

24 JUNE 2022, Friday



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sampulna on Boracay rehab: Mission accomplished

Published on: June 23, 2022

Updated as of June 23, 2022 4:29 pm

By DENR



QUEZON CITY -- Four years after President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered the closure and massive rehabilitation of Boracay Island, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna announced the successful rehabilitation efforts for the famous tourist destination.

“Mission accomplished, Mr. President,” Sampulna declared in the culmination of the rehabilitation and management of the island by the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF)

President Duterte ordered the closure of Boracay Island in 2018 after declaring it a “cesspool” due to uncontrolled development and overcrowding over the years.

The BIATF, formed on May 8, 2018, through Executive Order (EO) 53, was tasked with supervising Boracay’s rehabilitation.

Co-chaired by the Department of Tourism and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the term of BIATF was extended until May 8, 2021 through EO 115.

Its tenure was extended again until June 30, 2022, through EO 148, to give it time to complete its projects.

“Because of the series of EO’s by President Duterte, and through the leadership of former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, naging malinis muli ang Boracay,” said Sampulna, noting that Cimatu’s hardwork kept the BIATF’s spirit to carry on with the colossal task.

Sampulna on Boracay rehab: Mission accomplished

He added: "Direct draining of sewage into the sea, unorganized solid waste management, and building of hotels and establishments near the beach and roads are some problems that the task force worked on."



Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) General Manager Martin Jose Despi said it was no easy task, but was proud of what the collective efforts of the BIATF, local government units, attached agencies, stakeholders, and the people have achieved over the past four years.

"It's not just about reviving the island. We are also showing the world what Filipinos are capable of and it's something that we should be really proud of. I don't think that there is any rehabilitation program in the history of our country that would match what we have done in Boracay," he said. (DENR)



DENR unveils wall of former regional directors



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (File Photo)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 23, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here recently unveiled its "Lineage of Regional Executive Directors", a wall gallery containing photographs of former DENR Region 3 leaders on Monday.

The move is in honor of remembering individuals who have brought "environmental stewardship into a more profound altitude."

In his message, DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. said the gallery signified tribute and respect to legacies of directors of Central Luzon.

"What's behind this curtain is a small token of remembrance honoring the legacies of directors past. May this inspire us to serve the people, and be remembered as more than just a portrait on the wall," Moreno ended.

This gallery lies at the lobby area of the DENR Regional Office 3 and features 15 regional executive directors, who have led the office since 1987. The unveiling ceremony was part of the 35th DENR Anniversary Celebration and the month-long observance of the Philippine Environment Month.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1932739/pampanga/local-news/denr-unveils-wall-of-former-regional-directors>



Pangulong Duterte nagtalaga ng OIC sa DENR

By Chona Yu June 23, 2022 - 07:17 PM



Isa pang opisyal ang maninilbihan lamang ng isang linggo sa ilalim ng patapos nang administrasyong-Duterte.

Itinalaga ni Pangulong Duterte bilang officer-in-charge ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) si Joselin Marcus Fragada.

Kinumpirma ni acting presidential spokesman Martin Andanar ang pagtatalaga kay Fragada.

Pinalitan nito si acting Sec. Jim Sampulna na hindi nakalusot sa Commission on Appointments kayat kinailangan na bumaba ng puwesto.

Unang naitalaga naman bilang OIC ng Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) si Usec. David Erro, na maninilbihan ng pitong araw.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/316686/pangulong-duterte-nagtalaga-ng-oic-sa-denr#ixzz7X4V31X8O>

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Duterte names new DAR, DENR OICs

By Azer Parrocha June 23, 2022, 7:37 pm



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (*File photo*)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday named new officers-in-charge (OIC) to oversee the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a press statement, acting presidential spokesperson and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said Duterte has designated DAR Undersecretary David Erro as OIC of DAR.

Erro will replace Bernie Cruz who served as acting Secretary of DAR following the resignation of John Castriciones to run for senator in the May 2022 elections.

Duterte also designated Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada as OIC of DENR.

Fragada will replace Jim Sampulna, who became acting DENR secretary after Roy Cimatu resigned in February 2022 due to health reasons.

Both designations came just seven days before the end of Duterte's six-year term on June 30.

President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has designated ABONO Partylist Rep. Conrado Estrella III as his DAR Secretary.

He has yet to name his DENR Secretary.

Malacañang did not explain the reason for the new designations. (*PNA*)



Duterte names new OICs of DENR, DAR days before stepping down

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jun 23 2022 08:02 PM

MANILA — President Rodrigo Duterte has named new heads of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) a little over a week before he steps down, an official said Thursday.

Duterte picked David Erro as DAR officer-in-charge effective June 20, and Joselin Marcus Fragada, Jr. as DENR OIC effective June 22. Their terms will end on June 30, same as Duterte's.

Acting presidential spokesman Martin Andanar confirmed their designations.

Erro, who is DAR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Office, succeeded acting Secretary Bernie Cruz, who took over the agency latelast year.

"The Congress has adjourned this June 2022, and Cruz's appointment is, therefore, considered bypassed, prompting the (Office of the President) to assign an OIC," a press statement of DAR said.

Fragada, meanwhile, replaced Jim Sampulna, who led the DENR since late February following Secretary Roy Cimatu's resignation due to health reasons.

Fragada was recently DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations-Mindanao. Years before, he held the same post but for Northern Luzon.

He also served as the executive director of DENR-Davao.

President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. named Conrado Estrella III as his DAR Secretary but has yet to name his DENR chief.



Manila Bay dolomite beach closed every Thursday for maintenance

By: [Daniza Fernandez](#) - Reporter / [@DFernandezINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:03 PM June 22, 2022



PHOTO from DENR

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Bay's dolomite beach will be closed on Thursdays to allow for maintenance work, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Wednesday.

"Please be informed that the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach is closed every Thursday for maintenance work," the DENR posted on Facebook.

The [P389-million dolomite beach](#) was reopened to the public on Independence Day, June 12 after it was closed in November for [rehabilitation](#).

Around 1,500 to 3,500 visitors are allowed at a time on the 500-meter beach to ensure health protocols are observed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, visitors may only walk and watch the sunset at the beach as swimming is prohibited due to the water quality.

The DENR, however, is pushing to make swimming safe on the [dolomite beach](#) before President Rodrigo Duterte ends his term on June 30.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1614715/manila-bay-dolomite-beach-closed-every-thursday-for-maintenance#ixzz7X4zJZGLR>

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Dolomite Beach isinara sa publiko para sa paglilinis



June 23, 2022 @ 5:17 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Bagama't nadismaya dahil nabasa lamang ang abiso noong nakarating na, nakontento na lang na sumilip at nagpakuha ng larawan sa labas ng bakod ang mga mamamasyal na nais pumasok sa Dolomite Beach sa Bay Walk Manila Roxas Blvd.

Sarado ito sa publiko tuwing Huwebes para sa paglilinis ayon sa pamunuan ng DENR , kasama ang City of Manila LGU at MMDA. Crismon Heramis

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/dolomite-beach-isinara-sa-publiko-para-sa-paglilinis/>

These Three Mayors of Metro Manila Have Joined Forces to Protect Masungi Georeserve

The mayors of the three cities urged the government to prevent quarrying in Masungi.



By [MARIO ALVARO LIMOS](#) | 12 hours ago



IMAGE MASUNGI GEORESERVE

In a rare move, three of Metro Manila's mayors have urged the government to protect Masungi Georeserve, a precious watershed adjacent to the National Capital Region.

Mayors Marcy Teodoro, Vico Sotto and Jaime Fresnedi of the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Muntinlupa urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel the mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) affecting Masungi.

The three mayors slammed the agreements, 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 acting upon the cancellation of the MPSAs," they said.



These Three Mayors of Metro Manila Have Joined Forces to Protect Masungi Georeserve

“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 added.

Masungi: From Barren Wasteland to Wildlife Sanctuary

Masungi Georeserve is an award-winning geotourism site that began as a simple public-private reforestation project in 1996, in which the government through the DENR awarded the Dumaliang family the rights to develop 30 percent of the forest, while conserving 70 percent of the area. The project involved restoring 400 hectares of denuded forests.

No trees, no animals, and no flowers. That was what the Dumaliang family saw in Masungi before Ben Dumaliang, stepped in. It was Ben who started the massive and unprecedented reforestation and restoration project in the Masungi Georeserve. He had no idea his work would reap honors and awards two decades later.

Through the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, the site has ensured the survival of over 400 species of flora and fauna, protected 60-million-year-old limestone formations, planted 40,000 indigenous trees, and employed over 100 locals who are now helping protect this piece of paradise.

Many of the resident wildlife in Masungi are found nowhere else in the world, and are critically endangered.

But now more than ever, Masungi faces serious threats to its existence.

Two Masungi park rangers suffered gunshot wounds in July 2021 after returning to their stations from their nightly patrol. An owner of an illegal swimming pool resort that was expanding into the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape was identified as the main suspect.

In 2021, Global Witness reported that the Philippines was the third most dangerous country in the world for environmental defenders, with 26 murdered in 2020 alone. Almost 30 percent of the attacks were said to be related to resource exploitation (logging, mining, and large-scale agribusiness), and hydroelectric dams, and other infrastructure.

Below are some vanishing species of plants and animals that are still thriving in Masungi Georeserve.

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/183140925069879/posts/pfbid02JhDREEtLTRrXBWMkU55X7E81szVfm tKrhN8rdWbmNXZ3AHozZ5bkwVJNQN1u1YGsl/?app=fbl>



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[Masungi Georeserve](#)
[June 19 at 8:08 PM](#) ·

[UPDATED] 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 Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, 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



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[UPDATED] LOOK: NCR, RIZAL MAYORS JOIN CALL TO CANCEL QUARRYING AGREEMENTS IN 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

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.

These disastrous floods and landslides are accelerated by unlawful and misplaced quarrying, unscrupulous resort construction, 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 1,200 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 1036, s. 1977

² MGB Show Cause Orders to Rapid City Realty & Development Corporation (MPSA #129-95-IVa); Quarry Rock (#112-95-IVa); and Quinson Limestone (#137-99-IVa)

SIGNATORIES

 Mayor Ma. Jesselina G. Belmonte City Mayor, Quezon City	 Mayor Marcelino R. Teodoro City Mayor, Marikina City	 Mayor Victor O. Rogin Scott City Mayor, Alagay City	 Mayor Jauna Pascual City Mayor, Marikina City	 Vice Mayor Gerardo V. Esderon Municipal Vice Mayor, Alagay, Alagay
 Atty. Jeronimo U. Manzanero City Administrator, Quezon City	 Atty. Voltaire C. Dela Cruz City Administrator, Marikina City	 Capt. Bernard C. Bernierde Barangay Captain, Brgy. Sta. Rosa, Marikina City	 Capt. Segundo S. Cruz Barangay Captain, Brgy. Calumpang, Marikina City	
 Capt. Randy G. Lesi Barangay Captain, Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City	 Capt. Miguel A. Ponzalan Jr. Barangay Captain, Brgy. Marikina Heights, Marikina City	 Capt. Rizalita W. Teope Barangay Captain, Brgy. Fortuna, Marikina City	 Capt. Ronnie C. Tiburcio Barangay Captain, Brgy. Barangay, Marikina City	 Capt. Marjorie Zubiri-Dela Rosa Barangay Captain, Brgy. Concepcion Dos, Marikina City



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/masungigeoreserve/posts/pfbid032vUDPUKu17YGTwmEc6MJ7KFBiydRubP5MTyMmHSrtt4YTTuMYq5aN9etaRZAeZAPI>



Belmonte joins call to save Marikina Watershed

By [Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star)
- June 24, 2022 - 12:00am



Photo taken on May 13, 2021 shows the burning of a patch of land in Upper Marikina Watershed.

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte yesterday joined other local government officials in calling for the cancellation of quarrying agreements within the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal.

Belmonte signed the joint declaration calling for an end to destructive activities in the protected area, joining Mayors Marcelino Teodoro of Marikina, Vico Sotto of Pasig and Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa.

“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,” read the statement of the local officials.

The mayors expressed concern over reports that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has not acted on the cancellation of mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs), covering more than 1,300 hectares of the protected watershed.

They said the proliferation of illegal structures and establishments inside the watershed should be taken seriously, adding that those responsible must be held accountable.

“Non-cancellation only gives the quarries runway to operate later on and does not guarantee the conservation of the watershed area,” the mayors said.

They also appealed to reconsider the social and environmental impacts of their plans and voluntarily rescind their MPSAs within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Masungi Geopark Project.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/06/24/2190461/belmonte-joins-call-save-marikina-watershed/amp/>



Leyte's Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park reopens



LEYTE. Photo shows the view from the top of the sulphur deposits in Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park in Burauen, Leyte. (File Photo from Burauen Tourism: Best of Burauen)

June 23, 2022

BURAUEN, Leyte – The Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park (MVNP), the site known for lakes and thousands of wild ducks, has officially opened after more than two years of closure and limited operations due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The ecotourism site is the last of the seven protected areas in Eastern Visayas ready to welcome visitors again since the health crisis broke out, Crisostomo Badeo Jr., the MVNP protected area superintendent on Wednesday said.

"We have not rushed the reopening since the primary purpose is not to do business, but to preserve the natural wonders of Mahagnao. We have to make a lot of preparations," Badeo said in an interview during the reopening of the site.

The MVNP protected area management board limits the daily carrying capacity of the destination to only 150 tourists from 250 before the pandemic.

There are also mechanisms in place to ensure compliance to existing minimum public health standards.



Leyte's Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park reopens

Visitors have to fill up a form downloadable through the MVNP Facebook page before their visit.

The reopening coincides with the 5th anniversary of legislation of the 341-hectare MVNP as a protected area.

For Department of Tourism Eastern Visayas Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiopes, the reopening is very timely since people want outdoor activities after years of movement restrictions.

"We always advocate for safe and fun tourism. It should be our way of life since this is the normal," Tiopes said.

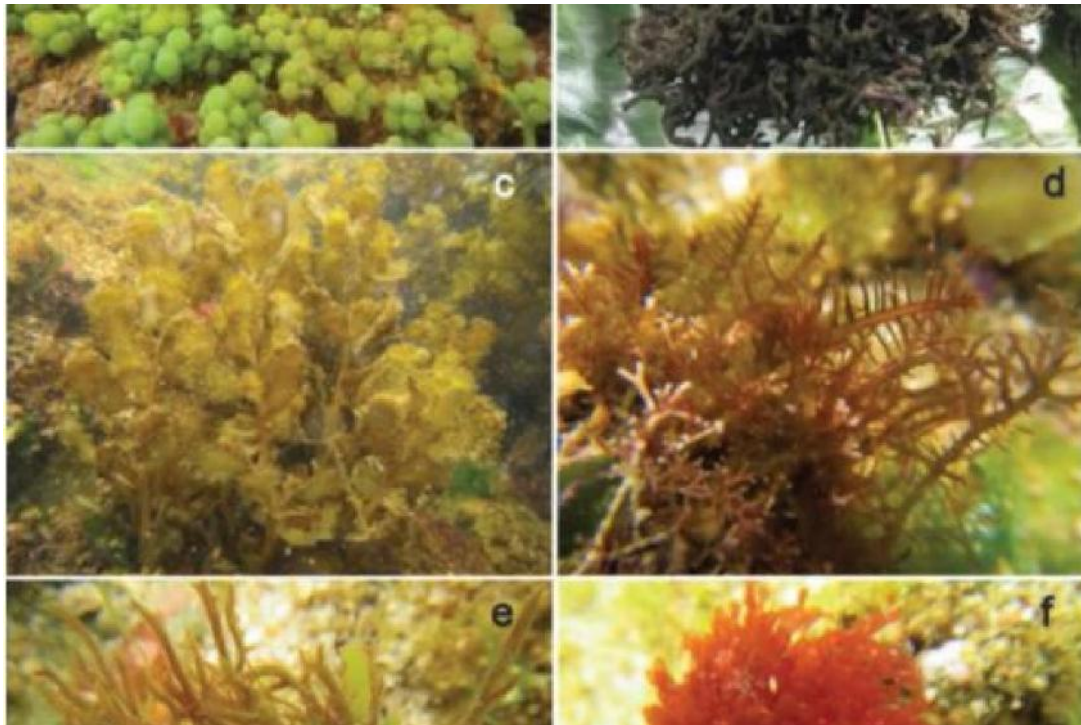
"We are so blessed to have this gift of nature. This is extraordinary and we are responsible to protect this," she added.



Latest study shows a new look on traditional medicinal seaweed use in Ilocos Norte

Published on: June 23, 2022

By DOST



QUEZON CITY -- Are you familiar with ar-arusip, pok-poklo, and garganatis?

These are some seaweeds fondly eaten by Ilocanos. Over the years, folk beliefs about their medicinal value are now being forgotten. But thanks to a new study, the names of these indigenous seaweeds and their known medicinal benefits will now be forever etched in science.

Reporting in the June 2022 issue of the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS), Dr. Richard V. Dumilag and Raymundo F. Javier documented 34 indigenous seaweed species used by Ilocanos for medicinal purposes. Their health benefits range from treating insect bites and parasitic infection, to solving digestive, respiratory, and skin diseases.

Itip-itip or *Chondrophyucus undulatus* is believed to treat diarrhea. Commonly sold in public markets, ar-arusip or *Caulerpa racemosa* was reported to treat cough and asthma while pok-poklo is known to treat goiter. Pok-poklo can also be identified as *Codium arabicum*, *Codium intricatum*, and possibly *Codium tenue*.

Scientifically named *Hydroclathrus clathratus*, bal-balulang is known to fight skin allergies while *Gelidiella acerosa* or cul-culbet can treat rheumatism.

Bodo-bodo or *Diginea simplex* is used to fight off parasitic infections while garganatis or *Scinaia hormoides* is known to improve 'dampened sexual desire'.

Latest study shows a new look on traditional medicinal seaweed use in Ilocos Norte

Asked about estimates on the number of seaweeds in the country not yet known to science in which some may contain health benefits, Dr. Dumilag said that we can speculate that there could be more of these than what is presently known.

Contrary to common misconceptions, seaweeds are not plants. They are classified as algae.

New look for decades-old data

Dr. Dumilag and Javier first got hold of their data about two decades ago in Ilocos Norte's towns of Pagudpud, Burgos, Pasuquin, Paoay, Currimao, and Badoc. With informed consent, they interviewed 278 Ilocanos from different walks of life: herbalists or mang-ngagas, fisherfolk, farmers, housewives, teachers, carpenters, drivers, and government employees.

Dr. Dumilag explained that the interviews with the Ilocano townsfolk were done in the early 2000s. In every interview, informants were asked to identify seaweeds they use for medicinal reasons. If they don't know any, they were asked to refer someone who may be more knowledgeable.

Then recently, they updated the taxonomy — the science of identifying, naming, and classifying organisms — of the seaweeds which they first identified back in the years 2000 and 2001. They have done this by checking the works of other taxonomists working in the country and abroad.

Dr. Dumilag and Javier's PJS paper does not directly prove any therapeutic claims by consuming any of the 34 seaweeds. But they cited other studies which identified key substances, thereby offering clues behind the medicinal benefits of these seaweeds.

People and "plants" of the past and present

Dr. Dumilag and Javier hope that other researchers would look at how the Ilocanos and other ethnic groups nowadays use traditional seaweed-based medicines — including the perceptions of the younger generations toward it — given the current economic conditions of the province and access of the locals to modern medicine.

"Old knowledge, while may be familiar among the present groups may not be passed to the next generation due to large urbanization, loss of traditional lifestyle, and rural marginalization," Dr. Dumilag explains.

He added that these factors make "old knowledge intimately linked to superstitions," rendering these practices "ineffective, often highly dangerous or lethal."

Dr. Dumilag said that ethnobotanical studies offer "sophisticated insights" that can lead to scientific discoveries on disease treatments and biodiversity conservation, just to name a few blessings.

"By chronicling this old knowledge, we practically construct a strong link that facilitates the integration of cultural heterogeneity and data-driven sciences," the researcher added.



Latest study shows a new look on traditional medicinal seaweed use in Ilocos Norte

Dr. Dumilag and Javier are both currently a teacher and researcher at Sorsogon State University and Bulacan State University, respectively. Their peer-reviewed paper enlisting the name of the 34 seaweeds, including their scientific names, and how Ilocanos use them are accessible for free at the PJS website, philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph.

PJS is published by the Department of Science and Technology through the Science and Technology Information Institute. (DMCGopilan, DOST-STII)



Dabawenyos urged to collect used cooking oil for biofuel prod

By Che Palicte June 23, 2022, 1:09 pm



BIODIESEL FUEL. The existing BioDiesel Fuel Plant in Barangay Maa, Davao City, continues to process used cooking oil into biofuel. The Davao City Environment and Natural Resources on Thursday (June 23, 2022) reiterated its call to the Dabawenyos and barangay authorities to collect used cooking oil for processing into biodiesel through the city's oil refinery. *(Photo courtesy of Davao CIO)*

DAVAO CITY—The Davao City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) called on Dabawenyos Thursday to collect used cooking oil for processing into biodiesel through the city's oil refinery.

"This program aims to reduce the presence of cooking oil in the city's waterways and canals, which can coagulate and worsen flooding in the city," Orly Limpangog, CENRO information education campaign unit spokesperson, said in a radio interview.

About 10 percent of the collected oil is used as raw material in breaking down biodegradable wastes into compost, Limpangog said.

In 2017, the processing of used cooking oil into biofuel at the BioDiesel Fuel Plant (BDFP) in the city has proven to be sustainable, he added.

However, the collection of used cooking oil at the barangay level was temporarily put on hold, prompting the city to resort to local restaurants and fast-food establishments for a steady supply of used oil.



Dabawenyos urged to collect used cooking oil for biofuel prod

The BDFP, located at the CENRO composting facility in Barangay Maa, started processing used cooking oil into biodiesel fuel in the same year. It was established mainly to discourage establishments such as those in the fast-food industry from reusing or selling their used cooking oil.

The indiscriminate disposal of cooking oil has also been identified as one of the factors for clogged drainage and canal systems in the city.

Limpangog urged Dabawenyos not to dump their used cooking oil, but instead gather them so that authorities at the barangay level can collect these from each household.

Improper disposal of used cooking oil, he said, could end up in “waterways and canals.”

Limpangog added that barangays with their waste collection vehicles can avail of biodiesel subsidies from CENRO if they deliver their collected wastes to the city’s sanitary landfills.

“We will compensate them with fuel. If they need 20 liters to refuel, we will give them 20 liters of biodiesel,” he said. (PNA)



Climate change the 'real threat' for PH



By [Kristina Maralit](#)

June 24, 2022



Incoming national security adviser (NSA) Clarita Carlos

(UPDATE) CLIMATE change, not the territorial dispute with China or the Russia-Ukraine conflict, is the real threat to the country's security, incoming national security adviser (NSA) Clarita Carlos said Thursday.

Carlos said environmental concerns create a chain reaction affecting food, human and national security, especially among developing countries like the Philippines which bear the brunt of the effects of global warming.

The 76-year-old Carlos said the so-called powerhouse nations' vow to cut carbon emissions by 2030 will remain a promise since many of them have gone back to using sources of energy that are harmful to the environment.

"India is going back to coal, some countries are going back to using fossil fuel. That is the reality on the ground," Carlos said during a roundtable discussion with the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR) in Pasig City.

"The promises of de-carbonization by 2030, 2050, they are by the wayside in the meanwhile because human survival is at the highest premium," she said.



Climate change the 'real threat' for PH

Carlos said the government must start recalibrating policies on environmental protection.

The Philippines, she noted, has one of the best environmental laws in the world. The problem is that they are not being fully enforced.

The Marcos administration, she said, can consider giving tax breaks to buyers of electric vehicles to entice more motorists to switch from fossil fuels whose prices have been skyrocketing.

Further pushing the use of solar energy is another solution, taking advantage of the Philippines being a tropical country, especially amid disasters and calamities, Carlos said.

One proposal is to establish solar farms in military camps to reduce their dependence on power from grids that are disrupted during typhoons or earthquakes.

All these make up the "broad strokes" of a general security strategy Carlos said she will present to President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

"I will have the President design the national strategy. I can present to him a draft, in broad strokes," she added.

The Philippines has been strongly urging developed nations to ramp up their assistance to developing countries that continue to grapple with climate change.

Several weeks ago, President Rodrigo Duterte called on wealthier nations to be held accountable for failing to reduce their carbon emissions.

Marcos, meanwhile, has been invited to attend the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP27, to be held at the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh in November.



Strategies in creating climate resilience

HARVARD VERITAS



By [Glenn S. Banaguas](#)

June 23, 2022

CLIMATE change is believed to be an environmental peril that has impacted governance, human security, fishery, agriculture, environment and economic growth. It has created a disheartening encounter in society. It leads to worsening air quality, adverse impacts on food and water supply and quality, and more frequent and extreme weather events, which profoundly impact security.

Some useful strategies have been suggested to address the impacts and risks of climate change. And they are as follows:

1. Area: Governance

Impact:

Adaptation options:

- Incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management schemes into governance systems.
- Engage civil society groups or organizations in participatory fora to address their vulnerability and identify adaptations to climate impacts.
- Examine existing laws and regulations for opportunities to improve governance and resilience to climate variables.

2. Area: Human security

Impacts:

- Increased prevalence of vector-borne diseases (e.g., malaria, [dengue](#))
- Increased risk of malnutrition due to decreased food availability and quality, and ill-health effects of reduced access to clean drinking water

– Increased risk of death from extreme weather events

– Increased need for post-disaster relief and reconstruction, increased pressure on disaster management systems

Adaptation options:

- Broad-scale immunization
- Early warning systems and public information



Strategies in creating climate resilience

- Increase access to primary care and preventive care
- Improve disaster preparation and emergency response
- Capacity building of local communities to assist in relief actions
- Use of insurance, bonds, and other risk-sharing measures to finance relief and reconstruction
- Manage risk to reduce impact

3. Area: Fishery

Impacts:

- Decrease in fisheries production
- Climate processes and extreme weather events will increase in frequency and intensity
- Warming is more intense in surface waters
- Changes in fish distributions
- Shifts in ocean salinity are occurring
- Oceans are becoming more acidic with probable negative consequences to many coral reef and calcium-bearing organisms

Adaptation options:

- Creating resilient ecosystems, human and governance communities through decreasing the exposure of the sector by increasing the aquatic systems' resilience; decreasing the communities' sensitivities to change; and increasing the sector's adaptive capacity
- Supporting intersectoral collaboration (e.g., integrating fisheries and aquaculture into national climate change adaptation and disaster risk management (DRM) strategies and supporting integrated resource management, such as integrated coastal zone or watershed management, water planning)
- Promoting integrated monitoring and information systems — incorporating scientific and local knowledge sources and improving general awareness of climate change within and outside the sector
- Promoting context specific and community-based adaptation strategies
- Avoiding "mal-adaptations" (e.g., overly rigid fishing access regimes that inhibit fisher migrations, adaptation actions that would increase fishing effort in an over-fished fishery)
- Embracing adaptive management, decision-making under uncertainty and the precautionary approach



Strategies in creating climate resilience

– Promoting natural barriers and defenses rather than hard barriers that would impact the ecosystem

4. Area: Agriculture

Impacts:

- Increased temperature results in higher yields in some areas but lower yields due to higher rate of evapotranspiration and water deficits
- Increased incidence and range of pests and diseases, extreme weather events cause flooding, crop loss and erosion, drought results in reduced crop yields.

Adaptation options:

- Genetic improvement to produce drought-tolerant crops, translocation of crops, and changes in cropping patterns
- Afforestation to condition soils
- Improve water infiltration, and provide shade, increase water use efficiency, diversification into non-farm activities, crop insurance and micro-edit schemes

5. Area: Environment

Impacts:

- Higher temperatures and drought lead to increased incidence of forest fires changes in temperature and precipitation can cause changes in flora and fauna ranges and potential losses of biodiversity, and extreme weather events can damage coastal ecosystems, coral reefs and mangroves

Adaptation options:

- Seawalls, beach nourishment, regulation to discourage development in coastal and other threatened areas
- Forest management to reduce potential for forest fires, set aside protected areas for threatened species
- Afforestation and reforestation
- Community management of forest and natural resources to ensure sustainable harvest and regeneration

6. Area: Economic growth

Impacts:

- Damages and losses to livelihood assets
- Straining of traditional coping systems



Strategies in creating climate resilience

- Increased debt burden and long-term poverty alleviation efforts
- Reduced foreign local investment in areas vulnerable to climate variability and change impacts

Adaptation options:

- Diversification of livelihoods
- Local value addition
- Improved access to markets and finances
- Technology transfer
- Use of carbon trading opportunities to increase revenue while putting in place measures that reduce emissions

7. Area: Energy

Impacts:

- In some areas, may reduce energy demand because of higher temperatures, decreased hydropower potential due to reduced precipitation
- Increase energy demand for air conditioning, damage dams due to flooding

Adaptation options:

- Enhance dam structural parameters, change siting of hydropower, incorporate future reduced generation capacity in design, integrated water resources and disaster management
- Improved energy efficiency,
- Widen water channels and periodic draining of vulnerable lakes

In order to attain a certain level of security, different stakeholders must bring unique perspectives, skills, solutions, and a wealth of knowledge to the challenge of strengthening resilience and addressing climate change. They need to be engaged as partners in building climate resilience rather than being regarded simply as beneficiaries of initiatives. The [IPCC's](#) latest report recognizes the value of diverse forms of knowledge such as scientific, indigenous and local knowledge in building climate resilience. Advances in the climate financing programs can connect local stakeholders to the higher-level policy, technical and financial assistance that they need for pertinent development impacts.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/23/opinion/columns/strategies-in-creating-climate-resilience/1848378>

Nations told: Invest in innovation to fight hunger amid climate crisis



by [Cai Ordinario](#)

June 23, 2022



[Nonie Reyes](#)

In file photo: A father and son visit the urban community farm located at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City at the launch of the BGC Community Farm by Urban Farmers, where residents and guests are welcome to grow their food with the help of volunteer partner farmers.

A billion people are facing the possibility of going hungry due to climate change by 2050, according to the latest report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

In the report, FAO and the EBRD said climate change is characterized by rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and supply chain disruptions which impact food production, undermining global efforts to end hunger.

One of the culprits of worsening climate change are anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, of which 21 to 37 percent is accounted for by agrifood systems emissions.

"Agriculture is both a cause and a victim of climate change, and it must be part of the climate solution," FAO Investment Centre Director Mohamed Manssouri added, pointing to the potential to engage food and land-use systems to reduce emissions and act as a carbon sink.

FAO encouraged countries to adopt improvements in farming such as the adoption of natural vegetative strips which could be set up in the Philippines at \$84 per hectare and maintained at \$36 per hectare per year.

Natural vegetative strips are part of the options proposed by the FAO and EBRD which includes soil and water conservation technologies being adopted by some countries.



Nations told: Invest in innovation to fight hunger amid climate crisis

These soil and water conservation efforts also include improved agronomic practices, conservation agriculture (CA) and integrated nutrient management.

Natural vegetative strips in the Philippines, Grassed Fanya juu terraces in Kenya, and Konso bench terraces in Ethiopia are among the improved agronomic practices mentioned in the report.

"We need to double down and mobilize greater investment, knowledge and innovations to make our agrifood systems greener, more resilient, more productive and more efficient at providing healthy and nutritious diets, good jobs and biodiversity," Manssouri said.

The report argued that the private sector has much to gain by decarbonizing agrifood systems—including reducing costs, mitigating risks, protecting brand value, ensuring long-term supply chain viability, and gaining competitive advantages.

FAO and EBRD said that while some companies have committed to ambitious emissions reduction targets, efforts have been "uneven." They noted that for one, achieving carbon neutrality is still voluntary.

"Decarbonizing the agrifood sector is possible and not some utopian ideal or box-ticking exercise. There are low-carbon pathways, as we highlight in the report, but they call for strong political and corporate commitment, concerted action, including sound policies and good governance, and dedicated investment and human resources to see results," Gianpiero Nacci, EBRD Director, Green Economy and Climate Action, said.

Further, they said it can be significantly more expensive for a smaller company to become carbon neutral than for a larger one. And it can vary from sector to sector.

One of the challenges, FAO and EBRD said, is that consumers are often not willing to pay a premium for carbon-neutral products, which combined with a low implicit price of emitting means that not all carbon reduction approaches pay off for agrifood system actors.

In addition, FAO and EBRD said offsetting costs—at current carbon prices—can be much lower than reduction costs across emissions-intensive sectors.

The report identifies five action areas that different stakeholders — policymakers, agribusinesses, farmers, international organizations—can do to accelerate the transition to greener agrifood systems.

These areas are strategically target carbon neutrality; improve and standardize tools and methods; promote sound governance mechanisms; directly support companies and farmers to decarbonize; and educate and communicate on carbon neutrality.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/23/nations-told-invest-in-innovation-to-fight-hunger-amid-climate-crisis/>



BAHA, LINDOL, PAGHANDAAN



June 23, 2022 @ 8:34 PM 9 hours ago

NAPAKAHIRAP isipin, mga Bro, ang pagdating ng mga sakuna ngayong tag-ulan.

Sa mga bansang India, China at Bangladesh, nanalasa ang mga baha at milyon-milyon katao ang tinatamaan.

Sa Banglades, may 3.1 milyon ang tinamaan ng baha habang 1.8 milyon naman sa India habang daan-daang libo naman ang dinaluhon ng baha sa China.

Ang ulan umano sa China ay katulad ng naganap noong 1961 na milyon din ang pininsala ng baha.

Sa Bangladesh at India, palahaw ng mga residente, ngayon lang sila nakararanas ng grabeng baha na maaari umano lalala pa sa mga susunod na araw.

May nabilang nang 116 patay sa dalawang bansa.

Pero hindi lang baha ang pumapatay sa mga bansang ito kundi maging ang mga kidlat na nagaganap na pumaslang na ng 49.

Sa Afghanistan, tumira naman ang napakalakas na lindol na magnitude 6.1 at may 920 nang natagpuang patay.

NAKAPANGINGINIG

Habang nag-uulat ang media at mga awtoridad sa nagaganap na mga pag-ulan at paglindol, hindi nating maiwasan ang makaramdam ng lungkot, nginig sa takot at lamig, gutom at iba pa.



BAHA, LINDOL, PAGHANDAAN

Sino naman ang hindi malulungkot at matatakot sa rami ng mga patay at still counting, 'ika nga.

'Yang gutom at lamig habang nakababad sa tubig, anak ng tokwa, sino ang makatitiis?

Lalo na kung sa kapaligiran mo ay ang mga biktima na mismo na nalulunod at nadadapurak ng mga bakal at bato naman sa mga nagibang gusali, sa lindol naman?

Isa pang ikinalulungkot, mga Bro, ng mga biktima at kawalan ng mainom man lang na malinis na tubig.

Kapag baha na kasi at nire-rescue na ang mga mamamayan sa bubong ng kanilang mga bahay, sino ang may malinis na tubig sa pinaghalo-halong dumi ng tao at hayop, bulok na mga bagay, nakalalasang kemikal at iba sa paligid?

IBA PANG MGA PINSALA

Kung tutuusin, hindi na kailangang magtanong pa kung ano-ano ang mga napipinsala sa mga grabeng pag-ulan at pagbaha.

Patay ang lahat ng mga hayop na inaalagaan, maging ang mga pananim.

Sira rin maging ang mga pundar sa hanapbuhay gaya ng mga sasakyan, kompyuter, makinarya sa distilled water, mga panluto sa pagrerestoran, mga palengke at iba pa.

Kinakailangan pa ang mangutang para makapagsimula mula at maganda kung may mga pautang na hindi 5/6.

Ang mga nasira at naanod na bahay sa mga ilog, paano rin?

Ang mga nagiba na bahay sa lindol na ikinasira rin ng mga hanapbuhay na nadaganan, paano?

Mahihirap na bansa ang Afghanistan at Bangladesh.

Mabuti kung kaya ng pamahalaan nila ang magbuhos ng sapat na mga pondo na pang-ahon sa mga nabibiktima ng kalamidad.

MAGHANDA LAHAT

Sa tag-ulan, inaasahan na nating ang pagdating ng mga sakuna mula sa mga bagyo, baha, landslide at iba na talaga namang mapaminsala.

Sa lindol, dumarating ito nang katulad ng pagdating ng isang magnanakaw na hindi namamalayan.

Dapat maghanda ang lahat at bahagi ng paghahanda ang pagkaroon ng mga pagsasanay at pagkakaroon ng mga imbak na pagkain, tubig, gamot, salap at iba pa.

Nakahanda ba tayo lagi, mga Bro?

Maynilad eyeing used but purified potable water for Metro consumers

 by [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 23, 2022



Due to the scarcity of freshwater supply, Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad), the private water service provider for the West Zone, is now looking at purifying used water to make it potable similar to what is being done in Singapore, South Africa, Namibia, and the United States.

“Water is a scarce resource. Given the growing population’s increasing demand for water plus the strain on existing sources due to climate change, we should consider using previously untapped sources—including used water—to augment supply. There are now reliable and effective treatment technologies that make it a viable option,” Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez said in a news statement.

Maynilad is planning to utilize some of its new Modular Treatment Plants (ModTP) for the purpose instead of purifying raw water drawn directly from rivers.

The plan is to purify the already treated used water that is just being discharged into rivers by its Sewage Treatment Plants (STP).

“The treated used water discharged by STPs is actually a more reliable water source than raw river water because it is climate independent; the quality is controlled and less variable,” said Maynilad Quality, Sustainability and Resiliency head Roel S. Espiritu.

“If we use the river directly as the source, trash and other pollutants are thrown into it by surrounding communities could drastically change the river water’s quality. This could affect the volume output of a ModTP, which has to adjust its treatment parameters with sudden shifts in the raw water quality.”



Maynilad eyeing used but purified potable water for Metro consumers

Maynilad treats raw water from Laguna Lake in a similar way, as it uses a sewage treatment method for initial purification of the lake water before it passes through several more treatment processes for full conversion to drinking water. The company has been tapping Laguna Lake as an alternative raw water source since 2010, which enabled it to reduce overreliance on Angat Dam and serve customers in the south.

The ModTPs of Maynilad uses treatment technology from Israel, a known global leader in water innovation, featuring a multi-stage process that includes Pressurized Media Filtration, Ultrafiltration, Reverse Osmosis, and Chlorine Disinfection to convert used water to drinking water.

"By including used water to our supply source options, we have an enhanced capability to generate more water whenever existing supplies run short," added Fernandez.

Maynilad is working with local government units, the Department of Health, and other government agencies to ensure that the used water treated by Maynilad's ModTP is potable.

The company is also conducting a series of market research activities to establish social acceptance among consumers of water reuse.



'i-Witness' bags award at environmental films



Published 7 hours ago
on June 24, 2022 12:20 AM
By [TDT @tribuneph](#)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF I-WITNESS 'i-Witness' program host and writer Howie Severino.

During the Covid-19 surge in 2021, the i-Witness team of program host and writer Howie Severino's didn't have to travel far for its documentary work.

Littered on the shores of Manila Bay was an overlooked danger the virus had bred: discarded surgical masks which are considered hazardous waste. In the sea itself were more used masks, which threaten corals and marine life.

A toxic side effect caused by a global health crisis, mask pollution was an issue that resonated with an international jury which gave the i-Witness docu "Masked Land" a Silver Green award in the Health and Living Environment category at the Deauville Green Awards in France, one of the world's longest running environmental film festivals.

"Like everyone else in 2021, our movements were very limited. Good thing my team found an urgent topic nearby that many around the world could relate to," said Severino, who receive the award on behalf of GMA Network and i-Witness.

"The pandemic has challenged all of us to produce quality work under very stringent conditions. My talented and courageous team stepped up," added Severino, who in 2020 produced another prize-winning documentary about Covid-19 — his personal experience as a patient and survivor.

The Deauville Green Awards is an international film festival that honors the best of environmental reporting.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/06/24/i-witness-bags-award-at-environmental-films/>

24 JUNE 2022, Friday



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DENR hails BIATF's Boracay rehab efforts

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

"MISSION accomplished, Mr. President!"

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna declared this following the culmination of the rehabilitation and management of the island by the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF).

Sampulna reported that the task force was "successful" in its rehabilitation efforts on the famous tourist destination.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) 53 on May 8, 2018, to create the BIATF, which was tasked to supervise Boracay's rehabilitation.

The task force was created following Duterte's order of closure and massive rehabilitation of Boracay Island after declaring it a "cesspool" due to uncontrolled development and overcrowding over the years.

The term of the task force, which is co-chaired by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), was extended until May 8, 2021, through EO 115.

However, its tenure was

extended again until June 30, 2022, through EO 148 to "give it time" to complete its projects.

"Because of the series of EOs by President Duterte, and through the leadership of former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, naging malinis muli ang Boracay," said Sampulna, noting that Cimatu's "hard work" kept the BIATF's spirit to carry on with the colossal task.

"Direct draining of sewage into the sea, unorganized solid waste management, and building of hotels and establishments near the beach and roads are some problems that the task force worked on," Sampulna added.

Martin Jose Despi, Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) General Manager, on the other hand, said that it was "no easy task", but was proud of the

collective efforts of the BIATF, local government units (LGUs), attached agencies, stakeholders, and the people have achieved over the past four years.

"It's not just about reviving the island. We are also showing the world what Filipinos are capable of, which we should be really proud of. I don't think that there is any rehabilitation program in the history of our country that would match what we have done in Boracay," he said.

Under the enforcement of laws and regulations, about 300 structures at the beachfront were cleared to follow the "25+5" meter beach easement rule.

Over 1,000 structures that have been demolished for the widening and improvement of the Boracay Circumferential Road have already complied with the 12-meter road easement

with the help of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Meanwhile, 21 sampling stations were established and regularly monitored the island's water quality.

The highest fecal coliform level recorded in the last two to five months was 33 most probable number per 100 milliliters, which is within the standard water quality level.

With the help of the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), it deployed a ground-penetrating radar that detects underground irregularities.

Through the use of radar, DENR-MGB discovered 44 big pipes from establishments that directly discharge wastewater to the beachfront.

Since then, over 100 sewage treatment plants have been established among hotels and business establishments, while others are now connected to the sewer line.



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Rody names DENR, DAR OIC

BY MJ BLANCAFLOR
AND EDJEN OLIQUINO

President Rodrigo Duterte has replaced the officers in charge (OIC) of the environment and agrarian reform departments days before bowing out of office. Undersecretary Joselin Fragada will replace Jim Sampulna as the officer in charge of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Undersecretary David Erro will temporarily take the helm of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), replacing Bernie Cruz whose appointment was bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

Presidential spokesperson and Palace Communications Secretary Martin Andanar announced the latest designations on Thursday. At press time, he has yet to explain why the President

made such changes.

Both Fragada and Erro will serve as OIC of their respective departments until the end of the month or until the new secretaries appointed by President-elect Bongbong Marcos Jr. take over.

Erro took his oath as DAR's officer in charge on 20 June, based on the agency's media release. The DENR has yet to provide details on Fragada's appointment. @tribunephil_MJB



Digong pinaupo OIC sa DENR

Inanunsiyo ng Malacañang ang appointment ng officer-in-charge (OIC) sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nabatid na pinuwesto ng palasyo bilang OIC sa DENR si Joselin Marcus Fragada kapalit ni acting Secretary Jim Sampulna na na-bypass ng Commission on Appointments (CA).

Kasabay nito ang pagtatalaga rin kay Atty. David Erro bilang OIC ng Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) kapalit ni acting Secretary Bernie Cruz na tulad ni Sampulna ay na-bypass din sa kumpirmasyon ng CA.

Nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang appointment papers nina Erro at Fragada nitong Hunyo 20 at matatapos ang kanilang termino sa Hunyo 30, 2022.

Samantala, sa isang text message, nilinaw ni Cruz na hindi siya sinibak kung di na-bypass ng CA kung kaya't kinakailangang magtatalaga ng OIC sa DAR.

"Hindi naman po sinibak, by operation of law po parang bypass kami after ng sine die ng Congress. They need to appoint a replacement and Usec Erro is the head of Transition Committee kaya nilagay na rin po siya na OIC," paglilinaw ni Cruz.

Matatandaang itinalaga si Cruz bilang acting DAR secretary noong Nobyembre. Balik siya ngayon sa pagiging undersecretary ng DAR. **(Aileen Taliping)**



SMC 1M toneladang basura hinakot sa Tullahan River

Naabot ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) ang target nito na halukayin ang mahigit isang milyong tonelada ng mga burak at iba pang basura sa kahabaan ng Tullahan River na mas maaga sa itinakdang panahon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Hanggang nitong Hunyo 20, nasa 1,029,257 tonelada ng mga burak at basura ang nakuha mula sa Tullahan River na katumbas ng halos 70,000 dump truck.

Sabi ni SMC president at

chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang, kahit may pandemya na nagpaantala sa kanilang cleanup operation, nagpatuloy pa rin ang SMC para maabot ang layunin nito na mahalukay ang mga naipong burak at iba pang basura sa Tullahan River upang maging maayos ang agos ng tubig dito.

“What is critical now is getting all stakeholders to keep the river clean and free of garbage. This requires all of us working together,” ani Ang.

Sinimulan ng SMC ang P1 billion Tullahan River cleanup project kasama ang DENR noong Pebrero 2020 kasabay ng Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Isa ang SMC sa mga tumugon sa hamon ng DENR sa pribadong sektor na tumulong linisin ang mga ilog na umaagos patungo sa Manila Bay dahil sa mga nakabarrang basura tulad ng plastic.

Susunod na proyekto ng SMC ang paglilinis sa Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) sa Bulacan.



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PEZA calls for agro-industrial, aquamarine ecozones on gov't land

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) said 12 million hectares of government land needs to be tapped for agro-industrial and aquamarine economic zones (ecozones), to address the looming food crisis.

PEZA Director-General Charito B. Plaza said in a statement on Thursday that "For years, we have been hearing of plans for production and food sufficiency, yet we continue to be an import and consumption-dependent economy, despite the millions of hectares of idle land."

"Our focus (must be) to utilize responsibly our very fertile land and rich natural resources towards self-reliance (and a) self-sustaining and resource-generating economy" Ms. Plaza added.

Ms. Plaza said President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s decision to take control of the Department of Agriculture (DA) has opened up an opportunity for PEZA

to explore the expansion of production via the ecozone route, with corresponding incentives to locators.

"PEZA will contribute in our own way... by transforming public land into viable agro-industrial and aquamarine (production centers to achieve) food security," she added.

On May 31, the PEZA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to create more ecozones in the countryside. The ecozone development program will be piloted in the Caraga region.

"Under the MoU, PEZA and DENR have agreed to pursue the establishment of special ecozones in potential areas within the jurisdiction of the DENR that are suitable for development as agro-industrial, agro-forestry, mineral processing, and eco-tourism (zones).

We hope to truly implement these partnerships in the coming years under the administration of President-elect Marcos," Ms. Plaza said.

"We aim to restore the once major industry of wood and bring order to the utilization of the raw minerals processed into many other products in Caraga, which has (major) timberland and mining land," she added.

PEZA and DENR identified seven sites in the region viable for ecozone development. Four of the proposed economic zones will be in Agusan del Norte, while one site each has been nominated for Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur.

"Once proclaimed, these will be in addition to the 23 operating agro-industrial ecozones in PEZA, four of which are located in Luzon, five in Visayas, and 13 in Mindanao," PEZA said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



PEZA TO SPUR FOOD OUTPUT VIA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

BY ANDREA E. SAN JUAN

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) is planning to use around 12 million hectares of agricultural lands and the country's fishing grounds for special economic zones on agriculture and aquamarine to spur domestic food production.

Peza Director General Charito B. Plaza said food produced by the special ecozones will not only boost domestic food supply but will also help prop up the country's export receipts.

Plaza noted that despite the years of shooting for sufficiency, the country continues to import food and remains dependent on other countries to beef up its domestic supply despite having millions of hectares of idle lands.

She said these idle lands "must be our focus on how to utilize responsibly our very fertile lands and rich natural resources as the country aims to push for a self-reliant, self-sustaining and resource-generating economy."

SEE "PEZA," A2

Peza...

CONTINUED FROM A1

"In planning for our country and our people's needs, we must first assess how we can properly utilize both our human and natural resources, the Philippines's biggest advantages, to attain total development."

Plaza added that this can be done through the creation of different types of economic zones that will attract targeted, specialized, strategic and big-ticket investments and spur countryside development.

Last month during Peza's signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Peza chief said in a statement that ecozones are drivers of economic growth outside the National Capital Region (NCR).

During the same event, Plaza also said Peza will recommend to the incoming administration incentives for strategic and big-ticket

industries that will be located in the countryside to attract investors.

Under the MOU, the DENR and Peza have agreed that when compared with other regions, Region 13 or the Caraga Administrative Region has the greatest potential to contribute to economic development being the timber and mining capital of the country.

"We aim to restore back the once major industry of wood and put order in the utilization of the raw minerals processed into many other products in Caraga, which has the biggest timberland and mining lands," Plaza said.

Peza and DENR have identified seven lands in Caraga that are viable for ecozone development. Four of the proposed special economic zones will be located in Agusan del Norte, while there's one proposed for Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur.

Currently, there are 23 operating agro-industrial ecozones in Peza of which 13 are in Mindanao.



MAYNILA BAY.

sa Pagsasalba ng Habitat



Kuha ni **EDD GUMBAN**

Ang Maynila, bilang kabisera ng Pilipinas na isa sa itinuturing na sentro ng ekonomiya, politika, at kulturang aktibidad.

Ang orihinal na pangalan ng Maynila ay Maynilad na mula sa halamang nilad na mabulakiakin na tumutubo sa magitatang lugar. Mula ito sa kahabaan ng baybaying dagat na kalaunan ay pinaikli ang pangalan na tinatawag na Maynila hanggang ngayon.

Ang Manila ay mayaman sa kasaysayan at kultura na sinakop ng Spanish sa loob ng mahigit 300 taon. Bilang ebedensiya ay ang mga pader ng Intramuros kung saan namayani ang mga Espanyol hanggang sumuko ang mga ito sa liderato ng mga Amerikano at binitawan ang 'Pinas sa kamay ng mga Kano.

Sa pangunguna ng mga Amerikano ay nagsimula ang pagbabagong buhay ng mga Pinoy. Dahil nagkaroon ng mas maraming eskuwelahan, kalye, tulay, at gusali na ayon sa estilo ni Uncle Sam.

Sa paglipas ng maraming taon, ang Maynila ay itinuturing na isa sa tourist spots sa buong mundo na dinarayo ng mga banyaga. Ang bukang-liwayway at sunset sa Manila Bay ay panghalina sa karamihan na dahilan upang bansagan itong "The Pearl of the Orient" lalo na ang mala-romantikong paligid ng Manila Bay kasunod naman ang maringal na kagandahan ng Luneta Park.

Higit na naging kaaya-aya ang Manila Bay, ngayong naibalik na ang kalinisan at mala-perlas na buhangin nito; kaya naman namnam ng mga Manilenyo ang sariwang hangin nito sa tabi ng dagat.

Ang pagbabago ng Manila Bay ay mula sa pangunguna ni Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso na ngayon ay bukas tuwina sa publiko sa tinaguriang Manila Baywalk.

Sa pakikipagtulungan ni Mayor Isko sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at pati na rin sa hindi mabilang na mga volunteers upang ganap na malinis ang Manila Bay. Kung dati ay masang-sang ang amoy nito dahil mula nga sa polluted na tubig na bunga na rin ng tambak na mga basura. Dumaan sa masusing rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay na kahit pa na inangalan ang pagtambak ng mga tone-toneladang dolomite.

Ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay ay naisakatuparan hindi lamang para sa mga Manilenyo, kundi upang isaiba ang kalikasan bilang support system sa paligid tulad ng punong tubig o mangrove, seagrass beds, at wetlands na nagbibigay pagkain para sa iba't ibang uri ng buhay ng ating habitat.

Ang bagong Manila Bay ay tanda ng isang pamana para sa mga susunod na herasyon ng Manilenyo, ganundin sa ibang karatig-pook ng Maynila upang muling maulanghap ang sariwang hangin, makapaglakad sa mapuputing buhangin, at makapagtampisaw sa malinis nitong tubig.

- Lanie B. Mate



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Daily Tribune

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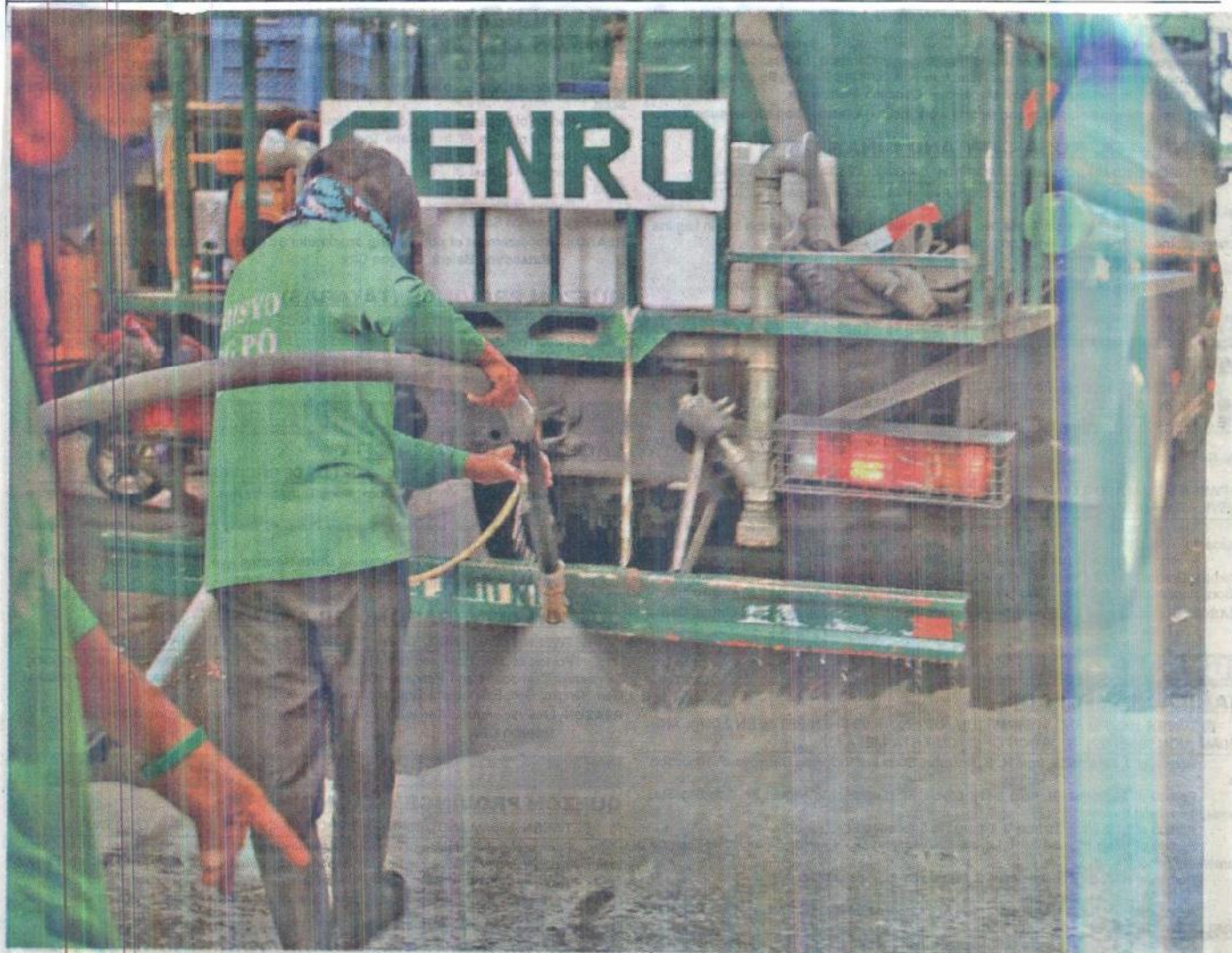
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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_ana

PARANAQUE'S City Environment and Natural Resource does some clean-up operations around the Baclaran area near the Redemptorist Church as part of efforts to keep the environment free of toxic wastes.



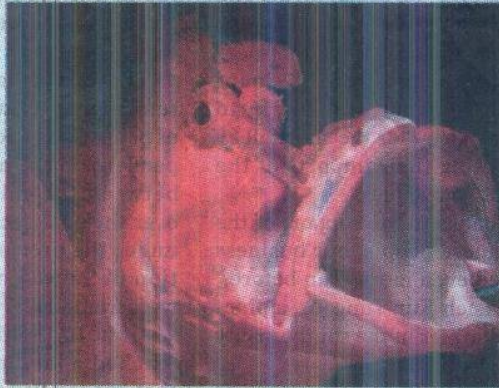
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Regional Updates



BAGANI EVASCO/DENR-DAVAO FB PAGE

THIS PADDLE-flap scorpionfish (*Rhinopias eschmeyer*) is among the creatures photographed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Regional Director Bagani Fidel A. Evasco during a recent series of dives in different parts of the region. The DENR-Davao Facebook page posted an online exhibit of the images in celebration of this year's World Ocean Day, held every June 8.

1st Davao dive expo set June 24-26

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism (DoT) is holding the first Davao Dive Expo this weekend at the SM Lanang Premier in Davao City, highlighting both well known sites in Samal and new ones in other parts of the region.

"It is our hope that through this initiative, we can further promote our established and emerging dive sites and bring the awareness of this tourism activity to our communities," said DoT Davao Regional Director Tanya Rabat Tan in a statement.

Among the new dive sites that are being promoted are those in Davao Oriental province, particularly in Mati City and the town of Governor Generoso.

The June 24-26 regional expo, which follows the Samal Dive Festival held in the last week of May, features a daily dive and marine

protection forum by respected conservation experts.

"We envision that the staging of the dive expo will create a wider underwater biodiversity appreciation and promote further marine wildlife protection to both tourists and locals," said Ms. Tan.

There will also be an underwater photo exhibit of various dive sites in the region, pop-up booths for local dive shops, dive destinations, and other allied services.

- MSJ



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Tourists in Nueva Vizcaya clear the way for a marine turtle as it heads back to the sea after laying eggs in Barangay Ditawini, Dinalungan, Aurora in this handout photo provided by the municipal tourism office of Ambaguio.



THE PHILIPPINE STAR
nation

13

EDITOR: TERESA B. COROS

FRIDAY | JUNE 24, 2022



■ Clarita Carlos

Climate change the 'real threat' for PH

CLIMATE change, not the territorial dispute with China or the Russia-Ukraine conflict, is the real threat to the country's security, incoming national security adviser (NSA) Clarita Carlos said Thursday.

Carlos said environmental concerns create a chain reaction affecting food, human and national security, especially among developing countries like the Philippines which bear the brunt of the effects of global warming.

The 76-year-old Carlos said the so-called powerhouse nations' vow to cut carbon emissions by 2030 will remain a promise since many of them have gone back to using sources of energy that are harmful to the environment.

"India is going back to coal, some countries are going back to using fossil fuel. That is the reality on the ground," Carlos said during a roundtable discussion with the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR) in Pasig City.

"The promises of de-carbonization by 2030, 2050, they are by the wayside in the meanwhile because human survival is at the highest premium," she said.

Carlos said the government must start recalibrating policies

► 'Real threat' A2

■ 'REAL THREAT' FROM A1

Climate

on environmental protection.

The Philippines, she noted, has one of the best environmental laws in the world. The problem is that they are not being fully enforced.

The Marcos administration, she said, can consider giving tax breaks to buyers of electric vehicles to entice more motorists to switch from fossil fuels whose prices have been skyrocketing.

Further pushing the use of solar energy is another solution, taking advantage of the Philippines being a tropical country, especially amid disasters and calamities, Carlos said.

One proposal is to establish solar farms in military camps to reduce their dependence on power from grids that are disrupted during typhoons or earthquakes.

All these make up the "broad strokes" of a general security strategy Carlos said she will present to President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

"I will have the President design the national strategy. I can present to him a draft, in broad strokes," she added.

The Philippines has been strongly urging developed nations to ramp up their assistance to developing countries that continue to grapple with climate change.

Several weeks ago, President Rodrigo Duterte called on wealthier nations to be held accountable for failing to reduce their carbon emissions.

Marcos, meanwhile, has been invited to attend the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP27, to be held at the Egyptian resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh in November.

KRISTINA MARALIT



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Belmonte joins call to save Marikina Watershed

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte yesterday joined other local government officials in calling for the cancellation of quarrying agreements within the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal.

Belmonte signed the joint declaration calling for an end to destructive

activities in the protected area, joining Mayors Marcelino Teodoro of Marikina, Vico Sotto of Pasig and Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa.

"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," read the statement of the local officials.

The mayors expressed concern over reports that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has not acted on the cancellation of mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs), covering more than 1,300 hectares of the protected

watershed.

They said the proliferation of illegal structures and establishments inside the watershed should be taken seriously, adding that those responsible must be held accountable.

"Non-cancellation only gives the quarries runway to operate later on and does not guarantee the conser-

vation of the watershed area," the mayors said.

They also appealed to reconsider the social and environmental impacts of their plans and voluntarily rescind their MPSAs within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Masungi Geopark Project.

- Janvic Mateo



Maynilad studies treated used water for drinking

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. is studying whether used water can be purified to make it potable, it said on Thursday, citing successful projects in Singapore, South Africa, Namibia, and the United States.

"Water is a scarce resource. Given the growing population's increasing demand for water plus the strain on existing sources due to climate change, we should consider using previously untapped sources — including used water — to augment supply. There are now reliable and effective treatment technologies that make it a viable option," said Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez in a media release.

Instead of purifying raw water from rivers, Maynilad is planning to purify some of its treated used water, which is just discharged to rivers by its sewage treatment plants (STPs). The company will be using its new modular treatment plants, or ModTPs, for this purpose.

Roel S. Espiritu, Maynilad's quality, sustainability and resiliency head, said the treated used water discharged by STPs is a more reliable water source than raw river water. It is climate-independent and the quality is controlled and less variable, he added.

"If we use the river directly as source, trash and other pollutants thrown into it by surrounding communities could drastically change the river water's quality. This could affect the volume output of a ModTP, which has to adjust its treatment param-

eters with sudden shifts in the raw water quality," he said.

Maynilad said it similarly treats raw water from Laguna Lake by using a sewage treatment method for initial purification. The lake water then passes through more treatment processes before conversion to drinking water.

Laguna Lake is the company's alternative raw water source since 2010, allowing it to reduce over-reliance on Angat Dam, to serve customers south of Metro Manila.

Maynilad's ModTPs use treatment technology from Israel, which leads in water innovation, through a multi-stage process that includes pressurized media filtration, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, and chlorine disinfection to convert used water to drinking water.

Mr. Fernandez said: "By including used water to our supply source options, we have enhanced capability to generate more water whenever existing supplies run short."

Maynilad is coordinating with government agencies for the latest initiative.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

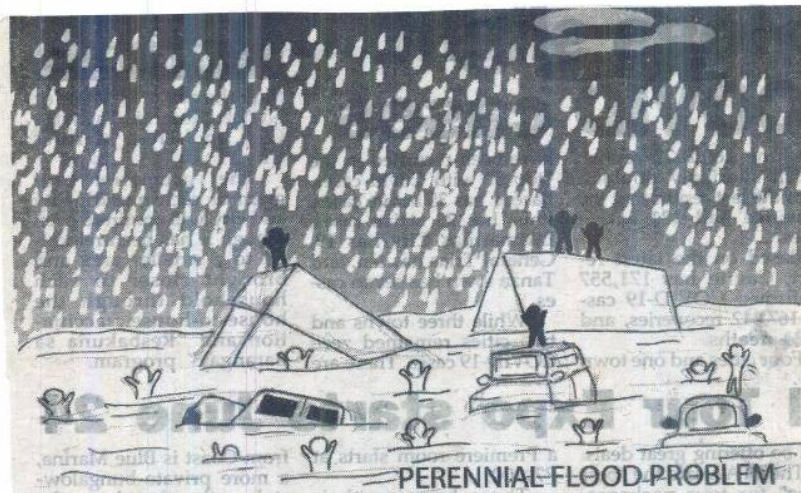
Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.



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EDITORIAL

Flooding in PH

THE government, through concerned offices and agencies, has been trying to stop the improper disposal of wastes in various parts of the Philippines, including Metro Manila (MM).

Every year, national and local government authorities have been pouring billions of pesos into various projects and programs aimed at addressing the country's flooding problems.

Despite this, many Filipinos are really hard-headed and indifferent, particularly those living near esteros, creeks, rivers, streams, drainage canals and other waterways.

"Talagang ang titigas ng ulo ng iba nating kababayan. Kapag walang nakatingin ay tuloy ang pagtapon nila ng mga basura kung saan-saan," lamented an irate housewife.

"Ang masakit ay pati mga naglalakihang plastik ay itinatapon sa mga daanan ng tubig," said the housewife who lives, together with her family, near a stinking dumpsite.

Aware of the problem, the incoming administration of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. is seen to hit hard at those who persist on illegally disposing their wastes. Everybody agrees that MM, the nation's premier region, and other low-lying areas across the country easily get flooded during the rainy season due to clogged waterways.

"Pagkatapos ng isang 'brief but very strong rain' ay agad na umaapaw ang mga daluyan ng tubig dahil barado nga ang mga ito," according to a government street sweeper.

With the help of his army of well-meaning and trusted lieutenants, President-elect Marcos is expected to demonstrate a capacity to uphold public interest at all times.

Na dapat lang!



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Forest ranger sa Bulacan, itinumba

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan - Isang forest ranger ang pinatay ng mga miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA), sa bayang ito, kamakalawa.

Kinilala ni Colonel Charlie Cabradilla, Bulacan police director, ang biktimang si Mauro Mudlong, 54, chief forest ranger at residente sa Sitio Ipo, Barangay San Mateo, ng nasabing bayan.

Batay sa report ng Norzagaray-PNP, alas-7:30 ng gabi nang matagpuan ang bangkay ng

biktima na tadtad ng bala ng baril sa Consultant Area malapit sa Ipo Dam.

Lumabas sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya, dinukot ng higit sa 10 miyembro ng Kilusang Narciso Command si Mudlong sa nasabing lugar.

Ilang residente ang nakarinig ng magkakasunod na putok ng baril at dito na nila nakita ang naliligo sa sariling dugo na biktima.

Sa pagresponde ng mga pulis sa lugar ng pinangyarihan ng krimen nakapulot sila ng 8-basyo ng .45-caliber pistol, 3

basyo ng .9mm-caliber at dalawang bala sa hindi pa mabatid na kalibre ng armas.

Positibo naman kinilala ng kaanak ang apat na suspek sa ipinakitang larawan ng mga pulis na nasa listahan ng mga wanted rebelde sa lugar.

Si Mudlong ay dating lider ng Dumagat at Indigenous Person Mandatory Representative sa Sitio Ipo. (Doris Franche)



Forest ranger, todas sa NPA

INAALAM na ng mga awtoridad ang tunay na motibo sa pagpatay sa isang forest ranger ng mga miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA), Miyerkules sa Bulacan.

Kinilala ni Colonel Charlie Cabradilla, Bulacan police director, ang biktima na si Mauro Mudlong, 54, chief forest ranger at residente sa Sitio Ipo, Barangay San Mateo, ng nasabing bayan.

Batay sa report ng Norzagaray-PNP, 7:30 ng gabi nitong Lunes natagpuan ang bangkay ng biktima na tadtad ng bala ng baril sa Consultant Area malapit sa Ipo Dam.

Lumabas sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya, dinukot ng higit sa 10 miyembro ng Kilusang Nareiso Command si Mudlong sa nasabing lugar.

Hang residente ang nakarinig ng magkakasunod na putok ng baril at dito na nila nakita ang naliligo sa sariling dugo na biktima.

Agad naman dinala sa ospital ng kanyang mga kaanak ang biktima subali't idineklara na rin itong patay ng umatending doktor.

Sa pagresponde ng mga pulis sa lugar ng pinangyarihan ng krimen nakapulot ng 8-basyo ng .45-caliber pistol, 3 basyo ng .9mm-caliber at dalawang bala sa hindi pa-mabatid na kalibre ng armas.

Positibo naman kinilala ng kaanak ang apat na salarin sa ipina-kitang larawan ng mga pulis na nasa listahan ng mga wanted rebelde sa lugar.

Si Mudlong dating lider ng Dumagat at Indigenous Person Mandatory Representative sa Sitio Ipo.

Tugis na ng mga awtoridad ang mga salarin para mabigyan ng hustisya ang pagkamatay ni Mudlong.



Discussions between the Philippines and China to jointly explore for oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea are "terminated completely," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. announced yesterday.

"Everything is over," said Locsin, stressing that he carried out President Duterte's instruction to completely terminate oil and gas discussions with China after the past three years did not yield any

Phl terminates joint oil exploration talks with China

achievement to develop such resources.

"The President had spoken. I carried out his instructions to the letter: oil and gas discussions are terminated completely. Nothing is pending," he said in a speech on the celebration of the 124th founding anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"Three years on and we had not achieved our objective of developing oil and gas resources so critical for the Philippines – but not at the price of sovereignty; not even a particle of it," he added.

The DFA chief said he tried for three years to come to an agreement to facilitate exploration for and exploitation of oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea.

"We got as far as it is constitutionally possible to go. One step forward from where we stood on the edge of the abyss is a drop into constitutional crisis. That explains the sudden pull-back on my part which unraveled three years of sincere hard work on the part of Wang Yi and me," he said, referring to his Chinese counterpart.

The Philippines was looking to seal a pact with China to jointly explore for oil and gas in the part of the busy South China Sea waterway claimed by both countries.

"We had both tried to go as far as we could – without renouncing China's aspiration on his (Wang's) part; and constitutional limitations on my part. I shut down shop completely," Locsin said.

He stressed that it "remains with the new administration to protect the sovereignty all the way to the wire."

"Surrender of any portion of Philippine sovereignty is not an option. Not for love; not for money," Locsin said.

'Phl conceded nothing to China'

On negotiations for a code of conduct in the South China Sea, the secretary said the Philippines insisted that it does not concede Chinese supremacy to the exclusion of other powers in the Pacific milieu.

He noted that the Philippines has a Mutual Defense Treaty with its only conceivable military ally, the United States. The Philippines has no joint aggression pact with any power.

"To every intrusion we responded with protest; if it comes to it, we will answer with action. Duterte and (Defense Secretary Delfin) Lorenzana have given us the start of a credible retaliatory force; and thereby helped me turn our foreign policy into a fist in the iron glove of the armed forces," Locsin stated.

In upholding the rule of law and not of might as the way forward, he said the Philippines held on to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 arbitral award, calling the two as "twin anchors of the Philippine position on the West Philippine and South China Seas."

"But let me say one thing: we have not surrendered a single inch of territory or a drop of our waters. Not by word or deed have we weakened our right to everything in the West Philippine Sea," Locsin said.

"Without inviting pity by asking, we achieved an international consensus that right is with us and might cannot ever take it away. In the 21st century, the first incontestable and most significant victory at sea is Filipino," he added.


– Pia Lee-Brago, Delon Porcalla



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

NOTICE

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

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

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

Date

ISAGANI Q. AMATORIO
ENR Officer

24 JUNE 2022, Friday



DENR

NEWS

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COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH: Active COVID-19 cases breach 5,000-mark

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star)

- June 24, 2022 - 12:00am



Commuters, who are heading to their workplaces, line up at the Nepa Q-Mart station of the EDSA Bus Carousel in Quezon City early Tuesday morning, June 21, 2022, to beat the influx of passengers. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority estimated last week that there will be a possible increase in passenger volume as fewer private cars may ply EDSA due to the continuing hike in oil prices.

MANILA, Philippines — Active cases of COVID-19 reached 5,113 last Wednesday, the highest tally since May 3, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

Based on the DOH's latest bulletin, there were 593 new cases and eight additional deaths reported, bringing the total COVID-19 caseload to 3,697,793 and the death toll to 60,484.

There were also 333 new recoveries, for a total of 3,632,196 who have beaten COVID-19.

Topping the areas with the most cases over the past two weeks were the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) with 2,793 cases, followed by Region 4-A (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon or Calabarzon) with 864 new cases, Region 6 (Western Visayas) with 458, Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 413 and Region 7 (Central Visayas) with 231.

The COVID-19 occupancy rate in hospitals is at 17.5 percent.

Earlier, the DOH said it is seeing a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and a possible peak that may reach as high as 2,000 daily cases in the NCR toward the end of July.

"Although we're seeing a notable increase in the number of cases, we remain in the low risk case classification because we are still in the less than one per 100,000 population as to the average daily attack rate," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

In an interview with CNN Philippines yesterday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said a surge like that seen in September 2021 due to the Delta variant, and last January due to the Omicron variant is not impossible.



DOH: Active COVID-19 cases breach 5,000-mark

"We cannot say that it won't happen again because the virus is notorious for mutations. The problem with the virus is its unpredictability," said the health chief.

"We don't know yet (what will happen) because Omicron alone has several subvariants that came out, with every mutation having brought about higher transmissibility," he added.

Earlier, the secretary said that COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila could peak at 1,500 to 2,000 per day by the middle or end of July.

Yesterday, he clarified that when he said that the next possible surge will unlikely be as bad as the previous COVID-19 waves experienced by the country, he was assuming that Filipinos have already learned their lessons since the pandemic started in March 2020.

"Any increase is a cause for alarm. But, suffice to say, as long as our people continue to comply with the minimum health standards, then we will be able to manage this and really not see huge or massive increases in the number of cases," Duque said.

At this point, he said a surge in the hospital occupancy rate will be the one factor likely to prompt the escalation to a higher pandemic alert level.

"When it (health care utilization) reaches 50 percent to 70 percent of capacity, that should be a more sensitive metric that will signal the need to escalate," he said.

At present, the national health care capacity remains low for COVID-19 cases. "I think it is about 20 percent more or less," said Duque.

NCRPO to be stricter on protocols

Meanwhile, the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) said police in Metro Manila said will be stricter in implementing health protocols amid the rising cases of COVID-19.

"Let's expect the slight rise in strictness in reminding the public and in implementing health protocols from our police officers while they patrol streets to ensure that residents are compliant with policies," Maj. Gen. Felipe Natividad, NCRPO chief, said.

In preparation for a possible surge, Natividad said he had ordered unit and station commanders to check the health status of their personnel before deploying them and to remind them to follow health protocols on and off duty.

The NCRPO chief made the statement after the DOH recorded 3,051 new cases for the period June 13-19, which is 82 percent higher than that recorded the previous week, June 6-12.

"Metro Manila recorded the most cases in the past two weeks. May this serve as a wake-up call to our fellowmen to be careful and mindful with their actions. We have sacrificed a lot to prevent contagion... but we plead for our people to sacrifice some more," Natividad said. – Neil Jayson Servallos



DOH: Active COVID cases in PH could rise to 7,500 next month

Vivienne Gulla, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 23 2022 09:35 PM | Updated as of Jun 24 2022 12:07 AM

MANILA (UPDATED) - Active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines could reach 7,500 around the second half of next month from the current over 5,000 cases, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

That's based on the projection of the DOH, if compliance to minimum health protocols declines and booster uptake remains low.

Of the more than 57 million fully vaccinated adults in the country, only 14.7 million have gotten booster shots.

"What's troubling here would be, doon sa projections po natin nakikita natin na around the same time, itong second to third week of July, makikita natin tataas ang mga ma-o-ospital because of the waning immunity," DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told Teleradyo.

In Quezon City, the local government said average daily COVID cases rose to 50 from 32 last week, citing data from OCTA Research. It added that the city's positivity rate also increased to 4% from 3%. But the QC Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit said hospital utilization rate in the LGU is only at a little over 30 percent.

"Doon sa nirelease ng OCTA, nasa moderate risk na tayo based sa kanilang thresholds," QC-ESU Head Dr. Rolly Cruz said.

"We still follow the alert level 1 restrictions," he noted.

Under the DOH's metrics, among the criteria for an area to be considered moderate risk are positive two-week growth rate, an average daily attack rate of 6 per 100,000 population per day, and health care utilization rate (HCUR) of 50 to 70 percent.

The DOH said Quezon City has yet to satisfy these criteria to be considered moderate risk.

"To make the HCUR moderate, kailangan 50-70 percent ang iyong utilization rate, so it's still below," Health Sec. Francisco Duque III said.

The national COVID positivity rate is at 3.7 percent, still below the World Health Organization's 5 percent threshold for at least 14 days.

But COVID positivity rate in Metro Manila rose to 5.2% this week, compared to 3.2 percent the week prior. The DOH said this should not be the sole basis for assessing the COVID situation.

"You cannot be governed just by the positivity rate. You have to look at the entirety of the metrics. So ang importante 'yung HCUR is not overwhelmed or overstretched or nabibilaukan yung ating facilities. Walang ganon. So we're okay," Duque said.

"Yung bed capacity, 'yung healthcare utilization rate, mababa pa rin eh. So there is no point to touch the current alert level," he added.



DOH: Active COVID cases in PH could rise to 7,500 next month

“Ang malaking gamechanger ngayon ay talagang yung vaccination, kasi nagkakaroon ng decoupling sa cases at sa deaths. Posibleng tumataas nga yung cases mo, pero it’s not really translating to deaths,” ABS-CBN News Data Analytics Head Edson Guido noted.

More hospitals in Metro Manila started rolling out third COVID jabs to immunocompromised minors 12-17 years old on Thursday. These include Ospital ng Maynila, and Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan City.

“Konti lang eh. Priority po natin muna ‘yung pedia na immunocompromised. Kaso dumarating general pedia eh. Wala namang problema, the parents just would like them to get vaccinated, yun nga lang luhaan silang umuwi,” Ospital ng Maynila’s Infection Control Unit Chairman Dr. Rey Salinel Jr. said.

“Sana sabihin na nga ng DOH na pwede na ‘yung general population ng 12-17 lalo na’t nababalitaan ko po pagdating ng buwan ng Agosto, babalik na ang face-to-face classes,” San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora also said.

National Vaccination Operations Center Chairperson Usec. Myrna Cabotaje said hospitals outside Metro Manila may begin administering additional dose to eligible immunocompromised minors as soon as they’re ready.



DOH not seeing massive increases, but NCR daily COVID cases may hit up to 2K by July

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 23, 2022 11:26:36 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 23) — The Health Department is not seeing a massive nationwide increase in COVID-19 cases for now, but infections may reach up to 2,000 next month in Metro Manila.

Speaking to CNN Philippines' *The Source* on Thursday, outgoing Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the Philippines' COVID-19 situation is already far from where it was in 2020 when there were no COVID-19 vaccines that could be administered, and even just last January when the country hit over 34,000 new infections due to the Omicron subvariant.

The country even recorded as high as 39,004 cases on a single day nationwide in the middle of January.

However, it cannot be assumed that no surge will happen again because of the virus' unpredictability in relation to its mutations and transmissibility, Duque said. Citing data from the Australian Tuberculosis Modeling Network (AuTuMN), he noted that cases in Metro Manila may hit 800 to 1,200 by end of the month.

"Pero by end of July, pwede 'yang maging 1500-2000 cases daily. After that, magpa-plateau siya to below 1000," Duque said.

[Translation: By end of July, we may reach 1500 to 2000 cases daily. After that, infections will plateau to below 1000.]



DOH not seeing massive increases, but NCR daily COVID cases may hit up to 2K by July

He added that this projection is based on the assumption that there is going to be a drop in masking compliance, low booster uptake, waning immunity, and the entry of more transmissible subvariants or sublineage of the Omicron variant.

Metro Manila and most parts of the country remain under Alert Level 1. Duque said a more sensitive metric that would prompt a higher level would be when the country's healthcare utilization rate spikes to 50 to 70%.

Right now, the Philippines remains at low risk for COVID-19 with 14.61% to 17.82% utilization, and an average daily attack rate still less than 1 per 100,000 population.

The country on Monday logged a daily average of 436 COVID-19 cases — or a total of 3,051 new infections — from June 13 to 19, reflecting an 82% rise from the previous week.

<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/6/22/doh-covid-19-peak-july-.html>

CSC encourages gov't officials and employees to get COVID-19 vaccination

Published on: June 23, 2022
By CSC



QUEZON CITY -- The Civil Service Commission (CSC) encouraged all eligible government officials and employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as a protection against the virus.

In CSC Resolution No. 2200239 promulgated on 16 June 2022, and circularized via CSC Memorandum Circular No. 7, s. 2022, the Commission expressed its support to the government's National Vaccination Deployment Plan and encouraged government agencies to "adopt strategies and incentives to encourage their employees to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination."

The CSC, however, stressed that no employee shall be compelled to get vaccinated, whether directly or indirectly such as "being discriminated against in terms of tenure, promotion, training, pay and other non-discretionary benefits, or being forced to take a leave of absence chargeable to leave credits."

On the other hand, the CSC said that unvaccinated employees who are tasked to do onsite work shall undergo Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing and present a negative result thereof, at a frequency to be determined by the head of agency, but "which should be at least once every two weeks" in accordance with IATF Resolution No. 149, s. 2021 issued on 18 November 2021.

The CSC added that Rapid Antigen Tests may be used when RT-PCR testing capacity is insufficient or not immediately available.

The COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated employees performing onsite work shall be on the employee's own account, unless the government agency decides to cover the cost/s, subject to availability of funds and the usual accounting rules and regulations.

Government agencies may also opt to place unvaccinated employees under flexible work arrangements.

CSC encourages gov't officials and employees to get COVID-19 vaccination

Availment of excused absence and special leave privileges for COVID-19 booster

In a separate advisory, the CSC encouraged all government officials and employees and their families to get the COVID-19 booster shot to increase their immunity and protection against the COVID-19 virus.

In the advisory, the CSC reiterated its policy allowing government officials and employees to file for excused absence for absences due to COVID-19 vaccination. Under CSC Memorandum Circular No. 16, s. 2021 or the "Interim Guidelines on Absences of Government Officials and Employees Due to COVID-19 Vaccination and/or Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) of COVID-19 Vaccine" issued on 12 November 2021, government officials and employees may avail themselves of the excused absence under the following conditions:

Absence from work during the day of inoculation of the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine, including future booster shots. Required documents include proof of vaccination schedule (e.g. vaccination card) and the application of leave of absence to be filed five (5) days prior to the scheduled vaccination date, if applicable; and

Absence from work due to the required treatment/recuperation period from AEFI of the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine, including future booster shots.

A maximum of 15 calendar days may be allowed for cases of serious AEFIs which may include hospitalization, persistent or significant disability or incapacity, and life threatening or medically important event or reaction. In addition to the application of leave of absence and copy of vaccination card, the employee must also submit a medical certificate and/or clinical abstract indicating the diagnosis, management done, and number of days of recuperation needed, signed by the attending physician.

On the other hand, a maximum of three (3) calendar days may be allowed for non-serious AEFIs which may include tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching or swelling on the arm where one got the injection; generally feeling unwell; feeling tired (fatigue); chills or feeling feverish; headache; and joint pain or muscle ache. The employee must submit a medical certificate signed by an attending physician at the vaccination center or medical facility where s/he underwent observation due to AEFI.

The guidelines define AEFI as "any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of vaccine."

Absences due to AEFI of COVID-19 vaccine may be charged against the employee's sick leave credits when the period of treatment/recuperation exceeds the maximum allowable period of absences for the abovementioned conditions.

If the employee has exhausted his/her sick leave credits, Section 56 of the Omnibus Rules on Leave allows for the use of vacation leave credits in lieu of sick leave credits. In case the vacation leave credits have been exhausted, the employee may apply for sick leave of absence without pay.



CSC encourages gov't officials and employees to get COVID-19 vaccination

Government workers who have incurred absences due to COVID-19 vaccination and/or have undergone treatment from AEFI prior to the issuance of CSC MC No. 16, s. 2021 may request for the restoration of the deducted leave credits through their agency's Human Resource Unit.

Meanwhile, government officials and employees may file an application for Special Leave Privileges on the day of vaccination or booster shot of their children. Under Section 21, Rule XVI of the Omnibus Rules on Leave, as amended, government officials and employees are granted three (3) days of special leave privileges for personal milestones or obligations, which includes attending to parental obligations such as the medical needs of their children. Such special leave privileges are non-cumulative and non-commutative.

Employees applying for special leave privileges shall no longer be required to present proof that they are entitled to avail of such. (CSC)

24 JUNE 2022, Friday



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


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