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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR Acting Secretary Sampulna Receives Support from Career Execs

[Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (4th from left) is joined by DENR Association of Career Executives (ACE) members led by its President and [DENR](#) Undersecretary Atty. Jonas R. Leones (5th from left) in a photo opportunity when they welcomed Sampulna as the new DENR chief on March 1 at the [DENR](#) Central Office. Leones said it is an honor to have a 'homegrown' career executive head the DENR. They are joined by ACE members (from left to right) National Mapping and Resource Information Authority Deputy Administrator Efren Carandang, Land Management Bureau Director Atty. Emelyne V. Talabis, DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caancan, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Hiro V. Masuda, DENR-NCR Assistant Regional Director Al O. Orolfo, and Legal Affairs Service Director Atty. Norlito A. Eneran.



DENR vows to honor decision of residents on lifting of mining ban in South Cotabato

Published March 2, 2022, 1:46 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)



[DENR vows to honor decision of residents on lifting of mining ban in South Cotabato](#)

mb.com.ph

The national government will respect the outcome of the public hearing on the proposed lifting of the open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato.

DENR officer-in-charge (OIC) Jim O. Sampulna was reacting to the concerns of the residents during multi-sectoral consultation forum in Koronadal City on Feb. 24 to provide technical information to help the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members decide on whether or not to lift the ban on open-pit mining of the Tampakan project of the Sagittarius Mines.

“The DENR could contribute to a better appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of the project, as well as help the SP members reach an informed decision when they cast their respective votes,” said Sampulna.

“On the legality of the provincial ordinance, it is well settled that ordinances enacted under the general welfare clause are valid,” he added.

In a statement, the DENR said the Tampakan project could yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold in concentrate per annum over the proposed 17-year life of the mine.



DENR to respect provincial decision on open-pit mining

By [Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star)
- March 3, 2022 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government will honor the outcome of the province of South Cotabato's public consultations on the proposed lifting of the open-pit mining ban, specifically in the municipality of Tampakan, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, DENR officer-in-charge Secretary Jim Sampulna said the government would respect the outcome of the public hearings called by the provincial board on the proposed amendments to the Environment Code.

Sampulna was invited by South Cotabato Vice Gov. Vicente de Jesus to the multi-sectoral consultation forum in Koronadal City last Feb. 24 to provide technical information that would help the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members decide on whether or not to lift the ban on open-pit mining.

Sampulna assured stakeholders that the government respects their rights, adding that the general good of the people of South Cotabato is of utmost importance to the provincial government.

"On the legality of the provincial ordinance, it is well settled that ordinances enacted by virtue of the general welfare clause are valid," Sampulna said.

He expressed optimism that the DENR could contribute to a better appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of the project, as well as help the SP members reach an informed decision when they cast their respective votes.

A public hearing was also held on Feb. 18 in Tampakan town, which hosts the multi-billion-peso Tampakan gold-copper project touted as the largest undeveloped copper and gold mine in Southeast Asia.

The Tampakan project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. has the potential to yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold in concentrate per annum over the proposed 17-year life of the mine.

In December, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu signed Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40, which lifted the ban on the open-pit method for mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country.

The DAO also provides additional enhanced parameters and criteria for surface mining methods.

It aims to revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities, thereby stimulating countryside development.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/03/03/2164469/denr-respect-provincial-decision-open-pit-mining/amp/>

DENR SPOX Optimistic Manila Bay Swimmable by June

[Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Journal Online](#)

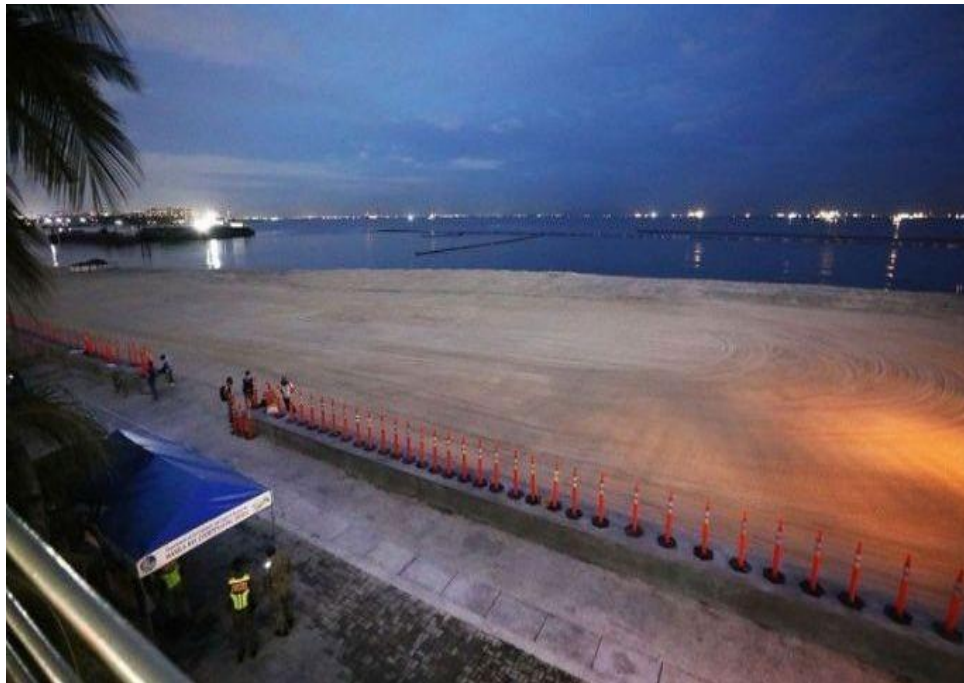


Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Spokesperson and Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Atty. Jonas Leones is hopeful the water quality of Manila Bay will be safe for swimming and other forms of contact recreation by the end of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's term in June. During the media briefing held on Feb. 28 at the [DENR](#) Central Office in Quezon City, Leones said coliform level in the priority sites in Manila Bay has now decreased from billions to within thousands to hundreds as a result of the Department's continued dredging operations, closure of illegal outfalls, and treatment of wastewater discharged into Manila Bay. The writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008 ordered the [DENR](#) and 13 other agencies to restore and maintain the waters of the bay to Class SB with a coliform level of 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100mL.



Manila Bay, ligtas nang paliguan sa Hunyo – DENR

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- March 3, 2022 - 12:00am



Members of the Manila Police District (MPD) arrive early to provide security at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Tuesday (December 28, 2021) before dawn as it opens to the public for a two-day trial. The DENR sets an online appointment system for visitors wanting to experience the man-made beach front to avoid overcrowding and in observance of the minimum health and safety protocols by the IATF.

Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Posible nang paliguan ang Manila Bay pagsapit ng buwan ng Hunyo, batay sa pahayag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay DENR Spokesperson at Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, ang International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones na ang kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay ay magiging ligtas na para paliguan at sa iba pang uri ng contact recreation sa katapusan ng termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Hunyo.

Sa ginanap na media briefing, sinabi ni Leones na ang coliform level sa priority sites sa Manila Bay ay bumaba na mula sa billions ay naging thousands hanggang hundreds na lamang dahil na rin sa patuloy na dredging operations ng ahensiya, pagpapasara sa illegal outfalls, at treatment ng wastewater na itinatapon sa Manila Bay.

Sa inilabas na writ of continuing mandamus ng Supreme Court noong 2008, inatasan nito ang DENR at 13 pang ahensiya na ibalik at panatilihin ang tubig sa Manila Bay sa Class SB na may coliform level na 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100mL.

Umaasa ang DENR na oras na magbukas sa publiko ang Manila bay bilang paliguan ay magiging disiplinado ang mga tutungo dito na iiwasan ang pagkakalat para mapangalagaan ang kalinisan at kagandahan nito.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/03/03/2164564/manila-bay-ligtas-nang-paliguan-sa-hunyo-denr/amp/>



Water supply contingency plan in place for Angat Dam, DENR's Sampulna assures



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 2, 2022



In Photo: Photo from the Wikimedia Commons shows the Angat Dam viewed from the San Lorenzo hilltop in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has assured the public that a water supply contingency plan for Angat Dam is in place to ensure sufficient water supply for Metro Manila's over 12 million population throughout summer or dry season.

According to Sampulna, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), an attached agency of the DENR, continues to undertake measures to that effect—which include possible cloud seeding operations in March and April.

The NWRB is responsible for the management and regulation of all water resources and services in the country.

“The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move to solve the looming problem,” Sampulna told reporters in a mix of English and Filipino during an online news conference on Monday.

NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said the agency—in coordination with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corporation (NPC), and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)—has been implementing mitigation strategies to address the possible inadequacy of water supply from the Angat Dam, which supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements.



Water supply contingency plan in place for Angat Dam, DENR's Sampulna assures

Some of the measures include the reduction of allocation for domestic and irrigation requirements; reactivation of deep wells for the use of MWSS; cloud seeding operations; and maximizing the use of water treatment plants owned by water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

Cloud seeding measures are being considered in case the water level in Angat, which is the single major source of raw water for Metro Manila, continue to drop to prevent it from reaching the so-called critical level, compelling the NWRB to reduce water rationing to private water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

This results in scheduled water service interruptions, or worse, water rationing by the two private concessionaires to their respective customers.

This happens in the summer months of the year, and peaks before the onset of the rainy season in June or July.

Maynilad and Manila Water are also putting in place contingency measures on their own, such as drawing water from the Laguna de Bay and existing deep wells to augment water supply during the summer or dry season.

David said that the domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March, noting that having a sufficient water supply helps control the spread of coronavirus.

David pointed out that the case for the irrigation sector is different because “when the harvest is approaching, the lesser water will also be needed for the crops.” The allocation is reduced from 20 cms to 15 cms.

The NWRB is also working in coordination with NIA for the implementation of various measures for effective water management including the use of shallow tube wells to reduce the consumption of water for irrigation.

“We are using what they call shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals,” David said.

Meanwhile, cloud seeding operation is an endeavor being coordinated with the Pagasa, said David.

“We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the ‘amihan’ or northeast monsoon season,” David said.

Cloud seeding operations will be conducted in different areas including the Angat Watershed and Bustos Dam in Bulacan and La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which will be implemented from March 7 to April 10, 2022.

Meanwhile, the public is encouraged to partake in the efforts to secure the availability of water, especially in the coming dry season by conserving water and using it with utmost care and efficiency.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/02/water-supply-contingency-plan-in-place-for-angat-dam-denrs-sampulna-assures/>



Contingency plan for Angat Dam in place – DENR



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

March 3, 2022

AMID the decreasing water level in Angat Dam, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured the public that the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) remains on top of the situation as it continues to undertake measures to ensure sufficient water supply during the dry season.

"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move to solve the looming problem," DENR acting secretary Jim Sampulna said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr., the agency, in coordination with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corp., and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, has been implementing mitigation strategies to address the possible inadequacy of water supply from the Angat Dam, which supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements.

Some of the measures include the reduction of allocation for domestic and irrigation requirements; reactivation of deep wells for the use of MWSS; cloud seeding operations; and maximizing the use of water treatment plants owned by water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

David said that the domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March, noting that having a sufficient water supply helps control the spread of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the case for the irrigation sector is different because "when the harvest is approaching, less water will also be needed for the crops." The allocation is reduced from 20 cms to 15 cms.

The NWRB is also working in coordination with NIA for the implementation of various measures for effective water management including the use of shallow tube wells to reduce the consumption of water for irrigation.

"We are using what they call shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals," David said.

To prevent the further decrease of water level in Angat Dam, the MWSS is also planning to conduct cloud seeding operations in March and April.

"This endeavor is in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the amihan or northeast monsoon season," David said.

The DENR said that cloud seeding operations will be conducted in different areas including the Angat Watershed and Bustos Dam in Bulacan and La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which will be implemented from March 7 to April 10, 2022.



Contingency plan for Angat Dam in place – DENR

The agency also encouraged the public to partake in the efforts to secure the availability of water, especially in the coming dry season by conserving water and using it with utmost care and efficiency.



DENR, water regulators ready contingency plans as Angat levels drop

March 2, 2022 | 8:28 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is working on contingency measures for the dry season amid low water levels at Angat Dam, and is currently considering water use efficiency measures, cloud seeding, increasing reliance on treated water, and tapping deep wells.

The DENR and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) are working on plans to ensure adequate supply for irrigation and domestic use in areas served by Angat, Metro Manila's main water source, the department said.

"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already (moved) to solve the looming problem," DENR Officer-in-Charge Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement.

Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan supplies 97% of Metro Manila's water requirements.

"The domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March," NWRB Executive Director Seville D. David, Jr. said. "Having a sufficient water supply helps control the spread of coronavirus."

The DENR is also working with the National Irrigation Administration on the use of shallow tube wells to make irrigation more efficient.

"We are using what they call shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals," Mr. David said.



DENR, water regulators ready contingency plans as Angat levels drop

Cloud seeding will be conducted around the Angat Dam, Bustos Dam, and La Mesa Dam, between March 7 and April 10.

“This endeavor is in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the *amihan* or northeast monsoon season,” Mr. David said.

Water concessionaires Manila Water Company, Inc. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. are also working on ways to maximize the water available to them.

“We continue to improve our system readiness through the operation of our line boosters, network pressure management, maximization of our distribution reservoirs and regular maintenance of our facilities to prevent any downtime,” Manila Water said in a statement.

“While we work with the MWSS and NWRB on providing the needed supply, we also encourage consumers to use water responsibly so we can maximize the available supply and avoid wastage,” Maynilad added in a separate statement. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

DENR-2 calls for 'honest' review of forest program's impact

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. March 2, 2022, 6:49 pm



IMPACT STUDY. Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cagayan Valley Director Gwendolyn Bambalan urges an honest review of forestland projects in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya on Wednesday (March 2, 2022). Such will determine the impact and effects of the project on the beneficiaries and to the environment, she said during a planning workshop. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-2)*

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Hoping for a clearer picture of accomplishments, the chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has urged implementers to start evaluating the impact of the Forestland Management Project (FMP) in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

In her message during the opening of the three-day assessment and planning workshop for the FMP, DENR-2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan underlined the importance of assessing not only the progress of the FMP but also the realization of the goals and objectives of the project.

“We should honestly review where are we now. We should start looking at the impacts and effects of this project to the beneficiaries and to the environment of the two provinces after almost 10 years of implementation. If there are gaps and missing links still, we have to do something about these in the remaining year,” Bambalan said.

She also ordered the provincial environment and natural resources (PENR) officers to look back at the project document where the different strategies and components that need to be addressed are identified. “This document is vital in the preparation of project completion report,” she said.

Balamban reported that under the FMP, a total of 36 agroforestry support facilities were turned over to local government units and people’s organizations in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. About 25,377.80 hectares of plantations were also established and are now being protected and maintained.



DENR-2 calls for 'honest' review of forest program's impact

Through the FMP, enterprise development projects were also provided to 34 people's organizations.

FMP is a 10-year watershed rehabilitation project implemented by the DENR under a loan agreement between the Philippine government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It aims to strengthen forestland management in three critical river basins in the Philippines through the implementation of collaborative and comprehensive community-based forest management strategies.

Implemented in the nine sub-watersheds of the Upper Magat and Cagayan River basins in Region 2, the project also seeks to improve forest conservation and socio-economic conditions of affected communities; and contribute to disaster risk mitigation efforts in vulnerable areas.

Project manager Marlon Atienza said the participants shall formulate phase-out strategies to ensure the completion of the targets considering the effects of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic and other factors. They shall also develop an operations plan for the remaining activities.

"We have to ensure that the project will be sustained. We also need to identify our good practices which should be translated to policy recommendations to improve the forestry sector as a whole," he added. (PNA)



Philippine tarsier released back to the wild in Agusan Norte

By Alexander Lopez March 2, 2022, 6:09 pm



BACK TO THE WILD. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte spearheads the release of a rescued Philippine tarsier on Monday (Feb. 28, 2022) in Barangay Bokbokon, Las Nieves town. The tarsier, found in good physical condition, was rescued last Feb. 22, 2022, by a resident in the area. *(Photo courtesy of CENRO-Nasipit)*

BUTUAN CITY – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Nasipit has released a Philippine tarsier (*Carlito syrichta*) found and rescued by a concerned citizen in the municipality of Las Nieves in Agusan del Norte province back to its natural habitat.

In a statement Wednesday, the CENRO-Nasipit said the released tarsier has a length of 36.5 centimeters.

“Mr. Edward M. Ruiz, a resident from Barangay Matabao, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte turned over the tarsier to this office. He rescued the wildlife last February 22, 2022 in Purok 22, Sitio New Canaan, Barangay Lawan-lawan in Las Nieves town,” the CENRO-Nasipit said.

The agency said the tarsier was in good physical condition when released Monday in Barangay Bokbokon, Las Nieves.

Based on Administrative Order No. 2019-09 or the Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and Their Categories, the Philippine tarsier is classified as a threatened species.

There are 5,000 to 10,000 remaining tarsiers in the country but the group International Primate Protection League said the number is dwindling as the wildlife is facing multiple threats to its existence due to low birth rates, exploitative tourism, and habitat degradation from extractive activities such as logging and mining.

The Philippine tarsier is categorized as "near threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/u68866>



MAGING RESPONSABLE ANG BAWAT ISA SA PAGGAMIT NG TUBIG



March 2, 2022 @ 1:28 PM 19 hours ago

PATULOY na nakikipag-ugnayan ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno, mga water concessionaire, higit sa lahat, sa mga kababayan natin na kinakailangang mapamahalaang mabuti ang limitadong suplay ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Sa pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, maigting ang panawagan ni Dr. Sevilleo “Bill” David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), na maging responsable ang bawat isa sa paggamit ng tubig.

Ang panawagan ni Executive Director David, hindi lamang sa mga nasa bahay at tanggapan o opisina.

Mas maraming tubig ang ginagamit sa mga industriya at shopping mall sa Metro Manila at sa mga karatig probinsya, kaya, gamitin nang tama ang tubig at mag-recycle kung kinakailangan.

Sa aking panayam kay Executive Director David, kanyang ibinahagi na patuloy ang pagbaba ng antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Base sa ulat ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 196.28 metro sa araw ng Marso 1, 2022, (6:00am), bahagyang bumaba ang water level



MAGING RESPONSABLE ANG BAWAT ISA SA PAGGAMIT NG TUBIG

sa Angat dam, pati na rin sa Ipo Dam nasa 98.55 mtrs, mas mababa sa maintaining level na 101 meters.

Noong buwan ng Disyembre 2021 hanggang Enero 2022, akin ding nalaman mula kay Dr. David na ang pagpapadala ng tubig sa mga nasalanta ni bagyong Odette mula sa water refilling stations sa Metro Manila ay karagdagang kabawasan sa supply ng tubig na nagmumula sa Angat dam.

Kahit pa NCR ang pangunahing gumagamit ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam, mahalagang tulungan ang mga kababayang natin naapektuhan ni Bagyong Odette mula sa Visayas at Mindanao. Malaki man ang epekto nito sa water demand, mas angkop na tugunan ang kanilang pangangailangan sa malinis na tubig.

Hindi kaila sa NWRB ang pangangailangan ng karagdagang water sources o pagkukunan ng tubig. Kaakibat ang pribadong sector, may planong bumuo ang pamahalaan ng mga water infrastructure project, ngunit maaari itong tumagal nang mula 3 hanggang 5 taon. Kapag nasimulan ang mga proyektong ito, malaki ang maitutulong nito sa seguridad ng tubig sa NCR at karatig-probinsya.



Biliran's solid waste program recognized

By [Nestor L. Abrematea](#)

March 3, 2022

CABUCGAYAN, Biliran: The local government of this coastal municipality in the Province of Biliran announced the successful implementation of its solid waste management project.

Cabucgayan Mayor Marisol Masbang told The Manila Times that their solid waste management program which she inherited from her husband, former mayor Edwin Masbang, received recognition from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Regional Office 8 based in Tacloban City.

Masbang said the DENR-EMB also awarded the municipality P200,000 worth of financial assistance to further develop their environmental program.

She said the municipality now has three shredding machines and a bioreactor machine that recycles waste products into organic fertilizers.



Over 300 sacks of garbage collected from Bulacan waterway

Published March 2, 2022, 1:02 PM

by [Freddie Velez](#)

More than 300 sacks of garbage were collected from a waterway in Barangay Ulingao, San Rafael, Bulacan, as part of the “Mabiyayang Kalikasan at Malinis na Kapaligiran” program of Gov. Daniel R. Fernando on Tuesday, March 1.



The Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) and the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of San Rafael, Bulacan conduct waterway cleaning activity at Purok 2 Brgy. Ulingao, San Rafael, Bulacan on Tuesday, March 1. (Photo courtesy of the Provincial Public Affairs Office / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO), in collaboration with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of San Rafael town conducted a waterway cleaning activity to avoid flooding and water pollution when the rainy days come.

Fernando said the cleaning of waterways is a crucial in keeping the drainage system free of garbage.



Kinalat basura sa kalsada, 4 dinakma

[METRO](#)

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated Mar 2, 2022



Pinosasan ang apat na basurero sa Maynila nang mahuli ng mga pulis na itinatapon ang mga plastic ng basura sa kalsada habang bumibiyaha sila. Nabatid na ang basura ay galing sa dayuhang barko.

Ayon sa pulis, nakatanggap na sila ng ulat na nagtatapon ng plastic ng mga nakolektang basura ang naturang truck.

Kaya't minanmanan ito ng mga awtoridad saka sinundan matapos kumuha ng basura mula sa Pier sa South sa Maynila.

Nang dumaan ang truck sa madilim na bahagi sa Vitas St. ay isa-isa na nitong itinatapon ang mga nakolektang plastic.

Napag-alaman na kasama sa mga laman ng itinatapon na plastic ay mga gamit nang diaper at mga sanitary napkin.

“Amin pong napag-alaman na itong mga basura ay galing doon sa foreign vessel na dumating sa Manila Bay,” sabi ni Police Major Randy Ludovice, station chief ng Northern NCR ng Philippine National Police.

Anila, ilang ulit na silang nakakatanggap ng reklamo kaugnay sa mga itinatapon na basura sa kalsada.

Nilabag ng mga ito ang Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act of 2000 kung saan dapat ay sa tamang tapunan ng basura dinadala ng mga contractor ang kinokoleta nilang basura.



Kinalat basura sa kalsada, 4 dinakma

“Kailangan pagkagaling ng barko, isasakay sa truck nila at dadalhin sa crater area. Dapat may permit sila at nandon ‘yong recovery material facilities. Kailangan sundin ang proseso dahil mahalaga ito sa kalusugan ng tao. Sino-shortcut siguro para madali silang makabalik,” paliwanag ni Ludovice.

Hindi nagbigay ng pahayag ang mga basurero. (Kiko Cueto)

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters

A planned US\$5.9 billion copper and gold mine in the southern Philippines has faced opposition since reserves were first confirmed in the 1990s, with more than two dozen people killed since then in conflicts relating to the project.



A mosaic of forests and farms within the Tampakan mining tenement. The project's final mining area spans 10,000 hectares, of which about 6,000 hectares are already disturbed due to logging, and farming. Image: Bong S. Sarmiento.

By Bong S. Sarmiento, [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com)

9 minute read March 2, 2022

For nearly a decade, Nora Sukal was the public face of Indigenous opposition to the Tampakan project, a planned gold and copper mine on Blaan tribal land in Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

“The proposed copper and gold open-pit mining project within our ancestral domains poses serious risks to our survival as a tribe,” Sukal said in an [oral statement](#) at the 32nd UN Human Rights Council in June 2016. “The appointment of individuals who are not legitimate to represent our community caused conflicts and divides us. The disparity among us tribes resulted in disunity which slowly destroys our culture of oneness.”

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters



Indigenous groups continue fight against newly-revived Philippine mine

Sukal, who is among the leaders in the ancestral domain straddled by the S'bangken Tribal Council, said that the mine, operated by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), and touted as the largest undeveloped copper and gold reserve in Southeast Asia, would have dire impacts on her tribe.

Around 5,000 people would have to be relocated to make way for the \$5.9 billion project, which, she said, would keep the Blaan away from the forest — their source of food when they are hungry, or medicine when they are sick, and their spiritual ground to commune or praise their gods.

In early February, however, when Mongabay visited Sukal in her clan's ancestral domain in the hamlet of Datal Mangisi, she dropped a bombshell.

"I now declare I am pro-mining. I will support the operations of SMI," Sukal said in the vernacular.

"Most of my relatives have been supporting the mining venture and I saw their happiness every time they received financial help from the company, including scholarships to the youth, even if the firm has yet to begin the actual extraction of the minerals," she said.

Sukal estimates that about 90 per cent of land in her community's ancestral domain has been leased by the landowners to SMI. This includes land belonging to the relative in whose home Mongabay met her. He had agreed to lease his land to the mining company for 25 years for a total of 160,000 pesos (about \$3,100), and was waiting for extraction to begin to collect the next tranche of his lease payment.

"I could no longer stomach to be thorn in the bid of my fellow tribal members to gain windfall from the mining project," Sukal said. "If I continue my anti-mining campaign, the lease money still due to my siblings and other fellow tribal members might be withheld."

Winds of change

Sukal is not the only anti-mining voice to sing a different tune. After decades of conflict that has fractured families and clans and led to the deaths of at least two dozen people, the Tampakan mine

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters

now seems closer than ever to reaching commercial production, thanks to fatigue at the local level and a pro-mining shift in Manila.

In 1994, mineral reserves were first confirmed in the area, which lies in the ancestral domain of the Blaan, a hill people who are known for their hunting skills and who consider the forests sacred places. In 1995, mining rights were granted to Australian firm Western Mining Corp., which in turn sold the rights to Sagittarius Mines, Inc. in 2001.

Since its inception, the mining project faced stiff opposition from the Blaan and the local Catholic Church due to concerns about the environment and displacement of tribal communities. Farmers and irrigators in the area have also expressed fears they could lose their livelihoods if the water supply is reduced or contaminated as a result of the mine.

The Tampakan project's proposed final mine area (FMA) is about 10,000 hectares (nearly 25,000 acres), of which about 6,000 hectares (nearly 15,000 acres) are already disturbed due to logging, agriculture and *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) farming. According to the firm's original plan, about 4,000 hectares (nearly 10,000 acres) of the concession area will be disturbed by the mine, of which approximately 1,300 hectares (3,200 acres) is forested.

The first blood was shed over the mine even before the project was formally launched. In July 2002, tribal clan leader Gurilmin Malid, 38, and his minor companion died on the spot after they were reportedly ambushed within the mine's development site. The military later claimed the victims, who were lay volunteers, were bandits killed in a legitimate military operation. Catholic religious leaders hailed Malid as "a brave tribal leader" defending his land from the threats of mining.

Since then, at least two dozen individuals have been killed within the Tampakan mining tenement, including several security personnel hired by the firm, and Indigenous children killed in actions described as "legitimate military operations."

The area around the mine is awash with firearms. The Blaan traditionally carry bladed weapons, but in the mid-2000s began arming themselves with high-powered firearms such as M-14 military rifles to fight the company's presence within their ancestral lands, fearing the destruction of their sacred forests and their dislocation from their communities.

Compounding the security situation is the presence in the area of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which is classified as a terrorist group by the Philippine and United States government. On New Year's Day 2008, about 40 of its heavily armed fighters stormed and burned SMI's base camp on the outskirts of the town of Tampakan.

Since the Tampakan project was officially launched in January 2003, various units of the Philippine military have been deployed as counterinsurgency forces to the area, which is also guarded by an armed paramilitary detachment established partly to protect private investments in the area, and security contractors hired by SMI.

Meanwhile, as SMI is still unable to begin extracting ore, illegal miners — also reportedly armed and dangerous— are beating the company to the gold deposits using the highly destructive sluice mining method, which involves dislodging ore-bearing rocks with high-pressure water jets and using mercury to separate out the gold.

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters

Internal divisions

While the mine has faced dissent from the beginning, it also has supporters among tribal communities. Even prior to beginning extraction, SMI has provided 3 million pesos (nearly \$59,000) annually to each of five tribal councils for scholarships, health, livelihood and development initiatives in their communities.

After Gurilmin Malid was killed in July 2002, he was succeeded as tribal chieftain by his brother Juanito, now living in the hamlet of Salnaong in Columbio, a town contiguous with Tampakan and within the mining tenement area.

Seven months after SMI officially launched the project, and 14 months after Gurilmin was killed, Juanito changed the clan's stance from anti- to pro-mining, allowing the firm to conduct unhampered exploration activities on their ancestral land in exchange for development projects in their tribal community.

Yet even for communities that have supported the project, things haven't always run smoothly.

Mongabay spoke with Juanito on Feb. 6 in his community, a hamlet with treacherous rocky roads accessible by motorcycle, where he indicated his disappointment with the company for what he called broken promises.

"There were many promises from the company that were not fulfilled, including assistance for the construction of our housing and tribal hall, health center with doctor and others to uplift our lives," he said in the still visibly impoverished community.

Juanito, who was recently replaced as the Salnaong tribal council chieftain after almost 20 years by another sibling, said some of the responsibility lies with the tribal council. He said the council struggles to handle paperwork and failed to follow up with the company about its promises.

Elsewhere in the Tampakan mining tenement, poverty among the tribal residents remains prevalent despite the presence of SMI, which says it has contributed billions of pesos in taxes and other economic activities in the two decades since launching the project.

During a provincial legislative hearing in December 2021, SMI representative Roy Antonio said the company now plans to reduce impact by mining in phases rather than in "one big mining scoop," and will "employ responsible mining practices."

So far, Antonio said, the company has invested 32 billion pesos (\$626 million) and paid 2.6 billion pesos (\$50.9 million) in taxes to the government. In the first 10 years after operations begin, during which time the company plans to build support infrastructure and start extraction, it projects paying 76.6 billion pesos (\$1.5 billion) in taxes to the national government and 4.8 billion pesos (\$93.9 million) to local governments. During this period, Indigenous peoples stand to receive 6.6 billion pesos (\$129.2 million) in mining royalties, equivalent to 1 per cent of gross company earnings, Antonio added.

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters

Continuing opposition

Opposition to the project remains strong, spearheaded by the local Catholic Church, and strongly supported by environmental and civic groups as well as some tribal members.

A Church-led signature campaign launched in August 2021 has gathered more than 93,000 signatures in support of maintaining a ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato province, where Tampakan is located. During a Feb. 24 public hearing on the ban in the provincial capital of Koronadal City, the crowd of 3,300 attendees was overwhelmingly composed of people calling to retain the prohibition on open-pit mining.

The Tampakan project has also, until recently, faced setbacks at the national level. In 2017, Gina Lopez, the environment secretary at the time, imposed a nationwide ban on open-pit mining. Lopez also canceled environmental compliance certificates (ECC), which are required for environmentally sensitive projects to progress to commercial operations, for SMI and several other companies. Lopez was replaced as environment secretary in May 2017; she died of cancer-related complications in 2019.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who appointed and later dismissed Lopez, backed her anti-mining stance until April 2021, when he signed an order lifting the moratorium on new mining agreements to spur economic growth in the country. He justified the move as being in line with the national government's response to recover from the debilitating economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the local level, despite the rift brought by the Tampakan project, the five tribal councils within the tenement area have asked concerned government agencies to allow the mining project to move forward.

In October 2020, the Tampakan project was granted what's known as certification precondition by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. This certifies that the Indigenous cultural communities have given their consent to the mining venture within their ancestral domain, and that the company has complied satisfactorily with the process of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Anti-mining advocates denounced this development, saying the process failed to achieve wide multi-stakeholder consultation.

The mine project cleared another obstacle in December 2021, when Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who succeeded Lopez, lifted his predecessor's four-year-old ban on open-pit mining of copper, gold, silver and complex ores.

Not all smooth sailing

Another tribal leader, however, is watching with guarded caution the developments in the Tampakan mining tenement.

Daguil Capion, based in the Bong Mal community, said any misstep by the company could revive the tempest that brewed in the past in the restive mineral-rich mountains. But Capion's own position now toward SMI is hard to define — not least because he got legal assistance from the company in a case he faced years ago.

Indigenous opposition to Philippine mine project falters

Capion led a band of armed tribesmen that fought the mining firm more than a decade ago, and claimed responsibility for the 2010 killing of three workers employed by a road contractor for SMI. In 2012, while Capion was in hiding, security forces who were looking for him killed his wife and two of his sons. Capion's brother was also killed during an encounter with government troops in 2013.

Capion — who, reflecting the complexities of clan politics, is related to Dot Capion, a tribal chieftain who is a staunch supporter of the Tampakan project — was finally arrested in 2015. But the multiple cases of murder and attempted murder filed against him and several others were dismissed the following year due to insufficient evidence, releasing him from jail.

SMI has been conducting land and crop surveys since last year in Bong Mal, Capion's community, which is now showing signs of progress — more houses built of light materials, mom-and-pop stores, internet access, electrical appliances running off the newly installed lines, and a barber shop — although in general the population remains in poverty.

In contrast to Sukal's community, where about 90 per cent of the land has reportedly been leased to the mining company, Capion said that in Bong Mal, "only 10 per cent has been rented to the firm so far," with at least 200 hectares (494 acres), according to him, under negotiation between the landowners and the company.

Capion said the tribal members in his community don't want open-pit mining in their ancestral area, but that Environment Secretary Cimatú's lifting of the ban has put them in a bind.

As a leader of his tribal community, Capion said he still doesn't support SMI. He added he is keenly observing the developments and still considers himself an ally of the local Catholic Church, which from the start fought the Tampakan project, and which has vowed to continue its opposition to open-pit mining.

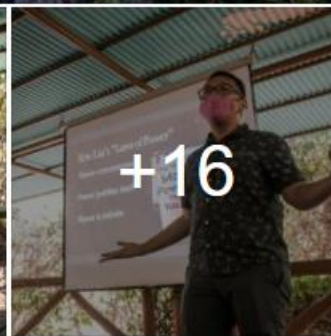
"Our armed resistance against the mining company might happen again if the tribe is badly treated," Capion told Mongabay, adding that "such will happen if dialogs will not work."



Masungi Georeserve

11 hrs · 🌐

WATERSHED DEFENDERS! 15 young Rizal leaders are now certified watershed defenders, with trainings in environment law, campaigns, and combatting disinformation. Despite ongoing challenges, the day was filled with camaraderie among participants and hope for the future! This project is supported by the Government of Canada through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. #WatershedDefenders





Nasa 100 ektarya ng gubat sa Bokod, Benguet nasunog

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 03 2022 02:21 AM



Nasa 100 ektarya ng gubat ang nasunog sa bayan ng Bokod, Benguet. *Kuha ng BFP Cordillera*

Nasa 100 ektarya ng gubat ang nasunog sa bayan ng Bokod, Benguet, ayon sa mga awtoridad nitong Miyerkoles.

Ayon sa municipal Bureau of Fire Protection, nagsimula ang sunog sa bahagi ng Sitio Labey, Ambuklao bandang alas-4 ng umaga ng Martes.



Nasa 100 ektarya ng gubat sa Bokod, Benguet nasunog

Nahirapan silang apulahin ang apoy dahil sa malakas na hangin at mainit na panahon kaya kumalat na ang apoy sa ibang bahagi ng gubat.

Sinusubukan pa ring apulahin ng mga bumbero ang sunog pasado alas-3 ng hapon ngayong Miyerkoles.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng BFP, na tiniyak na malayo ang sunog sa mga kabahayan.—**Ulat ni Mae Cornes**

Well-packaged? How Filipino online shoppers can help reduce waste

By [Jeline Malasig](#)

- March 2, 2022 - 9:35 PM



Online shopping generates plastic waste. (Image via brotherhoodpackaging)

A Reddit user encouraged Filipinos to recycle their plastic wastes from their purchases as online shopping platforms hold sales this month.

User “bwandowando” on Wednesday shared a picture of a drop-off point for plastic wastes at SM Megamall Building B, particularly at the parking lot near the UV terminal.

“Malapit na namang mag-Shopee and Lazada sale, share your plastic waste drop-off points here,” the user wrote as a caption.

Another Reddit user in the comments hoped that there’s a similar one in SM City Valenzuela.

“Meron sa upper floor for electronic waste kaso maliit lang. Sana may parking side para ma-cater iba pang waste bukod sa electronics (Syempre ‘di kasama ‘yung infectious waste),” the [user](#) said.

E-commerce platforms Lazada and Shopee are holding sales for the 3.3 event, which translates to March 3.

For **Lazada**, it is holding a “[Birthday Opening Sale](#)” from March 3 to 7 where shoppers can enjoy free shipping, up to 90% flash sales and piso deals.

Shopee is also having a “[Consumer Day Sale](#)” from March 3 to 15 where buyers can enjoy free shipping fees and one peso deals.

Purchases from these platforms are usually wrapped in heavy plastic or filled with bubble wrap to protect the packages in transit. Often, these wraps are excessive in amount.



Well-packaged? How Filipino online shoppers can help reduce waste

To help reduce the flow of plastic wastes in landfills and oceans, a non-profit organization launched a plastic waste collection program.

Plastic Credit Exchange is an organization that partners with sustainability-conscious businesses around the globe to responsibly offset their plastic footprint and reduce the flow of plastic waste.

It has established stations where Filipinos can drop off the following, as long they are empty, clean and dry:

- PET and HDPE bottles
- Plastic and styrofoam cups, lids and utensils
- Sachets, snack packs, other packaging
- Shampoo, soap, detergent bottles
- Plastic bags, e-commerce pouches and bubble wrap
- Small tires (Class 1, 2, 3 vehicles only)

Last month, the org posted its updated list of waste collection stations on Facebook.

[Plastic pollution](#) is a major problem in the country which has been listed as among the top contributors to the marine plastic crisis.

According to a study released by the World Wide Fund for Nature, there will be [“significant ecological risks”](#) in many areas if no action is taken to cut global production and the use of plastics.

It will put species and ecosystems in danger, it said.



Knowledge Channel helps inspire over 6,000 kids to care for environment

Published March 2, 2022, 3:51 PM

by [Manila Bulletin Entertainment](#)



Eco Squad program of Knowledge Channel, Breeze, and SDO Marikina

Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. (KCFI) helped inspire over 6,000 children to take care of the environment for a cleaner and brighter future through the “Eco-Squad: Kilos Kabataan Para sa Kapaligiran (KKK)” project with Breeze and the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office – Marikina.

The project engaged 17 elementary schools in Marikina City to educate the youth on the importance of environmental protection and conservation through film showings on nature, pollution, and recycling, among others.

The children also applied what they learned via KKK’s Eco Planters contest, where each student planted their seedlings on creative planters and monitored its weekly progress and their realizations through their Eco Diaries. Knowledge Channel’s resident art educator and “Art Smart” host, Teacher Precious Gamboa, taught the children to make a planter out of recycled materials.

Three students were chosen as winners based on their eco achievements, with Allyza Nichole de Jesus of Malanday Elementary School winning the Supremo Award (first prize), followed by Given Rich Claciete of Concepcion Elementary School for the Bayani Award (second prize), and Lois Nicolette delos Santos of L. Victorino Elementary School taking the Kawal Award (third prize). Apart from the top prize, Allyza also received the most likes online for her eco achievement, receiving the Sikat Award.

They were awarded cash prizes and tablets, and laptops for their respective schools. The finalists also received tablets loaded with Knowledge Channel video lessons to support their online learning.



Knowledge Channel helps inspire over 6,000 kids to care for environment

KCFI president and executive director Rina Lopez-Bautista expressed gratitude to every parent, educator, and student who took part in this collaborative effort.

“Thank you for stepping up in teaching your children to take care of the environment. Thank you for encouraging them to make a positive change in our society by giving back to Mother Nature and making life more sustainable. Let us continue nurturing the environment with our children,” she shared.

SDO – Marikina Schools Superintendent Sheryl Gayola also pointed out the outstanding talents of their students and the importance of experiential learning in ensuring the application of the lessons they learned beyond academic fulfillment.



Plastic pollution: Green light for 'historic' treaty

By Helen Briggs
Environment correspondent
Published
6 hours ago



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES

An international committee will look at options for reducing plastic pollution

The world is set to get a global treaty to tackle plastic pollution.

Nearly 200 countries have agreed to start negotiations on an international agreement to take action on the "plastic crisis".

UN members are tasked with developing an over-arching framework for reducing plastic waste across the world.

There is growing concern that discarded plastic is destroying habitats, harming wildlife and contaminating the food chain.

Supporters describe the move as one of the world's most ambitious environmental actions since the 1989 Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting substances.

They say just as climate change has the Paris Agreement, plastic should have its own binding treaty, which sets the world on course for reducing plastic waste.

Prof Steve Fletcher of the University of Portsmouth advises the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on plastics issues.

He said the plastics problem spans international borders and boundaries.



Plastic pollution: Green light for 'historic' treaty

"One country can't deal with plastic pollution alone, no matter how good its policies are," he said.

"We need a global agreement to enable us to deal with the widespread challenges that plastic gives us as a society."

What does this mean?

UN member states have agreed to start international negotiations on drawing up a [global plastics treaty](#) that could set rules for production, use and disposal of plastics. The decision was made at a meeting of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, environment minister for Rwanda, which has been at the forefront of the proposals, said they were optimistic the negotiations would put in place a framework "to end plastic pollution".

Conservation charity WWF described the decision as one of the world's most ambitious environmental actions since the 1989 Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting substances.

Addressing the full lifecycle of plastic products - production and use, as well as disposal - is key to turning off "the plastic tap", said senior policy advisor, Paula Chin.

"The next step is to make sure all signatories are ready to deliver on the promise of this ground-breaking agreement," she added.

What happens next?

World leaders have until 2024 to agree the plastic pollution treaty, including which elements will be legally binding and how the deal will be financed.

Environmental groups are calling for clear and strong global standards that incentivise nations to stick to common rules and regulations over plastics, while penalising harmful products and practices.

There will be pressure to help countries in the global south dealing with plastic problems created in the global north.

"There is debate about who pays and how do we make sure that countries in the global south have got the resources to deal with the plastic pollution crisis that they face," said Prof Fletcher.

The UK government, which supported the resolution, described the agreement as "truly historic".

"In the space of just one human lifetime, we have caused unimaginable damage to the global environment, choking every single part of the global ocean with plastic pollution," said Lord Zac Goldsmith, government minister for international environment.

"And although there is much to be done now to turn it into an ambitious and far-reaching treaty, we can now begin to close this ugly chapter. "



Plastic pollution: Green light for 'historic' treaty



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES
Plastic takes hundreds of years to degrade

Facts on plastic:

- It's thought more than five trillion pieces of plastic are in the world's oceans, which can take years to break down
- Each year, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced and 40% of that is single-use - plastic only used once before it's thrown away
- More than eight million tonnes of plastic enters the world's oceans each year and most of that escapes from land
- Not all plastic can be recycled, either because of the way it's made or because it's too expensive or difficult to do so
- Animals on land or at sea can be harmed by plastic. They can get trapped in carrier bags or food packaging or mistake plastic for food.



Survival strategies to mitigate climate change

By [Rey Gamboa](#) (The Philippine Star)

- March 3, 2022 - 12:00am

To one with even a cursory awareness of climate change issues, the sixth and latest report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives the direst of warnings on inaction by countries and governments.

The first and second installments of this three-part assessment on current climate science were issued in August last year and last Monday, respectively. The third and last part is expected in April. The unmistakable verdict on the first two is that Earth's health has gone from bad to worse, and we dare say that the third part will carry the same tone.

Those who keep tabs on global current events will agree given the abundance of news stories coming out about severe and prolonged droughts, expansive wildfires, super hot summers, abnormally heavy rain anflooding, and disappearing snowcaps and melting of huge glaciers.

Most of the severe climate changes may be happening thousands of miles away from the Philippines, but our experience with tropical cyclones that have become more intense in the last years should prod us to take the IPCC warnings with more seriousness.

Focus on adaptation and transformation

What majorly differentiates the sixth IPCC report with previous ones is a focus on adaptation and transformational responses that can bring fundamental changes to derail the path of further destruction on humanity.

The changing climate is expected to expose nearly half of the world's population to severe climate shocks in the coming years, and climate action must be framed in the context of sustainable development. The report stresses that maladaptation or band-aid solutions, like building seawalls as a protection to sea surges, are not advisable.

Of course, as with previous IPCC reports, the ultimate solution to keep global warming to below two degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels and to drastically cut carbon use, specifically fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal.

The report urged governments, people, non-government institutions, and businesses to come together to draw up innovative solutions that will not just cut down on carbon emissions, but also respond to the ongoing changes already happening.

Vulnerabilities of the Philippines

For the Philippines, highlighted is the displacement of people caused by harsher tropical cyclones. This calls for better measures in responding to the aftermath of such disasters: restoration of basic services disrupted by the typhoons, rebuilding of shelters and homes at a faster clip, and an immediate reconnection of affected livelihoods to the economic network.

As with many other countries, climate change is also affecting our ability to produce food. While typhoons are capable of wiping out a harvest, warming temperatures bring with it the risk of pestilence and other diseases in farmlands.



Survival strategies to mitigate climate change

The threat to rice-dependent countries like the Philippines has been singled out. New studies project the likely negative impact from an invasion of the golden apple snail, considered a notorious pest on rice, by 2080 with climactic conditions becoming suitable for its widespread replication.

Our fisherfolks are also vulnerable to warming seas, and the IPCC studies forecast a continuing decrease in catch. Not only is this bad news for the livelihoods of fishing communities, but also for many poor Filipino households that rely on cheap fish as part of their diets.

By 2050, the IPCC report projects further densification of urban areas, as affected people from agriculturally challenged localities flock to cities. This would increase the areas of slum dwellers and consequently aggravate poverty level in cities.

Metro Manila, with its high concentration of residents, was singled out in the report as one of the top 10 most vulnerable cities in Asia to economic disasters and disaster-related mortality from at least one of either cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions.

Likewise, Metro Manila is also regarded as highly at risk to sea level rise resulting from the fast melting of ice from the northern hemisphere. Extremely vulnerable are its high concentration of infrastructure, utilities, commercial establishments and industries, as well as people.

Survival strategies

For every problem, there is a solution. Such is the overriding message of the sixth IPCC. While adaptation and transformational responses documented in the report are admittedly few, they offer keys to unlocking additional creative strategies in dealing with the effects of global warming.

Local governments have been seen as crucial in mobilizing grassroots-level responses, and these could provide models for replication. The Philippines, in particular, has been improving its disaster mitigation responses, and while there is still a lot of room left for improvement, lessons have been quickly distilled and applied by others.

Knowing our vulnerabilities should guide us in planning our survival strategies. More investments are imperative for monitoring weather movements and creating an early warning device, for example, which will give time for evacuations of endangered communities.

In agriculture, a better system of information dissemination is needed that will arm farmers with knowledge on how to deal with pestilence. The country needs to be more aware too of the importance of biosecurity, as more viruses could affect livestock.

A more conscious effort to decentralize economic activity away from Metro Manila should be seriously considered before it becomes too late. Better land planning is crucial.

Finally, a more resolute approach to shifting our energy sources from non-renewables to renewables like solar, wind, and hydropower must be vigorously supported.

The Philippines may not be facing yet the worst lashes of climate change, but inaction will bring us to that point where living will become unbearably painful. Let us be more forceful in protecting our environment for future generations to come.



Survival strategies to mitigate climate change

Facebook and Twitter

We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.



A hotter planet means a hungrier planet, climate report warns

March 2, 2022 | 12:35 pm



FARMERS try to recover whatever they can after rice fields in Cagayan Valley were flooded when Typhoon Ulysses swept through the region in November 2020. — PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

LONDON — The future of food is troubling.

Nearly a third of the world's crop fields and livestock rangeland will be unsuitable for food production by the end of this century if climate-warming emissions aren't heavily curbed, a report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says.

Simultaneous crop failures in the world's breadbaskets and livestock deaths from extreme heat are just a few of the disasters that may befall the world's food system by 2050 as the planet warms. Such scenarios would lead to higher prices and put an additional 80 million people at risk of hunger.

"The future looks dark if we do not take action," said Rachel Bezner Kerr, an IPCC lead author and global development researcher at Cornell University. "No region will be spared."

ON THE FARM

Scientists say the worst effects of climate change would start to be unleashed if global temperatures rise more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. Having already warmed 1.1°C, the planet is expected to hit the 1.5°C threshold within two decades.

The UN report released on Monday looked broadly at many consequences of climate change, from unliveable cities to shrinking economies. But its outlook on future food supply was especially grave.

Global food production is still increasing, but not as fast as in the past. Climate change has already curbed production growth by some 21% over the last six decades, the report says — at a time when demand is rising with the increasing population.



A hotter planet means a hungrier planet, climate report warns

Heavy rains, high temperatures, poorer soil quality, an increase in pests such as locusts and a decrease in helpful pollinators such as bees will cause grain supplies to stumble. Yields of maize, rice, and wheat are expected to fall 10% to 25% for every degree of warming.

Farms could also see huge labor shortages by 2100, with as many as 250 more days per year becoming unworkable in some regions unless climate change is contained.

Tropical and subtropical countries would see losses of up to \$22 billion annually in the dairy industry and \$38 billion in beef by 2100 as heat stress thins out herds, the report said.

Hot or humid regions, including the Sahel, Amazon basin and Southeast Asia, would suffer most.

“Living in the Philippines, I have seen how tropical cyclones, flooding, and drought can lead to severe lack of nutritious food on the table,” said Rodel Lasco, an IPCC author and scientist with the country’s Climate Change Commission. “The most impacted are the poorest sectors of society.”

IN THE SEA

Impacts aren’t limited to land. Marine heatwaves, acidifying oceans, saltwater seeping into freshwater areas and harmful algal blooms are taking a toll on fish and other seafood.

Fish currently represent about 17% of global meat consumption and is projected to increase. But global fishery yields have declined 4.1% due to climate change between 1930 and 2010, the IPCC report said, with some areas, such as the North Sea and Iberian Coast, seeing losses as high as 35%.

As global temperatures continue to rise, that trend is expected to continue.

ADAPTIVE POTENTIAL

As food productivity shrinks, feeding the world will become more challenging.

When governments are alerted that crops are at risk, they typically turn to “Green Revolution techniques of using fertilizers, machinery and large monocultures to boost production,” said Olivier De Schutter, a co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems not involved with the IPCC report. “But that is clearly not the way forward.”

The report highlights farming methods that coexist with nature to scale up production, such as using agroforestry — the practice of planting crops among trees — or community gardens. Shifting diets away from meat and dairy would also make a positive difference.

But containing climate change is key. “If the planet continues to warm beyond 2°C,” Mr. Lasco said, “trade-offs will be more painful.” — **Gloria Dickie/Reuters**



DOE positive that Duterte will express support for nuclear power

By [Angelica Y. Yang](#) (Philstar.com)
- March 2, 2022 - 5:40pm



This December 19, 2011 photo from Wikimedia Commons shows Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) said on Wednesday that it has received word from the Office of the President that President Rodrigo Duterte is due to sign an executive order supporting nuclear power development.

This comes around more than a year after the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee (NEP-IAC) submitted the results of its public perception study on nuclear power to the president.

Duterte earlier ordered the creation of the NEP-IAC to study and make suggestions about the inclusion of nuclear into the country's energy mix.

"We have the NEP-IAC composed of 17 agencies that made a study on the infrastructure, and researched very well on every aspect that is needed on putting on every nuclear power. [We] submitted [our findings] in 2020, and we heard that this might be favorably endorsed through an executive order," DOE Undersecretary Gerardo Erguiza said during an online briefing on Wednesday.

Erguiza is the chairman of the NEP-IAC.

"We heard that the president will make an announcement soon. We heard from the Office of the President that the policy is going to be approved soon," he added.

The DOE official said it is imperative that the country must study other sources of energy, aside from those drawn from fossil fuels like oil.



DOE positive that Duterte will express support for nuclear power

For him, alternative sources such as nuclear power is one "viable and doable option" which can supply baseload power to the grid.

In another briefing on Wednesday, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi claimed the nuclear power "is really safe."

"It has just been demonized. My position is, if the BNPP(Bataan Nuclear Power Plant) was not demonized, by now, we would have been like South Korea or even better," he said in the Kapihan sa Manila Bay with Marichu Villanueva.

South Korea, a developed country, has its own national nuclear energy program.

The BNPP, which cost \$2.2-billion to build, was completed in 1985 but was never fueled as it was mothballed a year later.

Cusi has been a vocal advocate of nuclear power, believing that it help the country achieve energy security.

So far, Malacañang has not yet come up with any statement yet on whether or not the president supports nuclear power.

Environment groups have long criticized nuclear power, citing its harmful effects to human life and the environment if such projects are not built or managed properly.

03 MARCH 2022, Thursday



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EDITOR TIMOTHY ROY C. MEDINA

DENR, water regulators ready contingency plans as Angat levels drop

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is working on contingency measures for the dry season amid low water levels at Angat Dam, and is currently considering water use efficiency measures, cloud seeding, increasing reliance on treated water, and tapping deep wells.

The DENR and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) are working on plans to ensure adequate supply for irrigation and domestic use in areas served by Angat, Metro Manila's main water source, the department said.

"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already (moved) to solve the looming problem," DENR Officer-in-Charge Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement.

Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan supplies 97% of Metro Manila's water requirements.

"The domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March," NWRB Executive Director Seville D. David, Jr. said. "Having a sufficient water supply helps control the spread of coronavirus."

The DENR is also working with the National Irrigation Administration on the use of shallow tube wells to make irrigation more efficient.

"We are using what they call shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals," Mr. David said.

Cloud seeding will be conducted around the Angat Dam, Bustos Dam, and La Mesa Dam, between March 7 and April 10.

"This endeavor is in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the *amihan* or northeast monsoon season," Mr. David said.

Water concessionaires Manila Water Company, Inc. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. are also working on ways to maximize the water available to them.

"We continue to improve our system readiness through the operation of our line boosters, network pressure management, maximization of our distribution reservoirs and regular maintenance of our facilities to prevent any downtime," Manila Water said in a statement.

"While we work with the MWSS and NWRB on providing the needed supply, we also encourage consumers to use water responsibly so we can maximize the available supply and avoid wastage," Maynilad added in a separate statement.

— **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



Water supply contingency plan in place for Angat Dam, DENR's Sampulna assures

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has assured the public that a water supply contingency plan for Angat Dam is in place to ensure sufficient water supply for Metro Manila's over 12 million population throughout summer or dry season.

According to Sampulna, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), an attached agency of the DENR, continues to undertake measures to that effect—which include possible cloud seeding operations in March and April.

The NWRB is responsible for the management and regulation of all water resources and services in the country.

"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level

of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move to solve the looming problem," Sampulna told reporters in a mix of English and Filipino during an online news conference on Monday.

NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said the agency—in coordination with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corporation (NPC), and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)—has been implementing mitigation strategies to address the possible inadequacy of water supply from the Angat Dam, which supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements.

Some of the measures include the reduction of allocation for domestic

and irrigation requirements; reactivation of deep wells for the use of MWSS; cloud seeding operations; and maximizing the use of water treatment plants owned by water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

Cloud seeding measures are being considered in case the water level in Angat, which is the single major source of raw water for Metro Manila, continue to drop to prevent it from reaching the so-called critical level, compelling the NWRB to reduce water rationing to private water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

This results in scheduled water service interruptions, or worse, water rationing by the two private concessionaires to their respective customers.

This happens in the summer months of the year, and peaks before the onset of the rainy season in June or July.

Maynilad and Manila Water are also putting in place contingency measures on their own, such as drawing water from the Laguna de Bay and existing deep wells to augment water supply during the summer or dry season.

David said that the domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March, noting that having a sufficient water supply helps control the spread of coronavirus.

David pointed out that the case for the irrigation sector is different because "when the harvest is approaching, the lesser water will also be needed for the crops." The allocation is reduced from 20 cms to 15 cms.

The NWRB is also working in coordination with NIA for the implementation of various measures for effective water management including the use of shallow tube wells to reduce the consumption

of water for irrigation.

"We are using what they call shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals," David said.

Meanwhile, cloud seeding operation is an endeavor being coordinated with the PAGASA, said David.

"We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the 'amihan' or northeast monsoon season," David said.

Cloud seeding operations will be conducted in different areas including the Angat Watershed and Bustos Dam in Bulacan and La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which will be implemented from March 7 to April 10, 2022.

Meanwhile, the public is encouraged to partake in the efforts to secure the availability of water, especially in the coming dry season by conserving water and using it with utmost care and efficiency.



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CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR ANGAT DAM IN PLACE – DENR

AMID the decreasing water level in Angat Dam, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured the public that the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) remains on top of the situation as it continues to undertake measures to ensure sufficient water supply during the dry season.

“The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move

to solve the looming problem,” DENR acting secretary Jim Sampulna said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr., the agency, in coordination with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corp., and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, has been implementing mitigation strategies to address the possible inadequacy of water supply from the Angat Dam, which

supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila’s water requirements.

Some of the measures include the reduction of allocation for domestic and irrigation requirements; reactivation of deep wells for the use of MWSS; cloud seeding operations; and maximizing the use of water treatment plants owned by water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water.

David said that the domestic water allocation of 48 cubic meters per second (cms) will be retained in March, noting that having a sufficient water supply

helps control the spread of Covid-19.

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“We are using what they call

shallow tube wells to enable farmers to optimize water coming from creeks and canals,” David said.

To prevent the further decrease of water level in Angat Dam, the MWSS is also planning to conduct cloud seeding operations in March and April.

“This endeavor is in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. We decided to conduct the cloud seeding operations this March due to the right weather conditions and after the amihan or northeast

monsoon season,” David said.

The DENR said that cloud seeding operations will be conducted in different areas including the Angat Watershed and Bustos Dam in Bulacan and La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which will be implemented from March 7 to April 10, 2022.

The agency also encouraged the public to partake in the efforts to secure the availability of water, especially in the coming dry season by conserving water and using it with utmost care and efficiency.

EIRENE JAIREE GOMEZ



DENR to respect provincial decision on open-pit mining

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The government will honor the outcome of the province of South Cotabato's public consultations on the proposed lifting of the open-pit mining ban, specifically in the municipality of Tampakan, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, DENR officer-in-charge Secretary Jim Sampulna said the government would respect the outcome of the public hearings called by the provincial board on the proposed amendments to the Environment Code.

Sampulna was invited by South Cotabato Vice Gov. Vicente de Jesus to the multi-sectoral consultation forum in Koronadal City last Feb. 24 to provide technical information that would help the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members decide on whether or not to lift the ban on open-pit mining.

Sampulna assured stakeholders that the government respects their rights, adding that the general good of the people of South Cotabato is of utmost importance to the provincial government.

"On the legality of the pro-

vincial ordinance, it is well settled that ordinances enacted by virtue of the general welfare clause are valid," Sampulna said.

He expressed optimism that the DENR could contribute to a better appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of the project, as well as help the SP members reach an informed decision when they cast their respective votes.

A public hearing was also held on Feb. 18 in Tampakan town, which hosts the multi-billion-peso Tampakan gold-copper project touted as the largest undeveloped copper and gold mine in Southeast Asia.

The Tampakan project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. has the potential to yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold in concentrate per annum over the proposed 17-year life of the mine.

In December, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu signed Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-40, which lifted the ban on the open-pit method for mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country.

The DAO also provides additional enhanced parameters and criteria for surface mining methods.

It aims to revitalize the mining industry and usher in significant economic benefits to the country by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries and by increasing employment opportunities in rural areas where there are mining activities, thereby stimulating countryside development.



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Manila Bay, ligtas nang paliguan sa Hunyo - DENR

Posible nang paliguan ang Manila Bay pagsapit ng buwan ng Hunyo, batay sa pahayag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay DENR Spokesperson at Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, ang International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones na ang kalidad ng tubig sa Manila Bay ay

magiging ligtas na para paliguan at sa iba pang uri ng contact recreation sa katapusan ng termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Hunyo.

Sa ginanap na media briefing, sinabi ni Leones na ang coliform level sa priority sites sa Manila Bay ay bumaba na mula sa billions ay naging thousands hanggang hundreds na lamang dahil na

rin sa patuloy na dredging operations ng ahensiya, pagpapasara sa illegal outfalls, at treatment ng wastewater na itinatapon sa Manila Bay.

Sa inilabas na writ of continuing mandamus ng Supreme Court noong 2008, inatasan nito ang DENR at 13 pang ahensiya na ibalik at panatilihin ang tubig sa Manila Bay sa Class SB na may

coliform level na 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100mL.

Umaasa ang DENR na oras na magbukas sa publiko ang Manila bay bilang paliguan ay magiging disiplinado ang mga tutungo dito na iiwasan ang pagkakalat para mapangalagaan ang kalinisan at kagandahan nito. (Angie dela Cruz)



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MAHALAGA ANG ARAW NG ABO SA PANAHON NG TAG-INIT

PARA sa mga Kristiyanong Katoliko, lubhang mahalaga ang araw ng Miyerkules ng Abo o Ash Wednesday dahil ito ang pagsisimula ng Panahon ng Kuwaresma ng Universal Catholic and Apostolic Church sa buong mundo.

Ito ay ang 40 days na paghahanda para sa pagpapakahirap at pagpapakasakit ng Panginoong Hesukristo sa unang Biyernes Santo at ang Kanyang pagtatagumpay sa Pasko ng Muling Pagkabuhay.

Ang paglagay ng abo sa

noo sa mga Kristiyanong Katoliko bilang tanda ng pagpapakumbaba na tayong mga tao ay nagmula lamang sa alabok at sa abo ay muling magbabalik sa pagtatapos ng ating paglalakbay sa buhay na ito.

Ang araw na ito ay Piyeatang Pangiliin, ibig sabihin, obligado ang pagsisimba para sa mga Kristiyanong Katoliko upang magkaroon ng akmang paghinilay-nilay sa awa, habag at pagmamahal ng Dakilang Panginoon sa sangkatauhan na Kanyang ipinakita mahigit dalawang libong taon na ang nakaraan.



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

Araw ng Miyerkules ng Abo, para sa akin, mas maramdaman ang init ng panahon kaya kinakailangan mag-suot ng sunglasses at sombrero o magbaon ng panyong, uminom na maraming tubig para maiwasan ang heat stroke

Ang panawagan ni Dr. Sevillo "Bill" David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), na maging responsible ang bawat isa sa paggamit ng tubig lalo na ngayong taon 2022 dahil kung ikukumpara mo lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa parehong panagon, mas mababa ang lebel ng tubig itong taon.

Base sa ulat ng Department of Science and Technology

(DOST) – Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 196.20 metro sa araw ng Marso 2, 2022, (6:00am), bahagyang bumaba ang water level sa Angat dam, pati na rin sa Ipo Dam nasa -98.55 mtrs, mas mababa sa maintaining level na 101 meters.

Ang panawagan ni Executive Director David, kapag may tulo ang inyong mga gripo o sa water closet, ipaayos kaagad upang makati-pid sa konsumo sa tubig dahil mas mahal ang babayaran ninyo sa water concessionaire kung patuloy na tumatagas ang tubig.



DoST-ITDI pursues local sustainable production in SSX 2022

THE Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST-ITDI) will join government efforts to launch Sustainability Solutions Expo 2022 (SSX 2022) Hopin on March 23 to 25 via the streaming platform.

Dr. Annabelle Briones, DoST-ITDI director, will be part of a panel of five key presenters during a sprint presentation on Day 1 Segment 4 of the digital expo, "How the Philippines is Addressing Sustainability and What It Means for Businesses."

Dr. Briones will present natural and green products and services developed by DoST-ITDI that actually sought to overcome operational issues in Philippine manufacturing and production including compliance with international standards in trade and food safety matched with compliant packaging systems, especially for products destined for overseas distribution; and the need for responsible production that supports reduced effluent discharge through implementation of zero waste production cycles.

She will be joined by Climate Change Commission Director Nieva Natural of the Natural Resources and Environment Staff (Anres-NEDA); Assistant Secretary Ann Claire Cabochan of the Consumer Protection Group (CPG-DTI), and Director William Cuñado of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-DENR) during a live Q&A.

As the newest signature brand of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, or Citem, SSX hopes to build a culture of sustainability by leading micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) toward a circular economy (CE) model of production and consumption. CE relies on the three pillars of sustainability, namely the economy or profit, society or people, and the environment or planet to succeed.

By promoting solutions and gathering advocates from the public and private sectors, SSX 2022 hopes to foster exchange of ideas on sustainable consumption and production for Philippine food and lifestyle companies.



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Abante TOWITE

MORIS SA BALITA



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Kinalat basura sa kalsada, 4 dinakma

Pinosasan ang apat na basurero sa Maynila nang mahuli ng mga pulis na itinapon ang mga plastic ng basura sa kalsada habang bumibiyahe sila. Nabatid na ang basura ay galing sa dayuhang barko.

Ayon sa pulis, nakatanggap na sila ng ulat na nagtatapon ng plastic ng mga nakolektang basura ang naturang truck.

Kaya't minanmanan ito ng mga awtoridad saka sinundan matapos kumuha ng basura mula sa Pier sa South sa Maynila.

Nang dumaan ang truck sa madilim na bahagi sa Vitas St. ay isa-isa na nitong itinapon ang mga

nakolektang plastic.

Napag-alaman na kasama sa mga laman ng itinapon na plastic ay mga gamit nang diaper at mga sanitary napkin.

"Amin pong napag-alaman na itong mga basura ay galing doon sa foreign vessel na dumating sa Manila Bay," sabi ni Police Major Randy Ludovice, station chief ng Northern NCR ng Philippine National Police.

Anila, ilang ulit na silang nakatanggap ng reklamo kaugnay sa mga itinapon na basura sa kalsada.

Nilabag ng mga ito ang Ecologi-

cal Solid Wastes Management Act of 2000 kung saan dapat ay sa tamang tapunan ng basura dinadala ng mga contractor ang kinokoleta nilang basura.

"Kailangan pagkagaling ng barko, isasakay sa truck nila at dadalhin sa crater area. Dapat may permit sila at nandon 'yong recovery material facilities. Kailangan sundin ang proseso dahil mahalaga ito sa kalusugan ng tao. Sino-shortcut siguro para madali silang makabalik," paliwanag ni Ludovice.

Hindi nagbigay ng pahayag ang mga basurero. **(Kiko Cueto)**



Who pays? UN climate science report reignites global fight for compensation

BRUSSELS — With this week's U.N. climate science report laying bare the staggering economic costs and losses already faced from climate change, an inevitable question arises: who should pay?

Within U.N. climate negotiations, "loss and damage" refers to the cost countries are incurring from climate-related impacts and disasters — costs that disproportionately hit the world's poor and vulnerable who did least to cause global warming.

Drawing on more than 34,000 references from the latest scientific papers, the report released on Monday by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that economic sectors from agriculture and fishing to tourism were already being damaged.

Extreme heat has fueled crop losses. Rising seas have turbo-charged cyclones that have razed homes and infrastructure, slashing economic growth.

And as the bills mount up, poorer countries are left with even less to spend on health, education and infrastructure — compounding suffering.

"It's an unending situation," said Anjal Prakash, a lead IPCC author and research director at the Indian School of Business.

The report is likely to intensify a years-long political fight over funding to pay for climate-linked losses, ahead of the next U.N. climate summit, COP27, in Egypt in November.

Vulnerable countries for years have sought funding to help them shoulder these

costs. So far, it hasn't arrived, and rich nations have resisted steps that could legally assign liability or lead to compensation.

The mention of "loss and damage" in the 2015 Paris Agreement came with the caveat that it "does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation".

Last November at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, poor countries called for a special "loss and damage" fund to be established, but the United States and other rich nations resisted. The delegates agreed to set up a U.N. body to help countries address loss and damage, and to continue discussions about making "arrangements" for funding.

But there is no clarity on where the money would come from.

"We can't just create more talk shops when people are dying," said Harjeet Singh, senior adviser at Climate Action Network. He said COP27 needed to establish the funding facility that developing countries, including China, had called for at COP26.

Mr. Singh and other campaigners said the IPCC report — which has been approved by nearly 200 governments — could intensify pressure on the world's most powerful nations.

"It will help us to say that science is clear, the impacts are clearer now. So you are accountable for this, and you have to pay for this," said Nushrat Chowdhury, a policy advisor at NGO Christian Aid.

ACCOUNTING FOR COSTS

The report's discussion of climate losses is

bolstered by recent improvements in "attribution science," which allows scientists to confirm when climate change caused or worsened a specific extreme weather event.

Still, putting a number on the resulting losses remains contentious. For example, can climate-linked losses from a weather event be separated from losses caused by poor disaster planning? Can costs be counted for losses outside our economic systems, such as when nature is degraded or a community burial site is destroyed?

"We are still debating that in the scientific community," said another IPCC lead author Emily Boyd, a professor at Sweden's Lund University.

As climate disaster costs mount and U.N. negotiations remain stuck, some are considering other options.

"Liability and compensation have other avenues to be taken forward, which are courts," said Saleemul Huq, an adviser to the Climate Vulnerable Forum group of 55 countries.

Sophie Marjanac, lawyer at environmental law firm ClientEarth, said the IPCC report "will generally support litigation" to address climate change.

The legal avenue faces other obstacles, however.

Last year a federal appeals court rejected New York City's attempt to use state law to hold five oil companies liable to help compensate harm caused by global warming. The court said the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions should instead be addressed under federal law and international treaties. — Reuters



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Survival strategies to mitigate climate change

To one with even a cursory awareness of climate change issues, the sixth and latest report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives the direst of warnings on inaction by countries and governments.

The first and second installments of this three-part assessment on current climate science were issued in August last year and last Monday, respectively. The third and last part is expected in April. The unmistakable verdict on the first two is that Earth's health has gone from bad to worse, and we dare say that the third part will carry the same tone.

BIZLINKS



REY GAMBOA

Those who keep tabs on global current events will agree given the abundance of news stories coming out about severe and prolonged droughts, expansive wildfires, super hot summers, abnormally heavy rain anflooding, and disappearing snowcaps and melting of

huge glaciers.

Most of the severe climate changes may be happening thousands of miles away from the Philippines, but our experience with tropical cyclones that have become more intense in the last years should prod us to take the IPCC warnings with more seriousness.

Focus on adaptation and transformation

What majorly differentiates the sixth IPCC report with previous ones is a focus on adaptation and transformational responses that can bring fundamental changes to derail the path of further destruction on humanity.

The changing climate is expected to expose nearly half of the world's population to severe climate shocks

in the coming years, and climate action must be framed in the context of sustainable development. The report stresses that maladaptation or band-aid solutions, like building seawalls as a protection to sea surges, are not advisable.

Of course, as with previous IPCC reports, the ultimate solution to keep global warming to below two degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels and to drastically cut carbon use, specifically fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal.

The report urged governments, people, non-government institutions, and businesses to come together to draw up innovative solutions that will not just cut down on carbon emissions, but also respond to the ongoing changes already happening.

Vulnerabilities of the Philippines

For the Philippines, highlighted is the displacement of people caused by harsher tropical cyclones. This calls for better measures in responding to the aftermath of such disasters: restoration of basic services disrupted by the typhoons, rebuilding of shelters and homes at a faster clip, and an immediate reconnection of affected livelihoods to the economic network.

As with many other countries, climate change is also affecting our ability to produce food. While typhoons are capable of wiping out a harvest, warming temperatures bring with it the risk of pestilence and other diseases in farmlands.

The threat to rice-dependent countries like the Philippines has been singled out. New studies project the likely negative impact from an invasion of the golden apple snail, considered a notorious pest on rice, by 2080 with climactic conditions becoming suitable for its widespread replication.

Our fisherfolks are also vulnerable to warming seas, and the IPCC studies forecast a continuing decrease in catch. Not only is this bad news for the livelihoods of fishing communities, but also for many poor Filipino households that rely on cheap fish as part of their diets.

By 2050, the IPCC report projects further densification of urban areas, as affected people from agriculturally challenged localities flock to cities. This would increase the areas of slum dwellers and consequently aggravate poverty level in cities.

Metro Manila, with its high concentration of residents, was singled out in the report as one of the top 10 most vulnerable cities in Asia to economic disasters and disaster-related mortality from at least one of either cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions.

Likewise, Metro Manila is also regarded as highly at risk to sea level rise resulting from the fast melting of ice from the northern hemisphere. Extremely vulnerable are its high concentration of

infrastructure, utilities, commercial establishments and industries, as well as people.

Survival strategies

For every problem, there is a solution. Such is the overriding message of the sixth IPCC. While adaptation and transformational responses documented in the report are admittedly few, they offer keys to unlocking additional creative strategies in dealing with the effects of global warming.

Local governments have been seen as crucial in mobilizing grassroots-level responses, and these could provide models for replication. The Philippines, in particular, has been improving its disaster mitigation responses, and while there is still a lot of room left for improvement, lessons have been quickly distilled and applied by others.

Knowing our vulnerabilities should guide us in planning our survival strategies. More investments are imperative for monitoring weather movements and creating an early warning device, for example, which will give time for evacuations of endangered communities.

In agriculture, a better system of information dissemination is needed that will arm farmers with knowledge on how to deal with pestilence. The country needs to be more aware too of the importance of biosecurity, as more viruses could affect livestock.

A more conscious effort to decentralize economic activity away from Metro Manila should be seriously considered before it becomes too late. Better land planning is crucial.

Finally, a more resolute approach to shifting our energy sources from non-renewables to renewables like solar, wind, and hydropower must be vigorously supported.

The Philippines may not be facing yet the worst lashes of climate change, but inaction will bring us to that point where living will become unbearably painful. Let us be more forceful in protecting our environment for future generations to come.

Facebook and Twitter

We are actively using two social networking websites to reach out more often and even interact with and engage our readers, friends and colleagues in the various areas of interest that I tackle in my column. Please like us on www.facebook.com/ReyGamboa and follow us on www.twitter.com/ReyGamboa.

Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.

03 MARCH 2022, Thursday



DENR

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COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH records lowest single-day tally of Covid-19 cases this year

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor March 2, 2022, 4:36 pm



(PNA photo by Gil Calinga)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday logged 866 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), the lowest single-day tally so far for this year.

The figure is higher than the 421 infections reported on Dec. 28, 2021 -- the last time the country saw the lowest three-digit daily new cases.

It pushed the overall tally of confirmed infections to 3,663,920.

The active cases went down 50,827 after 1,622 new recoveries were logged.

About 474 of the active cases are asymptomatic, 45,862 are mild, 2,776 are moderate, 1,417 are severe and 298 are critical.

Meantime, the total recovered cases increased to 3,556,589.

“Of the 866 reported cases today, 757 (87 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days, February 17 to March 2, 2022,” the DOH reported.

The regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region with 176 or 23 percent, Calabarzon with 119 or 16 percent, and Central Visayas with 82 or 11 percent.

The death toll has reached 56,504 with 53 new deaths, representing 1.54 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 53 deaths, 23 occurred in February 2022 (43 percent), 2 in January 2022 (4 percent), 1 in December 2021 (2 percent), 2 in November 2021 (4 percent), 10 in October 2021 (19 percent), 5 in September 2021 (9 percent), 2 in August 2021 (4 percent), 1 in July 2021 (2 percent), 2 in June 2021 (4 percent), 1 in March 2021 (2 percent), 1 in February 2021 (2 percent), 1 in November 2020 (2 percent),



PH records lowest single-day tally of Covid-19 cases this year

1 in July 2020 (2 percent), and 1 in March 2020 (2 percent) due to the late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya,” the DOH said.

COVIDKaya is a digital application used by health care workers to collect and share data about Covid-19 cases.

According to the February 28 data, about 4.7 percent of 23,738 who were tested turned out positive for coronavirus.

About five duplicates were removed from the total case count as three were recoveries.

Meanwhile, 46 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after validation.

To date, 25 percent of 3,700 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 23 percent of 20,400 isolation beds, 14 percent of 14,000 ward beds, and 13 percent of 3,100 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

In the NCR, 24 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 24 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 22 percent of 3,900 ward beds, and 15 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168878>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 718

MARSO 2, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

1.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
50,827

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,556,589

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,504

MGA BAGONG KASO **866**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,622**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **53**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,663,920**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 28
DATOS NGAYONG MARSO 2
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 28

4.7%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

23,738

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
91.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.0K TOTAL BEDS)
14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
13% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS)
24% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
15% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

474 Asymptomatic

45,862 Mild

2,776 Moderate

1,417 Severe

298 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

doh.gov.ph

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

03 MARCH 2022, Thursday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/xOOnvbFaXo4>

#DolomiteBeach #Phase1 #Phase2

PHASE-1 & PHASE-2 ILANG METRO NALANG MAGDUDUGTONG NA!

2,153 views • 2 Mar 2022

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#DolomiteBeach #Phase1 #Phase2

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SHOW MORE



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#manilabay

MANILA BAY UPDATE MARCH 2, 2022

600 views • 2 Mar 2022

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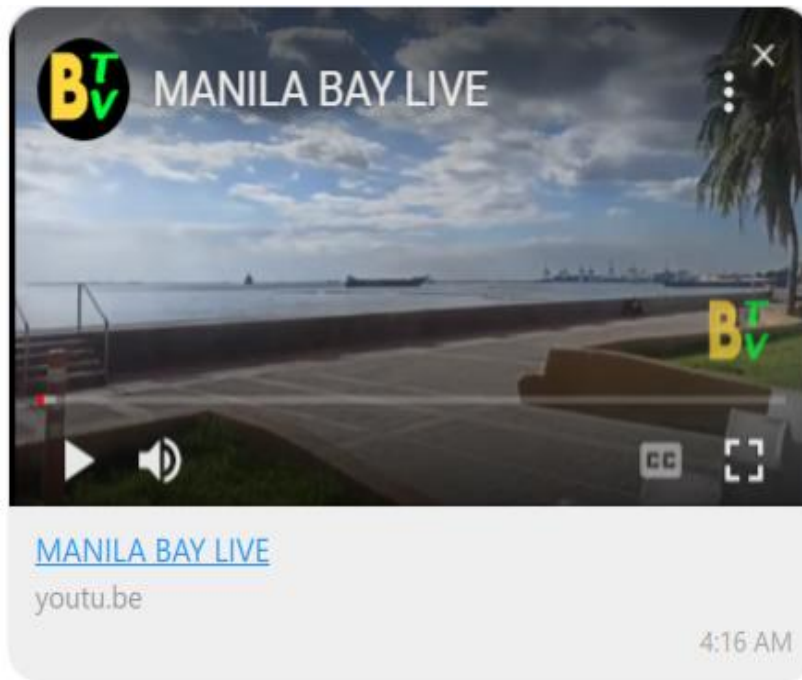
BTV Pinas

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simpleng pagtatapon ng Basura sa tamang Tapunan, ay higit na nakakatulong para luminis ang ating kapaligiran, maiiwasan din nito ang posibleng pagbaho dulot ng itinapon nyong basura. Kaya dapat tayong maging responsible, Dahil Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/QPjrqKklFHE>

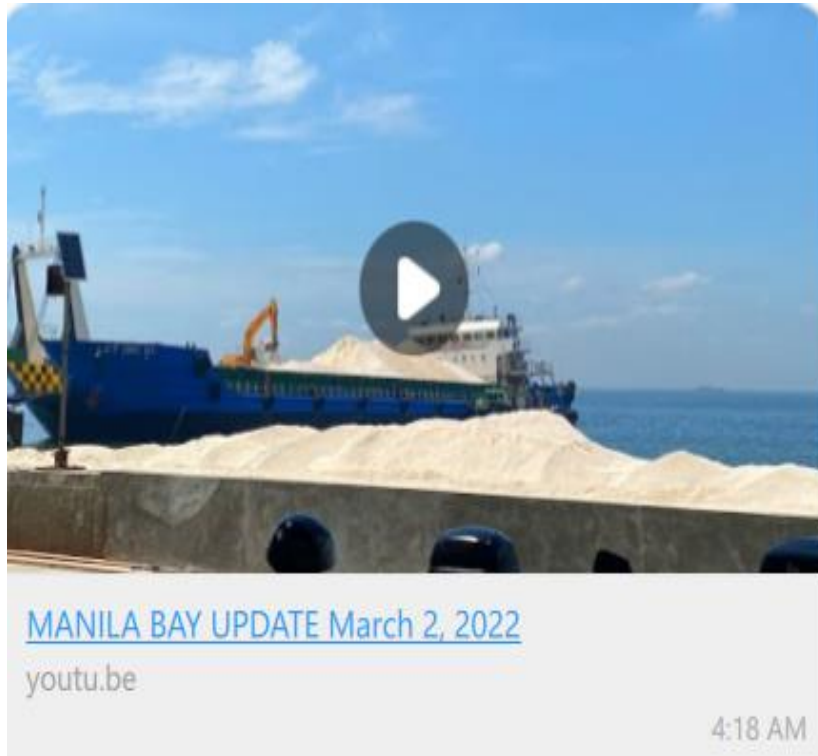
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