to build 196 megawatts of wind, 212 MW of solar, and 62 MW of hybrid wind and solar projects.

Vivant's target of increasing the

share of renewables in its energy portfolio supports the government's goal of improving raising the renewable energy share in the country's energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and up to 50 percent by 2040.

With these renewable energy projects in the pipeline, Sarmiento said its energy portfolio in 2023 will reach 500 MW, 20 percent or 100MW of which is renewable energy.

"We have some projects in the pipeline that we expect either (by) acquisi-

tion by next year, or some solar projects that we can hit completion by next year as well," Vivant president Emil Andre Garcia said.

By 2030, the energy portfolio will increase to 1,000 MW, with renewable energy sharing 300 MW or 30 percent of its total portfolio.

Aside from renewable energy projects, Vivant allocated PHP5 billion for water infrastructure projects, particularly bulk water, water treatment, and water concession.



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# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*



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TILAPIA fish pens are seen in Lake Sebu, the ancestral domain of the T'boli and Ubo indigenous people in South Cotabato. The lake is one of the prime ecotourism destinations in Mindanao. JOIL PAREDES






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

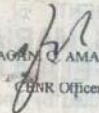
**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than 11:00 AM on July 25, 2022 for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas
Description	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-5
Area	11,200 sqm.
Applied for by	Southbay Bulk Terminal, Inc. represented by Connie C. Mandaraog

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

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 ISAGANI C. AMATORIO  
 CHIEF Officer

17 JUNE 2022, Friday



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## NCR still 'low risk' for Covid-19: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor June 16, 2022, 1:46 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) said Thursday the National Capital Region (NCR) is still under low-risk classification for Covid-19 as of June 16.

This, after the OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said NCR is under moderate risk based on their metrics.

“Based on our metrics, this is our metrics and not necessarily the same as the one used by the DOH, Metro Manila has moved from low to moderate risk. That being said, again, moderate risk does not translate to an escalation of the alert level,” he said in a television interview.

In a Viber message to reporters, the DOH said for an area to be classified under moderate risk, it should have a positive two-week growth rate (TWGR) and average daily attack rate (ADAR) of at least six average cases per day per 100,000 population.

As for the healthcare utilization rate (HCUR), there should also be a moderate risk rate for escalation to Alert Level 2 to happen.

“As of June 15, 2022 while NCR shows positive TWGR, its ADAR is still below 6 at less than 1 case per 100k population. NCR would require at least 818 cases daily for two weeks to reach an ADAR of 6 cases per 100k population,” the DOH said.

The NCR's HCUR remains to be at low risk and infections are expected at this stage of the pandemic, the agency added.

“Most of them will be asymptomatic, mild, or moderate - thanks to vaccination, boosters, and health protocols. What is important is the number of severe and critical hospital admissions,” the DOH said. “So long as these numbers remain low, we will stay at the current alert level while carefully monitoring the situation”.

In a Facebook post, DOH Technical Advisory Group member Dr. Edsel Salvaña said the region's ADAR is currently under one and while the two-week growth rate is positive, the hospital utilization is way below 50 percent.



## NCR still 'low risk' for Covid-19: DOH

**National and 8 regions show continued case increases** having both positive OWGR and TWGR but maintain **low risk** case classification; **4 other regions** show positive OWGR; Ave. daily attack rates and health system capacity remain at low risk; Severe/critical admissions remain less than 1.5% of total hospital admissions

Region	Total Active Cases As of Jun 16, 2022	Growth in Cases			Average Daily Attack Rate per 100,000 Population		Risk classification	Health System Capacity		
		Moving 7-day Growth Rate (Recent Week) Jun 2, 2022 - Jun 15, 2022	Moving Two-week Growth Rate		Previous 3-4 weeks May 19, 2022 - Jun 1, 2022	Recent 1-2 weeks Jun 2, 2022 - Jun 15, 2022		Beds Utilization Jun 14	ICU Utilization Jun 14	Severe & Critical among Total Hospital Admissions Jun 14
			May 5-May 18 vs May 19-Jun 1	May 19-Jun 1 vs Jun 2-Jun 15	May 19, 2022 - Jun 1, 2022	Jun 2, 2022 - Jun 15, 2022		Jun 14	Jun 14	Jun 14
(A)	(B)	(C)=(D*100)	(E)=(F*100)	(G)=(H*100)	(I)=(J/K/L*100,000)	(M)=(N/O/P*100,000)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)=(U*V/W/X*100%)
PHILIPPINES	3,211	49%	23%	31%	0.17	0.22	Low	18.87%	15.37%	651 (1.02%)
NCR	1,407	49%	19%	54%	0.56	0.86	Low	22.96%	19.02%	329 (2.19%)
6	203	54%	5%	99%	0.11	0.22	Low	29.54%	11.64%	24 (0.53%)
4A	465	74%	57%	18%	0.18	0.21	Low	30.55%	19.90%	60 (1.27%)
3	275	85%	9%	1%	0.15	0.15	Low	12.71%	13.39%	39 (0.55%)
11	85	9%	10%	44%	0.09	0.12	Low	28.64%	22.75%	20 (0.58%)
7	119	82%	78%	37%	0.09	0.17	Low	24.26%	7.94%	46 (1.15%)
1	104	61%	33%	19%	0.09	0.11	Low	12.53%	20.18%	29 (0.84%)
10	67	68%	-21%	29%	0.07	0.09	Low	8.83%	11.11%	16 (0.48%)
CAR	53	167%	129%	-15%	0.15	0.13	Minimal	7.97%	6.94%	25 (1.72%)
9	63	3%	39%	-7%	0.12	0.11	Minimal	13.74%	6.25%	26 (1.26%)
4B	27	24%	6%	-25%	0.11	0.08	Minimal	8.20%	2.56%	10 (0.57%)
8	42	33%	72%	-2%	0.07	0.07	Minimal	21.46%	26.57%	7 (0.22%)
12	115	-11%	12%	-10%	0.17	0.15	Minimal	15.52%	6.05%	5 (0.12%)
Careaga	56	-33%	63%	-18%	0.12	0.10	Minimal	16.90%	1.49%	3 (0.17%)
2	81	-31%	59%	-4%	0.10	0.09	Minimal	12.37%	13.95%	8 (0.3%)
5	26	-29%	69%	-25%	0.04	0.03	Minimal	3.44%	0.00%	2 (0.07%)
DARMM	23	0%	-42%	-33%	0.02	0.01	Minimal	3.01%	0.00%	0%

\*7-day moving average comparison includes report date from May 05-June 15, 2022 based on dataset from DIV/1/1/Key as of June 15, 2022.  
\*\*Healthcare utilization rates based on dataset from DOH Data Collect as of June 14, 2022.

Legend: **Low** (Attack Rate < 0.5, ICU Utilization < 10%, Severe & Critical < 1.5%), **Minimal** (Attack Rate < 0.2, ICU Utilization < 5%, Severe & Critical < 0.5%), **High** (Attack Rate > 0.5, ICU Utilization > 10%, Severe & Critical > 1.5%), **Critical** (Attack Rate > 1.0, ICU Utilization > 20%, Severe & Critical > 3.0%).

(From Dr. Salvaña's Facebook page)

"Please do not make people panic. We have metrics that we follow to make these pronouncements and it is not helping when you make stuff up," he said.

Salvaña emphasized that only DOH and the Inter Agency Task Force for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases can make declarations on Covid-19 classifications and are accountable for them.

"NCR is LOW risk. Listen only to properly accountable authorities," he added.

Meanwhile, the DOH urged the media and the general public to obtain information only from official sources.

"All concerned are also advised to consult with the DOH first before making any forecasts and issuing statements that may cause unnecessary panic and harm among the public," the agency said. (PNA)

## DOH: NCR remains low risk for COVID-19

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star)  
- June 17, 2022 - 12:00am



People flock to the dolomite beach in Manila bay along Roxas Boulevard during its reopening on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

The STAR/ Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday said Metro Manila remains to be at “low risk” classification for COVID-19, contrary to OCTA’s declaration that the National Capital Region’s classification has moved to moderate risk.

The DOH explained that a “moderate risk” classification requires a positive two-week growth rate (TWGR) and an average daily attack rate (ADAR) of at least six average cases per day per 100,000 population.

“As of June 15, 2022, while NCR shows positive TWGR, its ADAR is still below 6, at less than 1 case per 100,000 population. The NCR would require at least 818 cases daily for two weeks to reach an ADAR of 6 cases per 100,000 population,” the DOH noted.

Further, it said that NCR remains at low risk due to the low health care utilization rate (HCUR) and that a majority of cases do not require admission in health facilities.

“HCUR remains to be at low risk. At this stage of the pandemic, infections are expected. Most of them will be asymptomatic, mild, or moderate,” it said.

“What is important is the number of severe and critical hospital admissions. So long as these numbers remain low, we will stay at the current alert level while carefully monitoring the situation,” the DOH added.

In a television interview, Health Secretary Francisco Duque reiterated that even if an increase in COVID cases has been observed, it is not enough to mean an ADAR greater than six.



## DOH: NCR remains low risk for COVID-19

"The public need not worry yet. Even the HCUR has been pegged at less than 20 percent for now," Duque said, adding that what is important is to continuously wear mask, observe minimum health protocols, be vaccinated and avail oneself of booster shots.

The DOH also appealed to the public to ensure that their information will come from official sources only, or else it may cause unnecessary panic.

### Clarification

For its part, OCTA clarified that NCR remains at "low risk" despite the increasing number of new COVID-19 cases over the past weeks.

But OCTA fellow Guido David said their forecasts indicate that the classification is likely to change soon, citing the indicators that they use for risk assessment in the country.

Even with the possible shift to "moderate" risk classification, David said they are not recommending a shift to Alert Level 2, noting that a "weak surge" should be very manageable.

The OCTA fellow explained their risk classification is different from the one used by the national government to determine alert levels, saying it is based on COVID Act Now developed by Harvard Health Institute with Bloomberg.

Their assessment, he said, is based on the combination of health care utilization, positivity rate, average daily attack rate and reproduction number.

Earlier, David projected new cases in NCR may reach 400 to 500 per day by the end of the month. The region recorded 117 new cases on Wednesday, down from 126 the previous day.

### Shortage

Meanwhile, Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc. president Dr. Jose Rene de Grano is concerned about a possible shortage of health care workers should there be a surge in hospital admissions because nearly half of medical frontliners in private hospitals have already resigned.

"Our estimate is that 40 to 50 percent of our nurses resigned. We lost more than half of the previous number of nurses serving the country. What the private hospitals are now doing is that they try to reduce the number of available beds. But of course, the effect is that only few patients can be admitted. If we can double the present number, then that will be enough," de Grano said.

"For now, though, we don't feel yet the resurgence of COVID-19 cases," he added. – Janvic Mateo

17 JUNE 2022, Friday



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