

21 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



**DENR**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# MOA Signing for Marikina Watershed

Monday, June 20, 2022 Journal Online



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**Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** Tayo ang Kalikasan Executive Director Maria Matilda A. Gaddi (right) signs as witness to the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Rotary International District 3830 and the Samahang Kawayan ng Karugo Agri Farmer's Association (SKKAFA) to strengthen their partnership for the Marikina Watershed Reforestation and **Livelihood Project**. Under the agreement, Rotary International District 3830 hands will fund the bamboo planting project of SKKAFA in Sitio Karugo, Rodriguez, Rizal in the amount of P1.2 million. In the photo are (from left to right) Rotary Club of Makati Buendia former president Emelito Castro, SKKAFA president Edgar Mariano, and Rotary Club 3830 District Governor Ma. Jocelyn Tan. **DENR** Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has intensified operations in protected areas to safeguard these against illegal occupants.

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# DENR, PCG to boost protection of marine environment

 June 20, 2022, 7:58 pm



**PROTECTING THE OCEANS.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has partnered with the Philippine Coast Guard to address gaps in the protection and conservation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems. The two agencies signed a memorandum of agreement early this June in line with the celebration of World Ocean Day 2022. (File photo)

MANILA – In celebration of the World Ocean Day 2022, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)—through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)—has signed a landmark agreement with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to address gaps in protection and conservation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems.

With the theme “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean,” the World Ocean Day celebration was highlighted by the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed early this month led by DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino and PCG Commandant Admiral Artemio M. Abu.

“Working hand in hand with PCG will strengthen our capacity to protect our ocean and marine ecosystems moving forward. With alarming threats the ocean faces today, we need collective action to protect it as it ultimately sustains all of us,” DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement on Monday.

The monumental partnership aims to harmonize the conservation and protection efforts between the DENR-BMB and PCG, particularly in deterring illegal activities within marine protected areas (MPAs) and maintaining the balance and ecological integrity of the country's marine ecosystems.

“As a bureau supervising marine protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System or NIPAS, we have certain limitations in terms of enforcement and logistics. There are gaps in addressing marine-related incidences and violations of the law. So there's really a need to synergize protocols between the PCG and the BMB as well as collaborate to augment each other's resources,” Bernardino said.

PCG Deputy Chief of Coastal Guard Staff for Marine Environmental Protection CG-9 Capt. Lazaro Ernesto C. Valdez Jr. hoped that the MOA signing was just the beginning of a clearer and more cohesive cooperation with the DENR.



The MOA establishes the exchange of technical expertise, information, and assistance on the demarcation and marker buoy installation of MPAs under the NIPAS framework; facilitation of capacity-building activities; and development of reporting mechanisms on marine vessel-related incidents, such as oil spills and ship grounding.

“Enforcement must be participatory, consultative, science-based, and sustainable. We will be committed. You can count on our sincerity and active involvement in putting this agreement to motion,” Abu said.

The partnership will also streamline joint activities and assistance during water quality monitoring; enforcement of wildlife laws; and marine research expeditions within MPAs, West Philippine Sea, and the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve.

Joint marine protection activities, such as coastal and underwater cleanups and intensified communication, education and public awareness activities, will also be implemented.

To begin the partnership, Bernardino said the DENR-BMB will craft the operational plan anchored on the stipulations of the MOA to identify the short-term and long-term goals and activities and ensure the funding complementation between the two agencies. (PR)



National, News

# DENR, PCG sign agreement to strengthen protection of coastal, maritime ecosystems

Published June 20, 2022, 12:19 PM  
by Aaron Recuenco

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) have joined forces to address gaps in protection and conservation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems.

In a memorandum of agreement, the two government agencies vowed to establish exchange of technical expertise, information, and assistance on the demarcation and marker buoy installation in marine protected areas; facilitation of capacity-building activities; and development of reporting mechanisms on marine vessel-related incidents, such as oil spills and ship grounding.

The partnership will also streamline joint activities and assistance during water quality monitoring; enforcement of wildlife laws; and marine research expeditions within MPAs, West Philippine Sea, and the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve.

Joint marine protection activities, such as coastal and underwater cleanups and intensified communication, education and public awareness activities, will also be implemented.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna said the partnership aims to harmonize the conservation and protection efforts between the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and PCG, particularly in deterring illegal activities within marine protected areas (MPAs) and maintaining the balance and ecological integrity of the country's marine ecosystems.

"Working hand in hand with PCG will strengthen our capacity to protect our ocean and marine ecosystems moving forward. With alarming threats the ocean faces today, we need collective action to protect it as it ultimately sustains all of us," said Sampilna.

"Enforcement must be participatory, consultative, science-based, and sustainable. We will be committed. You can count on our sincerity and active involvement in putting this agreement to motion," PCG Commandant Admiral Artemio Abu said, for his part.

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Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/20/denr-pcg-sign-agreement-to-strengthen-protection-of-coastal-maritime-ecosystems/>



## **DENR, PCG lumagda lumagda ng kasunduan sa proteksyon ng PH marine environment**

MANILA, Philippines- Upang mapalakas ang proteksyon ng Philippine marine environment bilang paggunita sa selebrasyon ng World Ocean Day 2022, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ay lumagda sa makasaysayang kasunduan sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang matutukan ang mga kakulangan sa pagbibigay ng proteksyon at sa konserbasyon ng coastal at marine ecosystems ng bansa.

Sa pamamagitan ng temang “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean,” naging ‘highlight’ sa World Ocean Day celebration ang paglagda sa memorandum of agreement (MOA) noong Hunyo 8 ni DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino at PCG Commandant Admiral Artemio M Abu.

“Working hand in hand with PCG will strengthen our capacity to protect our ocean and marine ecosystems moving forward. With alarming threats the ocean faces today, we need collective action to protect it as it ultimately sustains all of us,” saad ni DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna.

Kaugnay nito layunin ng ‘monumental partnership’ na ito na maging isa ang pagsisikap ng DENR-BMB at ng PCG sa konserbasyon at proteksiyon upang mahadlangan ang iligal na aktibidad sa marine protected areas (MPAs) at mapanatili ang balanse ng ‘ecological integrity’ ng marine ecosystems ng bansa.

Samantala umaasa naman si PCG Deputy Chief of Coastal Guard Staff for Marine Environmental Protection CG-9 Captain Lazaro Ernesto C. Valdez na ang MOA ay simula pa lamang ng malinaw at magkatuwang na kooperasyon sa DENR.

Ayon sa DENR sa pamamagitan ng MOA, magkakaroon ng “exchange of technical expertise, information, and assistance on the demarcation and marker buoy installation of MPAs under the NIPAS framework; facilitation of capacity-building activities; and development of reporting mechanisms on marine vessel-related incidents, such as oil spills and ship grounding.”

Sa pamamagitan din ng partnership, magkakaroon ng magkasamang aktibidad at pagtutulungan sa water quality monitoring; enforcement of wildlife laws; at marine research expeditions sa loob ng MPAs, West Philippine Sea, at Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve. Santi Celario



## Rafi, DENR ink partnership for Central Visayas reforestation



TO FURTHER their conservation and reforestation efforts, One To Tree (Rafi OTT) program and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region (DENR)-Central Visayas formalized their partnership through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing on June 15, 2022 at The Kabilin Center, Cebu City.

The MOA aims to strengthen Rafi OTT and DENR-Central Visayas' efforts in forest and landscape restoration activities such as reforestation, forest enhancement, forest parks, and agro-forestry. It also aims to promote awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and wider participation in environmental protection programs.

As the alarming effects of climate change and deforestation continue to be felt around the world, Rafi Chief Operating Officer Riella Mae Christa Guioguio emphasized the need to further expand and continue conservation efforts.

“With the recent Typhoon Odette, we know that climate change will happen and is happening. But at least we can slow it down through what we can do with our various programs. We believe that enabling communities to be resilient, we want our communities to be adaptable to climate change through our One To Tree Program. We are here for the long haul. This process will really take time. It might not happen in our lifetime, but we will plant the seeds and hopefully the next generation can benefit from this,” said Guioguio.

With this partnership with DENR-Central Visayas at hand, Rafi OTT commits to help engage communities to protect and rehabilitate the environment through the establishment of tree nurseries and plantations together with partner communities. The partnership paves the way for more opportunities of synergy and collaboration between DENR-Central Visayas and Rafi OTT.

“For me this is an initial platform for us to work together. This is an understanding that Rafi and DENR are collaborating, and this would become a foundation to a stronger and a more productive working relationship,” said Anthony Dignadice, Rafi OTT executive director.

Partner DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Melicor Jr. also expressed his gratitude to Rafi OTT for making the partnership possible.



Melicor highlighted the shared responsibility toward preserving the environment and biodiversity conservation. He noted that with the growing number of people and organizations that are aware and doing their respective efforts, the overall status of the environment in Central Visayas has partially improved.

“We at the DENR want to thank Rafi... We are very hopeful that as we move forward in Central Visayas we do not limit it to Cebu only; because Central Visayas consists of Bohol, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor. We want to engage your (Rafi OTT) help as we look also on the other provinces of Region 7, especially ang Siquijor. Hopefully, there will be some improvements as we move forward,” said Melicor.

As part of the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, this partnership symbolizes a ray of sunshine: shining light onto the budding collaboration between two organizations working toward the common goal to protect, conserve and uplift our environment.





# DENR, DAR nagbigay ng libreng titulo sa mga Novo Vizcayanos

Published on: June 20, 2022

By Benjamin Moses Ebreo

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya (PIA) - - Namigay ng mahigit pitong daang libreng titulo ng lupa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) sa mga Novo Vizcayanos bilang bahagi ng 'Duterte Legacy' sa lalawigan.

Ang DENR ay nagbigay ng 663 na free patent titles habang 109 na Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) naman ang ibinahagi ng DAR sa mga upland at lowland farmers at mga dating rebelde.

Ang pamamahagi ng free patent title ng DENR ay bahagi ng Environment Month at 35th Founding Anniversary Celebration ng ahensiya at selebrasyon ng ika-34 na taon ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Bahagi din ito ng ika-limampung taon ng Presidential Decree No. 27 na naglalayong ilipat ang pag-aari ng lupa na matagal nang sinasaka ng mga farmers.

Nauna rito, nagsagawa rin ng malawakang pagtatanim ang DENR sa mga gilid ng mga ilog sa lalawigan na nilahukan ng iba't-ibang sektor ng lipunan.

Namigay din ng P32 milyong halaga ng tulay ang DAR sa Barangay Wacal sa bayan ng Solano upang mapabilis ang transportasyon ng mga produkto ng mga magsasaka doon.

Hinimok ni DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan ang mga benepisyaryo na gamitin ang kanilang lupa para sa agrikultura upang makatulong sa paglago ng ekonomiya na pinadapa dahil sa Covid-19 pandemic.

Sinabi din ni DAR Assistant Regional Director Alfredo Lorenzo na ang tagumpay ng pamahalaan laban sa Communist-Terrorist Group sa bansa, matapos tumanggap ng mga CLOA at magbalik no loob sa pamahalaan ang mga dating rebelde. (OTB/BME/PIA NVizcaya)



Masungi Georeserve

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### LOOK: NCR, RIZAL MAYORS JOIN CALL TO CANCEL QUARRYING AGREEMENTS IN MASUNGI

Several officials of cities downstream of the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Geopark Project, including Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, and Angono Vice-Mayor Gerardo Calderon 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.

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 Observatory, 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 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 decisively canceled. Before the president steps down from office, this final action for the environment is requested to preserve an outstanding legacy. ###

Contact: [communications@masungigeoreserve.com](mailto:communications@masungigeoreserve.com)



## 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 area<sup>1</sup> 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 watershed<sup>2</sup>. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Presidential Proclamation 296, s. 2011; Presidential Proclamation 1636, s. 1977

<sup>2</sup> 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

 Mayor Marcelino R. Teodoro City Mayor, Marikina City	 Mayor Victor Ma. Regis N. Sotto City Mayor, Pasig City	 Mayor Jaime Fresnedi City Mayor, Muntinlupa City	 Vice Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon Municipal Vice Mayor, Angono, Rizal
 Atty. Jeronimo U. Manzanero City Administrator, Pasig City	 Atty. Voltaire C. Dela Cruz City Administrator, Malabon City	 Capt. Bernard C. Bernardo Barangay Captain, Brgy. Sta. Elena, Marikina City	 Capt. Segundo S. Cruz Barangay Captain, Brgy. Calumpang, Marikina City
 Capt. Randy G. Leal Barangay Captain, Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City	 Capt. Miguel A. Punzalan Jr. Barangay Captain, Brgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina City	 Capt. Rizalita W. Teope Barangay Captain, Brgy. Fortune, Marikina City	 Capt. Raffie C. Tiburcio Barangay Captain, Brgy. Barangka, Marikina City
			 Capt. Maffy Jane Zubiri-Dela Rosa Barangay Captain, Brgy. Concepcion Dos, Marikina City





## Quarrying sa Masungi hiniling kanselahin ng NCR & Rizal mayors

Almar Danguilan June 20, 2022 Local, Metro, News

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 kanselasyon ng tatlong malalaking quarrying agreement sa loob ng sinabing protektado at conserved na lugar.

Kasama sa mga lumagda sa petisyon ay 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 (DENR) 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 (MPSAs) na sumasaklaw sa mahigit 1,300 ektarya kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte, nang hindi kanselahin ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna ang nasabing mga kasunduan at sa halip ay 'sinuspende' ang mga quarry na hindi pa naman nagsisimula sa loob ng dalawampu't apat (24) taon.

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

Ayon 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 ang natitira sa watershed, ang pagkasira ng buhay at ari-arian kapag may malakas na pag-ulan ay maaaring mas malala pa kaysa 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 rito, mismong ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ang nagsabi 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 legacy project ng administrasyon na naglalayong ibalik ang mga nasira at inabusong watershed sa lugar na nakapalibot sa limestone formation.



Nailigtas nito ang 2,000 ektarya ng lupa para sa reorestasyon, naitatag ang 17 km., na monitoring trails at ranger stations, nagbigay hanapbuhay sa 100 park rangers, at nakipag-ugnayan sa 200 partners mula sa iba't ibang sektor, sa kabila ng mga seryosong panganib na kinakaharap ng mga rangers at miyembro ng proyekto.

Ang lahat ng mabubuting nagawa rito ay mawawala ulit kung ang mga kasunduan sa quarrying ay hindi makakansela sa lalong madaling panahon, ayon sa mga environmentalist.

Bago bumaba sa puwesto ang Pangulo, hinihiling ang huling aksyong ito para sa kalikasan at sa mga susunod na henerasyon ng mga Filipino. (ALMAR DANGUILAN)



## Church group seeks mining moratorium



BY SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA · JUNE 20, 2022

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 government 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.

This after the South Cotabato Provincial Board lifted last May the 12-year ban for open-pit mining in the province last May.

“We implore the provincial government, especially the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato to work more tediously to guard against ecological sanctity of Tampakan and respect the will of the people, instead of revising the provincial environment code giving to the personal business interests of mining operations and its operators,” Bagaforo said.

Under its Department Administrative Order 2021-40, which it issued last December 23, DENR lifted the four-year-old ban on open-pit method in the country.

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## Cimatu urges DENR to rush study on increasing Boracay capacity limit



AKLAN. Former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu delivers a message. (Jun N. Aguirre)

JUN N. AGUIRRE  
June 20, 2022

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FORMER Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Roy Cimatu has urged the agency to consider and rush the conduct of a study on increasing the tourism capacity of Boracay Island.

Speaking during the culmination of the Boracay Island Task Force (BIATF) in Boracay Island, Cimatu said that with the island resort now recovering from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, it is a must for the DENR to recommend a new tourism capacity limit.

In 2018, Cimatu was tasked by President Rodrigo Duterte to close Boracay for six months to undergo environmental rehabilitation. Duterte called Boracay a cesspool because of several environmental concerns reported in the island.

At present, the DENR only allows at least 19,215 tourists in the island per day.

"The current capacity is actually based on the studies conducted both by the joint DENR and the University of the Philippines which has been done at the four kilometers stretch of white beach in Boracay. The study has not yet included that of the Bulabog beach, the back beach of Boracay. I find out that the Bulabog beach is now being visited by tourists and so I recommend that a new study should be done to determine the new tourism capacity," Cimatu said.

Earlier, the Department of Tourism, Aklan Provincial Government and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay had called for a new tourism capacity for Boracay. (SunStar Philippines)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1932530/iloilo/local-news/cimatu-urges-denr-to-rush-study-on-increasing-boracay-capacity-limit>



## Despite progress, still a long way to go for PH eagle conservation



RESCUED AND CARED FOR. Since it was founded in 1970, the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) has cared for a total of 92 eagles that were harmed in varying manners. Photo by PEF

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA  
June 20, 2022

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IN its 35th year, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) has made groundbreaking contributions to conserving the Philippine Eagle over the decades, but despite the efforts, there is still a long way to go from saving the eagles from the brink of extinction.

At the continuous rate of the threats to the eagle -- like poaching, shooting, hunting, and deforestation of its natural habitats -- the national bird endemic to the Philippines may be extinct in the next 50 years, according to Dr. Jayson Ibañez, Director for Research and Conservation of PEF.

Based on Ibañez's latest research as of May 2022, there are around 300 pairs of Philippine Eagles left in the wild, mostly occupying nesting territories in the forests of Mindanao, the Cordilleras in Luzon, and the provinces of Leyte and Samar in the Visayas.

In Luzon, there are less than a hundred pairs of eagles and around 17 pairs left in Leyte and Samar. The PEF speculates that most of the eagle pairs in the Visayas were wiped out when super typhoon Yolanda hit the region in 2013.

Ibañez said Mindanao is home to most of the monitored Philippine Eagle pairs with about 200 pairs.





“That makes Mindanao a stronghold. We have the most number of Philippine Eagle pairs found so far,” he said, adding that the population is still declining.

Since it was founded in 1970, initially as Mt. Apo Philippine Eagle Research Center, the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) has cared for a total of 92 eagles that were harmed in varying manners.

Based on the data presented by Ibañez, the most common cause of admission of eagles to the PEC is gunshot which totaled 24 out of the 92 admissions, followed by 18 that were trapped, and 11 that were hand-captured.

Data shows that human activities are the most common cause of admissions wherein six out of every ten eagles are harmed by man-made causes.

“Ang dalawang pinakarason kung bakit nanganganib ang mga Philippine Eagles natin ay ang pamamaril at ang pagsilo o ang trapping (Two main threats to the eagles are shooting and trapping),” Ibañez said. He mentioned some of the 24 had airgun pellets and jolen balls or marbles found in their body.

The rest of the causes include eagles that crash landed at sea, mobbed by crows, poached from the nest, and sold and confiscated. There were also 13 admissions without an identified exact cause of harm.

Since 2008, 16 rehabilitated eagles were released back into the wild. Eight of it are alive, four were shot and killed, two have no updated records, while another two were eventually removed from the wild and kept at the PEC in Malagos, Davao City.

As of current, the Center is housing four eagles that cannot be released back into the wild because of their acquired injuries. Fortunately, the disabled eagles remain healthy and in good welfare because of the care they are receiving.

In fact, disabled eagles have actually contributed to the breeding program of PEF.

“Hindi mo na sila pwede i-release back sa wild, it's either they are already blind or amputee, mga disabled eagles, pero we can still use them for education and also use them for breeding,” Ibañez said.

One of Ibañez’s examples is a female eagle with two missing talons and a male eagle with a broken wing that were able to mate and breed through the efforts of the program. Overall, PEF’s breeding program has produced 29 captive-bred eaglets.

Despite these efforts, Ibañez said repopulating the Philippine Eagles will be difficult to achieve in the near future, however, it is also not entirely impossible.

“It's that period in our history where if we don't do anything, we will lose the Philippine Eagle in the next 50 years (but) we have models, we have examples where if we do it properly, it can work. Pero kailangan ng concerted effort from different sectors of the society.”

During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the PEF has rescued record-breaking 13 eagles in a span of two years compared to the usual one to two eagles per year pre-pandemic.



According to Ibañez, the increase can be attributed to the economic poverty being experienced by uplanders or members of indigenous peoples (IP) groups who resorted to using the eagles as a means of survival after being affected by the pandemic.

The conservation team also observed that hunting is undeniably part of the culture of uplanders and IPs thus one of the main challenges is providing livelihood support and changing the perspective of the IPs to show them it is more beneficial and important to protect the eagles rather than harming them.

“Rather than looking at yung negatives like uplanders shooting or killing the eagles or doing the kaingin (trapping), we sit down and talk to them and then find a common a solution, know their challenges and often it's basically poverty,” Ibañez said.

Through education and community outreach programs, PEF executive director Dennis Salvador said they are engaging IPs as protectors of the eagles and their forest habitats through the Forest Guard Program.

However, the forest guard program is still a volunteer-based effort wherein the IPs are only given an allowance by the City Government of Davao in exchange for their work.

To address this, Salvador shared that the PEF is working on the accreditation of the forest guard program to give the volunteers proper merit for their important work.

“We're hoping to get community-based forest guards to be a legitimate income source and livelihood program for forest-based communities. As you know, many of these communities are among the poorest of the poor in the country... The forest guard program has helped alleviate some of that need but that is not enough,” he said.

Thus, the accreditation will provide a stable monthly income for the forest guards and offer proper training to equip them with the appropriate skills and tools to further protect the eagles and other wildlife from poaching and the forests from threats of illegal logging.

Currently, the accreditation plan is still being negotiated with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and is targeted to be in the works by next year, said Salvador.

In addition, the looming Avian Influenza or bird flu is posing a threat to the Philippine Eagle that could potentially wipe out the population.

Dr. Emilia Lastica-Ternura of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB) College of Veterinary Medicine, Wildlife Management and Medicine, Conservation Medicine, said there is no cure for the bird flu virus, only supportive treatment can be applied.

It cannot be fully determined yet whether the Philippine Eagles can recover once they are infected with bird flu but based on the studies done on other raptor species with bird flu, it could be dangerous and potentially deadly.

“We do not know kasi wala pang na i-infect na Philippine Eagle pero sana. Kasi based on the Newcastle Disease test na ginawa namin, they were able to recover,” Lastica-Ternura said, referring to some eagles at the center that were infected with Newcastle disease but remain healthy and asymptomatic.

Lastica-Ternura added that based on their 2018 study, eagles that are exposed to humans and domestic animals are more prone to catching infections and viruses thus strengthening biosecurity at the PEC and conducting regular testing is crucial.



"It's important also to make sure we study the pathogen, yang virus na yan, para malaman natin yung characteristics niya at yung behavior niya in the future and then study the host, yung Philippine Eagle and other raptors (the virus, for us to know its characteristics and behavior. We should also study its host -- the Philippine Eagle and other raptors)," she said.

Because of this, the PEF is working on transferring the breeding program of Philippine Eagles to a more isolated location in Barangay Toril, Davao City that will ensure their isolation from disease-carrying domestic animals.

According to Director Salvador, they will need an estimated P56 million for the new facility, which has proven to be a challenge given that the foundation is a non-profit and non-government organization relying on limited resources.

"We are barely making it, especially with the pandemic we had to close our gates and ang revenues from our gates represent nearly a third of our operational budget. It's only recently that nag Alert Level 1 tayo and nag open ang facility again to the public but we are still scrambling," Salvador said.

For those who want to help in the Philippine Eagle conservation, you may visit <https://www.philippineeaglefoundation.org/>. ICM



## Curbs on plastics output seen needed

June 19, 2022 | 7:51 pm

LEGISLATION that will hold plastics producers accountable for managing the life cycle of their products will make companies conscious of the possible legal fallout from acting irresponsibly, but curbs on imports and production may ultimately be needed, environmental advocates said.

“If properly and fully implemented the law has significant potential to reduce plastic waste leaking into the environment,” Antonio Gabriel M. La Viña, a lawyer, educator and environmental expert, told BusinessWorld in a Viber message.

“However, there needs to be equal focus on upstream measures to reduce plastics used and put into the market to have a long-term dent on the Philippines’ plastic footprint,” he added. “Right now, the law does not have strong provisions on upstream measures and policies.”

Congress has ratified a consolidated version of a bill seeking to promote sustainability by holding enterprises responsible for the life cycle of their plastic products.

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, primary sponsor of the bill, has said that the reconciled bill focused on “waste reduction, recovery and recycling, and the development of environment-friendly products that advocates the internationally accepted principles on sustainable consumption and production, the circular economy, and producers’ full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their products.”

The act compels large or obliged enterprises to establish or phase in extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs for the plastic packaging of their products to efficiently manage waste and reduce the production, import, supply, or use of plastic packaging deemed low in reusability, recyclability or retrievability; and to achieve plastic neutrality through efficient recovery and diversion schemes.

“Obliged companies need to make sure the processes, methods and schemes they choose, to meet the diversion or collection targets, are environmentally sound and won’t cause equal harm to the environment,” Mr. La Viña said.

“There needs to be investment in facilities and infrastructure which will reuse and recycle as much of the plastic as technologically possible,” he added.

He called it a “good start” to focus on large companies to kick start the initiative, since they have the biggest market share, but said the government must make a clear plan on how to eventually cover micro, small, and medium enterprises as well.

“This will also avoid free-rider issues and inconsistent application of the law,” he added.

EcoWaste Coalition Plastic solutions campaigner Coleen Salamat said that to effectively reduce plastic waste, the government should not only require the retrieval and recycling of plastics but also regulate their production.

“The target of EPR should not solely be on recovery of plastic waste but how much plastics large businesses actually reduce in production,” she told BusinessWorld in an e-mail.



“If there are no plans and guidelines on reducing or phasing out non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging, then this might just be another band-aid solution,” she added.

Ms. Salamat also pointed out an “alarming” provision in the proposed law that includes the establishment of commercial or industrial-scale recycling, composting, thermal treatment, and other waste diversion or disposal facilities for waste products when investment is viable.

“The current trend on the initiatives of consistent top polluters like Nestlé, Procter and Gamble, Unilever, Coca-Cola, still heavily rely on cement kilns, chemical recycling, and other false solutions that burn or melt single-use plastics,” she said.

“These false solutions do not reduce or prevent waste but also contribute to worsening of air pollution and release harmful chemicals that are actually carcinogenic,” she added. “False solutions delay and distract from addressing the root problem of plastics, which is in production at source.”

Since plastics are made with fossil fuels, allowing commercial-scale recycling which includes thermal treatment like waste-to-energy and cement kilns, will only fuel the climate crisis, Ms. Salamat said.

“Obligated enterprises must make sure that they are not doing more harm to the environment,” she added.

Under the bill, obligated enterprises may voluntarily organize themselves into producer responsibility organizations (PRO) to establish viable platforms to implement their EPR program.

Such enterprises must also establish and implement an auditing system to monitor and assess their compliance performance. An independent third-party auditor must certify the veracity of the report using standards established by the department.

Ms. Villar has said the targets for the recovery of plastic products generated are as follows: 20% by the end of 2023; 40% by 2024; 50% by 2025; 60% by 2026; 70% by 2027; and 80% by 2028 and every year thereafter.

Mr. La Viña said this was difficult to achieve considering the current infrastructure available for waste management “but not impossible if industry is pushed with some government support.”

“Industry wanted to start at 10% increments with a longer transition period which they saw as more doable,” he added.

Ms. Salamat also found the goals set to be achievable, noting that the current targets of large enterprises are in line with the EPR targets for recovery.

However, she noted that this legislation, if not fully implemented and enforced, will represent “business as usual.”

She also noted that there is little precedent for large enterprises being held accountable.



“The bill will only impose fines and penalties if obliged enterprises or PROs do not register their EPR programs and if they fail to meet the targets for recovery of plastic product footprint,” she said. “It is very important to note that recovery is not the only problem but (also) the continuous production of single-use plastics.”

“EPR, in its true sense, follows a ‘polluters pay’ principle. Producers have the main responsibility under EPR. Without prohibited acts (regulating) the production, use, distribution, and importation of non-environmentally products and packaging, then it does not really hold polluters accountable,” she added.

Obliged enterprises that fail to comply with the law can be fined at most P20 million and an automatic suspension of their business permits until the law is complied with.

“This law will help make businesses more conscious of their impact on the environment,” Mr. La Viña said.

“Not tackling environmental impacts and being more sustainable in operations will have consequences not just legally but in other aspects such as investments, cost of doing business and even reputation and brand name,” he added.

Source: [https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/06/19/455834/curbs-on-plastics-output-seen-needed/?fbclid=IwAR0Jt2vYBuOdNiSoBRehmpPS9RQQDzJbcfOhpp41WKH6n2T4qe2\\_qEi2oe0](https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/06/19/455834/curbs-on-plastics-output-seen-needed/?fbclid=IwAR0Jt2vYBuOdNiSoBRehmpPS9RQQDzJbcfOhpp41WKH6n2T4qe2_qEi2oe0)



# Incoming government to pursue 'clean' mining, export of processed ore



by Vince Lopez and Rey E. Requejo — June 21, 2022, 1:40 am in News, Top Stories

Reading Time: 3 mins read

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President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed a preference for collecting value-added taxes from the exportation of partially processed ore instead of hiking mining taxes to generate more revenues.

Marcos said as a matter of policy, the country's natural resource should be viewed as "a treasure which could help the Philippines a great deal."

"We must ensure that practices we see in mining operations are environmentally neutral, although that has not necessarily been the case as we are all aware of," he said in a press briefing Monday.

"I don't believe that we cannot monitor and regulate the mining industry for it to be efficient and clean," he added at the BBM campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

As to proposals to increase mining taxes, Marcos said he will have to discuss it first with his economic team.

"We are trying to address that with more value-added... What we are trying to achieve is to decrease the export of raw ore. We could export partially processed ore instead so there is value-added," he said.

"As to the fiscal measures needed, we haven't decided on that yet and what levels those will be," Marcos said.

In December last year, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources lifted a four-year ban on open-pit mining.

In a joint report this month by the economic team of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, the officials pushed for the revival of the mining industry to generate more revenues and jobs.

"A simple input-output analysis done as part of the phase-one review showed that mining and quarrying contributed significantly to the regional gross domestic product (GDP) in regions where there are mining operations," read the joint report of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), the DENR, the Department of Finance (DOF), and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

In January, Marcos said he is open to allowing "sustainable" mining to operate in the country even as he expressed reservations toward open-pit mining.



“We have a lot of natural resources in the Philippines. We should, especially in these difficult times, take advantage of that. However, we have seen some of the disasters that have happened when it comes to mining, we need to really avoid those,” he said during the campaign period.

“When it comes to open-pit mining, I think I’m a bit wary about that because it is very difficult to control, and the pollution that’s caused by open-pit mining, the leeching that occurs in open-pit mining, there are many occurrences where even the mine has been closed, they have covered it up, they have planted trees, built houses on it, then the poison comes out.”

Meanwhile, Marcos said he will complete the members of his incoming Cabinet before his inauguration on June 30.

“The shortlists are getting shorter. If we started with 10 names, a dozen names, we are down to maybe three or two in each of those departments,” he said.

As for his Health Secretary, Marcos said he may already announce his nominee “within the next week or so.”





## Marcos eyes VAT from partially-processed ore exports

By Azer Parrocha

 June 20, 2022, 10:24 pm

MANILA – Instead of increasing taxes on mining, President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday said he is eyeing the collection of value-added taxes (VAT) from the export of partially-processed ore.

“What we would like to do is encourage that the value added [taxes] to the raw ore stay in the Philippines as much as possible. Whether there should be fiscal measures in that regard is something we have not decided on and what the levels that will be. But I think what we are trying to achieve, the desired result for all of this, is instead of exporting raw ore, we export at least partially-processed ore so that may value added that’s left in the Philippines,” he said in a press briefing in Mandaluyong City.

Marcos also emphasized the need to push for “clean mining” in the country, citing its negative environmental impact.

“I cannot believe that here in the Philippines we cannot monitor and regulate the mining industry sufficiently so that we can have clean mining in the country,” he said.

He lamented that practices in the mining industry in the country remain problematic.

“We have to view the natural resources as a national treasure which can help the Philippines a great deal. It is only up to us to ensure that the practices that we see in the mining operations in the country are such that they are environmentally neutral,” he added.

Earlier, the economic team of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte pushed for the revival of the mining industry to generate more jobs.

Duterte has repeatedly urged the mining industry to observe stricter environmental rules or risk getting shut down.

In April 2021, Duterte issued an executive order lifting the nine-year moratorium on mineral agreements to spur economic growth and support projects and programs of the government.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in December 2021, issued an administrative order lifting the four-year ban on the open-pit method of mining. (PNA)



## Bataan nuclear plant unsafe due to 'potentially active' volcano: scientist



Pola Rubio · Contributor

Mon, June 20, 2022, 12:03 PM · 3 min read



This photo taken on April 5, 2022 shows a security guard walking in front of the main gate of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the town of Morong in Bataan province, north of Manila, Philippines. The nuclear power plant built in the disaster-prone Philippines during Ferdinand Marcos's regime, but never switched on due to safety fears and corruption, could be revived if his son wins the May 9 presidential poll. (Photo by TED ALJIBE/AFP via Getty Images)

A Filipino-American geologist has criticized the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute's (PNRI) claim that the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) was safe for rehabilitation, citing the existence of a "potentially active" volcano near the plant.

In a webinar by scientist non-government organization (AGHAM) on Saturday (June 18), Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said that the worst danger facing BNPP is the possible explosion of Mount Natib.

Mount Natib is a dormant stratovolcano and caldera complex which occupies the northern portion of the Bataan Peninsula. It is classified by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology as "potentially active."

PNRI director Carlo Arcilla has been pushing for the activation of the BNPP, saying that it was an option that could be included in a nuclear program and that some countries have expressed interest in activating the plant.



However, Rodolfo said that Arcilla mistakenly located the nuclear plant 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.

He noted that 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."

Meanwhile, Dr. Rodolfo urged the Philippines' neighboring countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Korea, to advocate against the proposed revival of the mothballed plant.

"I hope that all of these countries will be so worried so that the international atomic agency will not allow us to open it. Of course, the nuclear industry is so crazy, who knows what they can do," Rodolfo said.

He added that chemicals that will be used in the plant pose a great danger to the locals.

"The biggest problem with the BNPP is [the] used fuel, after 4-6 years 20 percent of fuel assembly uranium remains, it's very radioactive," Rodolfo said.

'Focus on safer, cheaper, cleaner energy sources'

University of the Philippines assistant professor and structural engineer Joshua Agar in the same webinar said that the government should focus on safer, cheaper, and cleaner energy sources such as biomass, geothermal, solar, hydro, ocean, and wind power.

"Yung ocean energy bago, paghahaluin yung warm at cold water sa ilalim at yun ang ipa-process ng turbine (For ocean energy, warm and cold water is mixed and processed by a turbine," Agar noted.

Around 57% of the country's energy source comes from coal, 11% from geothermal, 7% hydropower, 3% from oil, and 1% from wind.



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# 'Benguet's large-scale mines need reforms'

By Dexter A. See    June 21, 2022    20

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet: Three large-scale mining companies should undergo reforms in order to stimulate socioeconomic development and ensure environmental protection in its respective areas of operation.

Based on the synthesis of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC)'s review of large-scale metallic mining operations in the Philippines released by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), most of the mining operations that had been subjected to audit from 2018 to 2020 would need either minor or major reforms to guarantee compliance with existing laws and regulations.

The study disclosed that Benguet Corp. based in Itogon town needs to undergo major reforms while Philex Mining Corp. based in Tuba and Itogon towns and Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company based in Mankayan town should introduce minor reforms in their operations and address some technical and environmental concerns.

The MICC review was conducted in two phases and covered a total of 45 large-scale metallic mining operations. A panel of experts identified by the NEDA, which sits as MICC secretariat, led the review.

Based on the review, four mining operations showed excellent benchmarks for future mining entrants, whether open-pit or underground mining.

These are OceanaGold Philippines in Nueva Vizcaya, Cagdianao Mining Corp. in Dinagat Islands, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. in Palawan, and Agata Mining Ventures in Agusan del Norte.

The review said OceanaGold has a state-of-the-art, fully mechanized underground system that yields higher ore production while the three other nickel mines demonstrated several innovations in mining operations and environment management, leading to recognition and awards at local and international levels.

Unfortunately, 15 out of the 45 need major reforms. These were largely nickel mining operations, half of which were in Caraga, with the other half spread in different regions.

Meanwhile, the remaining 24 mining firms were rated as needing "minor reforms."

In classifying the mining operations by their indexes, the experts applied a range of average scores to represent the indexes, namely, good, needing minor corrections, major reforms, or poor.

The rating covered the legal, technical, environmental, social, and economic aspects of every mining operation.

Following the review, the experts made recommendations that firms need to carry out. Among these include enhancing monitoring and substantive legal compliance, improving technical efficiency and productivity, protecting and enhancing the environment and natural capital, improving community and household human and social capital, and prioritizing and sustaining local economic growth beyond the mine life.





## BBM pamumunuan ang Department of Agriculture

Malou Escudero - Pilipino Star Ngayon 

June 21, 2022 | 12:00am



File photo shows Philippine President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr.(C) was proclaimed by Senate President Vicente Sotto (L) and House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco as duly-elected president at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, suburban Manila on May 25, 2022.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Pamumunuan ni President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang Department of Agriculture (DA) kasabay ng kanyang panunungkulan bilang Pangulo ng bansa sa unang bahagi ng kanyang administrasyon.

Si Marcos mismo ang nag-anunsyo kahapon sa kanyang hahawakang posisyon bago ang kanyang panunumpa bilang pangulo sa Hunyo 30.

Ipinahiwatig ni Marcos na pansamantala lamang ang gagawin niyang paghawak sa DA habang inihahanda ang departamento sa mga susunod na taon.

“I have decided to take on the portfolio of Secretary of Agriculture, at least for now... At least until we can re-organize the Department of Agriculture in a way that will make it ready for the next years to come,” ani Marcos sa isang press briefing.

Aminado si Marcos na malaki ang problema sa agrikultura kaya siya na muna ang hahawak sa DA.

Ayon pa sa incoming President, marami ang kailangang palitan at mga opisina na hindi nagagamit para mas maging kapaki-pakinabang pagkatapos ng pandemya.

Tiniyak din ni Marcos na magkakaroon ng “restructuring” sa DA.





“Marami tayong ka-ila-ngan palitan, iba’t ibang opisina na hindi na nagagamit na kailangang i-retool post-pandemic. We’re going back to basics and we will rebuild the value chain of agriculture,” ani Marcos.

Ipinunto rin ni Marcos na maraming mga prayoridad pagdating sa agrikultura lalo na ang pagpapataas ng produksiyon.

Nagbabala rin si Marcos na magkakaroon ng kakulangan sa pagkain sa mga susunod na panahon dahil sa mga nangyayari sa labas ng bansa na nakakaapekto sa suplay ng pagkain.

“There will be a shortage or increase in food prices in the next quarters that will come, simply because of outside forces that have been impacting upon food supply,” ani Marcos.



## Earth power: Geothermal energy and climate change



BROADCAST - Jing Castañeda - Philstar.com

June 20, 2022 | 9:00am



One of the geothermal power plant facilities of the Energy Development Corporation in Tongonan, Kananga, Leyte. In Leyte, the company currently sustains four geothermal power plants, Tongonan 1, Upper Mahiao, Malitbog, and Mahanagdong, generating a total baseload capacity of 669.5 MW of clean, reliable, stable electric power for over 40 years now.

“Climate change is the single greatest threat to a sustainable future but, at the same time addressing the climate challenge presents a golden opportunity to promote prosperity, security, and a brighter future for all.” These poignant and impactful words by former UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon are perhaps the most apt when it comes to describing “Geo Talks” - our special episode on Pamilya Talk about geothermal energy. I had the privilege of interviewing Carlo Lorenzo Vega, Vice President for Power Marketing, Trading and Economics of First Gen Corporation, and Jeff Caranto, AVP and Head of Exploration of the Energy Development Corporation (EDC), who shed light on the future of geothermal energy in our country and how it can help fight climate change, while also helping consumers lower their electric bills.

Right at the start, Jeff already brought up a very good point about how tropical nations like ours are the first to feel the effects of the climate crisis, and this is most underscored by the number and intensity of typhoons we experience each year.

“Ayon sa pag-aaral, isa ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa buong mundo na pinaka-vulnerable sa climate change ... marami tayong nararanasang malalakas na bagyo ngayon ... parami nang parami at lumalakas pa,” Jeff shared.

But Jeff -- who’s also the President of the National Geothermal Association of the Philippines (NGAP) -- was also quick to point out that with everyone’s help, the climate crisis can still be turned around.



One effective way is by using renewable energy (RE), specifically geothermal energy which, he said, is the best RE in the country. Interestingly enough, according to studies, the energy industry's value added with economic development drives coal usage, and vice versa. Geothermal energy and coal have a counterintuitive positive and negative impact on carbon pollution, in the long and short term respectively. These findings are related to the nature of the Philippines' electricity supply, which is predominantly dominated by fossil fuels, and highlight the need to expand the use of geothermal energy. To fulfill the brisk demand for electricity from factories, it is critical to provide the conditions for scale effects and efficiency advances in the geothermal industry.

After the United States of America and Indonesia, the Philippines is the third largest generator of geothermal electricity. Geothermal exploration began in 1962, and the first significant commercial power units came online in two locations in 1979. By 1984, four geothermal fields had a combined installed capacity of 890 MW, supplying approximately 20% of the country's electric demands. The oil crisis and quickly expanding power demand, government support, available foreign money, and a combination of corporate and government investment and technical competence all aided geothermal energy development in the mid-1970s.

Since renewable energy has been seen to be a great solution to the climate crisis, we're sitting on a veritable goldmine of 24/7 geothermal energy because of the country's strategic location in the ring of fire. Dormant volcanoes are the primary source of geothermal energy, and unlike Mt. Pinatubo or Taal volcano, the dormancy of volcanoes is integral to the development and harnessing of this power to good and positive means. Jeff mentioned how the geothermal plants of EDC supply the entirety of Negros, Panay, and parts of Cebu – with the oldest plant in Leyte producing adequate geothermal energy for the past forty years and it doesn't look like there are any signs of it slowing down.

Carlo, on the other hand, further explained that increasing the supply of available energy through geothermal energy will tremendously lower consumers' electric bills by the simple economic principle of supply and demand. Since the distribution utilities have a monopoly currently on energy generation and distribution, the common Juan is at the mercy of the prices set by the distributors because of the costs incurred to generate, store, and distribute energy.

This is echoed in the energy crisis the world is feeling due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has imposed daunting sanctions on the oil-producing Northern Bear and even has carefree American motorists looking into carpooling and bicycling to cut costs at the pump.

Knowing the extent of Philippine-Ukrainian relations and weighing the power that Russia can exert over the Philippine economy, we must look to alternatives to ensure the continuous and relatively conflict-free state of Philippine energy production and distribution. The Philippines' outlook for the global energy crisis, even though we may be feeling the painful effects of a full tank of gas now, is overall an optimistic one. Secretary of Trade and Industry (DTI) Ramon Lopez is optimistic that the country will be able to weather the present oil price issue as the administration implements policies and programs to offset the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. Lopez stated that the Philippines was able to withstand post-World War II disasters such as the 1973, 1997, 2005, and 2008 oil crises, the Asian crisis in 1997, and the global financial crisis in 2008. "We've been through catastrophes, and the Philippines has always been resilient." "We just keep moving forward while we try to mitigate the impact," he remarked at a recent Kapihan sa Manila Bay.



However, there may be more to the rosy outlook mentioned by Mr. Lopez through the GEOP – or the Green Energy Option Program which Carlo discussed in our interview. GEOP is one of several initiatives established by the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 to stimulate the growth of renewable energy in the country. The program allows consumers to get their electricity from renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, ocean energy, and hydropower.

Electricity consumers are no longer limited to obtaining their supply from the distribution company closest to them. Eligible consumers can now select from a variety of "Renewable Energy Suppliers" authorized by the DOE to obtain energy from renewable energy installations. EDC is just one of these suppliers. GEOP intends to contribute to energy sustainability and further competition in the electrical market through such a system.

“It allows some end users to be able to choose where to buy energy from. Ang sinasabi ng GEOP, puwede kang lumipat outside of your distribution utility pero dapat renewable energy ang bibilhin mo... So yung GEOP is specifically asking end users to switch to renewable energy. May stages, may requirements, pero ang importante, may choice na, puwede ka nang pumili,” Carlo explained.

But Carlo and Jeff both admit that the lack of awareness about renewable energy sources like geothermal energy is one of the challenges why even qualified consumers are unable to make the shift. Government also needs to be more consistent and dynamic in crafting and implementing laws on RE to make these energy sources even more accessible to the public.

Carlo and Jeff are one in enjoining the public to be geothermal advocates. “When it comes to the fight against climate change, all of us would have to say na walang isang solusyon. There’s no silver bullet. But definitely using renewable energy sources, especially geothermal, is a good way o mabisang panlaban sa climate change... Hinihikayat ko ang lahat na sama-sama tayong tumawid ng finish line to a cleaner and greener future,” Carlo said.

“Kung EDC lang ang nagpu-push ng efforts or what we’re doing in terms of energy sources para pabagalin yung climate change, kung kami lang ang nasa dulo, we would have failed kung karamihan sa kasama namin ay hindi naman sumama doon. We encourage everyone to join us in this advocacy, hindi lang yung geothermal kundi the entire renewable energy industry,” Jeff imparted.

Let’s all make a difference in how we conserve energy, conserve money, and conserve the planet. No effort is too small, especially if we remember that we have not necessarily inherited the Earth from our parents – we are merely borrowing it from our children.



## Spain, Germany battle wildfires amid heat wave



By Associated Press



June 21, 2022



10



BLAZING THROUGH This June 18, 2022 file photo shows flames raging in a field in Ariza, northern Spain. AP PHOTO

BARCELONA: Firefighters in Spain and Germany struggled to contain wildfires on Sunday amid an unusual heat wave in western Europe for this time of year.

The worst damage in Spain has been in the northwest province of Zamora, where over 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) have been consumed, regional authorities said, while German officials said residents of three villages near the capital Berlin were ordered to leave their homes because of an approaching wildfire on Sunday.

Spanish authorities said that after three days of high temperatures, high winds and low humidity, some respite came with dropping temperatures on Sunday morning. That allowed for about 650 firefighters, supported by water-dumping aircraft, to establish a perimeter around the fire that started in Zamora's Sierra de la Culebra. Authorities warned there was still a danger that an unfavorable shift in weather could revive the blaze that caused the evacuation of 18 villages.

Spain has been on alert for an outbreak of intense wildfires as the southern European country swelters under record temperatures at many points in the country for June. Experts link the abnormally hot period for Europe to climate change. Thermometers have risen above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in many Spanish cities throughout the week — temperatures usually expected in August.

A lack of rainfall this year and gusting winds have produced the conditions for the fires.



Authorities said gusting winds of up 70 kilometers per hour (43 miles per hour) that changed course erratically, combined with temperatures near 40 degrees Celsius, made it very tough for crews.

"The fire was able to cross a reservoir some 500 meters wide and reach the other side, to give you an idea of the difficulties we faced," Juan Suárez-Quiñones, an official for Castilla y León region, told Spanish state broadcaster Televisión Española, or TVE.

The fire in Zamora was started by a strike from an electrical storm last Wednesday. The blaze caused the high-speed train service from Madrid to Spain's northwest to be cut last Saturday. It was reestablished on Sunday morning.

Military firefighting units have been deployed in Zamora, Navarra and Lleida.

There have been no reports of lives lost, but the flames reached the outskirts of some villages both in Zamora and Navarra. Videos shot by passengers in cars showed flames licking the sides of roads. In other villages, residents looked on in despair as black plumes rose from nearby hills.

In central-north Navarra, authorities have evacuated some 15 small villages as a precaution, as the high temperatures in the area are not expected to drop until Wednesday.

Wildfires were also active in three parts of northeast Catalonia: in Lleida, in Tarragona and in a nature park in Garaf, just south of Barcelona.

Firefighters said 2,700 ha (6,600 ac) were scorched in Lleida. They added that they have responded to over 200 different wildfires just in Catalonia over the past week.

Germany has also seen numerous wildfires in recent days after a period of intense heat and little rain. The country's national weather agency said temperatures reached 39.2 degrees Celsius (102.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in the eastern cities of Dresden and Cottbus on Sunday.

Strong winds have been fanning a blaze near the town of Treuenbrietzen, about 50 km (31 mi) southwest of Berlin, prompting officials to order three villages evacuated on Sunday.

About 600 people in Frohnsdorf, Tiefenbrunnen and Klausdorf were told to immediately seek shelter at a community center.

"This is not a drill," town officials tweeted.

More than 1,400 firefighters, soldiers and civil defense experts were deployed to tackle the blaze, which also affected a former military training area known to be contaminated with ammunition.

Officials expressed hope on Sunday night that thunderstorms moving in from the west would help put out the fires.



## Second wave of stifling heat could bring over 100 high temperature records as enormous heat dome shifts eastward

By Elizabeth Wolfe and Robert Shreckelford, CNN  
Published Jun 20, 2022 4:26:55 PM



Advertisement

(CNN) -- The persistent heat dome which imposed oppressively high temperatures on the northern Plains and Midwest over the weekend will begin to shift further eastward this week, ending a short reprieve that many states in the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic have had in recent days.

In the coming week, there are over 100 high temperature records that could be broken, mainly across the southern and eastern regions of the US.

Many areas expected to set records were also hit with extreme heat last week when a massive heat dome brought triple-digit temperatures to states across the eastern US and Midwest, breaking record daily highs in several cities.

This past weekend saw several new daily record high temperatures, including in New Orleans, which clocked a high of 97 degrees, and in Mobile, Alabama, which surpassed its 1913 record of 100 degrees when it inched up to 101 degrees on Saturday.

As of early Monday morning, more than nine million people were under heat alerts across eight states in the northern and central US, including Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Kansas.

But this number is expected to increase throughout the week as the heat continues to build across the northern Plains, Midwest and Gulf Coast on Monday, potentially bringing triple-digit temperature records as it progresses into the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic on Tuesday.

Many communities battling the heat may not get much relief at night, either, as there are an additional 100 record high overnight low temperatures forecast to be broken throughout the week.

The continuing heat follows a week in which extreme weather struck millions of people across the US. In addition to the massive heat dome, historic flooding inundated Yellowstone National Park and its surrounding communities, wildfires blazed in Arizona and New Mexico, and severe storms in the upper Midwest and Ohio River Valley caused widespread power outages.

Hundreds of thousands of people, including about 180,000 in Ohio, had to endure excessive heat wave temperatures without electricity due to the outages.

Heat-related illness is a major concern

Though most heat-related illnesses are preventable through outreach and intervention efforts, they are still the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the US, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency.



Extremely high temperatures can lead to common heat-related conditions such as heatstroke and heat exhaustion, which occur when the body is unable to properly cool itself. It can also impose significant strain on the heart and make breathing more difficult.

Infants, children, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses or mental health problems are especially vulnerable to heat-related illnesses, though young and healthy people may be affected, too, if they are doing strenuous activity in excessive temperatures, according to the CDC.

While children do not die from heat-related illnesses as much as the elderly, a study published in January found that "climate shocks" like sweltering heat waves can cumulatively affect a child's long-term health. Over time, such events may contribute to significantly higher rates of substance abuse and health problems like cancer and heart disease, researchers said.

As climate change drives temperatures higher, scientists expect heat to make even more people ill, especially because heatwaves are becoming more frequent.

In the 1960s, Americans saw an average of two heatwaves a year, but by the 2010s, the average increased to six per year, according to the EPA.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "Second wave of stifling heat could bring over 100 high temperature records as enormous heat dome shifts eastward."





# Dirty air ‘cuts South Asia life expectancy by 5 years’

People living in South Asia could lose about five years of their lives on average unless air quality improves to WHO-prescribed levels, according to a new assessment.

Released Tuesday by the University of Chicago’s Energy Policy Institute, the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report for 2022 says that air pollution is the biggest threat to human life globally. The Index finds that particulate air pollution takes 2.2 years off global average life expectancy comparable to that of smoking, and far exceeding that of alcohol use, unsafe water, HIV/AIDS and terrorism.

Despite ambitious schemes to control aerial pollutants, some 510 million residents of the Indo-Gangetic plains of northern India stand to lose as much as 7.6 years of life expectancy, if the current high levels of pollution persist, according to a media release on the report.

The title of the world’s most polluted country now falls to Bangladesh where air pollution shortens average life expectancy by 6.7 years with the most polluted districts showing lives shortened by 8.1 years. All of Bangladesh’s 161 million people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO ideal as well as the country’s own national standard.

While the air over Bangladesh is 15 times worse than the WHO standard, two other countries along the Indo-Gangetic plains, Nepal and Pakistan, have air quality that is nine times worse than the WHO-prescribed safe limit of five micrograms per cubic metre.

Air quality scientists like Bhupendra Das, director of Nepal Energy and Environment Development Services, Kathmandu, lays the blame on the increase in all kinds of combustion in the region as part of development.

“The rapid increase in combustion technology [such as in transport], open burning sources [such as agricultural fields and forests] ... and trans-boundary air pollution, are all contributing to the rise in air pollution in South Asia,” says Das.

Residents of India’s Delhi stand to gain 10 years of life expectancy if levels of PM 2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns) are brought down to the five micrograms per cubic metre target.

“The latest Air Quality Life Index sends out an important policy message that if we, in the Indo-Gangetic plains, including northern India and the adjacent countries, clean up the air we will live longer and improve overall wellbeing and productivity,” said Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director of research and advocacy at the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

“Delhi shut down coal-fired power plants, banned dirty fuels, scaled-up use of natural gas for industry and for public transport but the ever-worsening situation shows that the time has come for even more difficult and inconvenient solutions,” explained Roy Chowdhury.



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Michael Greenstone, creator of the Air Quality Life Index and director of the Energy Policy Institute, said strong policies, “supported by an equally strong willingness for change”, had successfully reduced air pollution in many countries, such as the US.

According to the report, despite the pandemic lockdowns, there was barely any improvement in pollution levels during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, underscoring the long-term persistent health threats.

Almost all of South-East Asia is now considered to have unsafe levels of pollution. Residents living in the most polluted parts and in the surrounding cities of Mandalay, Hanoi and Jakarta are expected to lose three to four years of life expectancy on average.

Similarly, almost all of Central and West Africa are considered unsafe, with those living in the most polluted areas expected to see their lives shorten by an average of five years.

China, among the top five most polluted countries for the last two decades, has reduced its PM 2.5 pollution by 28 per cent so that its people can expect to live 1.4 years longer, according to the AQLI. The Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area saw a 33 per cent reduction in pollution, translating into a gain of 2.6 years of life expectancy for some 109 million residents.

Despite the significant improvements, China still ranks as the world’s tenth most polluted country assessed by AQLI.

This article was originally published on SciDev.Net. Read the original article.

JUNE 21, 2022 TUESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



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Editor  
Robert Inwards L. Abaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REGIONS



**CLEANER BEACH** Tourists, in this photo taken on June 16, have been coming in droves to Boracay Island as travel restrictions ease. The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, also on June 16, turned over the island's management to the local governments in Aklan, with water and beach quality vastly improved following four years of rehabilitation work. —[www.pna.com.ph](http://www.pna.com.ph)

FINISHING REHAB IS MAIN RESPONSIBILITY

**TASK FORCE TURNS OVER BORACAY ISLAND TO AKLAN LOCAL GOV'TS**

**ILOILO CITY**—The government body spearheading the rehabilitation of Boracay has formally turned over the management of its unfinished tasks on the island to the local governments in Aklan province.

In a ceremony on the island on June 16, the Boracay In-

ter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) turned over the responsibility of the rehabilitation of the island to the Aklan provincial government and the municipal government of Malay, where the 1,032-hectare island is located.

"We will be turning over

the responsibility to the [local government] but we will not stop monitoring all the rehabilitation projects we have implemented since the closure of Boracay," Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sarpulna told reporters.

Sarpulna said the Depart-

ment of Environment and Natural Resources would continue to monitor the rehabilitation of the island.

Also present during the turnover ceremony and activities were former Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores,

Acting Malay Mayor Evulbar Bautista and officials of the Department of Tourism and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The BIATF, which was created in May 2018, will be dissolved when the term of President Duterte ends on June 30.

The island was closed to tourists from April 26 to Oct. 25, 2018 after Mr. Duterte described the island as a "cesspool" due to pollution.

Officials said the rehabilitation of the island had resulted in a cleaner and healthier land. —[www.pna.com.ph](http://www.pna.com.ph)



# DENR, PCG craft plan to boost coastal ecosystems protection

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonmayuga

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) will craft an operational plan to identify short-term and long-term goals and activities that will strengthen the protection and conservation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems.

The operational plan will be anchored on the stipulations of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) recently signed by the

DENR and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) as part of the celebration of the World Ocean Day to address the coastal and marine environment protection and conservation gaps.

Formalizing the partnership between the two agencies on June 8 were DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino and PCG Commandant Admiral Artemio M. Abu.

"Working hand in hand with PCG will strengthen our capacity to protect our ocean and marine ecosystems moving forward. With alarming threats the ocean faces

today, we need collective action to protect it as it ultimately sustains all of us," DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna said in a news statement.

The partnership aims to harmonize the conservation and protection efforts between the DENR-BMB and PCG, particularly in deterring illegal activities within marine protected areas (MPAs) and maintaining the balance and ecological integrity of the country's marine ecosystems.

"As a bureau supervising marine protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System

or NIPAS, we have certain limitations in terms of enforcement and logistics.

There are gaps in addressing marine-related incidences and violations of the law. So there's really a need to synergize protocols between the PCG and the BMB as well as collaborate to augment each other's resources," Bernardino pointed out.

For his part, the PCG Deputy Chief of Coastal Guard Staff for Marine Environmental Protection CG-9 Captain Lazaro Ernesto C. Valdez Jr. said he looks forward to more cohesive cooperation with

the DENR.

The MOA between the DENR and PCG also establishes the exchange of technical expertise, information, and assistance on the demarcation and marker buoy installation of MPAs under the NIPAS framework; facilitation of capacity-building activities; and development of reporting mechanisms on marine vessel-related incidents, such as oil spills and ship grounding.

"Enforcement must be participatory, consultative, science-based, and sustainable. We will be committed. You can count on our

sincerity and active involvement in putting this agreement to motion," Abu said.

The partnership will also streamline joint activities and assistance during water quality monitoring; enforcement of wildlife laws; and marine research expeditions within MPAs, the West Philippine Sea, and the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve.

Joint marine protection activities will also be implemented, such as coastal and underwater cleanups and intensified communication, education, and public awareness activities.



## Gov't forms task force vs real estate scammers

The government has created a national task force that will put an end to scams and other malpractices in the real estate sector.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) has rolled out the National Task Force on Anti-Illegal Real Estate Practice to end the scams through proactive measures.

The Departments of Justice, Interior and Local Government and Environment and Natural Resources, Land Registration Authority, Professional Regulation Commission, Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation are also part of the task force.

DHSUD chief Eduardo del Rosario said the inter-agency panel aims to end the fraudulent activities in the housing and real estate industry.

"Each of our partner agencies has a crucial role in the implementation of a comprehensive program to address illegal real estate practices," he said.

Del Rosario said aside from ensuring the elimination of fraudulent real estate practices, the task force will also spearhead activities promoting public awareness and develop capacity-building plans.

Public clamor amid rising cases related to illegal real estate practices led to the task force's establishment, he said.

Part of the DHSUD's mandate is to protect the interest and livelihood of licensed brokers and real estate developers, as well as safeguard homebuyers from being duped.

— Louise Maureen Simeon, Elizabeth Marcelo



## Incoming...

From A1

been the case as we are all aware of," he said in a press briefing Monday.

"I don't believe that we cannot monitor and regulate the mining industry for it to be efficient and clean," he added at the BBM campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City.

As to proposals to increase mining taxes, Marcos said he will have to discuss it first with his economic team.

"We are trying to address that with more value-added... What we are trying to achieve is to decrease the export of raw ore. We could export partially processed ore instead so there is value-added," he said.

"As to the fiscal measures needed, we haven't decided on that yet and what levels those will be," Marcos said.

In December last year, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources lifted a four-year ban on open-pit mining.

In a joint report this month by the economic team of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, the officials pushed for the revival of the mining industry to generate more revenues and jobs.

"A simple input-output analysis done as part of the phase-one review showed that mining and quarrying contributed significantly to the regional gross domestic product (GDP) in regions where there are mining operations," read the joint report of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), the DENR, the Department of Finance (DOF), and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

In January, Marcos said he is open to allowing "sustainable" mining to operate in the country even as he expressed reservations toward open-pit mining.

"We have a lot of natural resources in the Philippines. We should, especially in these difficult times, take advantage of that. However, we have seen some of the disasters that have happened when it comes to mining, we need to really avoid those," he said during the campaign period. **Vince Lopez and Rey Requejo**

# Incoming gov't to pursue 'clean' mining, export of processed ore

PRESIDENT-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed a preference for collecting value-added taxes from the exportation of partially processed ore instead of hiking mining taxes to generate more revenues.

Marcos said as a matter of policy,

the country's natural resource should be viewed as "a treasure which could help the Philippines a great deal."

"We must ensure that practices we see in mining operations are environmentally neutral, although that has not necessarily

*Next page*



### **Bahagi ng Sierra Madre, gumuho**

**GUMUHO** ang isang bahagi ng Sierra Madre sa mga bayan ng San Agustin, Isabela at Maddela, Quirino.

Gayunman, nilinaw ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region 2 na walang natutunan na ilegal na aktibidad sa landslide incident sa Sierra Madre.

Ayon kay regional executive director Gwendilyn Bambalan ng DENR – Region 2, naganap ang landslide sa Sitio Dioriong, barangay Villa Gracia, sa Maddela.

Natatakpan ang nabanggit na lugar ng Mossy Forest at limestone rock formation sa loob ng Quirino protected landscape.

Natural lamang arya itong pangyayari dahil sa malakas na pag-ulan noong mga nakalipas na araw.

Wala namang nasaktan sa landslide dahil walang naminirahan sa lugar.





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## SITWASYON NG SUPLAY NG TUBIG PARTIKULAR SA METRO MANILA

NASA panahon na ang bansa ng tag-ulan pero ngayong buwang ito ng June ay wala pang bagyong nakapapasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility. Kaya marami ang nangangamba sa magiging sitwasyon ng suplay ng tubig partikular sa Metro Manila na 97% ay kumukuha at umaasa sa Angat Dam.

Pagdaling sa usapan ng tubig, ang may responsibilidad sa east side ng National Capital Region o mga lugar ng Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila (Santa Ana at San Andres), Marikina, Pasig,

Pateros, Quezon city, San Juan, at Taguig, at ang lalawigan ng Rizal ay ang Manila Water Company.

Nakapanayan ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady ang head ng Corporate Communication ng Manila Water Company, Inc. noong June 20. Ayon kay Jeric Sevilla "Nakapanayan na namin sa tuwing darating ang summer o tag-init sa bansa ay nagkakaroon ng manipis na suplay ng tubig, ngunit, may mga ginawa at ginagawang hakbang ang Manila Water para matugunan ang walang pulot na serbisyo o water shortage kapag tag-init".

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit pa sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa kung ikukumpara sa normal high-water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Base sa ulat ng PAGASA noong June 20 dam elevation, bumaba ang lebel ng tu-



big ng Angat dam sa 183.91 mtrs, tumaas sa Ipo Dam sa 100.54 at tumaas sa 78.97 meters sa La Mesa Dam.

Ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pakikipagtulungan ng iba pang mga ahensya ng gobyerno tulad ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), PAGASA, National Power Corporation (NPC) ay masusung binabantayan ang sitwasyon sa Angat dam at ang magiging epekto nito sa supply ng tubig para sa Metro Manila at ingasyon.

Base sa pinakahuling ulat, inaprubahan ng NWRB ang

paglalaan ng tubig sa MWSS at NIA para sa buwan ng Hunyo 2022. Ang MWSS makatatanggap ng 50 metro kubiko bawat segundo (CMS) habang ang Angat Hydropower Corp ay tataanggap ng 15 CMS.

Bagamat wala pang bagyong nakapapasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility, Walang dapat ikabahala sa suplay ng tubig sa National Capital Region lakung lao na sa Metro Manila, ito ang pagseseguro ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na pinamumunuan ni Dr. Seville David, Jr., bilang executive director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB).



## The Philippines makes it to CLCS

**T**HE Philippines, with its thousands of islands and peninsulas, is passionate in having a say on international bodies concerning laws in oceans and seas and their various interpretations. This has become doubly important in the wake of the current territorial dispute among the Philippines, China, Vietnam, and other claimants in the South China Sea.

The election of the Philippines, represented by NAMRIA Deputy Administrator Efren Carandang, to a seat in the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) 2023-2028, is therefore a huge victory. It is the first time the archipelagic state will serve in the commission, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York said.

**'This CLCS election has a sidebar that few people have noticed. Locsin vented his disappointment on Australia for not voting for the Philippines.'**

At the 32nd Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at the General Assembly in New York on June 15, the Philippines competed with eight other candidates under the APG, and successfully reached the required majority of votes. Out of a total 164 state parties present and voting, the Philippines garnered 113 votes after four tough rounds.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. was profuse with thanks to countries that voted for the Philippines' candidate as he called the victory the "voice" of law in the oceans and seas and the end of "cartelized" choices in the universal institution.

"To the countries that voted for the candidate of the Philippines which is the only one that studies to fight and win, on the merits, the rights of countries with continental shelves, I thank you," Locsin tweeted. "This is not a job but a mission." Locsin reserved his special show of gratitude for China, which supported the Philippines' bid despite the two nations' differences in the South China Sea.

This CLCS election has a sidebar that few people have noticed. Locsin vented his disappointment on Australia for not voting for the Philippines. He had reason to sulk because the DFA secretary really took a risk for the trilateral security pact among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS). He endorsed and aired support for the AUKUS even when President Duterte had yet to decide on the issue and was even partial to rejecting it.

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

This serves as a lesson on diplomacy for Locsin and the next DFA secretary. China, which is a rival in the South China Sea maritime issue, is in fact more accommodating to the Philippines than the West, represented here by Australia, a perceived ally.



**FILINVEST ADOPTS A PHL EAGLE:** The Filinvest Group, through its subsidiary FDC Utilities Inc., strengthens its commitment to environmental stewardship by supporting the protection and preservation of the Philippine Eagle. FDCUI entered into a five-year contract with the Philippine Eagle Foundation to formally adopt Dagitab, housed in an enclosure in the exhibit area at the Philippine Eagle Center in Barangay Malagos, Davao City. Photo shows employees of FDCUI and subsidiary FDC Misamis Power Corp. led by its president and CEO Juan Eugenio Roxas visiting the Philippine Eagle Center during the Philippine Eagle Week on June 10.



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## Green Antz teams up with Colgate-Palmolive PHL for plastic neutrality

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE Philippines and Green Antz Builders expanded a program on plastic waste collection to include Manila, Quezon City and Taguig City.

The program also includes more drop-off points for plastic waste in several Ayala Malls in Metro Manila.

Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Green Antz marked the first year of a closed loop plastic waste management initiative in Bulacan, which collected hundreds of tons of plastic waste in cooperation with five local government units (LGUs) and 112 public schools.

Plastic waste is collected by communities, schools and LGUs, which include Baliuag, Malolos City, Plaridel, Pulilan, and San Ildefonso. This is exchanged for bond paper, printers, segregation bins, clock towers, thermal scanners or alcohol dispensers for schools.

Green Antz then turns this plastic waste into eco-bricks, which are used to build handwashing stations for LGUs.

"Plastic waste is one of our most serious environmental problems, globally and locally... We are allocat-

ing resources to divert plastic waste away from landfills and the ocean, to help collect, recover and recycle the equivalent amount of plastic we generate in the market and achieve our vision of achieving plastic neutrality," Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev said in a statement.

Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Green Antz also recently renewed their partnership agreement as well as a memorandum of understanding with the Municipality of Plaridel.



EMPLOYEE WELFARE

# CSC OKAYS WFH, FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES FOR GOV'T WORKERS

By Krixia Subingsubing  
@krixiasINQ

More than two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, government agencies can now finally implement alternative work arrangements at any time for some 1.7 million employees, regardless of their status of appointment.

News about the approval of the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 2022-6, which took effect on June 15, came as a relief to Genevieve (not her real name) who went back to reporting to the office earlier this year.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources employee said that at the height of the pandemic, she was allowed to work from home (WFH), an arrangement she found more comfortable and productive.

"I did not have to worry about contracting the virus, and did not have to worry about the struggles of commuting to and from home, especially because during that time, it was very hard to [get a ride] due

# Flexi work OKd for gov't employees

## FROM A1

to restrictions," Genevieve told the Inquirer.

"It was also better for me because since I was at home, I had time for both work and side jobs that benefited me financially. I could do more at home than just sit in the office doing one type of work," she said.

The approval of the CSC memorandum circular, according to Genevieve, was a welcome development "with COVID-19 and everything."

"As a public servant, guidelines for us to go to work every day despite the pandemic have been strict, and it has been hard especially for seniors in the office. But I think that with this new resolution, productivity in

the workplace will increase, because we will feel more secure and mentally ready for whatever comes," she said.

### 2 years in the making

The CSC said the move was part of its efforts to institutionalize a more responsive and efficient bureaucracy as the country transitions to a post-pandemic new normal.

This is the first time it has institutionalized such a policy, which took two years to finalize. In doing so, the agency hopes to create a more "agile and flexible bureaucracy where workers and heads of agencies now have an automatic default during times of crises and emergencies," CSC Commissioner Aileen Lizada told the Inquirer.

"This is something new for the government and we would

like to see how it plays out now. Of course we have to make sure that all government services are running smoothly, but we also have to protect government workers and see to it that they also have a work-life balance," she said.

Under the CSC memorandum, general rules still apply: government agencies and employees must render service from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. every day, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Government offices can choose from any of the following arrangements:

- 1) Flexi place: workers can render services away from the office;
- 2) Compressed workweek: the 40-hour workweek can be compressed into four days or less instead of five;

3) Skeleton workforce: a minimum number of workers must report for office when full staffing is not possible;

4) Work shifting: for offices required to operate 24/7 or observe health and safety protocols;

5) Flexi time: employees can report anytime between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. as long as they complete the 40-hour workweek, or

6) A combination of all options.

Lizada clarified that the CSC was just presenting options because "no one formula [could] work for the entire bureaucracy."

She also pointed out that WFH arrangements should not be automatically adopted, saying these must be aligned with an agency's internal guidelines.

"For example, there are certain administrative tasks that [do not require one to] report [to

  
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the office anymore like accounting, research and policy formulation... it depends on the tasks that the agencies will consider appropriate for these schemes."

For those wishing to adopt flexi work arrangements, they must first formulate internal guidelines and submit these to their CSC regional office for recording and reference purposes.

They must also draw up performance standards, timelines and submissions of accomplishment reports in line with Republic Act No. 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business Act.

**No overtime pay**

Failure to accomplish their tasks within these parameters could be used to deny subsequent requests for flexi place work arrangements, Lizada said.

As for the downside, em-

ployees under flexi place arrangements are not entitled to compensatory overtime credit/overtime pay. They can collect this only if they physically report for work and render services beyond the normal eight-hour workdays/40-hour workweek, and on rest days and holidays.

Reasonable expenses incurred under flexi place setups, like electricity and internet connection bills, may also be defrayed by an agency only in case of a WFH arrangement during national or local out-breaks, or natural/man-made calamities.

Lizada said the government's experience could serve as a guide for the private sector, which was currently debating whether to adopt a similar work arrangement. INQ



**Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the proposed NCM Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project of NEW CARCAR MANUFACTURING INC. located in Barangay Pinarosa, Carcar City, Province of Cebu.

Notice is hereby given to all parts of who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed NCM Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Place
07 July 2022	1:00 PM (Registration will start at 12:30 PM)	City Services Gymnasium, Rego Parade, Carcar City, Cebu

This Public Hearing is being conducted in compliance with the New Carcar Manufacturing Inc. application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), The Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (E-PMMP) of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Proposer	New Carcar Manufacturing Inc.
Project Name	Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project
Project Location	Barangay Pinarosa, Carcar City, Province of Cebu
Components	Rolling Mill Slabs (Punching Mill, Intermediate Mill, Finishing Mill, Cooling Bed, Slabbing Area, Support Facilities (Billet Storage Area, Finished Goods Warehouse, Roll Shop, Fuel Storage, Generator Set, Substation, Rain Catchment Basin, Production Line, Admin. Building, Fabrication Office, Mechanical Office, Production Office, Furnace Shop, Water Cooling System, Scale Pit, Reservoir, Septic Tanks)
Rationale	The Project is also envisioned to achieve the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job creation; Additional employment</li> <li>• Economic value preservation; Ensure that economic gains remain in the Philippines or the locale of the mill.</li> <li>• Ensure product quality; substitution of imported substandard steel with locally produced high quality products.</li> </ul>
Project Capacity	existing: 100,000 MTPY Proposed: 373,333 MTPY
Area	2,715 Hectares

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may fill their comments in a concise position paper submitted to the Chief, INDUSTRIAL, MINING, AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING DIVISION (EAMD) of this Office through email or send by courier, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [www.demr.gov.ph](http://www.demr.gov.ph) or you may directly access the Notice of Public Hearing Consultation and found in our website while copies will be available in the following offices:

EMB Region VII  
DENR Compound, Greenlans Subdivision,  
Davao, Marikina City  
Tel No. (022) 251-9177

EMB Carcar City  
City Hall, Carcar City, Cebu

For more details, please contact the EIAM Division of this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539-4533 local 116 and look for the project case handler Engr. Joel S. Polinario or at his email: [joel.polinario@demr.gov.ph](mailto:joel.polinario@demr.gov.ph)

MT - June 21 9 25, 2022



FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

**BP WATERWORKS, INC.,**  
Applicant. Case No. 22-3332

-----X-----

**NOTICE OF HEARING:**

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Juliard Homes Subdivision, Barangay Anabu II, Imus, Cavite, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m <sup>3</sup> (min.)	6-10 m <sup>3</sup>	11-20 m <sup>3</sup>	21-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-40 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 40 m <sup>3</sup>
½"	P 134.50	30.20	33.50	34.30	36.60	38.90

Commercial and Industrial					
Pipe Size	0-15 m <sup>3</sup> (min.)	16-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-500 m <sup>3</sup>	501-1000 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 1000 m <sup>3</sup>
½"	P 778.50	64.90	77.90	77.90	77.90

This application will be initially heard by the Board on 11 July 2022. The hearing will start at 9:00 o' clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2022.

By Authority of the Board:  
**Dr. SEVILLAS D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Bayan  
Imus, Cavite

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Juliard Homes Subdivision,  
Barangay Anabu II, Imus, Cavite

The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Anabu II  
Imus, Cavite





## Legal Notice



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**  
Regional Office No. XI  
2nd Floor EMB-MGB XI Bldg., 3rd Avenue corner V. Guzman Street, Brgy. 27-C, Davao City 8000  
Tel. No. (082) 221-8635 Telefax No. (082) 221-6595 Email: region11@mgb.gov.ph



Management System  
ISO 9001:2015

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF DR. HARLEM D. KHUA



Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21<sup>1</sup> that **Dr. Harlem D. Khua** with office address at **No. 56 Asia St., Hillside Subdivision, Lanesig, Davao City**, has filed an application for Exploration Permit for the exploration of **gold, silver and other associated minerals** particularly described as follows:

**I. Tenement Application No.:** EXPA 000272-XI  
**II. Date of Filing:** May 08, 2019  
**III. Area Location:** Barangay of **Panansalan**, Municipality of **Compostela**, Province of **Davao del Oro**

#### IV. Technical Description of the Area

Technical Description		
Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	7° 40' 00"	126° 13' 30"
2	7° 41' 30"	126° 13' 30"
3	7° 41' 30"	126° 14' 00"
4	7° 40' 30"	126° 14' 00"
5	7° 40' 30"	126° 15' 00"
6	7° 40' 00"	126° 15' 00"
Area = 424,0189 hectares		

Total Size of the Area: **424,0189** hectares, more or less

Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"

#### Exceptions:

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), and Section 105 ("Entry to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

<sup>1</sup> Providing for a Consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Code for the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, and growing/ripening forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon the written consent/clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: areas near or under the public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CAL/CAD/CALT), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking exploration therein;
- Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by RA No. 0057 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reforms Law of 1988, as amended,

including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

- Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, such as but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

#### VI. Duration of the Permit.

Exploration Permit shall have a term of two (2) years from the date of issuance thereof, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total

<sup>2</sup> Rules and regulations to implement Executive Order No. 79 dated 29 July 2012 entitled "Rationalizing and streamlining reforms in the Philippine Mining Sector providing policies and guidelines to assure environmental protection and responsible mining in the utilization of mineral resources"

term of four (4) years for nonmetallic mineral exploration or six (6) years for metallic mineral exploration.

Total duration of the Mineral Agreement shall be twenty-five (25) years from the date of execution subject to renewal for another period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years under the same terms and conditions. The same is subject to changes mutually agreed upon by both parties, provided that such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with law and do not prejudice the principle of sustainable development.

#### VII. Relinquishment

After the exploration period, the contractor/applicant is obliged to relinquish portions of the contract area that are not needed for the development and utilization.

#### VIII. Extent of activities/operations to be undertaken

Research Work, Reconnaissance / Regional Survey or Studies, Semi-detailed Survey or follow-up Studies, Topographic Survey, Detailed Survey and Subsurface Investigations will be conducted by the applicant.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims shall be filed directly within ten (10) days from the date of publication or from the last date of posting and announcement with the Regional Office concerned or through any PENRO or GENRO concerned for filing in the MGB Regional Office No. XI for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 and its implementing rules and regulations. Adverse claims, protests or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. XI located at 2nd Floor EMB - MGB - XI Bldg., 3rd Avenue corner V. Guzman Street, Brgy. 27-C, Davao City.

By the Authority of the Regional Director:

**BRENICE ANN M. GENEVE-GASTILLO**  
Chief, Mine Management Division

"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"

21 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# COVID-19 cases ‘peaking’ in Metro Manila, says DOH

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star June 21, 2022 | 12:00am



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

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) recorded 612 new COVID-19 infections on Sunday, the highest daily tally since the 690 infections registered on April 3.

The latest figure brings total infections to 3,696,264 while active cases were placed at 4,529, with recoveries reaching 3,631,268 and no new deaths recorded over the past three days.

Cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) are also starting to peak, as seen in the continuous increase in the numbers of cases over the past days.

“Right now, what we are seeing is that cases are continuously increasing, especially in the NCR. We can see that this is the start of the peak in the number of cases. We are guiding the public that this might be the start of the number of cases continuously rising in next couple of weeks,” DOH Undersecretary Rosario Vergeire said in a television interview.

The health official explained that the “start of the peak” only means that numbers will still climb in the coming weeks. She said the DOH is also closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Regions 6, 10, 1, 2, 4A and 4B.

The following regions recorded the most cases in the past two weeks: NCR (2,194) followed by Calabarzon (659), Western Visayas (375), Central Luzon (324) and Central Visayas (183).

On a per-week basis, 3,051 new infections were recorded from June 13 to 19, up by 82 percent compared to June 6 to 12. Over the past week, data showed there were six new COVID deaths while 15 new patients were in severe and critical conditions.

According to the DOH, the daily average number of new COVID-19 infections is 436 and as of June 19, there were 554 severe and critical admissions in the country with 385 occupying ICU beds.

Meanwhile, 4,033 patients are occupying COVID-19 beds, or 18.2 percent of the 22,156 total COVID-19 beds allocated nationwide.

According to Vergeire, the main factors that caused the increase is the entry of the different COVID-19 subvariants and sublineages, increased mobility of Filipinos to “pre-pandemic levels” and the problem of waning immunity from COVID-19, especially given the slow uptake in boosters.



## Not yet

There is no need yet for the general population to avail themselves of a second COVID booster shot because the benefit for people aged below 60 “is not that much,” DOH Technical Advisory Group member Dr. Edsel Salvaña said at the Laging Handa public briefing yesterday.

“It gives more protection for 60 years old and above. The protection from second booster shots is significant but below 60, the benefit is not that much,” Salvaña said. “The second booster shot is OK to be taken by those 60 years old and above and the immunocompromised group. But there is no need to rush for those who belong to the general or much younger population.”

“The data is not clear because studies made for second boosters is really in the elderly population. It doesn’t make sense that you will administer vaccines right away just because it is expiring, and the evidence is not yet clear. What if there are side effects? It is not that simple,” he said, noting that there is a need to have concrete basis or evidence that it is working before using a medicine or vaccine.

According to Vergeire, the country has 55 million individuals eligible to get their boosters. “We only have 14.7 million who have received their boosters. So we are looking at 41 million individuals who have not received boosters,” she said.

The DOH has issued reminders to the public that only frontline health care workers, senior citizens and immunocompromised adults are qualified to take the second booster shot or a fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The DOH said it is coordinating with its Regional Vaccination Operation Centers to strictly comply and focus efforts on administering the first booster shot to improve coverage before giving second boosters.



# DOH: COVID-19 cases up by 82% in past week

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 20, 2022 | 4:49pm



This photo taken on May 10, 2022 shows a man cycling past a building under construction in the Tondo district of Manila.

AFP / Chaideer Mahyuddin

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health said Monday that the number of COVID-19 infections recorded from June 13 to 19 was 82% higher than the cases reported from a week before.

The DOH tallied 3,051 additional cases, or 436 infections per day. This was a significant increase from 1,682 cases logged from June 6 to 12.

Of the new cases, 15 had severe and critical illness.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, the agency's spokesperson, earlier said that the continuous rise in cases, especially in Metro Manila, indicates the "start of the peak" in the number of infections.

The capital region, which will remain under the lowest COVID-19 alert level, is seeing a "rapid and sharp increase" in cases.

The DOH is also monitoring the uptick in cases in Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, and Northern Mindanao.

The presence of more transmissible Omicron subvariants, increased mobility, and the waning COVID-19 vaccine immunity of the public are fueling the rise in cases, authorities said.

## Healthcare utilization

There are currently 554 severe and critical admissions, which represent 10.2% of total COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the archipelago.

Data from the DOH showed that 14.6% of 2,636 beds in intensive care units have been occupied, while 18.2% of 22,156 non-ICU beds have been used.

Last week, the health agency said that the rise in cases did not translate to high severe and critical hospital admissions. Stricter quarantine restrictions would only be implemented if the spike in cases leads to increased hospital admissions

The DOH also reported that six deaths were verified in the past week.

Since March 2021, over 70 million Filipinos have completed vaccination against COVID-19. However, only 14.8 million out of the eligible 55 million recipients have gotten boosters.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/20/2189704/doh-covid-19-cases-82-past-week>

## 2nd booster still not available to general public

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 20, 2022 12:43:10 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 20)** — The majority of the Philippine population is still not eligible to take their second booster shot, despite a clamor for additional protection from COVID-19 subvariants.

Health Undersecretary and Spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said in an interview with CNN Philippines' *The Source* on Monday that until now, only health workers, the immunocompromised and the senior citizens can take their fourth vaccine shot.

She said there is still insufficient evidence about the benefits of a second booster to the general public, compared to the priority sectors who are more vulnerable to the virus.

"We always base our decisions on evidence. Currently, evidence for second boosters among the general population is still very sparse," Vergeire said. "There's really no direct evidence right now that it would provide more benefit to our general population when we give our second boosters to them."

Vergeire said they are primarily considering the ability of the body to protect itself from infection over the usual six-month period that is prescribed before taking the next dose.

"Actually, evidence as to the length of immunity that the vaccines provide for us is not really complete. We do not base it on the length of time but we base it on the ability of the body to produce antibodies that will make their immune system robust," she added.

"That's why we are prioritizing those who are vulnerable right now, not really the length of time that you are immune from this COVID-19 because of vaccines, but because of your ability to produce your antibodies to protect you from infection," she said.

Government data shows that as of June 17, a total of 70,005,247 Filipinos or 77.78% of the target population have been fully vaccinated. Around 14.7 million have also received their first booster, while 648,555 got their second booster dose.

The Department of Health warned about the ["start in the peak in the number"](#) of COVID-19 cases in NCR and some parts of the country.

The DOH earlier announced that it had detected the local transmission of Omicron subvariants BA.2.12.1 and BA.5, which are reportedly more transmissible than other variants.



Metro Manila and some other areas are still under Alert Level 1, the lowest COVID-19 risk classification until the end of June.

Vergeire said more than 41 million Filipinos have yet to take their booster. She called on the public not to wait for another surge before taking their additional shot if they are eligible to do so.

21 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



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