

22 JUNE 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, PCG to boost protection of marine environment

Published on: June 21, 2022

By Alaine Allanigue

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. Photo shows Manila Bay clean-up drive led by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. (PIA-NCR file)

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) -- 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. **(PIA-NCR)**



Aboitiz turns over Boracay wetland park to DENR, LGU

The Philippine Star June 22, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Aboitiz Group has turned over the newly rehabilitated Wetland No. 4 or the Balabag Wetland Park in Boracay to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as well as to the local government of Malay, Aklan.

The turnover, held on June 16, came after four years of transforming the then “wasteland” into what is now a wetland park.

As a testament to the company’s commitment to preserve the environment and protect Boracay, the one-hectare lagoon area in Barangay Balabag was transformed into a linear urban park in partnership with the DENR-Western Visayas, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Public Works and Highways, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the Department of Tourism.

The turnover was witnessed by DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu, Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores, Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista, DENR Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr., Environment Management Bureau executive director Natividad Bernardino, Department of the Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III, Justice Assistant Secretary Margaret Castillo-Padilla, TIEZA chief operating officer Mark Lapid and Martin Jose Despi of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group.

During the event, Aboitiz Group president and chief executive officer Sabin Aboitiz emphasized how important central partnerships such as this are to the Aboitiz Group’s transformation journey.

“The Aboitiz Group’s contribution to Boracay’s rehabilitation is part of our commitment to co-create safe, empowered and sustainable communities. As sustainability is a major part of our transformation into the Philippines’ first techglomerate, we will continue to do our part to uplift and bring focus to environmentally and socially impactful initiatives for all our stakeholders,” Aboitiz said.

Sampulna said the Balabag Wetland Park is another testament to the successful wetland rehabilitation on Boracay Island.

At the start of the rehabilitation project in 2018, the Aboitiz Group vowed to deploy nature-based solutions to make the wetland a functional public space.

By using low-impact eco-tourism designs, the Balabag Wetland Park become a recreational, educational and experiential space that raises awareness about the importance of wetlands.



DENR Region 8 uses 'fun way' to promote proper waste management

By Sarwell Meniano June 21, 2022, 3:38 pm



'BASURA BUSTER'. Pinas: Basura Buster (PBB) Mascot entertains the participants with a lively dance number together with the EMB staff during the regional launch at the Summit Hotel. They danced to DENR's solid waste management advocacy song "Kung Walang Aksaya, Masaya." (PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) are upbeat about raising the young generation's awareness of proper solid waste management via its new mascot and mobile game app.

On Tuesday, the agency launched the Pinas: Basura Buster (PBB) Mascot and Basura Buster mobile game during the Eastern Visayas Solid Waste Management (SWM) Advocacy Launch at the Summit Hotel here.

EMB regional director Reynaldo Barra said the campaign is to teach children on proper waste segregation, recycling, and disposal "the proper and fun way."

"We want to build a strong foundation on proper waste management while they are still young. The targets are children and youth since they will later serve as future ambassadors of solid waste management," Barra said in his speech.

PBB is DENR's solid waste management mascot and is the image of DENR's SWM program, which aims to attract support from the youth.

PBB entertained the participants with a lively dance number together with the EMB staff. They danced to DENR's solid waste management advocacy song "Kung Walang Aksaya, Masaya."

To further strengthen awareness of solid waste management in this digital age, the DENR developed the Basura Buster mobile game, which is an Android-based mobile gaming application designed for kids five to eight years old to "teach them proper waste segregation in a fun way."

The gaming app is one of the projects under the campaign, and the public can now download it for free from the Google Play Store. **(PNA)**



PENRO, DTI Antique partner for local products exhibit

Published on: June 21, 2022

By Bernard Ceasar Subilla

SAN JOSE, Antique (PIA) – The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Antique are currently holding a local products exhibit at PENRO Balangay Building, Brgy. Maybato Sur, here.

As part of the continuing celebration of the Philippine Environment Month, PENRO has partnered with DTI Antique to gather local manufacturers and producers with the purpose of promoting environment-friendly mechanisms in business operations.



Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Andres Untal, Supervising Trade-Industry Development Specialist Lynna Joy Cardinal, and KAMI Antique President Aben Ortega lead the ribbon-cutting of the local products exhibit at PENRO Balangay Building, June 20.

At least 20 exhibitors from KMME Association of Mentors/Mentees in Antique (KAMI Antique) feature their products in the event that will last until June 23.

KAMI Antique is a group of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have successfully completed the intensive 10-module Kapatid Mentor Me (KMME) mentorship and training program of DTI.

KAMI Antique President Aben Ortega expressed his gratitude to PENRO and DTI Antique for creating another opportunity for them to display their products and establish business networks, citing the importance of trade fairs and exhibits in augmenting their sales.

“More (business) channels, more sales,” he emphasized.



Ortega also thanked House Deputy Speaker and Antique Lone District Representative, now Senator-elect Loren Legarda for putting importance to MSMEs by allocating a venue at the Old Provincial Capitol to feature their proudly Antique-made products.





For her part, Supervising Trade-Industry Development Specialist Lynna Joy Cardinal underscored the need to provide constant assistance to MSMEs to ensure their growth and said that business owners who wish to be trained under the KMME program may signify their intent to DTI Antique.

Meanwhile, PENR Officer Andres Untal encourages the shift to indigenous packaging of applicable products as a way to contribute in the preservation of the environment. (AAL/BPS/PIA Antique)



DENR at DAR, nagbigay ng libreng titulo ng lupa sa mga magsasaka at dating rebelde sa Nueva Vizcaya

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DENR stages "Pistang Palaro" for employees

Published on: June 21, 2022

By Oliver Baccay

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan (PIA) - -The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staged skills and talent exhibition through the "Pistang Palaro" for its employees.

The event was part of the agency's 35th Founding Anniversary and observance of the Philippine Environment Month with the theme: "Pistang Pamilyang DENR para sa Tuloy-tuloy na Pagkakaisa at Tagumpay".



The team PENRO Cagayan wows the judges in their energetic performance in the Evolution Dance competition.

Employees from the regional office and the different provincial offices, including the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) competed in the different events including basketball, volleyball, badminton, amazing race, darts, scrabble, chess, vocal solo, vocal duet, cultural dance, evolution dance, and extemporaneous speech.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Nueva Vizcaya emerged as the overall champion, followed by PENROs of Isabela and Cagayan as second and third places, respectively.



Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan announces the winners of the cultural dance competition.



Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said unity and cooperation among the DENR workers have successfully attained the organization's goals.

She also expressed her gratitude to the employees of the DENR for supporting her leadership in the region.

The Pistang Palaro was held to promote physical fitness as it plays important role in employees' health and wellness which are essential to increase productivity in the workplace. (BME/OTB/PIA Cagayan)



Baguio tags 5K pine trees being preserved at Busol watershed

By Liza Agoot June 21, 2022, 2:58 pm



TREE INVENTORY. The city government is conducting an inventory of pine trees at the Busol watershed to allow it to come up with a comprehensive watershed management plan. The Busol watershed is the biggest and primary source of potable domestic water of Baguio City residents. *(PNA file photo)*

BAGUIO CITY – The city government has already identified and tagged 5,000 pine trees at the Busol watershed as part of its protection and conservation plans in one of the country's remaining forest reserves.

City Planning and Development officer Donna Tabangin on Tuesday said the inventory will be a major component of the ongoing preparation of the Busol Forest Management Plan, the updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and the Urban Regreening Program

“The city must include [the inventory in] its thrust to revitalize the environment and arrest urban decay,” she said.

The official said the activity started in April and is expected to be completed this June.

“To assure proper identification, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Watershed and Water Resources Research Development and Extension Center assisted the personnel to acquire skills on the proper tagging to avoid hurting the trees,” she said.

Tabangin said that for the trees' protection, the teams use water-based white latex paint on the lightly scraped surface of the tree trunks.

The inventory, tagging, and identification of the trees were spearheaded by the City Environment and Parks Management Office and barangays Ambiong, Brookspoint, East Bayan Park, and Pacdal that straddle the watershed's area.

Public Information Office chief Aileen Refuerzo said in a separate interview that the Busol Forest Reserve is the largest potable water source in the city, making it one of the centerpieces of the city's environmental preservation programs.

The city also has the Eco-walk project, in which schools "adopt" certain areas of the reservation for their tree planting and management activities, allowing school children to experience being inside the forest and planting a tree. The Eco-walk project gave the city a UNESCO recognition in the mid-1990s.

“We tell them, water does not come from your faucets, it comes from the forest like Busol that is why there is a need to preserve and plant trees, and to protect the watershed,” Refuerzo said. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177150>



Baguio tags 5,000 pine trees being preserved at Busol watershed



Busol watershed tree inventory (Photo from Public Information Office - City of Baguio's Facebook)

June 21, 2022

BAGUIO CITY – The city government has already identified and tagged 5,000 pine trees at the Busol watershed as part of its protection and conservation plans in one of the country's remaining forest reserves.

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“We tell them, water does not come from your faucets, it comes from the forest like Busol that is why there is a need to preserve and plant trees, and to protect the watershed,” Refuerzo said. **(PNA)**



Iloilo City beach forest site clearing starts

June 21, 2022

ILOILO CITY Mayor Jerry Treñas initiated the establishment of 1.6-hectare Iloilo City Beach Forest at the mouth of Iloilo-Batiano River and coastlines of Barangay Boulevard in Molo district which will start development works soon.

This is in line with one of the priority projects to counter climate change and mitigate pollution.

The area was cleared of illegal structures to pave way for the establishment of Botanical Garden and Biodiversity Conservation Park.

The mayor took to task the City Environment and Natural Resources Office to supervise the project in collaboration with Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office 6 and partners.

This is one of the three Tree Park Networks, together with Iloilo City Tree Park at Brgy. Lanit in Jaro and Mangrove Eco-Park at Barangay Hinactacan in La Paz. **(PR)**



NCR mayors join calls to cancel quarry agreements in Masungi

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 21 2022 01:24 PM | Updated as of Jun 21 2022 07:23 PM

MANILA — Several local officials, including Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro and Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, have joined growing calls for the immediate cancellation of 3 large-scale quarrying agreements covering the Masungi Georeserve, a protected forest area in Rizal province.

According to the local chief executives, their constituents have suffered the brunt of disastrous floods accelerated by the deforestation of upland mountains and the tampering with rivers.

"Pasig City is downstream the Upper Marikina Watershed. If we don't protect this area and stop deforestation, flooding will continue to get worse in the coming years," [Sotto](#) said on Twitter.

They urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to support conservation initiatives like the one for the Masungi Georeserve and cancel Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs), which covers more than 1,300 hectares of the protected watershed.

So far, the DENR has suspended quarrying agreements with three companies, which the agency said had been inactive since 2004.

"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,'" the letter read.

The local officials noted non-cancellation of MPSAs may "only give the quarries runway to operate later on and does not guarantee the conservation of the watershed area".

Other signatories include Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Angono Vice Mayor Gerardo Caldero and several village chiefs in Marikina.

For Ann Dumaliang, trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation, the support of local officials is a "huge turning point" in their campaign against quarrying in Masungi.

"We're very grateful for their solidarity and initiative. I believe this is a huge turning point in the campaign to protect these mountains and the reforestation sites," she told ANC's "Rundown" on Tuesday.

She added, "It's about time that we have this quarry agreements canceled. It's about time that we have a more firm and staunch action against this kind of destructive activities in areas where they do not belong."

Featuring ancient limestone pinnacles and mountains of the Southern Sierra Madre, Masungi has been protected since 1904 through Executive Order 33 designating it as the Mariquina 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.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/06/21/22/mayors-join-calls-to-cancel-quarry-agreements-in-masungi?fbclid=IwAR3DP4iP-HJZs9fLejFw2Y6J2gWhmvPed2qp6EuacnaaLN_p6arkBPFyyqE



3 NCR mayors, other officials join calls to cancel quarry agreements in Masungi

Christhel Cuazon 21 June 2022

Several local officials, including three Metro Manila mayors, have joined the calls for the immediate cancellation of three large-scale quarrying permits in the Masungi Georeserve, citing possible widespread flooding and landslides.

In a joint statement, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Angono Vice Mayor Gerardo Calderon warned of "disastrous floods and landslides" accelerated by "unlawful and misplaced quarrying, unscrupulous resort constructions, and other harmful activities that level mountains, obstruct waterways, and vanish forests."

"These destructive activities and developments are anathema to the protected area meant to be preserved from exploitation for the well-being of Filipinos and future generations thereof," the statement read.

They also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to support conservation initiatives like the one for the Masungi Georeserve and cancel Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs), which cover more than 1,300 hectares of the protected watershed.

"We are deeply concerned that the DENR is reportedly not acting upon the cancellation of the MPSAs since the MPSAs are alleged 'not yet operational' and 'will expire soon,'" the statement further read.

"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," it added.

Other officials who pledged their signatories were Pasig Administrator Atty. Jeronimo Manzanero, Malabon City Administrator Atty. Voltaire Dela Cruz, Barangay (Brgy) Sta. Elena, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Bernard Bernardo, Brgy. Calumpang, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Segundo Cruz, Brgy. Nangka, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Randy Leal, Brgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Miguel Punzalan Jr., Brgy. Fortune, Marikina City Brgy. Capt. Rizalina Teope, Brgy. Barangka, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Ronnie Tiburcio, and Brgy. Concepcion Dos, Marikina Brgy. Capt. Mary Jane Zubiri-Dela Rosa.

So far, the DENR has suspended quarrying agreements with three companies, which the agency said had been inactive since 2004.



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LOOK: Marikina Mayor Marcy Teodoro, Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi lumagda sa panawagang kanselahin ang quarrying agreements sa Upper Marikina Watershed. | DZRH News

📍: Masungi Georeserve

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATORIES

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. Rizalinda W. Teope
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Fortune, Marikina City

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

Capt. Mary Jane Zubiri-Dela Rosa
Barangay Captain,
Brgy. Concepcion Dos, Marikina City





Empower LGUs to protect nature

Published June 22, 2022, 12:01 AM

by [Dr. Jun Ynares](#)

“What do you wish the new administration would give priority to?”

This is the question I have been getting from friends and colleagues in the local government sector. In a few days, we will be sworn into office as the next mayor of Antipolo City. We will assume office on the very same day that incoming President Bongbong Marcos (PBBM) officially becomes the new chief executive of the land.

With the passing of the baton of leadership to the next Chief Executive, many are now wondering what the new administration’s priorities should be.

We believe that PBBM’s priority will be the economy. The economy has been run aground by the unrelenting huge increases in the price of fuel and the inflation rate has been on an upward climb. PBBM will have to help our countrymen to cope and to survive these difficult times, to provide for their families’ basic needs and to rebuild their enterprise and lives.

At some point, we hope our new President would turn his attention to our shared concern for the protection of Mother Nature.

In particular, we hope that PBBM would review current policies of the national government regarding the issuances of permits covering the various operations done by private entities which exploit the wealth of natural resources located within the jurisdiction of local government. These activities include mining, quarrying, rock-crushing and the like.

As he does so, we hope that PBBM would see the importance of giving local governments a bigger say in the issuances of such permits. We look forward to real empowerment of local governments and communities to protect these resources.

At present, LGUs have a token role in the issuances of these permits.

Respected veteran columnist Jarius Bondoc, in his column in the Philippine Star last June 15, 2022, titled “Scientists, tribesmen, notables, join outcry against quarries,” called attention to this sad situation.

Citing a study by the National Museum, Mr. Bondoc echoed the call of several organizations against “rock-crushing in the mountaintops of Rizal that ruin protected areas and ancestral lands.”

He reiterated the call of Remontado-Dumagat community leaders living in Antipolo to “preserve the peak, their sacred shrine”, referring to that of Mount Susong Dalaga.

We laud Mr. Bondoc for lending his powerful voice to this clamor.

The fact is Rizal Provincial Governor Rebecca Ynares has repeatedly tried to do exactly that – stop the quarrying operations in all areas within the jurisdiction of Rizal Province.

The Antipolo LGU made a similar, bolder move. It issued an ordinance banning all mining, quarrying and rock-crushing operations within its territory. It deployed its local police forces to enforce the ordinance. The affected operators went to court to sue the city.

However, in November of 2021, Branch 97 of the Regional Trial Court (Fourth Judicial Region) ruled against a move by the local government of Antipolo to ban all mining, quarrying and related activities within the jurisdiction of the city.



In its decision, the court ruled that the ordinance passed by the Antipolo City Council and implemented by the office of the City Mayor, the city's permits and licensing office, and the Philippine National Police stopping all said operations were "unconstitutional" and therefore "null and void."

The court underscored that the Antipolo City ordinance was "ultra vires" – beyond the scope of its powers. It ruled that the said ordinance "failed to meet the substantive requirements" which include not contravening the constitution and not prohibiting but merely regulating trade.

The court explained that the permits given by the national government to the entities which sued the city "are solemn contracts between the State and the petitioners" and that they are "warranted under the constitution and the Mining Act" passed by the national legislature. It emphasized that it is the State which is the "true owner" of the mineral resources tapped and mined by the petitioners.

The court concluded that the Antipolo City ordinance banning mining, quarrying and related activities is unconstitutional and therefore "null and void."

Prior to the court ruling, several national government agencies had already warned both Rizal and Antipolo that they cannot ban these activities.

They pointed out that the city and the province were the sources of these materials closest to the metropolis. If the entities providing these materials coming from the mountains of Rizal and Antipolo were to cease operations, builders in Metro Manila may have to source their requirement from more distant provinces thereby causing spikes in construction costs.

It may interest Mr. Bondoc to note that, as things stand today, local governments are not empowered to stop these activities. We hope he can lend the might of his influential pen to get PBBM's attention to this unfortunate situation.

(For feedback, please email it to antipolocitygov@gmail.com or send it to Block 6 Lot 10 Sta. Barbara 1 cor. Bradley St., Mission Hills Subd., Brgy. San Roque, Antipolo City, Rizal.)



Group nixes MICC recommendation for more mining projects under incoming BBM admin

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 21, 2022

The anti-mining group Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) on Tuesday rejected the recommendation of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) for the development of more mining projects under the next administration as part of the government's post-pandemic recovery program.

Jaybee Garganera, ATM National Coordinator, warned that a revival of the mining industry would lead to further displacement of communities, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, land-use changes, and food insecurity.

"These impacts are the last things we need in a post-pandemic recovery phase of the Philippines," said.

The government's push was made in light of the MICC report that mining and quarrying contributed significantly to the regional gross domestic product where mines are operational.

Garganera said the mining industry's economic contribution does not outweigh the harmful impacts of mining to mining-affected communities and the cumulative impacts of climate change and natural disasters to the country.

"Besides, we doubt the claim of the MICC that mining contributes 'significantly' to the regional economy, as these computations fail to account for or externalize the costs to the environment, health, cultural displacement and conflict brought by mining," he said.

Data from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself reveals the mining industry's insignificant contribution to the GDP. According to MGB in June 2021, the mining sector accounted for P102.3 billion, equivalent to 0.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2020. In addition, there were only 184,000 jobs created, Garganera pointed out.

"At present, the government is pushing for mining to help the economy recover from the Covid pandemic-induced slump. However, we do not think that mining is the answer to the country's economic woes."

Instead, a rational management of our natural resources is needed for the sake of future generations. Full disclosure of all mine audit reports and the reviews of these mine audits must be implemented as soon as possible. Also, alternatives to mining must be considered for reviving the economy. These include: agro-forestry, eco-tourism and watershed development, agriculture and fisheries, and community-based enterprises," Garganera added.

Garganera also challenged the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand R. "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. to prove that it will genuinely promote the welfare of Filipinos by appointing an environment secretary that will not favor the mining industry, where his relatives and allies are enjoying beneficial ownership of mining companies and mining projects. -30-



Lalaking kasama sa tree planting activity, patay sa tama ng kidlat

Hunyo 21, 2022 4:12pm GMT+08:00



Isang 20-anyos na lalaki ang nasawi, at tatlong iba pa ang nasugatan sa pagtama ng kidlat sa Sipalay City, Negros Occidental.

Sa ulat ng GMA Regional TV News nitong Martes, kinilala ang biktima na si Christian Iscarlan.

Nangyari ang insidente noong Biyernes, habang nagsasagawa ng tree planting activity ang Community Environment and Natural resources Office sa Barangay Manlucahoc.

Sugatan din ang tatlong kasama ng biktima na nasa 16, 20, at 21.

Dahil sa nangyari, nagpaalala ang mga awtoridad na mag-ingat sa tuwing masama ang panahon na may kasamang pagkulong at pagkidlat.--FRJ, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/835592/lalaking-kasama-sa-tree-planting-activity-patay-sa-tama-ng-kidlat/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3X0Gf5NA-FECnQwPNvQ_I78QM9ZCXhitYefc1r5d5Uz-JEVMpITpspaH4



Eco group asks Duterte to scrap EPR bill

ERWIN P. NICAVERA

June 21, 2022

POLLUTION watchdog EcoWaste Coalition has expressed alarm over the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill on plastic packaging waste, so they are asking President Rodrigo Duterte to scrap the proposed measure.

EcoWaste Coalition Plastic Solutions Campaigner Coleen Salamat, in a statement, said institutionalizing EPR mechanisms is a welcome development in their push for a plastic-free Philippines.

"Sadly, the proposed EPR bill by congress promotes greenwashing and false solutions allowing plastic polluters to just continue their wasteful business practices at the expense of the environment and our communities," she said.

According to the group, a genuine EPR follows the concept of "polluters' pay principle" that puts greater responsibility on those who pollute more, such as the plastic industry and producers of fast-moving consumer goods.

"The current trend on the initiatives of consistent top polluter-firms, still heavily rely on cement kilns, chemical recycling, and other false solutions that burn or melt single-use plastics," Salamat said, adding that "these false solutions are not just a threat to the environment but also a public health concern. Schemes like these do not reduce or prevent waste but also contribute to worsening air pollution."

"The current EPR bill is not a precedent that polluters will be held accountable since it does not penalize producers for prohibited acts on the production, use, distribution, and importation of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging," she added.

In 2019, a research by Nature Climate Change found that if plastic was a country, it would be the fifth largest emitter in the world, the group said.

"We urge President Duterte to stay true to the Philippines commitment of 75 percent reduction of domestic emission by 2030. We are in a defining moment for our climate, we need lasting zero waste solutions that do not further contribute to the warming of our planet," its official said. **(With PR)**



SMC meets target to remove 1M tons of waste from Tullahan River, to start clean-up of Bulacan river system

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 21, 2022 7:11:50 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 21) — After more than two years since it started, San Miguel Corporation on Tuesday said it has reached its target of removing one million tons of waste from Tullahan River ahead of schedule.

As of Monday, an accumulated total of 1,029,257 metric tons of silt and waste were removed from the river, which SMC said is roughly equivalent to close to 70,000 dump trucks.

“Despite the pandemic that delayed and limited our clean-up operations, we were determined to accomplish our objectives, which included removing silt and waste, increasing the river’s width and depth in shallow sections, improving navigability, and helping restore marine line,” SMC President and CEO Ramon Ang said in a press release.

With this development, Ang called on everyone to work together in keeping the river clean and free of garbage.

“We can either go big or take small steps and build on our own individual efforts to manage our consumption and waste generation. What’s important is we start now,” he stressed.

SMC also said the Tullahan river clean-up has already significantly reduced severe flooding in the Camanava area.

Having met its target, the company said it will now move to its next mission of cleaning up the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System in the province of Bulacan.

This initiative will be part of its comprehensive flood mitigation measures for the province, which SMC committed together with its New Manila International Airport (NMIA) and Airport City projects.

“A study commissioned by San Miguel Aerocity Inc., has assessed the impact of the airport development on flooding, and has identified measures to reduce the province’s long-standing flooding problems. It also studied the water flow affecting the airport site and areas within a seven-kilometer radius,” the company said.



“This study, plus our experience and learnings in the past two years in the Tullahan River, as well as our ongoing clean-up of the Pasig River, will be a huge help to our upcoming river rehabilitation effort in Bulacan,” Ang added.

The clean-up is slated to start this month, SMC said, and will also involve the widening and deepening of the Alipit or Taliptip River, Sta. Maria River, and the Meycauayan River.

It added that the rehabilitation plan will improve the rivers’ capacity to carry excess rainwater following the removal of silt, trash, and other obstructions that restrict the free flow of water, and threaten marine ecosystem and traditional fishing grounds.



Trees, bamboos planted along floodway, roadsides

June 21, 2022

CLOSE to 500 trees and bamboos were planted along the roads in Jaro district, Iloilo City last week.

Mayor Jerry Treñas thanked the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) District Western Visayas for supporting the massive greening initiatives of the City Government.

Office of Executive Assistant for Environment Armando Dayrit supervised PCG personnel in the planting of 200 tree seedlings on Pocket Forest at the banks of Jaro floodway.

Pocket Forest is a small area densely planted with native trees, shrubs and ground cover plants to create a woodland ecosystem which is expected to attract more birds.

An additional 290 ornamental bamboos were also planted along the Circumferential Road by PCG personnel. **(PR)**



Rama names CESET head as ‘garbage czar’

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#) (The Freeman) - June 21, 2022 - 12:00am



This file photo taken in January last year shows a pile of uncollected garbage along the road in Barangay Inayawan, Cebu City. Mayor Michael Rama recently named Grace Luardo as the city’s garbage czar.

CEBU, Philippines — Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama has named City Environmental Sanitation Enforcement Team (CESET) head Grace Luardo as “garbage czar” during the City Hall’s flag-raising ceremony Monday.

“Grace Luardo, by July first, will be the garbage czar with CESET and BEO (Barangay Environmental Officers),” Rama said.

It was, however, not clear whether Luardo will now spearhead the Department of Public Services.

Luardo herself in an interview with The Freeman said she was surprised by the announcement and does not know yet the details of her latest task.

Luardo thanked Rama for the trust and confidence and will continue to work on in addressing the garbage problem in the city.

“Wala pa ko’y ideya, kay giingon ni mayor kay garbage czar. Sa pagka-karon, motrabaho lang ta ug padayon ang atong paglimpyo sa kadalanan,” said Luardo.

Rama also said that even though it’s not July 1 yet, those that have been named in the different departments should already start doing their new roles.

“Pasabot, di pa gani moabot ang July 1, you already have to do your job, mix, complement, collaborate,” said Rama.

For those who do not cooperate, Rama told Luardo to report to him and will not be renewed.

“Kung dili mo-collaborate nimo, dili mo-coordinate nimo, let me know then I will not review them,” said Rama. — **GMR (FREEMAN)**



Pinoy students create aqua drone to collect trash in bodies of water

Published June 11, 2022 5:10pm



A group of Filipino students created a drone that can float on water to collect trash in seas, lakes, and rivers.

Called the Ocdron, the aqua drone is the thesis of Jean Michel Gomez, Allain Vincent Gaspar, Mel Ivan Magsino, and Christian Gaspar, who study software engineering at iAcademy.

The drone is powered by solar energy and controlled using a mobile app. Aside from collecting trash, the device releases lime powder to balance the pH level of the water.

According to the group, they developed the aqua drone after noticing that there are more cleanup drives on land than in bodies of water.

They also said their device is cheaper than other waste pickup drones, so hopefully it can be used by more people.

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/technology/834641/pinoy-students-create-aqua-drone-to-collect-trash-in-bodies-of-water/story/?source=GMANews&medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR22BqbyJlnxk5pHFFVE6cLlwhfs7CIaDjL_toeZa708xjxd1ho_v5a-N_w



Solusyon sa paulit-ulit na pagbaha

QC ASENSO - [Joy Belmonte](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon June 22, 2022 | 12:00am

Tag-ulan na naman, at sa ganitong panahon kabilang sa mga hamon sa mga residente ang matinding pagbaha na banta rin sa kanilang kaligtasan.

Puspusan ang paghahanda ng lokal na pamahalaan ngayong tag-ulan. Kabilang dito ang declogging ng waterways at paglilinis ng mga estero lalo't kapag humupa ang baha naiwan ang tambak ng basura na kalimita'y single-use plastics.

Sa Waste Analysis and Characterization Study na isinagawa ng lungsod, lumabas na malaking bahagi ng nakukuhang basura ay mga plastic bag. Ito'y dahil nakagawian na ang pagtapon ng mga plastic bag kung saan-saan kaya ang resulta, nagbabara ang mga estero. Kaya ipinatutupad natin ang Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance na layong limitahan ang paggamit ng plastic bags at ang pagkolekta ng environmental fee para sa pag-recycle nito. Mahigit P316 million na ang nakuhang green fund ng lungsod na ilalaan din para sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang pangkalikasan.

Upang mapakinabangan naman ang tone-toneladang campaign tarpaulins na madalas itinatambak sa mga dumpsite, ni-repurpose ito at ginawang tote bags sa tulong ng mga kababaihan ng QC Jail Female Dormitory sa pamamagitan ng "Vote to Tote" project.

Para sa pangmatagalang solusyon, binubuo ng pamahalaang lungsod ang komprehensibong QC Drainage Master Plan na magiging gabay sa pagsasagawa ng mga proyekto na iwas-baha.

Gusto nating matiyak na hindi na namemeligro ang mga pamilya sa ating lungsod tuwing may bagyo o kung malakas ang ulan. Ibabalik natin ang kanilang tiwala at ipatutupad nang maayos ang mga programa ng pamahalaan para sa kanilang kapakanan.

Simple lang ang aking hiling, isabuhay at magkaroon sana ng disiplina ang QCitizens sa wastong pagtapon ng basura. Maliit na bagay ito sa iba, pero malaki ang maitutulong. Bawat isa sa atin ay may tungkulin na dapat gampanan para sa malinis na kapaligiran upang matiyak ang kaligtasan nating lahat.



Single-use plastics ban plan laid out by Canada

June 21, 2022, 1:41 pm



TRENTON, Canada – Plastic straws and grocery bags will be history by year's end, the Canadian government announced Monday.

The long-awaited move happens three years after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to end the use of plastics that are difficult to recycle and contribute to pollution.

Six items are affected besides straws and grocery bags, including Styrofoam take-out food containers, cutlery, stir sticks, and plastic rings that hold together six packs of beer.

The ban means the products can no longer be made as of the end of this year. As well, it stops the sale of the items by the end of 2023 and their importation by the end of 2025.

The government listed manufactured plastics as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act following a scientific assessment of plastics in 2020. It was the first necessary step toward the ban.

Plastics have become a plague in Canada. In a 2019 study, the Environmental and Climate Change Canada found that 3.6 million tons of plastic were thrown out annually. Most ended up in garbage landfills as only about 10 percent of plastics were recycled. It takes hundreds of years for plastic to decompose in landfills.

Also in 2019, a country-wide shoreline cleanup initiative collected 359,000 pounds of plastic waste.

The government data shows that year also saw huge sales and use of plastic, including 15.5 billion grocery bags, 4.5 million pieces of cutlery, 3 billion stir sticks, 5.8 billion straws, 183 million six-pack rings and 805 million take-out containers, as reported by Global News.

The items also turned up as litter in parks and forests.

Some grocery retailers have already ended the use of plastic bags, including Sobey's, while a number of fast-food outlets have removed plastic straws and replaced them with paper ones. (**Anadolu**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177165>



Dambuhalang stingray o page, nahuli sa Mekong River

Hunyo 21, 2022 5:45pm GMT+08:00



Ang giant stingray na may bigat na 300 kilos na nahuli sa Koh Preah island sa Mekong River sa Cambodia June 14, 2022. Pinakawalan din ang page kinalaunan. June 14, 2022. Chhut Chheana/Wonder of Mekong/Handout via REUTERS

Isang dambuhalang stingray o page ang nahuli sa Mekong River sa Cambodia na tinatayang 300 kilo ang bigat.

Sa sobrang laki at bigat ng page, sinabi sa ulat ng Reuters na nasa 12 katao ang nagtulong-tulong para madala ito sa mababaw na bahagi ng ilog.

Naniniwala ang mga mananaliksik na ang naturang page ang kauna-unahang world's biggest freshwater fish na nahuli at naitala sa kasaysayan.

May haba na 13 talampakan ang page na isang babae. Matapos na lagyan ito ng electronic tag para masubaybayan ang galaw, pinakawalan din muli ang page na nahuli sa ilog sa bahagi ng Koh Preah.

"This is very exciting news because it was the world's largest fish," ayon sa biologist na si Zeb Hogan, dating host ng "Monster Fish" show ng National Geographic Channel.

Bahagi na ngayon si Hogan ng conservation project sa ilog.

"It is also exciting news because it means that this stretch of the Mekong is still healthy.... It is a sign of hope that these huge fish still live (here)," dagdag niya. Noong 2005, isang dambuhalang catfish o hito ang nahuli rin sa naturang ilog sa bahagi naman ni Thailand. May bigat na 293 kilo ang hito.

Ang Mekong river ay kabilang sa mga kinikilalang most diverse fish population sa mundo. Pero sa nagdaang mga taon, nagkakaroon na umano ng problema sa ilog.

"This world's largest fish was the first fish that the team tagged and released back into the river, and that means for the next year we'll be able to track its movements to learn about the stingray's life," ano Hogan.

"Giant freshwater stingray, they haven't been well studied, we know almost nothing about them, so this is a real opportunity to learn more about one of the world's largest freshwater fish," patuloy niya.--**Reuters/FRJ, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/835607/dambuhalang-stingray-o-page-nahuli-sa-mekong-river/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0krkc55b1ntsVoVI0qOfItSj0cerEJNDeU-parc37ajzUwX9YkHHER4qI



'World's biggest' freshwater fish netted in Cambodia

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 21 2022 03:23 PM



Courtesy of FISHBIO/Wonders of the Mekong

PHNOM PENH — A fisherman on the Mekong river in Cambodia has hooked the biggest freshwater fish ever recorded, scientists said -- a 300-kilogram stingray.

The giant freshwater stingray, which measured 4 meters (13 feet) from snout to tail, was caught last week and released back into the wild after being fitted with a tag to track its behavior.

The monstrous bottom-dweller beat the previous record for biggest recorded freshwater fish, held by a 293-kilo (646-pound) Mekong giant catfish caught in Thailand in 2005, the US-funded Wonders of the Mekong research project said.

The stingray, caught in Stung Treng province in northern Cambodia, was more than twice the weight of an average lowland gorilla, the experts said.

"In 20 years of researching giant fish in rivers and lakes on 6 continents, this is the largest freshwater fish that we've encountered or that's been documented anywhere worldwide," Zeb Hogan, a fish biologist leading the Wonders of the Mekong project, said in a statement released Tuesday.

"This is an absolutely astonishing discovery, and justifies efforts to better understand the mysteries surrounding this species and the incredible stretch of river where it lives."

The researchers fitted an acoustic tag to the stingray before returning it to the river, to try to learn more about the secretive creature's elusive behavior.

Last month, an endangered giant freshwater stingray 4 meters long and weighing 180 kilos was also hooked by a fisherman in the same province.

More than 1,000 fish species call the Mekong home and the stingray is not the only giant lurking in the muddy waters -- the giant catfish and giant barb also reach up to 3 meters long and 270 kilos in weight.

Scientists have warned that plastic waste threatens wildlife even in the deepest stretches of the Mekong, along with "ghost nets" -- abandoned by fishers but still able to snare fish.

The famous waterway starts in China and twists south through parts of Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam, feeding 60 million people through its basin and tributaries.

But environmentalists have long voiced concerns about dam building along the Mekong River that will destroy fish stocks.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/classified-odd/06/21/22/worlds-biggest-freshwater-fish-netted-in-cambodia?fbclid=IwAR2tk25ONiy9CEuP-CoDbvc1QkTMRTWvrv3tQDZAaFP5DYTHmTlp9gy3hdU>



Mining firm Glencore pleads guilty to UK bribery charges

By **Beth Timmins** Business reporter, BBC News

Published 3 hours ago



A British subsidiary of the mining firm Glencore has pleaded guilty in a UK court to corruption offences for the second time in the last two months.

It was accused of paying millions of dollars in bribes to secure access to crude oil in several African countries.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) found that bribes occurred from 2012 to 2016.

It found that bribes of over \$28m (£22.8m) were paid via the Swiss-based firm's employees and agents.

The bribery charges stated that the firm's aim was for officials to "perform their functions improperly, or reward them for so doing, by unduly favouring Glencore Energy UK Limited in the allocation of crude oil cargoes, the dates crude oil would be lifted and the grades of crude oil allocated".

The mining giant has also pleaded guilty to corruption charges in the US and Brazil.

Glencore expects to pay up to \$1.5bn (£1.2bn) in fines but is currently making record profits.

From sales of metals, minerals and agricultural produce, it says profits for the first half of the year will exceed \$3bn (£2.4bn).

A British subsidiary of the firm formally pleaded guilty on seven counts of bribery in connection with oil operations in Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast and South Sudan on Tuesday in Southwark Crown Court.

The SFO said Glencore attempted to secure access to oil and make illicit profit across its oil operations in the five countries.

It also still faces investigations in Switzerland and the Netherlands.



Copper and cobalt mine part-owned by Glencore in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Last month, the firm agreed to a \$1.1bn (£900m) settlement in the US over a scheme to bribe officials in seven countries during the course of a decade.

It concerned the mining giant's operations in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Venezuela.

In May, when Glencore **last pleaded guilty to seven counts of bribery**, the SFO said it had exposed "profit-driven bribery and corruption" across Glencore Energy UK's oil operations in five African nations.

At the time, Glencore's chairman said "unacceptable practices" had taken place in relation to the bribery charges it pleaded guilty to at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The company's agents and employees paid bribes worth more than \$25m for preferential access to oil, with the approval of the company, between 2011 and 2016, the SFO said.

'Low hanging fruit'

Spotlight on Corruption, a pressure group, said the charges were "hugely significant" but raised "questions about the SFO's ambition as our elite corruption-busting agency".

The NGO's legal researcher, Helen Taylor, explained that although Glencore is listed on the London Stock Exchange and headquartered in Jersey, the SFO had "only pursued" the UK subsidiary's oil operations in a handful of African countries.

"This is low-hanging fruit, given the staggering scale of corruption that has been uncovered in the company's global operations," she continued.

"Until now, companies have got off lightly for corporate corruption, as liability has largely been confined to 'failure to prevent' bribery offences.

"Glencore's guilty plea today should send a strong signal that companies will be held to account for the complicity of senior executives in corporate corruption.

"The reality is that bribery remains hidden in the shadows until brave whistle-blowers, investigative journalists and civil society bring corporate criminality into the light of public scrutiny," Ms Taylor added.

Glencore is to be sentenced in a two-day hearing at the Southwark Crown Court in November.

22 JUNE 2022, WEDNESDAY



DENR

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DENR Region 8 uses 'fun way' to promote proper waste management

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) are upbeat about raising the young generation's awareness of proper solid waste management via its new mascot and mobile game app.

Yesterday, the agency launched the Pinas: Basu-

ra Buster (PBB) Mascot and Basura Buster mobile game during the Eastern Visayas Solid Waste Management (SWM) Advocacy Launch at the Summit Hotel here.

EMB regional director Reynaldo Barra said the campaign is to teach children on proper waste segregation, recycling, and disposal "the proper and fun way."

"We want to build a strong foundation on proper waste management while they are still young. The targets are children and youth since they will later serve as future ambassadors of solid waste management," Barra said in his speech.

PBB is DENR's solid waste management mascot and is the image of DENR's SWM program,

which aims to attract support from the youth.

PBB entertained the participants with a lively dance number together with the EMB staff. They danced to DENR's solid waste management advocacy song "Kung Walang Aksaya, Masaya."

To further strengthen awareness of solid waste management in this digital age, the DENR devel-

oped the Basura Buster mobile game, which is an Android-based mobile gaming application designed for kids five to eight years old to "teach them proper waste segregation in a fun way."

The gaming app is one of the projects under the campaign, and the public can now download it for free from the Google Play Store. (PNA)



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NEWS

3 mayors oppose Masungi quarrying

City Mayors Marcy Teodoro, Vico Sotto and Jaime Fresnedi of Marikina, Pasig and Muntinlupa, along with other local officials, have issued a joint statement asking that the mineral production sharing agreements covering certain protected areas be canceled. But the Mines and Geosciences Bureau says that the issue has been discussed at length and that the local officials have nothing to worry about.

—STORY BY JANE BAUTISTA AND DEMPSEY REYES

A2

DON'T WORRY, MINERAL DEALS END NEXT YEAR, SAYS MINING BUREAU CHIEF

3 METRO MAYORS JOIN CALL VS QUARRYING AT MASUNGI

By Jane Bautista and Dempsey Reyes @Team_Inquirer

Three Metro Manila mayors have added their voices to the call to rescind large-scale quarrying agreements covering 1,300 hectares of protected areas in the Marikina watershed and the Masungi project in Rizal province.

In a joint statement, Mayors Marcy Teodoro, Vico Sotto and Jaime Fresnedi of the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Muntinlupa, respectively, urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel the mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) currently in force, saying "these destructive activities are anathema to the protected area meant to be preserved from exploitation."

"We are deeply concerned that the DENR is reportedly not



Marcy Teodoro



Vico Sotto



Jaime Fresnedi—FACEBOOK PHOTO

acting upon the cancellation of the MPSAs," they said.

According to the mayors and other local government officials who signed the statement, their constituents continue to be ravaged each year by floods and landslides that are exacerbated by the "unlawful and misplaced quarrying"

being done in the forests.

They said not canceling the MPSAs would allow quarrying operations and would not guarantee the conservation of the watershed area. They also pointed out that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) itself had said that the companies involved committed "gross

violations" of the Philippine Mining Act.

"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," they said.

Nothing to worry about
MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano told the Inquirer that there was nothing to worry about as the three MPSAs were due to expire next year.

Moncano also said the agreements had been in place since 1998, or earlier than the proclamation declaring the areas as protected, and had actually not been enforced since 2004.

In 2020, after the devastation wrought by Typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses," Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares issued a similar call urging the DENR to cancel the mining tenements in the province in order to mitigate flooding.

Applications of quarrying tenements in Masungi were banned in 1993 on the strength of DENR Administrative Order No. 33 issued by then Environ-

ment Secretary and National Scientist Angel Alcala which recognized the geological and ecological significance of Masungi.

The conservation area is home to endangered and endemic species like the Indigo-Banded Kingfisher, the ultra-rare JC's Vine, the Philippine Hawk-Eagle, the Colasisi parrot, and the North Luzon Giant Cloud Rat.

Residents' protests

Asked to respond to the joint call to action signed by the heads of local government units (LGUs) whose areas and constituents "suffer the brunt of disastrous floods accelerated by the deforestation of upland mountains and the tampering of rivers," the MGB's Moncano said the mining companies with MPSAs had been non-operational since 2004.

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3 METRO MAYORS JOIN CALL VS QUARRYING AT MASUNGI

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"They have had no actual mining operations due to the protests ... by the residents near the area," he said in a phone interview.

The MPSAs are due to expire in 2023, Moncano said. Thus, he said, the agreements would no longer be renewed instead of canceled because of the terms and conditions "that had been perfected already."

He said that for an MPSA to

be renewed, it had to undergo three levels of endorsements from the stakeholders and respective LGUs—from the barangays to the city or municipality to the provincial government.

There is also a low probability for the three MPSAs cited in the joint to call action to be renewed as these are within a protected area, he said.

Moncano said there had been a "back and forth" concerning this issue. Asked how the concerned officials could be assured of action by the relevant agencies, he said: "I

already told them that if [the watershed] is already a proclaimed protected area, the MPSAs cannot be renewed by 2023."

The mayors and other local officials who signed the joint call to action need not worry anymore, he said, reiterating that the MPSAs would not be renewed.

"This is supposed to be a non-issue since [the quarry in Masungi] is no longer operational for almost 20 years, and the MPSAs will expire in 2023," he added. INQ



GOTCHA

JARIUS BONDOC



Stop reinventing the wheel; build upon science studies

A new administration need not reinvent the wheel on assuming office. Building upon previous leaderships' accomplishments guarantees quick results. More so since past successes invariably are anchored on scientific data and practices.

An example is in agriculture. In 1992 then-secretary Senen Bacani commissioned a soil study of the archipelago. Thick ring-binders of acetates illustrated the type and depth of loam – and therefore the suitable crops – in each municipality and barangay.

From the database farmers were persuaded to plant cash crops like asparagus, sorghum, broccoli, celery, peppercorn, even ornamental flowers. The Land Bank and some rural banks lent capital. The aim was to replicate Japan's One Town-One Product program as Thailand did.

Unfortunately, the chain was broken. Government devolution moved state agricultural technicians to municipal payrolls. Unready for new responsibilities, many mayors retired the experts. No second-liners were mentored. Farmers lost trainers in new methods and techniques. Buyers lost suppliers.

That strategy can be revived. New cheaper technologies can be applied for crop packaging, storage and transporting. Imagine carts on hillside ziplines. Harvesters can link up online directly with buyers like restaurant chains, hotels and wholesalers. No longer should farmers be forced to throw away unsold produce on roadsides.

Correct applications eliminate guesswork. With good aquaculture research for instance, the country may not need to import fish. Government statisticians must not limit data gathering to "con-

signaciones." Few tilapia and milkfish-raisers drop off harvests in those fish trading depots, says aquaculturist Norbert Chingcuanco. Most deliver straight to public markets.

With accurate data capture, policymakers may discover oversupply in fish pens and ponds, and that difficulties may lie in transporting via dirt roads and clogged streams. Tutors are scarce in fish deboning and filleting for added value.

Trainers are needed too in duck and goose raising. As contract-growing of chicken thrives, so should that of other fowl – with strict weight standards.

The energy department too has a wealth of information. But petroleum, wind and tide surveys are gathering dust. Millions of dollars' worth of studies obtained from international experts and oil-and-gas explorers will go to waste. Uncaring appointees let the documents rot and videotapes mildew.

Liguasan Marsh in Cotabato-Maguidanao-Sultan Kudarat has long been estimated to contain up to 20 billion cubic feet of methane. Yet no admin has harnessed the gas in the 2,200-square kilometer bog into electricity worth a trillion dollars. Neither have forceful seawater flow in numerous straits been used for energy from new tide technology.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau mapped all geohazard zones in 2003. Yet mayors continue to permit residential development in flood- and landslide-prone ridgetops.

Environment bureaucrats know all the watersheds that need protection. Yet their mindset is to license those off to mine and quarry speculators.

★



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REGIONS

Baguio execs seek halt to tree-cutting

BAGUIO CITY—The city council is seeking a five-year moratorium on tree-cutting while Baguio's forests and parks are fenced off from settlers to protect the remaining green zones. One draft measure suspends all tree-cutting permits to allow forests to heal, while another calls on City Hall to preserve and manage all communal forests, tree parks and watersheds and to establish new urban green zones. —STORY BY VINCENT CABREZA **A11**

WEDNESDAY / JUNE 22, 2022
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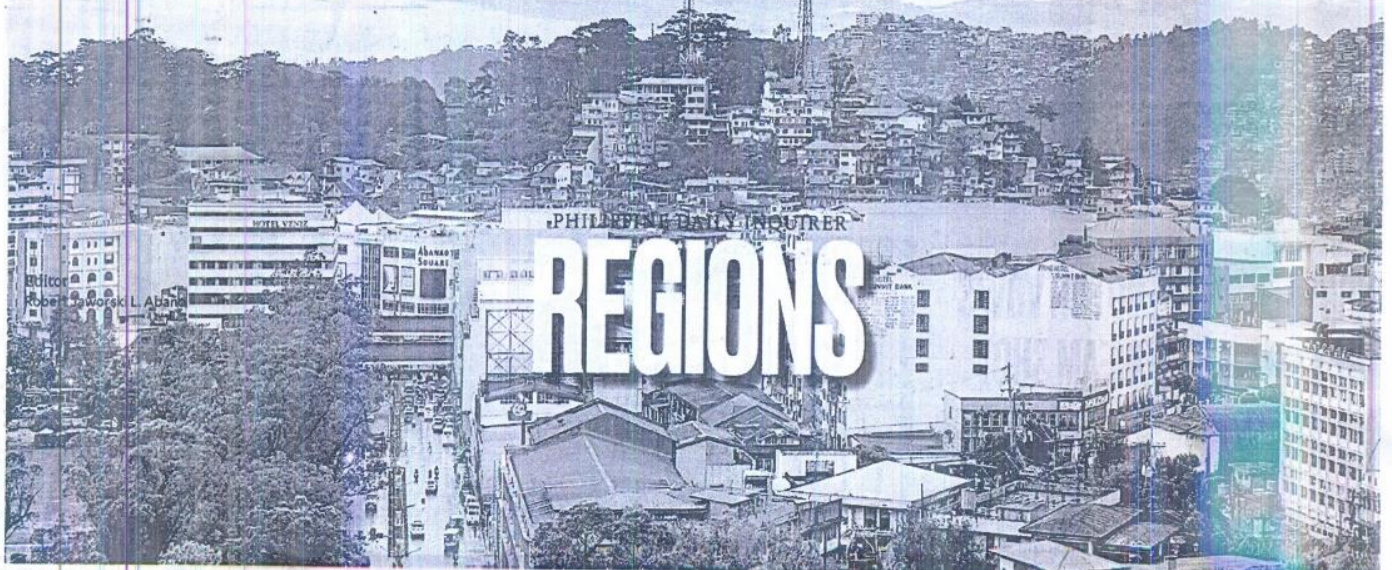
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A11



POCKETS OF GREEN Sections of Baguio's central business district and its surrounding communities retain pockets of green zones, forests and watersheds amid a construction boom in the city whose economy is largely fueled by tourism. —NEIL CLARK ONGCHANGCO



TITLE:

Baguio execs seek halt to tree-cutting

Proposed ordinances aim to protect, expand forest cover, green zones amid development in summer capital

By Vincent Cabreza
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—The city council has proposed a five-year moratorium on tree-cutting activities while existing and future forest lands are fenced off from settlers and managed by government foresters to protect the remaining forests and parks here.

Set for second reading are proposed Ordinances No. 0105-20, which would freeze all tree-cutting permits to allow a natural healing process to take place in the city's surviving timberland, and No. 0021-21, which mandates the local government to preserve and manage all communal forests, tree parks, and watersheds and to establish new urban green zones.

Both measures take into account the 2019 tree audit conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which estimated that the city only has 2.5 million trees.

The city, which is celebrating its second "Saleng (pine tree) Festival" this month, is traditionally associated with the Benguet pine being the country's City of Pines. But the DENR inventory showed only a fifth (492,974) of



CARTS OF LIFE Different types of trees in carts are displayed at Baguio City's Malcolm Square after a parade on June 18 during the summer capital's celebration of Saleng Festival.

—NEIL CLARK ONGCHANGCO

its tree population were pine trees.

The measures also cited that the city's forest and green covers are no longer sufficient for its population (pegged at 366,358 in the 2020 census), based on an urban-carrying capacity report conducted by consultancy group Certeza Infosys for the National Economic and Development Authority in 2019.

Threshold

The population threshold for forest cover—measured as 40 square meters per person (326,075)—had been breached in 2012, while the carrying ca-

capacity of the more expansive green cover (350,458), composed of forest trees and other vegetation, was breached in 2016, the report says.

A moratorium on tree-cutting was initially discussed by the DENR and Mayor Benjamin Magalong when he started the city's redevelopment after he assumed office in 2019. Private developers initially pushed back because of its potential impact on building projects.

The moratorium was still the first line of defense against forest depletion in 2020, said Councilor Arthur Allad-iw, who sponsored proposed Ordinance

No. 0105-20 alongside Councilors Levy Lloyd Orcales and Joel Alangsab.

The measure would penalize violators with a yearlong jail term and a P5,000 fine, but cutting would not cover dead trees or those that endanger lives.

According to the carrying capacity report, Baguio needs to maintain 60-percent green cover, or "about 3,450 hectares to support the population."

Conservation

The council's research division identified close to 150 existing and potential green zones that are listed for conservation or for urban forest development in the proposed Ordinance 0021-21, which was sponsored by all councilors, most of whom are joining the next council.

Among these are 15 watersheds and woodlands serving residents, such as the 112-ha Busol watershed straddling the city and Benguet's capital town of La Trinidad, which has settlements.

The measure also lists 27 elementary school campuses, which could accommodate small tree parks, and areas around 57 barangays suitable for pocket forests and parks, or could serve as greenbelts. INQ



UP TO SPEED

1-M tons of waste cleared

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has reached its goal of removing over 1 million metric tons of silt and solid waste from the length of the Tullahan River ahead of the schedule drawn up with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. As of 20 June, SMC's cleanup teams have rid the river of an accumulated total of 1,029,257 metric tons of silt and waste, roughly equivalent to close to 70,000 dump trucks. Having met its target, SMC's team will soon be moving on to its next mission: To clean up rivers belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System in Bulacan. "We thank the DENR for its trust and confidence in our ability to get the job done. Despite the pandemic that delayed and limited our cleanup operations, we were determined to accomplish our objectives, which included removing silt and waste, increasing the river's width and depth in shallow sections, improving navigability, and helping restore marine line," SMC president and CEO Ramon S. Ang said. "What is critical now is getting all stakeholders to keep the river clean and free of garbage. This requires all of us working together. We can either go big or take small steps and build on our own individual efforts to manage our consumption and waste generation. What's important is we start now," Ang added.



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Meralco, nakiisa sa interagency cleanup sa Ilog Pasig

Bilang paggunita sa International Day of Biological Diversity, nakiisa ang Manila Electric Company (Meralco) sa isang espesyal na interagency clean-up activity sa Estero de Provisor na inorganisa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PRCMO).

Layunin ng nasabing clean-up activity na linisin ang mga estero na nakapalibot sa Isla de Provisor sa lungsod ng Maynila upang tanggalin ang mga water hyacinths na kapag pinabayaan ay maaaring magdulot ng matinding pagbaha tuwing panahon ng tag-ulan dahil hinahadlangan at binabarahan nito ang natural na pag-daloy ng tubig sa mga nasabing estero.

Ang social development arm ng Meralco, ang One Meralco Foundation, ay tumulong rin at nagkaloob ng mga gamit para sa mga volunteers katulad ng mga kalaykay, rain boots, kapote, guwantes, masks, at isang heavy duty truck na ginamit pang-hakot ng mga water hyacinths.

Lumahok din sa nasabing clean-up activity ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, ang NCR – Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), at ang K-Line Maritime Academy – Philippines.

Nagpasalamat si PRCMO Deputy Director **Dr. Teodoro Lloydon C. Bautista** sa mga ahensya at kumpanyang nakilahok sa nasabing aktibidad. Aniya: "At the end of the day, it is not us who is going to benefit from



Kita sa larawan ang ilang mga Meralco employee-volunteers habang tinatangal ang mga tumubong water hyacinth sa paligid ng Ilog Pasig na malapit sa Isla de Provisor sa Maynila

this. It is your children, and your children's children."

Ayon naman kay Meralco Central Business Area Head **Margarita B. David**: "This is all in the spirit of bayanihan and of course, malasakit. As one of Meralco's core values, malasakit for us not only applies to our customers to whom we deliver electricity service, but also to our environment."



Pinamunuan ni PRCMO Deputy Director **Dr. Teodoro Lloydon C. Bautista** (5th from Left) ang clean-up activity na siyang nilahukan ng ilang mga Meralco employee volunteers mula sa iba't-iba nilang opisina katulad ng Central Distribution Services, Sub transmission Services, Malate Business Center, at Organizational Safety and Business Continuity.



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LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM PATULOY NA BUMABABA

NAGSIMULA na ang panahon ng tag-ulan sa buong bansa, kinakailangan simulan ang ibayong pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig ng mga nasa Metropolitan Manila. Alam n'yo bang nasa 183.66 meters na lamang ang antas ng tubig sa Angat dam nitong June 21, 2022, malayo mula sa normal range 212 meters.

Todo na ang pagbabantay ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa naturang dam upang maiwasan ang pag-abot nito sa critical level na 160 meters para sa drinking water at 180 meters para sa irrigation.

Ang panawagan ng Na-

tional Water Resources Board (NWRB), bawasan ang inyong paggamit ng tubig kung kayo ay nasa trabaho o nasa public area, tulad ng malls at restaurant o nasa loob ng inyong tahanan. Ang pagtitipid ng bawat pamilya ay maaaring gumawa ng malaking pagkakaiba kung lahat tayo ay nagkakaisa na maging responsible sa paggamit ng tubig.

Sanayin na natin ang araw-araw na gawain

- Isarado ang gripo kapag nagsisipilyo ng inyong ngipin. Mas mainam gumamit



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

ng baso, mas walang masasayang na tubig.

- Gumamit ng palanggana sa paghugas ng gulay at prutas. Iwasan ang paggamit ng umaagos na tubig.

- Kung kayo ay naliligo gamit ang shower, kung basa na ang buhok at buong katawan, isara muna ang gripo bago kayo magsimula ng pagsasabon.

- Huwag gawin basurahan ang inidoro, hanggang maaari, itapon sa basurahan ang toilet tissues, wipes, hygiene products at adult o baby

diapers.

- Pakinggan kung tuloy-tuloy ang pagdulo ng tubig sa inyong inidoro. Kung may tagas, isarado ang main vault at gumamit na lang balde sa pagbuhos o flush.

- Ipunin ang mga damit para isang labahan sa loob ng isang lingo. Makakatipid ka na sa tubig pati na rin sa kuryente.

- Kung tapos na kayong kumain, ipunin muna ang mga plato, baso, kutsara, tinidor at iba pa, para isang hugasan lahat.



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DMCI Homes to build condos with full water reuse capability

REAL ESTATE developer DMCI Homes is planning to build residential projects equipped with full water recycling and treatment capabilities as part of its sustainability efforts.

In a statement on Tuesday, DMCI Homes said it will be building its first recycling and treatment facility in The Erin Heights, a single-tower development currently constructed along Commonwealth Avenue in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. The tower is set to open its doors to the public by October 2027.

"The facility is capable of collecting and treating wastewater to make it fit for general use, landscape irrigation, and maintenance of amenities, among other beneficial purposes," DMCI Homes Vice-President for Project Development Dennis O. Yap said.

"For this project, we will be tapping our in-house experts and work with professional wastewater management contractors to ensure a quality and efficient treatment process. Our goal is to pro-

duce Class A-certified treated water in accordance with the standards set by the Environmental Management Bureau," he added.

DMCI Homes claimed that The Erin Heights can potentially save up to 314 million liters of water annually with the treatment facility.

The developer added that home owners will be able to have savings on their water bills and store backup water supply for the community in preparation for a water shortage.

According to DMCI Homes, it plans to establish full water recycling and treatment facilities in other future projects.

"DMCI Homes puts strong emphasis on making its properties and future developments environmentally sound and sustainable. The Erin Heights will only be the first in the company's roster of future projects to apply the full water recycling capability," the real estate developer said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

22 JUNE 2022, WEDNESDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila may rise to 1,000 a day — OCTA

Philstar.com June 21, 2022 | 3:27pm



Mall-goers enjoy the nightlife as they dine at restaurants in Quezon City on Friday, June 11, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The number of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila could reach 1,000 per day by the end of month or early July, OCTA Research said Tuesday.

According to OCTA Research fellow Guido David, the average daily attack rate in the capital region may rise to seven cases out of 100,000 people by the end of that period.

David also projected that Metro Manila could see a peak in infections during the first two weeks of July.

“Yung seven-day average sa Metro Manila posibleng tumaas between 500 and 1,000 by the end of June or first week of July. So 'pag ganyan, masasabi na nating baka nasa moderate risk na 'yung situation natin,” David said.

(The seven-day average in Metro Manila may possibly increase to between 500 and 1,000 cases by the end of June or first week of July. If that happens, we can say that our situation might be at moderate risk.)

The Department of Health said Monday that the country is seeing the start of another peak in COVID-19 cases. According to the agency, infections increased by 82% to 436 daily average cases last week from 240 the previous week.

Despite the spike in cases, a significant increase in healthcare utilization rate is not expected, the research group stressed.

“Tataas ito pero hindi ganoon kataas. We should still be okay at that level pero syempre kailangan talaga ng pag-iingat ng kababayan natin,” David said.

(The healthcare utilization rate will increase, but not that much. We should still be okay at that level, but of course, people need to be careful.)

The OCTA fellow added neighboring provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Rizal, Benguet, and Iloilo are also seeing a rise in infections.

Authorities said that the presence of highly transmissible Omicron subvariants, increased mobility, and waning vaccine immunity are driving the recent increase in COVID-19 cases.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/21/2189955/covid-19-cases-metro-manila-may-rise-1000-day-octa>



COVID-19 boosters sa edad 12-17, aprub na sa DOH

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa June 22, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Inaprubahan na ng Department of Health (DOH) ang pagbibigay ng unang Pfizer booster shot para sa edad 12 hanggang 17 sa Pilipinas.

Ito ang sinabi kahapon ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire nang tanungin kung aprubado na ni Health Secretary Francisco Dunque III ang pagbibigay ng nasabing booster shot na Pfizer.

Ayon kay Vergeire, binabalangkas na ng DOH ang guidelines para sa administration nito at sa lalong madaling panahon ay mailalabas na.

Maalala na ang paggamit o pagtuturok ng Pfizer vaccine para sa booster shots ng nasabing age group ay inirekomenda ng Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) kay Duque.

Ang emergency use authorization o EUA para sa Pfizer bilang booster shot sa mga nabanggit na menor-de-edad ay inamyendahan ng Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Magugunitang sinimulan ng bansa ang pagbibigay ng primary series ng bakuna sa mga batang may edad 12 hanggang 17 noong Oktubre 2021.

22 JUNE 2022, WEDNESDAY



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
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