

20 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR distributes free patents in Quirino

Published on: June 18, 2022

By Thelma Bicarne

CABARROGUIS, Quirino (PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 together with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) recently awarded some 267 free residential and agricultural patents to the beneficiaries under the agency's 'Malawakang Handog Titulo' Program.

This said awarding of titles program of the DENR is in support to the 'Pamana sa Mamamayang Pilipino – A Duterte Legacy' program of the national government.



Rep. Junie E. Cua, during his message to the beneficiaries.

In his message, Rep. Junie E. Cua recognized the assistance of the DENR saying that it helps the Quirinians a lot, particularly in the processing of titles of their lands.

Cua also assured the provincial government's support to the said program to be able to assist more Quirinians in the processing of their land titles.

"This can be a joint project of DENR, provincial government and the Office of the Incoming Congresswoman so that we can source more funds for land survey and titling," the outgoing congressman said.

Meanwhile, DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan urged the 267 beneficiaries in the province to take care and to manage their lands well, especially now that they can use their land titles as collateral to apply for loans.

"Do not use your land title as loan collateral for unprofitable things, use it wisely. One way is to put up a small business or reinvest to agricultural inputs to improve your farming," Bambalan said.



Bambalan also advised the beneficiaries to pay their taxes stressing that owning a titled land is coupled with a responsibility to pay annual taxes so that the government will be able to sustain more developmental projects and other basic needs.

Furthermore, Atty. Brenda Lyn S. Afalla of Register of Deeds also advised the beneficiaries to refrain from selling their land as he reminded them that this is given free by the government.

"It's a legacy from President Duterte and Congressman Junie Cua that could be inherited by your younger generations," Afalla said.

For his part, Atty. Marlou P. Alutaya, chief, Legal Division and chief of staff, Office of the Director, said he is impressed by the support of the congressmen and local chief executives as shown in the successful implementation of the program. (MDCT/TCB/PIA Quirino)



DENR: No illegal activities caused Sierra Madre landslide

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) June 20, 2022



This photo of the landslide along the Northern Sierra Madre natural park in Maddela, Quirino, was taken at the foot of the mountain range. San Agustin, Isabela government employee and freelance photographer Ervin Suguitan took photos of the landslide on May 28, 2022, which he posted on his Facebook account on May 29. DENR PHOTO

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 has denied any illegal activities causing a landslide in the Sierra Madre mountain, particularly in Quirino province.

"This incident in the Sierra Madre mountain in Quirino province was not due to mining, logging or any illegal activities near or where the landslide was located," DENR Region 2 officials said.

DENR Region2 executive director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the landslide — approximately 90 meters wide at 1,592 meters above sea level — took place at Sitio Dioriong, Barangay Villa Gracia in Maddela town in Quirino.

"The incident was a natural occurrence due to heavy rains," Bambalan explained.

A team from the community DENR offices of San Isidro town in Isabela and Nagtipunan town in Quirino and the local government units of San Agustin (Isabela) and Maddela (Quirino) investigated the incident.

Their finding, according to the DENR Region2, showed that the area is covered with mossy forest and limestone rock formations within the Quirino Protected Landscape.

It said the team also discovered bedrocks and boulders along the Sili Creek found at the foot of the incident area, and discolored flowing water from the top of the landslide site.

Bambalan said the absence of inhabitants or community in the area with no traces of illegal activities found in the site and nearby areas only shows that the landslide was not man-made.

She also said the investigating team that trekked for almost a week to reach the landslide's exact location found no activities conducted in the area.

Meanwhile, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau led by Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta said they are also conducting aerial surveillance together with the DENR regional office in coordination with proper authorities to ascertain the condition of the uppermost area of the mountain.

"This way, we will be able to determine what possibly caused the landslide," Ancheta added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/20/news/regions/denr-no-illegal-activities-caused-sierra-madre-landslide/1848008>



DENR: Sierra Madre landslide, a natural tendency due to heavy rain

Published on: June 19, 2022

By Thelma Bicarme

CABARROGUIS, Quirino (PIA) - -The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 said the landslide incident in Sierra Madre was a natural tendency due to heavy rains and not due to illegal activities.



During the press briefing with DENR Region 2.

It can be recalled that the said incident was brought to the attention of some journalists, vloggers and government official after photographer named Ervin Suguitan posted in his Facebook account with the caption, "Mahal naming Sierra Madre, sana di lumala ang sugat mo."

In an update posted at DENR Cagayan Valley Facebook Page, Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the landslide incident which covers approximate average width of 90 meters and total height of 1,592 meters above sea level took place at Sitio Dioriong, Barangay Villa Gracia, Maddela, Quirino.

The area is covered with mossy forest and limestone rock formation within the Quirino Protected Landscape.

RED Bambalan said there no inhabitants or community in the area and no traces of illegal activities found in the site and nearby areas as revealed by the ground investigating team who trekked for almost a week to reach the landslide exact location.

The investigating team is composed of personnel from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices of San Isidro in Isabela and Nagtipunan in Quirino; and local government units of San Agustin and Maddela towns.



The team also discovered bedrocks and boulders along the Sili Creek found at the foot of the incident area; and discolored flowing water from the top of the landslide site.

RED Bambalan said the DENR together with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau has scheduled aerial surveillance in coordination with proper authorities to ascertain the condition of the uppermost area of the mountain and determine what possibly caused the landslide incident. (OTB/TCB/with DENR 2/PIA Quirino)



Bahagi ng Sierra Madre, gumuho



June 19, 2022 @ 3:50 PM 15 hours ago

ILAGAN CITY, ISABELA- Gumuho ang bahagi ng kabundukan na sakop ng Sierra Madre sa San Agustin, Isabela at Maddela, Quirino.

Ngunit iginiit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 na walang natunton na ilegal na aktibidad sa landslide incident sa Sierra Madre.

Ayon kay Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan ng DENR Region 02, ang insidente ng pagguho ng lupa na sumasaklaw sa average na lapad na 90 metro at kabuuang taas na 1,592 metro sa ibabaw ng dagat ay naganap sa Sitio Dioriong, Barangay Villa Gracia, Maddela, Quirino.

Iginiit nito na ang insidente ay natural na pangyayari dahil sa malakas na pag-ulan nitong nakalipas na araw.

Base sa ulat ng mga investigating team na binubuo ng mga tauhan ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices ng San Isidro, Isabela at Nagtipunan, Quirino; at mga lokal na pamahalaan ng mga bayan ng San Agustin at Maddela, ang lugar ay natatakpan ng mossy forest at limestone rock formation sa loob ng Quirino Protected Landscape.

Natuklasan din ng grupo ang mga bedrocks at boulder sa kahabaan ng Sili Creek na natagpuan sa paanan ng lugar ng insidente at discolored water na umaagos mula sa tuktok ng landslide site.

Binigyang-diin ni RED Bambalan na walang taong naninirahan sa lugar at wala ring bakas ng mga ilegal na aktibidad ang nakita sa site maging sa mga kalapit na lugar batay na rin sa ulat ng investigation team na isang Linggong nag-trek upang marating ang eksaktong lokasyon ng landslide.

Tiniyak ang kalagayan ng pinakamataas na bahagi ng bundok para matukoy kung ano ang posibleng dahilan ng insidente ng pagguho ng lupa, ang DENR kasama ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau ay nagtakda ng aerial surveillance sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa ilan ahensiya ng pamahalaan. **Rey Velasco**



PAMB intensifies protection of protected landscape

Published on: June 19, 2022

By Thelma Bicarme

CABARROGUIS, Quirino (PIA) - -The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) for Quirino Protected Landscape (QPL) will be intensifying the monitoring and protection activities within the park.



Regional Executive Director and PAMB Chairperson Gwendolyn Bambalan of DENR Region 2 presides over a PAMB board meeting.

Regional Executive Director and PAMB chairperson Gwendolyn Bambalan during the PAMB meeting here has urged all PAMB and DENR officials to strengthen the Protected Area (PA) management to ensure that activities implemented in the park are in adherence to rules and regulations provided under RA 7586 or “An Act Providing for the Establishment and Management of National Integrated Protected Areas System.

In the meeting, the Board discussed the protection measures to be intensified in the whole Protected Area to prevent destruction and unwanted activities within the area.

The PAMB also discussed the rattan harvesting project of Bugkalot-CADT Federation, deputation of Wildlife Enforcement Officers, Cave Management Plan of Busibus Cave, Biodiversity Monitoring System report, and revenues of ecotourism activities.

“We will harmonize the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan of the Indigenous Cultural Communities and the Protected Area Management Plan of the QPL focusing on biodiversity conservation,” RED Bambalan said.



RED Bambalan also reminded the Board on some provisions in the PA System.

“As a general rule, PAs have only two zones: the multiple use zone (MUZ) and strict protection zone (SPZ). Development undertakings will only be allowed within the MUZ while no development activities are done in SPZ except for research and traditional practices,” RED Bambalan stressed.

Meanwhile, the representatives from Philippine National Police, provincial and municipal local government units and other PAMB members have committed to intensify monitoring of activities within the PA. (OTB/TCB/with PENRO Quirino/PIA Quirino)



Illegal logger arrested, two cohorts escape in Nueva Vizcaya

Published June 19, 2022, 9:49 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya — A 30-year old gardener was arrested while two of his companions escaped the operatives from (Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office) PENRO and local police during a raid in Purok 5, barangay Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya on Sunday afternoon, June 19.

The raiding team caught the suspects in the act of cutting trees, but was able to arrest only one suspect identified as Glenn Mark Gammad Saludez, 30, a resident of Purok 5, Barangay Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

The two others who escaped were identified as Richard Perez and Ryan Fernandez.

The PENRO Bayombong got information that trees were being cut in the said area at around 1:45 p.m., prompting it to immediately coordinate with the Philippine National Police.

“Nagtakbuhan ang dalawa na kasama nang biglang makatunog na may paparating ng pulis” a resident told.

Confiscated from the area were six fitches of sawn Mahogany lumber with approximately eighty-two (82) board feet.

The suspect is under the custody of the PNP and will be facing charges in violation of RA 9175, otherwise known as the Chainsaw Act of 2002, an act which regulates the ownership, possession, sale, importation and use of chain saws, penalizing violations thereof, and PD 705 (Revised Forestry Code).

“Umaasa naman kami na agad din naming mahuhuli ang dalawang nakatakas para panagutin sa iligal na gawain,” an investigator said.

Youth group takes their part to protect the environment

Saturday, June 18, 2022 Journal Online



Youth participants during Project ESOil's tree planting activity in Purok Saging, T'Boli, South Cotabato on December 5, 2020. Photo from Environment Stewards Organization's Facebook page.

As part of Environment Month celebration, the Environment Stewards Organization (ESO), a youth organization from T'boli National High School South Cotabato City spearheaded an environmental awareness-raising campaign, tree planting activities, and leadership development training that aims to advocate for environmental sustainability and preservation.

With the goal to involve the youth in nature preservation, ESO was founded in October 2014 through the efforts of then principal of T'Boli National High School, Mrs. Mila A. De Leon, T'Boli Mayor Dibu Tuan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 12 Director, Datu Tungko Saikul, and four other officers.

Environment Stewards Organization is an environmental youth organization that aims to empower young leaders to be the voice of the youth in the promotion of a toxics-free community through the expansion of ESO-BBT and the creation of sustainable networks.

The organization has also organized several other activities to respond to community needs such as Bangon JuOne Ph, a relief drive operation for typhoon victims, and Project ESOil, a soil tilling and cultivation, and tree planting activity.

ESO's first activity as an organization is the implementation of [Solid Waste Management](#) in T'boli National High School in 2014. The group also organized a School Nature Festival to help their school become an environmentally conscious institution. As of 2022, ESO has approximately 100 members, residents and alumni.



ESO-BBT Coordinators and T'Boli National High School teachers, Joy Rodriguez and Rebo Salvalosa (L-R), pose for toxics-free schools.



The organization also partnered with BAN Toxics to promote a toxics-free society. Through the Toxics-Free Schools Program (TFSP), [BAN Toxics](#) organized training sessions for the members of ESO for the toxics-free world advocacy. The partnership paved the way for the expansion of the organization to ESO-Batang Bantay Toxics (ESO-BBT). ESO-BBT advocates for both environmental protection and sound chemicals management.

“Fun activities related to environmental consciousness and awareness motivate the youth. We see to it that the campaign we are running is creative and enjoyable for the participants. We make sure that it is engaging and something that the youth are also good at, like innovating activities that are in the trend such as using social media as a platform to spread awareness. And, of course, the youth are very concerned about environmental preservation as long as they are given the appropriate platform and avenue,” says Mr. Rebo Salvalosa, coordinator of ESO-BBT.

“ESO always espouses to ‘bring the youth, schools, and communities to a cleaner, greener, safer, and healthier environment.’ The organization pledges to continue its commitment towards achieving a toxics-free world.” Salvalosa added.

ESO-BBT qualified as a finalist in TAYO 18 Awards, The 18th Search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awards by TAYO Foundation. ESO’s WAITT @ Home: The ESO qWARantine Challenge was recognized by the award-giving body for its valuable contribution to the youth during the pandemic.

Source: https://journal.com.ph/youth-group-takes-their-part-to-protect-the-environment/?fbclid=IwAR2qloS-X5OhAbTIOMS4_f1_rLSF0dpn3KLETRRncjP8Zoe1Qb31KtQmLAo



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3 NCR mayors urge gov't to cancel quarrying agreements at Masungi Geopark in Rizal

Published June 19, 2022, 3:10 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Three mayors of Metro Manila cities located at the downstream of the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Geopark Project urged the national government to cancel three large-scale quarrying agreements, saying their operations may cause widespread flooding.

In a statement, the local officials along with other environment groups said it is their constituents who would suffer once flooding similar to devastation brought by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses occur.

The statement was signed by Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, and Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

The local officials' action echoed a similar request from Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares in 2020 who in turn issued a memorandum 2020-01 that urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel all mining tenements in Rizal Province to mitigate floods.

Various groups of experts, civic leaders, and indigenous people have appealed for the cancellation of three Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) covering more than 1,300 hectares after DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna reportedly opted to suspend the MPSAs which have not operated for 24 years rather than cancelling them.

The groups also asked for the removal of land accountability for the unabated construction of illegal permanent structures in the watershed, including swimming pool resorts and rest houses.

The group cited a flood modeling study by the Manila Observatory which stated that the continued deforestation of the Upper Marikina Watershed can significantly increase the extent of flooding in low-lying reaches.

“With only about 11 percent of forest cover left in the watershed, the devastation of life and property can be even worse than what was experienced during typhoon Ondoy,” the statement read.

Scientists from the National Museum of the Philippines also warned that major land and hydrologic disturbances in the sensitive Masungi karst landscape, such as quarrying and land clearing, can have expensive consequences.

Featuring ancient limestone pinnacles and mountains of the Southern Sierra Madre, the area has been protected since 1904 through Executive Order 33 designating it as the Marikina Reservation. It received additional protection from quarrying and exploitation from Presidential Proclamation 1636 in 1977 declaring it part of a National Park, and Presidential Proclamation 296 in 2011 creating the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

Both the protected areas act (e-NIPAS) and the Philippine Mining Act ban quarrying in national parks and proclaimed watershed reserves. In addition, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself said that the quarrying companies committed breaches in their contracts that are grounds for cancellation.



In 1993, former DENR Secretary and National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala penned Department Administrative Order 33 recognizing the geological and ecological importance of the Masungi landscape and banned the application of quarrying tenements therein. Masungi is home to endangered and endemic species such as the Indigo-Banded Kingfisher, the ultra-rare JC's Vine, Philippine Hawk-Eagle, Colasisi parrot, and North Luzon Giant Cloud Rat.

Starting in 2017, the Masungi Geopark Project is a non-profit, award-winning legacy project of the administration which aims to restore degraded and abused watershed areas surrounding the limestone formation. It has rescued 2,000 hectares of land for restoration, established 17 km. of monitoring trails and ranger stations, and engaged 100 park rangers and 200 partners from various sectors in reforestation, despite serious risks faced by rangers and team members.

All of these gains, environmentalists say, will be lost once again if quarrying agreements are not canceled. Before the president steps down from office, this final action for the environment is requested to preserve an outstanding legacy.



Growing concern on a possible US recession this year is likely to feed the price decline of copper. This has the potential of dampening the bullish outlook on a tightening copper market deficit to 2030. Before the US Fed rate hike, analysts expect the copper market deficit to reach 6 million tons by 2030 due to more use of electricity and electric vehicles.

TWELVE YEARS OF PERMITTING HURDLES

Since 2010, the Tampakan project has long been ready to start mining copper ores in the province of South Cotabato. In those years before 2015, the project was owned by a Swiss mining company, Xstrata. The company had undertaken the Mining Feasibility Study in 2010, and having determined adequate reserves was ready to invest \$5.9 billion to operate the mine. But it did not get a permit from the Aquino government to start the project.

Former President Benigno Aquino raised the issue of large-scale mining companies not contributing their fair share of revenues to the National Government. Xstrata went through the permitting process but the government of the late former President Aquino threw the ball to Congress, asking it to come up with a mining tax measure that corrects the inequity in the sharing of revenues from large scale mining. President Aquino essentially dribbled the ball until Xstrata was globally bought out by Glencore in 2012.

A new hurdle developed with the South Cotabato provincial government issuing a ban on open-pit mining in the province in 2010. Extracting the ores in Tampakan requires open-pit mining, and thus the local government ban struck down Glencore's hope to be the one to operate the Tampakan mining project.

Glencore, the new owner of the mining project in South Cotabato, inherited the regulatory problems of Xstrata. However, it was hopeful that Congress would work on the required legislation which would pave the way for securing a permit to operate from the National Government. But it was not meant to be.

In 2015, Glencore sold the project to the new owners of SMI, all of whom are Filipinos. The Tampakan project was relatively small for the top mining company in the world to spend its time overcoming the stiff regulatory barrier of the country.

Hope of SMI, under its new all-Filipino owners and management, of getting a permit sprouted at the start of the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. The President is from Mindanao, and operating the Tampakan project could induce economic development in the areas surrounding the mining site. That should have been a good incentive for the President to revisit the revenue-sharing hurdle to large scale mining of his predecessor.

However, that was quashed when President Duterte aired his reluctance to partner with large scale mining companies, ventilating similar issues on unfair revenue sharing as former President Aquino did.

But perhaps the strongest difficulty of SMI, and all large-scale mining companies for that matter, was the appointment by President Duterte of the late Gina Lopez as the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Lopez was a staunch opponent to mining in general, accusing large-scale mining companies of causing irreparable damage to the environment. In the eyes of Secretary Lopez, a policy prohibiting large-scale mining is a very good measure to protect the environment.



SMI was hit with its most stringent regulatory risk problem in 2017 when the DENR under Secretary Lopez issued a ban to open-pit mining throughout the country. The national measure strengthened opponents to the Tampakan project in South Cotabato which earlier prohibited open-pit mining in the province.

CORRECTING THE REGULATORY MISTAKE

The regulatory pendulum swung in the other direction on Dec. 23, 2021 when DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40, lifting his predecessor's order banning the open-pit mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country. The move was taken to revitalize the country's mining industry and increase employment opportunities in rural areas around large-scale mining. On May 16, 2022, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato lifted its 12-year-old prohibition to open-pit mining in the province.

The fight appears not over yet — news came out that South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo, Jr. vetoed the province's ordinance lifting the ban on open-pit mining on June 3.

Opponents to open-pit mining in South Cotabato may want to read Governor Tamayo's statement carefully. He is for protecting the environment (as we all should be) and believes that the South Cotabato provincial government's Environment Code is a measure for protecting the wanton destruction of the environment by mining.

However, Governor Tamayo added that Republic Act 7942 or the Mining Act mandates the National Government to regulate the activities of large-scale mining, and that LGU ordinances on mining apply to small-scale mining.

Moreover, lawyer Pacifico Agabin — chairman of the Constitutional Law Department of the Supreme Court's Philippine Judicial Academy and concurrent general counsel of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines — said that, "It should be noted that local governments cannot regulate large-scale mining. Congress already passed a national law authorizing open-pit mining and LGUs cannot pass an ordinance that contravenes the national law."

As earlier stated, former DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40 lifting the DENR's ban on open-pit mining on Dec. 23, 2021. Former Dean of the UP College of Law, Agabin says that the June 9, 2010 ordinance of the South Cotabato Sangguniang Panlalawigan against open-pit mining and blocking the operation of the Tampakan project violates a national law and the Constitution.

It's about time to start the Tampakan project.

Ramon L. Clarete is a professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2022/06/19/455951/it-is-about-time-for-south-cotabato-to-reap-the-economic-benefits-from-its-tampakan-project/>

Phl hits inaction on climate change

Published 4 hours ago on June 20, 2022 03:10 AM

By **TDT** @tribunephil



The Philippines has scored the inaction and delaying tactics of several key nations that held back results-oriented work of the United Nations for the mandated global climate change agenda, particularly for developing and vulnerable countries.

“Key issues, including financing for climate loss and damage and improved modalities to access technology and build capacities, did not gain further traction despite previous pronouncements of commitments by parties,” said Climate Change Commission secretary Robert Borje.

The Filipino delegation chief made the remarks during the closing plenary of the 56th Session of Subsidiary Bodies (SB56) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany.

Borje expressed serious concerns over the impact of inaction on global trust in the work on climate change.

“While key stakeholders engage in dismaying delaying tactics disguised as discussions, we are undermining global trust in multilateralism and eroding the confidence of our people and the youth in the work that we do,” Borje stressed.

SB56 was envisioned to conclude with decision points ready for adoption and implementation in the next session of the Conference of Parties particularly on financial support to address, avert and minimize climate loss and damages to developing and vulnerable nations.

“The Philippines calls for concrete results from our engagements. We must be open, transparent and accountable to this process, ramp up not just plans and processes but adaptation and mitigation actions — up to the smallest unit of governance,” Borje underscored.



‘Delaying tactics’ on climate change agenda hit

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star June 20, 2022 | 12:00am



Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje said key issues like financing for climate loss and damage and improved modalities to access technology and build capacities did not gain further traction despite previous pronouncements of commitments by parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has criticized what it described as “delaying tactics” by several key nations that hampered the work of the United Nations for the mandated global climate change agenda, and called for action that would benefit vulnerable countries.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje said key issues like financing for climate loss and damage and improved modalities to access technology and build capacities did not gain further traction despite previous pronouncements of commitments by parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“While key stakeholders engage in dismaying delaying tactics disguised as discussions, we are undermining global trust in multilateralism and eroding the confidence of our people and the youth in the work that we do,” Borje said during the closing plenary of the 56th Session of Subsidiary Bodies (SB56) of the UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany yesterday.

The Climate Change Commission noted that SB56 was envisioned to conclude with decision points ready for adoption and implementation in the next session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, particularly on funding support to address, avert and minimize climate loss and damage to developing and vulnerable nations.

Borje expressed concern over the effect of the inaction on global trust in the work on climate change and called for more “concrete results.” He also cited the need to “unlock” climate finance for the developing world and developing nations.

“We must be open, transparent and accountable to this process, ramp up not just plans and processes but adaptation and mitigation actions – up to the smallest unit of governance,” the climate change commission chief said.

“We cannot fail our world. Climate justice demands this from all of us. For those who are most responsible for climate change, you have to do more,” he added.

Borje said the Philippines remains committed to engage all parties and called on nations to anchor their work and actions on climate justice in the lead up to the 27th session of COP to be held November in Egypt.



During the opening session of SB56 last Friday, National Economic and Development Authority Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla, who delivered the Philippines' statement, called on the international community to "transform theories and rhetoric into practical and pragmatic solutions applicable to the smallest, isolated, and disadvantaged communities to achieve holistic and sustainable development."

Last April, President Duterte said industrialized countries should pay for the damage caused by their carbon emissions as poorer nations like the Philippines are suffering from the impact of climate change.



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GMA News

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Iniulat ng MMDA Metrobase na binaha ang EDSA-Santolan flyover hanggang Main Avenue ngayong hapon dahil sa pag-ulan at pagbara ng mga basura sa daluyan ng tubig.

Dinagdag ng MMDA na regular ang cleaning at declogging operations sa lugar, pero binabaha pa rin ito dahi sa patuloy na pagtatapon ng kalat.

COURTESY: MMDA FB

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Seaweed farming gets boost

By [Julmunir Jannaral](#) June 20, 2022

COTABATO CITY: Bangsamoro Member of Parliament Amir Mawallil has proposed to create more incentives for seaweed farmers by first improving their production and productivity.

Mawallil said in a new bill he proposed there would be seaweed farming extension services, skills development, provision of production inputs, equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for production and post-production activities.

He explained that one of the problems preventing farmers from intensifying seaweed farming was a lack of capital and government support, which resulted in low socioeconomic status.

In the Philippines, BARMM is the top seaweed producer, with a significant 46.5 percent share of the total aquaculture production. It is also the second top export commodity, contributing 33.33 percent of the total fisheries production in 2020.

For coastal villagers, particularly in the Bangsamoro

Region, seaweed farming is the primary means of livelihood.

Parliamentary Bill 196 has been proposed to institutionalize the Seaweed Farming Development Program (SFDP) that targets to reduce wealth inequality in the seaweed value chain and create shared value among the region's private companies and local communities.

The SFDP will make use of science-based technology in the promotion and development of the seaweed farming industry in BARMM. It will be integrated and be made consistent with the plans, programs, activities, and projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform.

Forms of assistance to be provided under the program include improvement of production and productivity; improvement of farmers' access to financing in the form of credit grants; provision of access to improved technologies through research; and provision of business support and development services.

The measure will also provide business support and development services, particularly in the areas of access to markets, marketing and networking.

This will support the region's poorest and most vulnerable communities through sustainable rural development, access to markets, the collaboration between public and private sectors, and microfinance," Mawalil said.

The proposed bill will also incorporate measures to strengthen the seaweed farmers' entrepreneurial and decision-making skills by helping them craft a trade agreement to access markets and fair prices.

If passed into law, a Seaweed Farmers Development Council will be created to oversee the proper implementation of the program through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Tourism, and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/20/news/regions/seaweed-farming-gets-boost/1848017>



Maynilad implements measures to address algae bloom

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star June 20, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is taking steps to manage the impact of the algal bloom in Laguna de Bay on its water production at the Putatan Water Treatment Plants (PWTP).

In a statement over the weekend, Maynilad said among the solutions being implemented are the dosing of treatment chemicals to control algal buildup, utilization of a silt curtain to minimize algae intrusion into Maynilad's treatment facilities, and cleanup of the dissolved air flotation treatment process of the PWTPs.

As part of medium and long-term interventions, Maynilad said it would dredge a portion of the lake encompassed by its silt curtain and install several units of ultrasonic algae control equipment around the PWTPs.

In June 2019, Maynilad's water production was affected by an algal bloom in Laguna de Bay when the maximum algal bio count reached 13,230 counts per milliliter.

"While the company has since invested in additional treatment technology to address algae proliferation, it was still constrained to reduce production this time around as the algal biocount this month reached an unprecedented peak of 72,722 counts per milliliter," the concessionaire said.

Algal blooms arise from shifts in the nutrient balance of the lake water resulting from chemical, industrial and agricultural waste or leachates.

"Though Maynilad has been pouring investments in treatment technology upgrades and interventions, its water production will continue to be affected unless more drastic measures are taken to protect Laguna Lake," the company said.

"This is why the company has been working closely with various stakeholders and seeks to ensure the lake's sustainability as a source of drinking water," Maynilad added.

In a meeting with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System on June 9, Maynilad said water service interruptions had to be implemented in the southern part of the west zone due to reduced water production because of high algal count in Laguna de Bay.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the country, serving over 1.4 million customers.

It serves the areas of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Navotas and Valenzuela as well as portions of Makati, Manila, Quezon City and Cavite.



Develop West Philippine Sea as offshore wind power source: solon

By Filane Mikee Cervantes [June 19, 2022, 6:36 pm](#)



File photo

MANILA – A lawmaker on Sunday urged the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to ask Norway to develop the West Philippine Sea as a source of clean and renewable offshore wind energy.

In a statement, Makati City Rep. Luis Campos Jr. said offshore wind farms in the West Philippine Sea would be consistent with the long-term plans to develop the area as the country's energy hub.

Campos was responding to Norwegian ambassador Bjorn Jahnsen's pledge that it would help develop the Philippines' wind and other renewable energy resources during a briefing following his meeting with Marcos Jr.

"Norway has the new technologies needed to put up offshore bottom-fixed or floating wind turbines. The Philippines would benefit from the eventual transfer of these technologies," Campos said.

The Malampaya deepwater gas-to-power project in the West Philippine Sea currently supplies 20 percent of the country's demand for electricity.

He said the advantage of offshore wind farms is that they can be built faster because they do not have land use and right-of-way issues.

"We have no problem with allowing foreign companies that are majority owned by Norwegian entities to develop our offshore wind energy resources," Campos said.

He said the development of wind power would help supply the country's rapidly growing demand for electricity and create badly-needed new jobs in the process.

"We have to transition faster to renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydro if we want to insulate the country from future global oil price shocks," he added.

Campos said the Philippines currently generates only 443 megawatts (MW) of electricity from wind farms that are all onshore.

Energy Development Corp.'s 150-megawatt wind farm in Burgos, Ilocos Norte is Southeast Asia's largest wind power producer. It consists of 50 wind turbines spread over a 600-hectare site.



Quezon City Rep. Alfred Vargas, for his part, said he is optimistic that the country can achieve long-term stability in power and energy under the incoming administration.

Vargas said stability in the power and energy sector will help drive economic recovery.

"I am confident that given the declared priorities of the new administration, we can bring back stability and sustainability to the power sector," he said.

Vargas said the government needs to bring in more investors to the power and energy sector in light of warnings from experts that the country faces a possible energy crisis.

He said the power outages in Luzon last Saturday, which affected an estimated 1 million residents, should be seen as a "wake up call".

"This incident, which has been attributed to insufficient power supply, is a stark reminder that we cannot have the power and energy sector remain in its present state and expect to meet the demands of an economy recovering from the pandemic," he added.

Vargas said long-term and inclusive economic growth would also be determined by stable, reliable, and affordable power.

"More investors in power and energy would result in the longed-for stability in our power supply. This, in turn, would attract investors in key industries, such as manufacturing and tourism. With more investors coming in, we create jobs in sectors and regions that have been affected by the pandemic," he said.

Energy experts have warned of a looming energy crisis with the expected depletion of the Malampaya gas field in 2024.

They also estimate that the Philippines would need an additional capacity of 43 gigawatts by the year 2040.

"Instability in power supply is a roadblock to our economy's revival, especially now that we are progressively reclaiming pre-pandemic economic growth. But I am confident that the President-elect's administration has the resolve and competence to tackle and solve this problem head on," he said. **(PNA)**



Mawallil pushes utilization of solar energy systems to reduce cost of electricity

Published on: June 19, 2022

By LTAIS-Public Information, Publication, and Media Relations Division

MARAWI CITY -- A measure that would reduce the cost of electricity for Bangsamoro government offices and buildings through the use of solar energy systems has been filed on June 15 in the Bangsamoro Parliament.

Member of Parliament Amilbahar Mawallil, principal author of BTA Bill No. 187, or the Solar Energy in Bangsamoro Government Offices Act of 2022, said the measure seeks to promote investments in the energy and power generation sector as well as the development of low-carbon, sustainable power generation policies.

"This will reduce dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy and lessen carbon emissions and pollution in the environment," said MP Mawallil.

MP Mawallil's measure is aimed at reducing government utility costs on electricity and easing the demands of the region's scarce power supply.

The bill also seeks to mandate all Bangsamoro government agencies to install solar energy systems in their respective offices and buildings.

As defined in BTA Bill No. 187, a solar energy system consists of one or more solar collection devices, solar energy-related "balance of system" equipment, and other infrastructure that generates and stores electricity.

He also cited a report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stating many programs and laws being implemented towards the shift to solar energy have improved.

If passed into law, all Bangsamoro government agencies, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy, will start installing solar energy systems and retrofitting their respective buildings and offices within one year after the effectivity of the proposed bill. (BTA/PIA Lanao del Sur)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/06/19/mawallil-pushes-utilization-of-solar-energy-systems-to-reduce-cost-of-electricity>



UN launches new bird migration atlas

June 20, 2022

Visualizing how migratory animals connect continents, countries, sites and habitats are the result of an international scientific effort under the aegis of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), in developing the first atlas of bird migration across three continents.

CMS, an environmental UN treaty, launched the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas at the Museum of Migration on the Italian island of Ventotene, as the first part of a broader initiative to develop a global atlas of animal migration.

The interactive Atlas is an online platform where data on the movements in time and space of millions of birds are mapped and analyzed in the Eurasian-African flyway. Researchers from 10 different institutions and data gathered by over 50 different organizations contributed to the Atlas, which was developed by CMS partners, the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING) and the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior.

A major accomplishment of the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas is to have collated, analyzed, and synthesized bird ringing data collected over more than 100 years on 300 species.

In addition, for over 100 of these species, the online mapping tool overlays movement patterns identified through bird ringing with tracks obtained through satellite transmitters, GPS-GSM tags or geo-locators. Together, they provide the most complete information available on the migration routes of these species.

An important visualization tool

For CMS, whose main goal is to conserve migratory species throughout their migratory range and migration itself as a biological phenomenon, a detailed understanding of the different migratory systems and patterns across the different groups of migratory species is important to design and implement conservation strategies and actions.

The new Atlas offers new insights into migration patterns at the species and population levels and into human-related issues affecting them across their migratory paths.

CMS Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel said, "Knowledge of how animals move and migrate over time and space is crucial for improving our understanding and conservation efforts for migratory species. The Atlas will help decision-makers in planning networks of sites managed for conservation purposes."

The information compiled in the Atlas is expected to offer an important contribution to CMS initiatives on the preservation of ecological connectivity — the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth — and spatial planning in particular. These relate for example to possible interactions between renewable energy infrastructure and animal migration, with a special emphasis on the risk of collision of migratory birds at wind farms. Maps of seasonal movements across geographical areas can help define strategies to minimize bird mortality risks caused by these infrastructures.

The other main feature of the Atlas include four research modules that provide analyses addressing different aspects of bird migration and relationships between man and birds — two modules, migratory connectivity, and long-term changes in migration patterns due for example to global climate change take a closer look at bird migration patterns, strategies, and adaptations.



Another research module provides estimates, at the scale of EU territory, of the onset of return migration for many huntable species covered by the Birds Directive. The onset of return migration is critically important information to determine the start of the protection period in the year.

The fourth module focuses on a large-scale and long-term analysis of patterns of intentional killing of birds. It describes the frequency and distribution of intentional killing across the whole Eurasian-African flyways and identifies areas of particularly intense legal or illegal harvesting, both in Europe and Africa. These results are of direct interest for ongoing activities by CMS and the Bern Convention concerning the illegal killing of birds. Furthermore, this module offers insights about expanding the geographical scope of monitoring the illegal killing of birds, for example, along the East Asian-Australasian flyway.

Finally, the broadened historical and geographical perspective can support similar efforts to address the trapping and killing of animals from other taxonomic groups. The project was made possible by the support of the Government of Italy, with a pledge to CMS granted in 2017 by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition (formerly Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea) under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

UN launches new bird migration atlas

On the launch of the Atlas, the CMS Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to raise awareness of migratory species conservation and the concept of "ecological connectivity" in the context of the project regarding the restoration and re-qualification of the former Bourbon prison of Santo Stefano-Ventotene.

The MOU is with various Italian partners, namely the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) which maintains an important ringing station on Ventotene, the State Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area of Ventotene, the Municipality of Ventotene and the Special Commissioner for the Project of the Islands of Santo Stefano – Ventotene.

These islands are at the crossroad of important animal migrations and represent a "safe port" and a key node of a large network of sites and habitats as part of species' annual movements.

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DENR cites Manila bay REHAB 'players'

ENVIRONMENT Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna has cited the "players" of Manila Bay for their significant contribution in the cleanup and rehabilitation mission of the historic bay.

According to Sampulna, the government would not have accomplished this gargantuan task without the people and organizations who readily participated in the journey towards bringing back the bay where it was some decades ago.

"We pay tribute to individuals, organizations, and offices from the government and private sectors for their hard work, commitment, and support in implementing the Manila Bay rehabilitation program," he added.

During the recent "Manila Bayani Awards" ceremony on June 14, the Environment chief made special mention the local government units (LGUs), private organizations, river rangers and individuals in Metro Manila, Central and Southern Luzon for actively lending their hands in the cleanup program.

The DENR also recognized and awarded former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, former Metro Manila Development Authority chair Danilo Lim, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno"

Domagoso, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, Senator-elect and former Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar, Irrigation Administration Senior Deputy Administrator and former DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda and environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr.

Others are the Villar SIPAG Foundation, Wild Bird Club, Asian Terminal Inc., Brgy. 412 in Sampaloc, Manila, and environmental planner Jason Villeza were also recognized for their initiatives to install trash traps and organize cleanup drives, tree planting activities, and education campaigns in Metro Manila.

Sampulna said that the "river rangers" of Bacoor City, Cavite City, and the municipalities of Naic, Kawit, and Noveleta in the province of Cavite, were recognized for their commitment to clear creeks, rivers, estuaries and other waterways of illegal structures to prevent pollutants from draining into the Manila Bay.

Completing the list of awardees were the LGUs of Balanga, Bataan; Marilao, Bulacan; Sasmuan, Pampanga; Palayan, Nueva Ecija; and Pampanga, as partners of DENR in its rehabilitation efforts in Central Luzon through cleanup drives and implementation of solid waste management initiatives. Joel dela Torre



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Aklan LGUs take over management of Boracay

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 Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Froilan Bautista during the culminating activity at the Balabag Wetland Park in Bgy. 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.

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.

PNA



Boracay Island Water Company invests in marine life

BORACAY Island Water Company (BIWC), one of the operating units of Manila Water in the Visayas region, takes part in investing in the planet through its Coral REEFhabilitation Program. In partnership with Malay LGU, Boracay Foundation, Inc. and Boracay Business Scuba Diving Schools, the company is involved in coral reef planting and assessment, beach and underwater cleanup, and running educational campaigns. To date, the Coral REEFhabilitation Program has planted 121 corals and collected 501 kilograms of underwater garbage.

Coral REEFhabilitation is part of BIWC's larger environmental manage-

ment initiative called High-land to Ocean (H2O) which ensures the wholistic preservation of the island's watershed down to its ocean waters. H2O is set to be adopted by the Municipality of Malay as its environmental umbrella program

Meanwhile, Boracay General Manager Bryan Magallanes said that as the sustainability partner of Boracay Island, Boracay Water guarantees its stakeholders the preservation and protection of the marine life by treating the island's wastewater to DENR Class SB Standards. On top of that, BIWC spearheads different activities like watershed management, beach and underwater cleanup drives, coral reef planting and assessment,

and information education drive to ensure the protection of our island and maintain its world class condition.

"Marine life plays a vital role in the world as it serves as the primary producer of our food, medicines, and natural protection in reducing climate change. One of the ways by which we invest in marine life is by protecting our coral reefs," Magallanes explained.

Magallanes also added that coral reef planting is like planting trees in the watershed and that the only difference is that corals are animals called polyps and they are planted in areas where corals are scarce or degraded.

Boracay Water's coral



Boracay Island Water Company (BIWC), one of the operating units of Manila Water in the Visayas region, takes part in investing in the planet through its Coral REEFhabilitation Program. Photo shows Boracay Water's talent pool of trained divers planting corals in Boracay island.

reef environmental initiative is one of the major contributions of BIWC in the overall environmental sustainability platform of the Manila Water enterprise.



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Cancel quarries in Masungi, NCR and Rizal mayors pray

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—Several mayors and other officials of cities downstream of the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Geopark Project, including Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro and Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, have joined mounting calls for the immediate cancellation of three large-scale quarrying agreements within the said protected and conserved areas. Their constituents suffer the brunt of disastrous floods accelerated by the deforestation of upland mountains and the tampering of rivers. They hope that the yearly cycle of destruction will finally come to an end.

The local officials' action echoed a similar request from Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares in 2020, immediately after the devastation wrought by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses. In Memorandum 2020-01, the governor urged the Department of

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel all mining tenements in Rizal Province to mitigate floods.

Various groups of experts, civic leaders, and indigenous people have appealed for the cancellation of three Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) covering more than 1,300 hectares to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, after acting Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna did not cancel the said MPSAs and instead "suspended" quarries that never went into operation in twenty-four (24) years.

The groups also asked for the removal of and accountability for the unabated construction of illegal permanent structures in the watershed, including swimming pool resorts and rest houses.

According to a flood modeling study by the Manila Observato-

ry, the continued deforestation of the Upper Marikina Watershed can significantly increase the extent of flooding in low-lying reaches. With only about 11% of forest cover left in the watershed, the devastation of life and property can be even worse than what was experienced during typhoon Ondoy.

Scientists from the National Museum of the Philippines warned in a recent report that major land and hydrologic disturbances in the sensitive Masungi karst landscape, such as quarrying and land clearing, can have expensive consequences.

Featuring ancient limestone pinnacles and mountains of the Southern Sierra Madre, the area has been protected since 1904 through Executive Order 33 designating it as the Mariquina Reservation. It received additional protection from quarrying and exploitation from Presiden-

tial Proclamation 1636 in 1977 declaring it part of a National Park, and Presidential Proclamation 296 in 2011 creating the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

Both the protected areas act (e-NIPAS) and the Philippine Mining Act ban quarrying in national parks and proclaimed watershed reserves. In addition, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself said that the quarrying companies committed breaches in their contracts that are grounds for cancellation.

In 1993, former DENR Secretary and National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala penned Department Administrative Order 33 recognizing the geological and ecological importance of the Masungi landscape and banned the application of quarrying tenements therein. Masungi is home to endangered and endemic species such as the Indigo-Banded

Kingfisher, the ultra rare JC's Vine, Philippine Hawk-Eagle, Colasisi parrot, and North Luzon Giant Cloud Rat.

Starting in 2017, the Masungi Geopark Project is a non-profit, award-winning legacy project of the administration which aims to restore degraded and abused watershed areas surrounding the limestone formation. It has rescued 2,000 hectares of land for restoration, established 17 km. of monitoring trails and ranger stations, and engaged 100 park rangers and 200 partners from various sectors in reforestation, despite serious risks faced by rangers and team members.

All of these gains, environmentalists say, will be lost once again if quarrying agreements are not decisively canceled. Before the president steps down from office, this final action for the environment is requested to preserve an outstanding legacy.

CANCEL QUARRYING AGREEMENTS: A JOINT CALL TO ACTION TO SAVE MASUNGI AND THE UPPER MARIKINA WATERSHED

As one of the most vulnerable countries to the climate crisis, our people are ravaged by floods and landslides year in and year out, causing untold loss of life, property, and infrastructure.

Those disastrous floods and landslides are accelerated by unlawful and misplaced quarrying, unscrupulous resort constructions, and other harmful activities that level mountains, obstruct waterways, and vanish forests that serve as our sole natural defense against calamities.

These destructive activities and developments are anathema to the protected area¹ meant to be preserved from exploitation for the wellbeing of Filipinos and future generations thereof.

We strongly urge the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to hold collective over individual interests, support conservation initiatives like the Masungi Geopark Project, and cancel mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) covering more than 1,300 hectares of the protected watershed². The proliferation of illegal structures and establishments inside the watershed should also be taken very seriously, with those responsible held to account.

We are deeply concerned that the DENR is reportedly not acting upon the cancellation of the MPSAs since the MPSAs are allegedly "not yet operational" and "will expire soon."

However, non-cancellation only gives the quarries runway to operate later on and does not guarantee the conservation of the watershed area. The MGB itself already stated in their Show Cause Orders to the quarry companies that they committed "gross violations constituting breach in their contracts and the Philippine Mining Act" that may be grounds for cancellation.

We likewise appeal to the relevant quarry companies to reconsider the social and environmental impacts of their plans, and voluntarily rescind their MPSAs within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and Masungi Geopark Project.

¹ Presidential Proclamation 296, s. 2011; Presidential Proclamation 1636, s. 1977

² MGB Show Cause Orders to Rapid City Realty & Development Corporation (MPSA #126-98-IVA), Quarry Rock (#112-98-IVA), and Quimson Limestone (#137-99-IVA)

SIGNATORIES

Original Sgd.
Mayor Marcelino R. Teodoro
City Mayor,
Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Mayor Victor Ma. Regis N. Sotto
City Mayor,
Pasig City

Original Sgd.
Mayor Jalme Fresnedi
City Mayor,
Muntinlupa City

Original Sgd.
Vice Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon
Municipal Vice Mayor,
Angono, Rizal

Original Sgd.
Atty. Jeronimo U. Manzanero
City Administrator,
Pasig City

Original Sgd.
Atty. Voltaire C. Dela Cruz
City Administrator,
Malabon City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Bernard C. Bernardo
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Sta. Elena, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Segundo S. Cruz
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Calumpang, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Randy G. Leal
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Miguel A. Punzalan Jr.
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Rizalina W. Teope
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Fortune, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Ronnie C. Tiburcio
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Barangka, Marikina City

Original Sgd.
Capt. Mary Jane Zubiri-Dela Rosa
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Concepcion Das, Marikina City





NCR, Rizal mayors: Quarrying sa Masungi kanselahin!

NAKIISA ang ilang alkalde at iba pang opisyal ng mga lungsod sa ibaba ng Upper Marikina Watershed at Masungi Geopark Project, kabilang sina Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro at Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, sa panawagan para sa agarang pagkansela ng tatlong malalaking quarrying agreement sa loob ng sinabing mga protektado at conserved na lugar.

Kasama rin sa mga lumagda ng petisyon sina Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Angono Vice-Mayor Gerardo Calderon at mga barangay kapitan ng Marikina.

Matatandaang kahilingan din ito ni Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares matapos ang pinsalang dala ng mga bagyong Rolly at Ulysses.

Sa Memorandum 2020-01, hinimok ng gobernador ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na kanselahin ang lahat ng mining tenements sa Lalawigan ng Rizal upang maibsan ang baha.

Umapela ang iba't ibang grupo ng mga eksperto, civic leaders, at katutubo na kanselahin ang tatlong Mineral Production Sharing Agreements na sumasaklaw sa mahigit 1,300 ektarya kay Pangulong

Rodrigo Roa Duterte, matapos hindi kinansela ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna ang nasabing mga MPSA at sa halip ay "sinuspinde" ang mga quarry na hindi pa naman nagsisimula sa loob dalawampung 24 na taon.

Hiniling din ng mga grupo ang pagtanggap at pananagutan sa walang tigil na pagtatayo ng mga ilegal na permanenteng istruktura sa watershed, kabilang ang mga swimming pool resort at rest house.

Ayon pa sa isang flood modelling study ng Manila

Observatory, ang patuloy na pagkaubos ng gubat ng Upper Marikina Watershed ay maaaring magpalala ng lawak ng pagbaha sa mga mabababang lugar.

Dahil halos 11% na lamang ng forest cover na natitira sa watershed, ang pagkasira ng buhay at ari-arian kapag may malakas na pag-ulan ay maaaring mas malala pa kay sa sa naranasan noong bagyong Ondoy.

Parehong ipinagbabawal ng protected areas act (e-NIPAS) at Philippine Mining Act ang pag-quarry sa mga pambansang parke at proclaimed

watershed reserves. Dagdag pa rito, mismong ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau ang niagsabi na ang mga quarrying company ay nakagawa ng mga paglabag sa kanilang mga kontrata na dahilan ng pagkansela.

Simula noong 2017, ang Masungi Geopark Project ay isang non-profit, award-winning na legacy project ng administrasyon na naglalayong ibalik ang mga nasira at inabusong watershed na lugar na nakapalibot sa limestone formation.

Nailigtas nito ang 2,000 ektarya ng lupa para sa re-



Kanselasyon sa quarrying hinirit ng mga mayor

LUMAGDA sa isang petisyon ang mga alkalde sa National Capital Region (NCR) at lalawigan ng Rizal para hilingin ang kanselasyon ng tatlong quarrying agreement sa Upper Marikina Watershed at Masungi Geopark Project na pawang nasa loob ng protektadong lugar sa bansa.

Kabilang sa mga kumontra para sa nasabing proyekto sina Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Angono Vice-Mayor Gerardo Calderon gayundin ang mga opisyal ng barangay sa Marikina.

Nauna nang hiniling ni Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares na kanselahin ang mga ito dahil sa naranasan nilang epekto ng mga bagyong 'Rolly' at 'Ulysses'. Sa Memorandum 2020-01, hinimok ng gobernador ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na kanselahin ang lahat ng mining tenements sa lalawigan ng Rizal upang maibsan ang baha.

Umapela rin kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga grupo ng eksperto, civic leaders at katutubo na kanselahin ang tatlong Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) na sumasaklaw sa mahigit

1,300 ektarya nang suspendihin lang at hindi kinansela ni DENR, acting Secretary Jim Sampulna ang mga MPSA na hindi pa nagsisimula sa loob 24 na taon.

Hiniling din nila na tanggalin at panagutan ang patuloy na pagtatayo ng mga ilegal na permanenteng istruktura sa watershed tulad ng swimming pool resort at rest house. Iginiit sa flood modelling study ng Manila Observatory na lalala ang pagbaha sa pagkaubos ng gubat sa Upper Marikina Watershed na mas malubha pa sa naranasan noong bagyong 'Ondoy'.
(Dolly Cabreza)

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Church group seeks mining moratorium

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

[@sam_medenilla](#)

CARITAS Philippines called for another nationwide mining moratorium to hold accountable firms, which are engaged in "irresponsible mining."

Caritas Philippines National Director and Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin M. Bagaforo said the suspension will give the government more time to screen existing local mining firms to determine if they are compliant with government regulations.

"We pray that with the collective voice and actions, the national gov-

ernment of the Philippines, through the Office of the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will heed the call of its people to make the moratorium against mining the country a national policy, and make all parties involved in irresponsible and unlawful mining face justice," the prelate said.

The head of the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) made the appeal amid the latest protest of the Diocese of Marbel against the Tampakan copper-gold mine in South Cotabato.

He lauded the said efforts, which was led by Marbel Bishop Cerilo Alan U. Casicas and Fr. Jerome M. Millan.

"We encourage and join the people of South Cotabato in demanding for public accountability and carrying out regular scrutiny of government transactions related in particular to environmental actions," Bagaforo said.

Aside from the Diocese of Marbel the City Council of General Santos City also voiced out through a resolution last month its opposition against the open-pit mining in Tampakan due to its potential harm to the environment.



Uphold open-pit mining ban in Tampakan – Church leaders

BY RAYMOND AFRICA

DELEGATES to the 41st National Social Action General Assembly have pledged their support to the anti-mining campaign in Tampakan, South Cotabato led by the Diocese of Marbel through its Diocesan Social Action Center.

The delegates, led by Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, national director of Caritas Philippines, likewise urged the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato to uphold its Provincial Environment Code to prevent the return of mining operations in the province and preserve the ecological sanctity of Tampakan.

“We, the members of the assembly from 71 dioceses solemnly adhere to continue building on our respective ecological advocacies and programs, to collectively contribute to the action of the Catholic Church to protect, preserve, and conserve the natural resources and ecosystem of the country, fulfilling our #CaritasPromise to #LeaveNoOneBehind,” said Bagaforo.

Bagaforo also urged the people of South Cotabato to demand public accountability from their local leaders and do a regular scrutiny of their transactions related to environment actions to ensure that ecological preservation is practiced by the provincial government.

“We pray that with this collective voice and action, the national government of the Philippines, through the Office of the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will heed the call of its people to make the moratorium against mining in the country a national institutional policy, and make all parties involved in irresponsible and unlawful mining operations face justice,” Bagaforo added.

Last month, the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) said that the provincial government of South Cotabato has voted to lift the ban on open-pit mining that for years have stalled

the \$5.9-billion gold-copper mining project in the province.

Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan made the move months after Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu signed Department Administrative Order No. 2021-40, which in effect lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining for copper, gold, silver, and other complex ores imposed by the late Gina Lopez during her term as secretary of the DENR.

The Tampakan copper-gold project generates hundreds of jobs and livelihood in South Cotabato, but Lopez had said that it causes irreversible destruction to the environment.



Boracay Island Water Company invests in marine life

BORACAY Island Water Company (BIWC), one of the operating units of Manila Water in the Visayas region, takes part in investing in the planet through its Coral REEFhabilitation Program. In partnership with Malay LGU, Boracay Foundation, Inc. and Boracay Business Scuba Diving Schools, the company is involved in coral reef planting and assessment, beach and underwater cleanup, and running educational campaigns. To date, the Coral REEFhabilitation Program has planted 121 corals and collected 501 kilograms of underwater garbage.

Coral REEFhabilitation is part of BIWC's larger environmental manage-

ment initiative called High-land to Ocean (H2O) which ensures the wholistic preservation of the island's watershed down to its ocean waters. H2O is set to be adopted by the Municipality of Malay as its environmental umbrella program

Meanwhile, Boracay General Manager Bryan Magallanes said that as the sustainability partner of Boracay Island, Boracay Water guarantees its stakeholders the preservation and protection of the marine life by treating the island's wastewater to DENR Class SB Standards. On top of that, BIWC spearheads different activities like watershed management, beach and underwater cleanup drives, coral reef planting and assessment,

and information education drive to ensure the protection of our island and maintain its world class condition.

"Marine life plays a vital role in the world as it serves as the primary producer of our food, medicines, and natural protection in reducing climate change. One of the ways by which we invest in marine life is by protecting our coral reefs," Magallanes explained.

Magallanes also added that coral reef planting is like planting trees in the watershed and that the only difference is that corals are animals called polyps and they are planted in areas where corals are scarce or degraded.

Boracay Water's coral



Boracay Island Water Company (BIWC), one of the operating units of Manila Water in the Visayas region, takes part in investing in the planet through its Coral REEFhabilitation Program. Photo shows Boracay Water's talent pool of trained divers planting corals in Boracay island.

reef environmental initiative is one of the major contributions of BIWC in the overall environmental sustainability platform of the Manila Water enterprise.



STRATEGIC
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AND
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Daily Tribune

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PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_al

FROM Navotas to the Cavite City area, the National Solid Waste Management Commission has put up waste filtering machines which has the capability to thresh out solid waste materials from any of the Metro Manila cities which are considered the biggest pollutants of Manila Bay.



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Phl hits inaction on climate change

The Philippines has scored the inaction and delaying tactics of several key nations that held back results-oriented work of the United Nations for the mandated global climate change agenda, particularly for developing and vulnerable countries.

“Key issues, including financing for climate loss and damage and improved modalities to access technology and build capacities, did not gain further traction despite previous pronouncements of commitments by parties,” said Climate Change Commission secretary Robert Borje.

The Filipino delegation chief made the remarks during the closing plenary of the 56th Session of Subsidiary Bodies (SB56) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn, Germany.

Borje expressed serious concerns over the impact of

inaction on global trust in the work on climate change.

“While key stakeholders engage in dismaying delaying tactics disguised as discussions, we are undermining global trust in multilateralism and eroding the confidence of our people and the youth in the work that we do,” Borje stressed.

SB56 was envisioned to conclude with decision points ready for adoption and implementation in the next session of the Conference of Parties particularly on financial support to address, avert and minimize climate loss and damages to developing and vulnerable nations.

“The Philippines calls for concrete results from our engagements. We must be open, transparent and accountable to this process, ramp up not just plans and processes but adaptation and mitigation actions – up to the smallest unit of governance,” Borje underscored.



Maynilad steps up efforts to mitigate algal bloom impact on water production

WEST Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) has been taking active steps to manage the impact on its water production of the current algal bloom episode in Laguna Lake—the primary raw water source of the company's Putatan Water Treatment Plants (PWTP).

Among the immediate solutions being implemented are the dosing of treatment chemicals to control algal build-up, utilization of a silt curtain to minimize algae intrusion into Maynilad's treatment facilities, and immediate clean-up of the dissolved air flotation treatment process of the PWTPs.

Meanwhile, as a medi-

um and long-term intervention to address the raw water quality issues in Laguna Lake, Maynilad will be dredging the portion of the lake encompassed by its silt curtain, and installing several units of ultrasonic algae control equipment around the PWTPs.

It can be recalled that Maynilad's water production was also affected by an algal bloom in Laguna Lake that happened in June 2019, when the maximum algal biocount reached 13,230 counts/ml. While the company has since invested in additional treatment technology to address such algae proliferation, it was still constrained to reduce production this time around, as the algal biocount in June

2022 reached an unprecedented peak of 72,722 counts/ml.

Algal blooms arise from shifts in the nutrient balance of the lake water resulting from chemical/ industrial/ agricultural

wastes/leachates.

Though Maynilad has been pouring investments into treatment technology upgrades and interventions, its water production will continue to be affected unless more drastic mea-

asures are taken to protect Laguna Lake. This is why the company has been working closely with the lake's various stakeholders; it seeks to ensure the lake's sustainability as a source for drinking water.



Colgate-Palmolive PH, Green Antz, mga LGU kinasa programa sa plastic waste collection

Anong ganap?

UPANG makamit ang plastic neutrality ay inilunsad ng Colgate-Palmolive Philippines at Green Antz Builders ang programa sa plastic waste collection katuwang ang mga local government unit ng Maynila, Quezon City at Taguig sa pakikipagtulungan ng Department of Education (DepEd) units at City Environment and Natural Resources Offices.

Kasama rin sa programa ang drop-off points para sa plastic waste sa ilang Ayala Malls sa Metro Manila.

Kamakailan ay ginunita ang unang taon ng closed loop plastic waste management initiative sa Bulacan ng Colgate-Palmolive PH at Green Antz na nag-divert mula sa environment ng daan-daang tonelada ng plastic waste sa pakikipagtulun-



gan ng limang local government unit (LGU) at 112 public school sa ilalim ng pamamahala ng DepEd.

Kabilang sa mga LGU ay ang Baliuag, Malolos City, Plaridel, Pulilan, at San Ildefonso, pawang sa lawigan ng Bulacan.

Ang mga plastic waste ay ki-

nokolekta ng LGUs, communities, at mga school at ginagawang eco-bricks ng Green Antz na ginagamit naman sa pagtatayo ng 'Wash & Brush Stations' na kalaunan ay itinu-turnover sa mga LGU.

Bilang paggunita sa first-year milestone sa Bulacan ang Colgate-Palmolive PH at Green Antz ay muling binuhay ang kanilang partnership gayundin ang memorandum of understanding sa Municipality ng Plaridel.

Isang bagong 'Wash & Brush Station' sa Plaridel Municipal Hall ang itinurn-over kay Mayor Tessie Vistan nina Colgate-Palmolive PH President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev at Green Antz President and CEO Rommel Benig.



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Reclamation and scarcity of land

The rapid urbanization now engulfing the metropolis and other developing cities and municipalities has given rise to a scheme addressing the scarcity of land for urban development or expansion. Some cities and municipalities have resorted to land reclamation, or the process of piling earth onto submerged marine areas.

In the Manila Bay area, there are about 25 reclamation projects that will cover more than 10,000 hectares, or 100 square kilometers, of a submerged marine area stretching from Navotas City to Cavite province. The shorelines of Coron, Palawan, and Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, are likewise not spared. These projects are initiated by local government units (LGUs), oftentimes in joint ventures with private developers that bankroll the reclamation activity. The scheme enables big businesses to skirt the constitutional limitation on foreign ownership of land because portions of reclaimed land allotted to private developers can be converted into business and residential enclaves affordable only to foreign investors.

Under Republic Act No. 1899, LGUs were authorized to undertake reclamation of foreshore land only. Such authority, however, was withdrawn under Presidential Decree No. 3 which vested the exclusive powers to reclaim submerged marine areas to the Public Estates Authority (PEA), now renamed Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA). In *Chavez v. PEA* (2002), the Supreme Court struck down as void ab initio (from the start) the joint venture agreement (JVA) between PEA and Amari, a private land developer, because the object of the JVA was a property of the public domain, thus beyond the commerce of man. Another reason for the nullification of the PEA-Amari

COMMENTARY

FRANK E. LOBRIGO

JVA was the fact that the land sharing agreement violated the Regalian doctrine enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

Under the current legal framework, LGUs can only undertake land reclamation upon prior approval by PRA. Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991 also limits an LGU's authority to reclaim land only for infrastructure facilities intended to service the needs of the residents of the locality. The creation of new central business districts that would accommodate commercial and residential development is not within the conferred powers of an LGU to undertake. LGU-initiated land reclamation is likewise outside the pale of the public-private partnership (PPP) legal framework because PPP projects are limited to public infrastructure facilities only. Thus, an LGU and private developer that want to cash in on a potentially lucrative land reclamation for commercial and residential development can avail themselves only of the joint venture legal framework under the Civil Code.

The joint venture scheme between an LGU and a private developer is simple. The developer submits an unsolicited proposal to the LGU to undertake and finance the land reclamation of a submerged marine area within the LGU's territorial jurisdiction, an area seaward from the shoreline's low-water mark not exceeding 15 kilometers, which is the limit of municipal waters. Beyond this radius, the LGU would have no authority to undertake the rec-

lamation project. The LGU then subjects the unsolicited proposal to a Swiss challenge to comply with public bidding requirements.

Basically, the Swiss challenge is a procurement procedure that allows the government to publish for three consecutive weeks an invitation for comparative or competitive proposals to an unsolicited proposal for a qualified project. If no proposal is received within 60 working days, the project is awarded to the original proponent. Should a lower price proposal be submitted however, the original proponent is allowed to match that price within 30 working days.

The typical arrangement in a land reclamation JVA obliges the LGU to secure approval from the PRA to conduct land reclamation, subject to a land sharing agreement. The private developer undertakes and finances the land reclamation subject to another land sharing agreement, a convenient circumvention of the ruling in *Chavez v. PEA*. Such type of JVA, however, suffers from the same constitutional infirmity as did the Amari-PEA JVA, in addition to being an ultra vires act of the LGU. Ultra vires is an act that requires legal authority but is done without it. Neither Section 302 of the Local Government Code nor Section 11 of PRA's Administrative Order No. 2019-4 can justify the land sharing agreement because such legal provisions contravene the Constitution.

Land reclamation is certainly a big-ticket legal and constitutional issue that awaits the incoming Marcos Jr. administration and the secretary of justice.

Frank E. Lobrigo is a retired judge of the regional trial court. Before joining the bench, he practiced law for 20 years.



PPA chief: Short-term disaster response plans boost resilience

By ANDREA E. SAN JUAN

THE Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has urged the government to craft short-term disaster response and management plans to strengthen the country's port resilience in the face of climate change.

"The consequences of climate change will increasingly hit ports worldwide, affecting the businesses and people who depend on them," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said in a news statement.

According to Unctad, this is especially true for island nations including the Philippines, which rely on ports for almost all trade.

When a severe storm damages

a port serving one of the Philippines's 7,000 islands, it cuts off the local population's lifeline for days or even weeks, the intergovernmental body said.

"Disaster response and management plans have to be included in the business continuity plans and these plans have to be regularly updated," PPA Assistant General Manager Hector E. Miole said.

Miole emphasized that the country's port authority would traditionally plan for the next 50 years. However, in the changing environment, "we need to have shorter terms for planning—maybe only 10 or 20 years."

A good forecast system, he said, can help port authorities handle severe storms better by allowing

them to plan for how disasters will affect different ports and devise ways to maintain operations.

Port managers of other countries also unveiled their respective strategies to combat climate change.

For his part, Luis Ibarra, president of the Las Palmas Port Authority, said the port's sustainable strategy includes using offshore wind power, more onshore power supply technology—which helps reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions—and planting algae in the port's waters to capture carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The Port chief of Las Palmas noted that they are adapting to new challenges and realities.

The port managers agreed that advancing digitalization and cybersecurity is key to strengthening port resilience. In addition to streamlining aspects of maritime trade, such as customs clearance processes, digital technologies allow ports to minimize human interaction while remaining operational in times of pandemic.

In fact, for Ghana Port Authority's director general Michael Luguje, "Covid-19 showed us the importance of having reached at least a certain level of digitalization. Otherwise, many ports would have been shut down and the economy would have suffered even more."

Although increasing the use of digital technologies has improved shipping processes and made ports more resilient to the effects of Covid-19, it's still not spared from certain risks such as cyberattack.



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POSSIBLE EXPLOSION OF MT. NATIB

GEOLOGIST WARNS VS ACTIVATING BNPP

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

A Filipino American geologist disputed the claims of the country's nuclear science chief that the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) was safe and secure for rehabilitation, citing the "potentially active" volcano in the area of the plant.

Kelvin Rodolfo, professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said at a webinar of Advocates of Science and Technology for the People on Saturday that the worst danger facing BNPP is the possible explosion of Mt. Natib.

Mt. Natib is a dormant stratovolcano and caldera complex in Bataan with no historical or analytical record of eruption, but the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology classifies it as "potentially active."

Rodolfo slammed Carlo Arcilla, director of the Philippine

Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), for pushing the activation of the BNPP.

Arcilla has been talking about the possibility of activating the BNPP and that it was an option that could be included in a nuclear program and some countries have expressed interest in activating the plant.

Fault passes through volcano

However, Arcilla has not bared details of his incipient nuclear program and there is also no indication that the BNPP would be part of it. In fact, Arcilla stressed that any program involving the BNPP should have the concurrence of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency.

Rodolfo said Arcilla mistakenly located the BNPP in 2005 and claimed that there was no direct fault running through the nuke plant although there had not been a scientific mapping of the volcano.

Rodolfo said geologist Mahar Lagmay, now executive director of the University of the Philippines' Project NOAH, was the first to map the area in 2009 and found that the "Lubao fault passes through Natib volcano and comes out right at BNPP."

Earlier this month, Arcilla said in a forum he would recommend a geologic study of Mt. Natib before the activation of the mothballed power plant, if he were so tasked by President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Interest in nuclear energy was renewed during the presidential campaign season when Marcos vowed to look into nuclear energy to address the cost of electricity in the country, which is the costliest in Asia next to Japan.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has also worsened the global energy crisis that is acutely affecting power-guzzling countries, such as the United States, China and Europe. INQ



UN launches new bird migration atlas

VISUALIZING how migratory animals connect continents, countries, sites and habitats are the result of an international scientific effort under the aegis of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), in developing the first atlas of bird migration across three continents.

CMS, an environmental UN treaty, launched the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas at the Museum of Migration on the Italian island of Ventotene, as the first part of a broader initiative to develop a global atlas of animal migration.

The interactive Atlas is an online platform where data on the movements in time and space of millions of birds are mapped and analyzed in the Eurasian-African flyway. Researchers from 10 different institutions and data gathered by over 50 different organizations contributed to the Atlas, which was developed by CMS partners, the European Union for Bird Ringing (EURING) and the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior.

A major accomplishment of the Eurasian-African Bird Migration Atlas is to have collated, analyzed, and synthesized bird ringing data collected over more than 100 years on 300 species.

In addition, for over 100 of these species, the online mapping tool overlays movement patterns identified through bird ringing with tracks obtained through satellite transmitters, GPS-GSM tags or geo-locators. Together, they provide the most complete information available on the migration routes of these species.

An important visualization tool

For CMS, whose main goal is to conserve migratory species throughout their migratory range and migration itself as a biological phenomenon, a detailed understanding of the different migratory systems and patterns across the different groups of migratory species is important to design and implement conservation strategies and actions.

The new Atlas offers new insights into migration patterns at the species and population levels and into human-related issues affecting them across their migratory paths.

CMS Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel said, "Knowledge of how animals move and migrate over time and space is crucial for improving our understanding and conservation efforts for migratory species. The Atlas will help decision-makers in planning networks of sites managed for conservation purposes."

The information compiled in the Atlas is expected to offer an important contribution to CMS initiatives on the preservation of ecological connectivity — the unimpeded movement of species and the flow of natural processes that sustain life on Earth — and spatial planning in particular. These relate for example to possible interactions between renewable energy infrastructure and animal migration, with a special emphasis on the risk of collision of migratory birds at wind farms. Maps of seasonal movements across geographi-

cal areas can help define strategies to minimize bird mortality risks caused by these infrastructures.

The other main feature of the Atlas include four research modules that provide analyses addressing different aspects of bird migration and relationships between man and birds — two modules, migratory connectivity, and long-term changes in migration patterns due for example to global climate change take a closer look at bird migration patterns, strategies, and adaptations.

Another research module provides estimates, at the scale of EU territory, of the onset of return migration for many huntable species covered by the Birds Directive. The onset of return migration is critically important information to determine the start of the protection period in the year.

The fourth module focuses on a large-scale and long-term analysis of patterns of intentional killing of birds. It describes the frequency and distribution of intentional killing across the whole Eurasian-African flyways and identifies areas of particularly intense legal or illegal harvesting, both in Europe and Africa. These results are of direct interest for ongoing activities by CMS and the Bern Convention concerning the illegal killing of birds. Furthermore, this module offers insights about expanding the geographical scope of monitoring the illegal killing of birds, for example, along the East Asian-Australasian flyway.

Finally, the broadened historical and geographical perspective can support similar efforts to address the trapping and killing of animals from other taxonomic groups. The project was made possible by the support of the Government of Italy, with a pledge to CMS granted in 2017 by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition (formerly Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea) under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

MoU between CMS, Italian partners

On the launch of the Atlas, the CMS Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to raise awareness of migratory species conservation and the concept of "ecological connectivity" in the context of the project regarding the restoration and re-qualification of the former Bourbon prison of Santo Stefano-Ventotene.

The MOU is with various Italian partners, namely the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) which maintains an important ringing station on Ventotene, the State Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area of Ventotene, the Municipality of Ventotene and the Special Commissioner for the Project of the Islands of Santo Stefano – Ventotene.

These islands are at the crossroad of important animal migrations and represent a "safe port" and a key node of a large network of sites and habitats as part of species' annual movements.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-8826 to 29; 929-5633 to 35
926-7041-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669
Website: <http://www.dennr.gov.ph/> E-mail: wcb@dennr.gov.ph

NOTICE OF BIDDING FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION

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

Location : Brgy. San Isidro, Cabangan, Zamboanga
Description : Plan Fil-03-038527
Beginning at a point marked "1" of Plan Fil-03-038527, being N 53°51'W., 2,808.20m.
from BLLM I, PLS 468-D to corner 1.

Thence:

Line 1-2: S12°54'E., 17.17 m.; Line 2-3: S86°13'W., 20.26 m.,
Line 3-4: N12°58'W., 17.87 m., Line 4-1: N87°38'E., 20.34 m.

Boundaries:

North : Foreshore
East : West Philippine Sea
South : Foreshore
West : Salvage Zone

Area : 348.0 square meters
Appraised : Land : P 6,786.00
Value of : Proposed/Existing Improvements : None
Applied for by : MARTIN GABRIELA A. TIÑO
Approved Annual Rental : P6,786.00

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

(SGS.) JOWELL F. DELLOSA
CENR Officer

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



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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 10:00 AM on July 25, 2022 for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location : Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas

Description : Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007- 4-A

Area : 39,393 sqm.

Applied for by : Holcim Mining and Development Corp.
represented by Renato A. Bija

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.

MAY 5, 2022
Date

ISAGANI Q. AMATORIO
CENR Officer

20 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



800-1,200 COVID-19 cases kada araw posible hanggang Hunyo – DOH

[Malou Escudero](#) - Pang-masa June 19, 2022 | 12:00am



People enter a polling station before casting their votes during the presidential election in Manila on May 9, 2022.

AFP / Chaideer Mahyuddin

MANILA, Philippines — Sa pagtaya ng Department of Health (DOH), posibleng umabot sa 800 hanggang 1,200 ang arawang kaso ng COVID-19 hanggang sa katapusan ng Hunyo kung magpapatuloy ang pagtaas ng mga kaso ng naturang sakit.

“Ang meron tayo, projections that by the end of June, maaari na aabot tayo to 800 to 1,200 cases per day kung magtutuloy-tuloy ang mga kaso natin sa ngayon,” ayon kay Health Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire, sa Laging Handa briefing nitong Sabado.

Gayunman, nilinaw naman ni Vergeire, ito ay projections lamang nila na ginagamit upang makapaghanda ang lahat. “These projections are not cast in stone. These are just used for us to prepare,” aniya pa.

Nilinaw din ni Vergeire na bagama’t bahagyang tumaas ang bilang ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa, hindi pa rin ito maituturing na “surge”.

“Let us not call it a surge. When you talk about a surge, it’s a sudden increase in the number of cases,” paliwanag ni Vergeire.

Ani Vergeire, sa ngayon ay nasa 350 ang COVID-19 infections kada araw na naiuulat sa buong bansa o paglundag ng 50-60%. Aniya, maging ang daily average ng mga naitatalang bagong kaso ng sakit sa Metro Manila ay tumaas din ng mula 102 ay naging 170.

Sa pagtaya naman ng OCTA Research Group, umakyat na sa 71% ang “one week growth rate” ng COVID-19 cases sa National Capital Region (NCR). Ayon kay Dr. Guido David ng OCTA, mula Hunyo 11-17, ang 7-day average sa NCR ay nadagdagan pa at naging 176 mula sa dating 103 lamang o 71% increase.

“This translates to an ADAR (average daily attack rate) of 1.24,” ani David.

Aniya, ang reproduction number naman sa NCR, o yaong bilang ng mga taong nahawaan ng sakit ng isang pasyente ay tumaas at umabot sa 1.80 hanggang noong Hunyo 14, mula sa dating 1.40 noong Hunyo 7. Ang reproduction number na mas mababa sa 1 ay indikasyon ng pagbagal ng hawahan ng virus.



Maging ang positivity rate sa rehiyon, o yaong porsiyento ng mga tao na nagpopositibo sa sakit ay tumaas na rin umano sa 3.7%.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ng OCTA na bagama't dumarami ang bilang ng mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa NCR, mababa pa rin ang hospital bed utilization rate na nasa 22%, gayundin ang ICU utilization rate na nasa 17% lamang. – **Ludy Bermudo**

20 JUNE 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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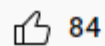
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PASAY CITY

MANILA BAY RECLAMATION UPDATE, DREDGING BINAKBAKAN ANG ISANG SIKAT NA MALL! Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
#Denr

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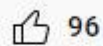
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MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY, IBANG KLASI ANG BANGIS! NG DAHIL SA DOLOMITE NAG KUMPULAN SILA! Miz July

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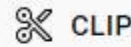
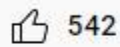
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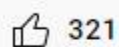
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