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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Marine Species Seen in Dolomite Beach Shore

Thursday, March 3, 2022 Journal Online



Coastal rangers of the **Manila Baywalk** find a sea hare (inset, left) and its eggs (inset, center) also called 'pansit-pansitan', and a file snake (inset, right), commonly called 'malabasahan' along the shore of the Dolomite Beach in Roxas Boulevard, Manila during a cleanup activity on February 18, 2022. Sea hares (*Dolabella* sp.) feed on algae, and its eggs are eaten raw or cooked as a delicacy in some areas in the Philippines. The file snake (*Acrochordus granulatus*), is a non-venomous species which feeds mainly on fish. The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** aims to bring back the water quality of Manila Bay to the acceptable level for Class SB waters with the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation.



DENR steps up Manila Bay clean-up, rehab efforts in Bataan

By Zorayda Tecson [March 3, 2022, 6:21 pm](#)



CLEAN-UP DRIVE. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Luzon (DENR-3), together with some partner-agencies, recently launched a clean-up drive at the northern part of Corregidor Island in line with the intensified efforts to clean and rehabilitate the Manila Bay. The initiative aimed to keep the Corregidor shoreline clean as this serves as the entry point to Manila Bay in the southern part of the region. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-3)*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Luzon (DENR-3) office here has collected more than 39,000 kilograms of wastes at the northern part of Corregidor Island in line with intensified efforts to clean and rehabilitate the Manila Bay.

Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of the DENR-3, on Thursday said the initiative conducted over the weekend is aimed at keeping the Corregidor shoreline clean as this serves as the entry point to Manila Bay in the southern part of the region.

“Through this initiative, we are preventing waste from reaching our jurisdiction, especially those which may be carried in our shorelines during high tides,” Moreno said in a social media post.

Solid wastes including styrofoam, food wrappers, packaging materials, plastic bottles, fishing nets, ropes, and slippers were collected by the DENR, together with partners from Philippine Coastguard Station in Lamao and Corregidor Island, Philippine Navy, Philippine Marine Corps Coastal Defense Regiment, Corregidor Foundation Inc., Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Information Agency in Bataan, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of Mariveles, and Barangay Lamao in Limay.

Moreno said although Corregidor Island is part of the Calabarzon region, it is geographically nearer to Mariveles, Bataan.

Meanwhile, the official called on the public to properly segregate their waste at home to protect river systems in the region from pollution.

So far, the DENR regional office has collected more than 18 million kilograms of waste from 8,772 cleanup activities in Bataan since the start of the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program in 2019.

Apart from Bataan, massive cleanup drives are also launched in other major river systems and tributaries of Manila Bay in the provinces of Bulacan, and Pampanga.



A total of 125 trash traps were installed in Bulacan, Bataan, and Pampanga to prevent solid wastes from reaching the coastlines of Manila Bay.

Of the 190-kilometer stretch of Manila Bay, 142 kilometers are within Central Luzon, traversing the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan. **(PNA)**



DENR project impact assessment urged

By [Vince Jacob Visaya](#)

March 4, 2022

TUGUEGARAO CITY: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) head in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has urged project implementers to start evaluating impacts of the Forestland Management Project (FMP) in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. In her message on Thursday during the opening of the three-day assessment and planning workshop for the FMP, Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan noted the importance of assessing not only the progress of the project but also the realization of its goals and objectives. Bambalan 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 established and are now being protected and maintained. Through the FMP, enterprise development by 34 people's organizations is being pursued. The 10-year watershed rehabilitation undertaking is 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.



DENR collects 39,000 kilos of garbage in cleanup drive



COLLECTING GARBAGE. Personnel of DENR and Philippine Coast Guard collected more than 39,000 kilos of waste from the recent cleanup activity held at the northern part of the Corregidor Island in support to the intensified effort of the government to clean and rehabilitate the Manila Bay. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

March 03, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) collected more than 39,000 kilos of waste from the recent cleanup activity held at the northern part of the Corregidor Island in support to the intensified effort of the government to clean and rehabilitate the Manila Bay.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the DENR in Central Luzon, said the initiative aimed to keep the Corregidor shoreline clean, as this served as the entry point of the Manila Bay in the southern part of Central Luzon.

“Through this initiative, we are preventing waste from reaching our jurisdiction, especially those which may be carried in our shorelines during high tides,” Moreno said.

Solid waste usually composed of styrofoam, food wrappers, packaging materials, plastic bottles, fishing nets, ropes, and slippers were collected by the DENR, together with partners from Philippine Coastguard Station in Lamao and Corregidor Island, Philippine Navy, Philippine Marine Corps Coastal Defense Regiment, Corregidor Foundation Inc., Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Information Agency in Bataan, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of Mariveles, and Barangay Lamao in Limay.

Corregidor Island is part of the Calabarzon region, but it is geographically nearer to Mariveles, Bataan, only three nautical miles away from Barangay Mt. View.

The DENR continues to urge the public to properly segregate their waste at home to protect river systems in the region from pollution.

Since the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program commenced on 2019, the DENR has collected more than 18 million kilos of wastes from 8,722 cleanup activities conducted in Bataan.

The province is part of the 190-length of the Manila Bay area in Central Luzon. Of this, 78-kilometer is part of the coastline of Bataan.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1922591/pampanga/local-news/denr-collects-39000-kilos-of-garbage-in-cleanup-drive>



DENR: Boracay algae not toxic

Published March 3, 2022, 1:36 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY—After new photos circulated online of algae at the world-famous Boracay Island, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clarified its presence is not toxic and the waters are still safe for swimming.

“This is non-toxic and should not be a cause for concern,” said Martin Jose Despi, the new general manager of the DENR-led Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

The photos of the green algae in Boracay that circulated online were taken by Jhay-are Nabua Padilla who vacationed with his family in the island last February.



Green algae seen at the front beach of world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan province. (Photo courtesy of Boracay Rehabilitation Continues / MANILA BULLETIN)

“The presence of the algae is simply a natural phenomenon that occurs yearly during the dry season or summer period in different areas of Boracay,” said Despi.

“Tourists are assured that Boracay waters are clean and safe for swimming,” added Despi.

Data from DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) found that Boracay beach is still within the safe standard for swimming, which is 1,000 most probable number (mpn) per 100 millimeter (ml).

Based on the laboratory tests, coliform level in the front beach is 8mpn/100ml for January 2022 and 11mpn/100ml for February 2022.

Meanwhile, BIARMG noted that the volume of algae in Boracay has subsided in the past two weeks.



#Eleksyon2022 #Nakatutok24Oras

Lumot, muling lumitaw sa ilang baybayin ng Boracay | Saksi

1,186 views • Mar 4, 2022

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Lumot, lumitaw ulit sa ilang baybayin ng Boracay.

Saksi is GMA Network's late-night newscast hosted by Arnold Clavio and Pia Arcangel. It airs

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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3ezTQUQjtg>



DENR releases 2 tarsiers in Zamboanga Norte forest

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. **March 3, 2022, 1:45 pm**



PHILIPPINE TARSIER. One of the two rescued tarsiers crawls on a tree trunk after personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Liloy released them back to their natural habitat Wednesday (March 2, 2022) in Barangay Delucot, Godod, Zamboanga del Norte. The tarsiers were retrieved on the same day by CENRO-Liloy personnel who responded to a social media report regarding the capture of the nocturnal mammals in the area. *(Photo courtesy of CENRO-Liloy)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Zamboanga Peninsula (DENR-9) has released a pair of Philippine Tarsiers back to its natural habitat in the province of Zamboanga del Norte.

DENR-9 information officer Rosevirico Tan said Thursday the tarsiers were released by the personnel of Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Liloy in the forest of Barangay Delucot, Godod, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the tarsiers were retrieved Wednesday by a team of personnel from CENRO-Liloy who responded to a social media report regarding the capture of two tarsiers in Delucot village.

“Upon assessment, the pair were found to be in good and healthy condition and were released back to its natural habitat on the same day,” Tan said.

Philippine tarsiers are often seen in small groups - up to five together in one place - but are considered as solitary animals.

“These nocturnal mammals are very sensitive and are known to die or commit suicide when held in captivity,” Dionisio Rago, CENRO-Liloy chief, said in a statement.

Rago urged the public to immediately report any wildlife concerns to them through hotline 0948-147-12-50 for the proper handling and retrieval operations.

Tan said Thursday's release of the two tarsiers was timely as the DENR is celebrating World Wildlife Day.

The celebration of World Wildlife Day aims to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that their conservation provides to humans.

The Philippine tarsier, locally known as “Basing,” is classified by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as near threatened species due to a significant decrease of its population.

They are protected under Republic Act 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Act, which prohibits any person from hunting, hurting, killing, maiming, or keeping them as pets. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1168933>



15-FOOT PYTHON HULI SA KISAME NG BAHAY SA BATANGAS CITY

March 2, 2022



UMAABOT sa 15 talampakan ang haba at 35 kilo ang bigat ng nahuling sawa mula sa kisame ng isang bahay na under renovation sa Batangas City.

Ayon sa Enro Batangas City, nakatanggap sila ng tawag mula sa mga construction worker na gumagawa sa isang matagal nang abandadong bahay sa Brgy. 10 upang humingi ng tulong para mahuli ang isang napakalaking sawa bandang alas -10 ng umaga.

Batay sa kuwento ng workers, nagtatataka sila kung bakit unti unting nahuhulog ang mga kahoy ng kisame ng bahay at mayroon tila gumagalaw sa loob ng kisame. Laking gulat na lamang nila na makita ang isang malaking sawa.

Nahirapan namang maibaba ang sawa mula sa kisame dahil sa bigat at sa haba nito. Nadiskubre rin mula sa kisame ang mga buto ng pusa na maaring nagiging pagkain ng sawa kung kaya lumaki na ito sa itaas ng kisame.

Ayon naman sa ENRO Batangas malaking banta ito sa seguridad ng mga nandoon sa lugar dahil puwede itong makalunok at makalingkis ng tao. Sinurender ang ahas sa DENR Lipa at dadalhin rin sa DENR Laguna. **RON LOZANO**



Coastal villagers urged to report stranded marine mammals

By Connie Calipay [March 3, 2022, 2:14 pm](#)



DISTRESSED. A spinner dolphin that was recently rescued in Tabaco City but eventually died. Residents of coastal communities were urged to immediately report to the proper authorities stranding incidents that involve marine mammals to prevent their death. (Photo courtesy of Daryl John Buenconsejo)

LEGAZPI CITY – Residents of coastal communities were urged to monitor and report stranding incidents that involve marine mammals to the proper authorities after an adult male spinner dolphin died after being rescued in Barangay Fatima, Tabaco City early this week.

In an interview on Thursday, Daryl John Buenconsejo, Albay Provincial Fisheries Project and Program Coordinator, said locals may report discovery of distressed mammals to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Bicol (BFAR-5), the Albay Provincial Agricultural Office (APAO)-Fisheries Division, the Albay Veterinary Office (AVO), or the nearest municipal agriculture office for proper handling and rescue operations.

"In case man po meron ulit mangyaring ganitong cases [stranding of marine mammal]. Ipagbigay alam po sa office ng BFAR or pwede din po sa PGA-APAO or PGA-AVO or sa pinakamalapit na municipal agriculture office na nasasakupang munisipyo (In case a similar case happens again [stranding of marine mammal]. Please inform the office of BFAR or PGA-APAO or PGA-AVO or the nearest municipal agriculture office)," Buenconsejo said.

He said the marine mammal possibly died because of stress based on the results of the necropsy conducted by the city veterinarian of Tabaco.

"The dolphin was also cleared from any other injuries and from being poisoned," he noted. *"Possible cause nung ikinamatay ng dolphin is stress kasi hindi na siya kumakain, wala nang laman yung kanyang stomach and mga intestine. Ibig sabihin mga ilang araw na to hindi kumakain. So possible cause kung bakit hindi siya kumakain is stress (The possible cause of the dolphin's death is stress because it no longer ingested food, the stomach, and intestines were already empty. Meaning to say it has not eaten for several days. So the possible reason it had not eaten is stress)."*

The BFAR-5 will conduct further examination of the sample tissues of the dolphin, Buenconsejo said.

He said in most incidents, the rescued mammal is either alive and eventually released, or recovered dead along the shoreline. This is the first time that the mammal died after being rescued alive by their team.



“Our team Marine Mammal Stranding Network-Albay conducts an Information Education Campaign (IEC) to the coastal communities in the province to give them the basic and right information about marine mammals,” he added. ***(With a report from Bernadine Carretas/PNA-OJT)***



PHL-Japan Environment Week to hold seminar, exhibit, business matching

BY BUSINESSMIRROR MARCH 2, 2022

THE Ministry of the Environment-Japan (MOEJ), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is currently holding the first-ever Philippines-Japan Environmental Week, which will discuss environmental issues and sharing opportunities for cooperation toward a decarbonized infrastructure and society.

With key speakers and participants from both countries' public and private sectors, the gathering provides opportunities to discuss environmental issues, and shares innovative and emerging environmental solutions. Participants from the public and private sector, research and academic institutions, international and regional bodies, as well as nongovernment organizations were invited to join the online seminars, exhibition and business-matching events which will be held until March 4.

Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa was set to welcome participants to the online seminar tackling joint crediting mechanism, climate adaptation and climate-change transparency improvement in three separate seminars, with two plenary sessions on Action Toward Decarbonized and Resilient Societies, and City-to-City Collaboration.

The online Business Matching and Exhibition being held up to March 4 is enabling participants to learn about environment-friendly technologies and solutions through a designated exhibitors event web page, where individual communications with exhibitors, as well as videos showing their technologies and other useful information, are available.

For more details, visit the following links: event registration
(<https://www.jparsi.go.jp/ew2022ph/event.html>), MOEJ
(<https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2582.html>), and DENR
(<https://denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/3525-denr-moej-to-hold-first-ph-japan-environmental-week>).

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/02/phl-japan-environment-week-to-hold-seminar-exhibit-business-matching/>



Climate action should be at the heart of country's COVID recovery — scientists

By JHESSET O. ENANO

Published March 3, 2022 6:13pm



According to scientist Rodel Lasco, among the lead authors of the chapter on food, fiber, and other ecosystem products in the latest IPCC report, there should be a promotion of diversification of crops and livelihoods among Filipino farmers and food producers, so they would not be dependent on one or few sources of food and income.

Photo: Omar Mangorsi

Following the release of a new major scientific report on climate change, Filipino scientists on Thursday said the country's climate adaptation and mitigation strategies should no longer be fragmented and must be at the heart of the government's recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scientists Rosa Perez, Rodel Lasco, and Juan Pulhin stressed that climate change impacts, from extreme weather events to sea level rise, will exacerbate poverty and inequality in the country, especially among marginalized sectors that also bore the brunt of the pandemic.

"While the urgency of climate change poses many challenges, it also creates the opportunity to emerge from the pandemic and economic volatility with healthier, more resilient, and climate-safe society and environment," said Perez in a stakeholders' briefing organized by the nonprofit research organization Oscar M. Lopez (OML) Center.

"The Philippines has many problems... However, we can view climate change as a threat multiplier," she added. "If we don't address climate change, it will enhance current vulnerabilities and will reduce options for people to adapt."

Perez, Lasco, and Pulhin are among the lead authors of the new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released on Monday, which sounded the alarm bells anew on urgent and concerted climate action across all sectors.

The IPCC is a United Nations body that assesses existing science related to climate change. A total of 270 authors from 67 countries worked on the 3,676-page report, titled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability."

The report highlighted a "rapidly closing" window for action to avert the worst possible impacts of the climate crisis, which are already disproportionately felt in communities and ecosystems that have the least capacity to cope.



“The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health,” the report read. “Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

Worsening impacts

Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people — or nearly half of the global population — live in “contexts that are highly vulnerable” to climate change, according to the IPCC. It is a figure that is seen to rise.

Dangers associated with climate change are already evident in many regions across the globe. Storms and other extreme weather events in 2019, for instance, have displaced over 13 million across Asia and Africa.

By 2050, at least one billion people living on coasts are at risk of floods worsened by rising seas.

Increases in frequency, intensity, and severity of droughts, floods, and heatwaves, along with continued sea level rise, will also result in increased risks to food security, which can then lead to more cases of malnutrition across the world.

At the same time, climate change will adversely impact human health, with climate-sensitive food-, water-, and vector-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria, projected to rise under all levels of warming without adaptation.

“The findings are so rich and there are so many things that are relevant to us,” said Lasco, who serves as executive director of the OML Center. “Food security is something [we need] to pay attention to, as well as nature-based solutions [and] protecting our biodiversity and natural ecosystems.”

Lasco, who was among the lead authors of the chapter on food, fiber, and other ecosystem products, said there should be a promotion of diversification of crops and livelihoods among Filipino farmers and food producers, so they would not be dependent on one or few sources of food and income.

“Reducing food waste and post-harvest losses will help,” he said.

Holistic, inclusive approaches

These solutions and adaptation measures should not be treated in silos, said Pulhin, a lead author of the report’s chapter on Asia.

“The traditional highly fragmented, sectoral, and uncoordinated approaches will bring us nowhere,” he said. “It is high time for the government and all of us to recognize that the multiple stressors in our country require science-based and integrated solutions.”

Even as the world moves towards climate adaptation, the IPCC report also highlighted the uneven progress on adaptation and increasing gaps between actions taken and those needed to deal with increasing risks.

It also warned against maladaptation, an “unintended consequence” that can further expose communities to even greater climate risks and deepen existing inequalities.



An example of maladaptation is the construction of coastal sea walls meant to protect communities from rising seas, but in turn, exposed other settlements to flooding and degraded coastal mangroves.

“Our national agencies could have all these climate change programs, projects, and activities, but it should be integrative,” said Perez, who was a lead author of the chapter on climate-resilient development pathways. “One sector could think that it is good for [them], but it could be detrimental to another. There should be discussions on solutions that will be forwarded.”

As the Philippines gradually eases out of the pandemic and votes for new leadership in May, Lasco said it is crucial that climate change is among the priorities of those who will be put in positions of power.

“On the immediate term, national and local leaders should include addressing climate change in their top priorities and provide support to it,” he said. “In the long-term, we should have long-term national strategies, plans, and enabling policies that will operationalize climate-resilient development pathways.” — **LA, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/823815/climate-action-should-be-at-the-heart-of-country-s-covid-recovery-scientists/story/?fbclid=IwAR1CuHz3tkEMtIYiCM0xpOoWWbn-0EyG0GueC8E4k8u-iUo8qx7_NYq5oHY

As climate dangers rise, scientists predict disasters before they happen

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 03 2022 05:35 PM



For climate scientists reviewing a Pacific Ocean temperature forecast map in November, a bright red, sideways "V", thousands of kilometers long signaled disaster.

Combined with La Nina cooling in the central and eastern Pacific, the V-shaped pattern of warm sea water, stretching from Australia's east coast to the Philippines and back over the ocean north of Hawaii, indicated that halfway around the world in the Horn of Africa the upcoming March-May rainy season would likely fail.

The scientists' organization, called Famine Early Warning System Network or FEWS Net, sent out an alert with UN, EU and African institutions, saying the "unprecedented" drought would likely "cause a perilous and disruptive humanitarian disaster".

If the warning is born out, it could push the region into its worst drought on record. Millions of people would struggle to feed themselves.

Such warning systems are becoming increasingly essential as climate change puts food security at increasing risk. "Our work is to save lives and livelihoods," said FEWS Net agricultural meteorologist Gideon Galu said in Kenya.

On Monday, a [report](#) by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the top global climate science authority, warned heatwaves, droughts and extreme rainfall would become more frequent in coming decades as temperatures continue to climb.

Already, "increasing weather and climate extreme events have exposed millions of people to acute food insecurity and reduced water security," it said.

In East Africa, FEWS Net's team says only two biannual rainy seasons since late 2016 were considered "normal", while the rest were wet to the point of flooding or dry to the point of drought.

Following FEWS Net's Dec. 1 warning on East Africa, aid groups started scrambling for funding and supplies.

"It's not just enough to forecast, we really need to act," said Zinta Zommers, an IPCC report review editor who works at the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

ACTING FAST

FEWS Net began in 1985 following the Ethiopian famine. The U.N. has run a similar programme known as GIEWS for decades, while other agencies including the World Food Programme have experts regularly analysing conditions.

As climate science and satellite monitoring have improved, those tools are increasingly used as the first step in heading off climate-related catastrophe.

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change lists such systems as a tool to minimize loss and damage from extreme weather events, such as drought, heatwaves, locust swarms, storm surges and wildfires. Systems can even predict when winds will be strong enough to rip the roofs off houses.

FEWS Net now works in 29 of the world's most food-insecure countries, generating crisis risk maps three times a year.

The network's sole funder, the U.S. government's Agency for International Development (USAID), uses its research to decide where and how to allocate aid, said Tracy O'Heir, the East Africa chief for USAID humanitarian assistance. Last year, the agency's aid spending totalled \$8 billion.

It has given early warning on events including flooding that is becoming increasingly common in South Sudan. In response to the current East Africa drought alert, following three failed biannual rainy seasons, USAID plans to fund searches for alternative local water sources or to bring in water trucks.

Locals struggling to feed themselves as cattle die of thirst and crops fail will receive stipends to buy food or dried foodstuffs shipped into the area.

The Red Cross, meanwhile, has begun using warning systems for "forecast-based financing", with aid payments issued automatically when certain forecasting conditions are met.

"We can make more use of the same amount of humanitarian support to help more people if we act before, rather than clean up afterwards," said Maarten van Aalst, director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

In the Philippines - among countries most vulnerable to tropical storms - automatic payments will go out when a typhoon is predicted to destroy at least 10% of houses in at least three municipalities. Similar set-ups exist for Peru, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Mongolia.

'WHAT WILL YOU EAT?'

Last month, Bernard Mbithi set to tearing out a failed corn crop from his field in eastern Kenya.

"What will you eat? How will you even survive? That is a major thing you have to ask yourself," said 63-year-old Mbithi, who is married with two children. He learned about the poor forecasts for this year's rains on his mobile phone, and decided to try planting more drought-tolerant cowpeas instead.

But warning systems, even when they work correctly, won't be a cure-all for regions hit by climate change, scientists warn.

"I'm afraid we just kind of tell them, 'Put the Band-Aid here'. We're not solving the big problem, the long-term problem" of climate change, said Jim Verdin, programme manager for FEWS Net.

A UN report last year found that 58 developing countries collectively need about \$70 billion per year through 2030 to adapt to climate change. So far rich countries have mobilized only \$20 billion annually for these efforts, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. They pledged at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow last year to double that figure by 2025.



Mbithi said people need help urgently, for example with keeping livestock alive during extreme weather episodes.

"We need a lot – a lot of education to people, a lot of resources," Mbithi said. "Everywhere in the world you see that there is climate change. So you have to be worried."



UN Environment Assembly endorses reso to end plastic pollution

March 3, 2022, 7:39 pm



GLOBAL TREATY. Delegates celebrate the adoption of a resolution to end plastic pollution at the closing meeting of the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 2, 2022. The resumed UNEA-5 wrapped up with delegates adopting a resolution to pave the way for the establishment of a legally binding global treaty by 2024 to end plastic pollution. (*Xinhua/Dong Jianghui*)

NAIROBI – The resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) wrapped up on Wednesday with delegates adopting a resolution, which will pave the way for establishment of a legally binding global treaty by 2024 to end plastic pollution.

More than 3,400 in-person and 1,500 virtual participants from 175 UN member states who attended the three-day global environment forum resolved to back legal tools that would revitalize action on the plastic menace.

Espen Barth Eide, the outgoing president of UNEA-5 and Norway's minister for Climate and Environment, hailed the unanimous endorsement of a resolution to eliminate plastic pollution, terming it a milestone in the transition from linear to a circular economy that promises jobs, human and ecological health.

"Plastic pollution has grown into an epidemic. With today's resolution, we are officially on track for a cure," Eide said, adding that the treaty would address plastic pollution from the source to end-users.

Proposed by Rwanda, Peru, Japan, and India, the resolution to end plastic pollution took center stage during discussions at the global environment forum, alongside other pressing ecological challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss.

Billed as the most important global environmental accord since the Paris climate deal of 2015, the resolution to end plastic pollution will open a new chapter in circularity.

The historic resolution titled "End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument" establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) that begins its work in 2022 with the aim of finalizing a global legally binding agreement by 2024.

With the endorsement of a legally binding global treaty, UN member states will be mandated to address the full lifecycle of plastics, the design of reusable and recyclable products and materials, even as they foster technology transfer and knowledge sharing to boost the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.



Inger Andersen, the executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said the endorsement of a resolution to boost action on plastic waste was a triumph of multilateralism and humanity's quest to live on a clean and healthy planet.

"Today marks a triumph by planet earth over single-use plastics. This is the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord," Andersen said. "It is an insurance policy for this generation and future ones, so they may live with plastic and not be doomed by it."

Andersen said that as negotiations lead to the establishment of a global treaty on ending plastic pollution gathers steam, multilateral institutions will partner with governments and industry to explore financing and technological tools that can hasten the transition to a circular economy.

Statistics from UNEP indicate that plastic production soared from 2 million tons in 1950 to 348 million tons in 2017, hence becoming a formidable industry valued at 522.6 billion U.S. dollars.

An estimated 11 million tons of plastic waste flow into global oceans annually, threatening the survival of marine species, food security, and livelihoods of coastal communities, according to UNEP.

The shift to a circular economy will reduce plastics entering oceans by over 80 percent by 2040, reduce virgin plastic production by 55 percent, and save governments 70 billion dollars by 2040.

In addition, eliminating plastics will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent besides creating an additional 700,000 jobs in the global south, UNEP said. **(Xinhua)**



Groups hail government's action vs plastic pollution at UNEA 5.2

JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

MARCH 3, 2022



A man walks on a mountain of plastic bottles as he carries a sack of them to be sold for recycling after weighing them at the dump in the Dandora slum of Nairobi, Kenya on Dec. 5, 2018.

Environmental groups hailed the adoption of a landmark mandate calling for the development of a global treaty on plastics as adopted upon the conclusion of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2).

As governments take action to address plastics at every stage—from extraction, production, use, and disposal to remediation—Break Free From Plastics (BFFP) described it as a major progress towards a legally binding plastics treaty covering the full life cycle.

The mandate, titled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument,” sets the stage for governments to negotiate a comprehensive and legally binding treaty that will cover measures along the entire life cycle of plastic. The mandate will serve to guide the development of the treaty itself, which an International Negotiating Committee (INC) will be tasked with drafting and ratifying over the next two years.

“This landmark decision sets the stage for an all-inclusive approach to resolve the plastic pollution crisis,” Von Hernandez, Global Coordinator, Break Free From Plastic said.

“Receiving the recognition that this problem needs to be addressed across the whole plastics value chain is a victory for groups and communities who have been confronting the plastic industry’s transgressions and false narratives for years. The #breakfreefromplastic movement stands ready to contribute meaningfully to this process and help ensure that the resulting treaty will really prevent and stop plastic pollution,” he stressed.

BFFP said in addition to laying the groundwork for a legally binding treaty that considers the full life cycle of plastic—from fossil fuel extraction to plastic production and consumption, to post-consumer waste—the mandate also sets a broad scope for the global treaty to cover all plastic pollution in any environment or ecosystem, which goes beyond earlier concepts of “marine plastics” that would have been insufficient to address the true scale of the plastic crisis.

Image credits: [AP/Ben Curtis](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/03/groups-hail-governments-action-vs-plastic-pollution-at-unea-5-2/>

Governing an ocean of plastics

An effective international agreement on ocean plastic pollution should account for all aspects of plastics production – from manufacturing to disposal, and it must involve governments, the private sector, and the public.



A crumpled-up plastic bottle washed up on the shores of Latvia. Image: [Bo Eide](#), [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).

By [Raimund Bleischwitz](#) March 3, 2022

Images of plastic pollution in the ocean and on beaches are now commonplace, and the problem is likely to get worse. Last week, the OECD's first [Global Plastics Outlook](#) revealed a dramatic increase in the plastic waste leaked into aquatic environments. That report came only a month after the World Wildlife Fund for Nature released a [study](#) that projects a doubling of microplastics in the ocean over the next few decades.

While there are promising [innovations](#) that extract plastic from the ocean or intercept it in rivers, these projects will [barely make a dent](#) in the amount of plastic pollution in the world's waterways. Even under the most optimistic projections, these technologies will affect only 5-10 per cent of all plastic in the ocean.

More than 1,000 organisations, including businesses and governments, have signed on to a plan for a [new, circular economy for plastics](#). But this kind of voluntary action also is not enough.

The problem requires a new form of [global governance](#) to change the entire production and consumption [cycle](#) of fossil-based plastics. The fifth meeting of the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-5\)](#) offers a unique forum to turn the tide on marine plastics via legally binding mechanisms.

The international community has already shown its ability to act on serious environmental challenges. The landmark [Montreal Protocol](#) of 1987 on substances that deplete the ozone layer managed to phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons in only a few years. An international treaty on plastic pollution will require a similar transformation in societies' priorities, based on ocean literacy and a new vision for the blue economy.

An effective international agreement on ocean plastic pollution should account for all aspects of plastics production – from manufacturing to disposal, and it must involve governments, the private sector, and the public. Specifically, a new treaty should address six issues.

First, plastic use must be reduced at all points along the supply chain. Food packaging, particularly take-out containers, is a [major source of ocean pollution](#). Eliminating it will require policy support and funding for the development of novel biodegradable food containers and stronger efforts to encourage reusable packaging.

Second, a new treaty must encourage the growth of the blue economy. Governments should create programmes to promote sustainable, ocean-friendly tourism, fishing, marine renewable energies, and other businesses. Policymakers also must invest in urban-waste and wastewater-management infrastructure that includes resource-recovery options.



Third, the impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment must be regularly assessed and improved. The forthcoming [international coral reef symposium](#) in Bremen offers a chance to examine how microplastics and nanoplastics affect these beautiful and valuable ecosystems. While research suggests that corals have some [resilience](#) to plastic pollution, they face [myriad other threats](#), including ocean heat waves, changes in [oxygen](#) levels, and ultraviolet [radiation](#).

More systematic and regular assessments will be needed to understand the long-term consequences for corals and other ocean life. Experience with climate-change governance suggests that a more agile structure than the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) is needed to improve response strategies. One option is regular ocean assessments that synthesise findings on key topics and engage with relevant parties.

This leads to the fourth issue that a new treaty on marine plastic pollution must address: an agreement on legal principles for sustainable ocean governance. Given that plastic pollution has multiple sources, establishing proper accountability is essential. Packaging producers, food retailers, delivery platforms, shipping companies, tourism firms, and others must be part of the discussion about such principles. Companies already [disclose](#) relevant data on emissions, in accordance with environmental, social, and governance reporting standards. Comparable figures on plastic waste could be included in these frameworks.

Fifth, improvements are needed in waste management and circular-economy systems, particularly in key countries like Indonesia and China. Policy [options](#) include extended producer responsibility, landfill taxes, deposit-refund, and pay-as-you-throw usage pricing. A treaty also should offer support for coastal communities in their efforts to manage plastic waste. New policies could pilot funding schemes for innovative local businesses and plastic recovery options, including incineration facilities with energy recovery.

Lastly, legal principles governing the ocean as part of humanity's [common heritage](#) should be developed, going beyond the current [scope](#) of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. These principles would enable the ocean to be turned from a dumping ground into a source of global prosperity. This will require governments and corporations to work together to create mission-oriented policies and [roadmaps](#) for a plastic-free ocean.

Meanwhile, the private sector must spearhead the change in unsustainable patterns of plastic-waste production and promote new innovations that can replace plastic or reduce its use. Consumer awareness, based on learning tools such as "[reflectories](#)" and curriculum units on [marine plastic pollution](#), will be needed to push these efforts forward.

An international treaty on marine plastic pollution based on ocean literacy, industry transformation, and agreed legal principles would recognise the multiple services provided by the ocean. It is a crucially important step toward a [blue new deal](#) that emphasises equality, democracy, and justice.

Raimund Bleischwitz is Scientific Director at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research.

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2022.

04 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



NAGHAHANDA NA ANG DENR AT NWRB NG CONTINGENCY PLAN PARA SA ANGAT DAM

SA gitna ng pangamba na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna sa publiko na mananatili ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa itaas ng sitwasyon dahil na rin sa mga isinasagawang hakbang upang maging sapat ang suplay ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-init.

"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," saad ni Sampulna.

Ang NWRB ay attached agency ng DENR na responsable sa pamamahala at regulasyon ng lahat ng water resources at services sa bansa.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David, Jr., ang ahensiya sa pakikipagtunglungan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Na-



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

tional Power Corporation at Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ay nagpapatupad na ng mga hakbang upang mabawasan ang kakulangan ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam na nagsusuplay ng 97 porsiyento ng kinakailangang tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ilan sa kinakailangang hakbang ay ang pagbabawas ng alokasyon ng tubig sa pangangailangan sa irigasyon at sa tahanan; pagsasaaktibo ng mga deep wells para sa paggamit ng MWSS; cloud seeding operations; at pagsusulit ng paggamit ng water treatment

plants na pag-aari ng water concessionaires tulad ng Maynilad and Manila Water.

Sinabi ni David na ang domestic water allocation na 48 cubic meters per second (cms) ay mananatili ngayong Marso dahil ang pagkakaroon ng sapat na suplay ng tubig ay nakatutulong upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng coronavirus.

Samantala, binigyang-diin nito na iba naman ang kaso ng irrigation sector dahil "when the harvest is approaching, the lesser water will also be needed for the crops." Ang alokasyon ay nababawasan mula sa 20 cms to 15 cms.



**PEOPLE'S
VIEW**

PRECY F. LAZARO
lazarofrecy@yahoo.com

**DONASYONG LUPA PARA
SA SEWAGE TREATMENT
PLANT SA PUERTO GALERA,
NATANGGAP NG DENR**

NAGDONASYON ng lupa para sa planong itatayong sewage treatment plant (STP) ang Locsin Foundation sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Ito ay malapit sa sikat na white beach sa Puerto Galera. Malaking tulong sa ahensiya ang donasyon para mapangalagaan ang marine resources ng Puerto Galera at makilala ito bilang top tourist destination ng bansa ayon kay DENR OIC Secretary Jim O. Sampulna. Pinamumunuan ang Locsin Foundation nina Leandro Locsin, Jr. at Luis Locsin, mga tagapagmana ng National Artist of the Philippines for Architecture Leandro Locsin ay nagbigay ng 11,444 square meters ng lupa na gagamitin para sa pangalawang wastewater treatment facility sa isla.

"We are thankful for the Locsin Foundation's generous contribution in protecting and conserving the waters and natural resources of Puerto Galera. This next step will be a great stand in preventing a Boracay-like scenario," mensahe ni Sampulna sa ginanap na turnover ng Transfer Certificate of Title na ginanap sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City noong Pebrero 21 taong kasalukuyan.

Nakatanggap ng papuri kay Sampulna si Locsin family dahil sa pagiging environmental advocates ng mga ito at si Puerto Galera Mayor Rocky D. Ilagan dahil sa pagiging maagap na makausap ang landowner para maitayo ang STPs sa kanyang bayan. Ang pamilya Locsin daw ay naging responsible sa pangangalaga ng ilang lupa sa Puerto Galera upang maging ligtas ang marine resources at natural habitat sa pagkasira kabilang na dito ang pagpaparami ng higanteng taklobo at mapanatili ang mga ito sa isla, dagdag pa nito.

Ang kanilang pakikipag-partner sa DENR at sa local government ng Puerto Galera ay nagpapakita ng seryosong pangako para sa "common environmental cause" at kapakanan ng susunod na henerasyon, ayon naman kay retired Col. Noel J. Detogato, representante ng Locsin Foundation. Dagdag pa ni Detogato na pareho lang sila na ang adbokasiya na protektahan ang ating kapaligiran. Gusto rin nilang ma-preserve ang kalikasan dahil kawawa naman daw 'yong mga susunod pang henerasyon kung hindi pangangalagaan ang mga ito ngayon.

Matatagpuan sa Barangay Sabang ang unang STP sa Puerto Galera na sinimulan itong patakbuhan noong 2020. Ito ay nakapaglilinis ng 1,750 cubic meters ng "uncontrolled wastewater" kada araw. Ang DENR at ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Puerto Galera ay may bukod pang palano para dito. Kasalukuyang nag-uusap sila para sa paglalagay ng DENR regional office at tourist police para sa kaligtasan at seguridad ng mga turista sa isla. Matapos matanggap ang transfer certificate of title mula kay Detogato, agad itong ibinigay ni Sampulna kay DENR-MIMAROPA OIC Regional Executive Director Lormelyn E. Claudio.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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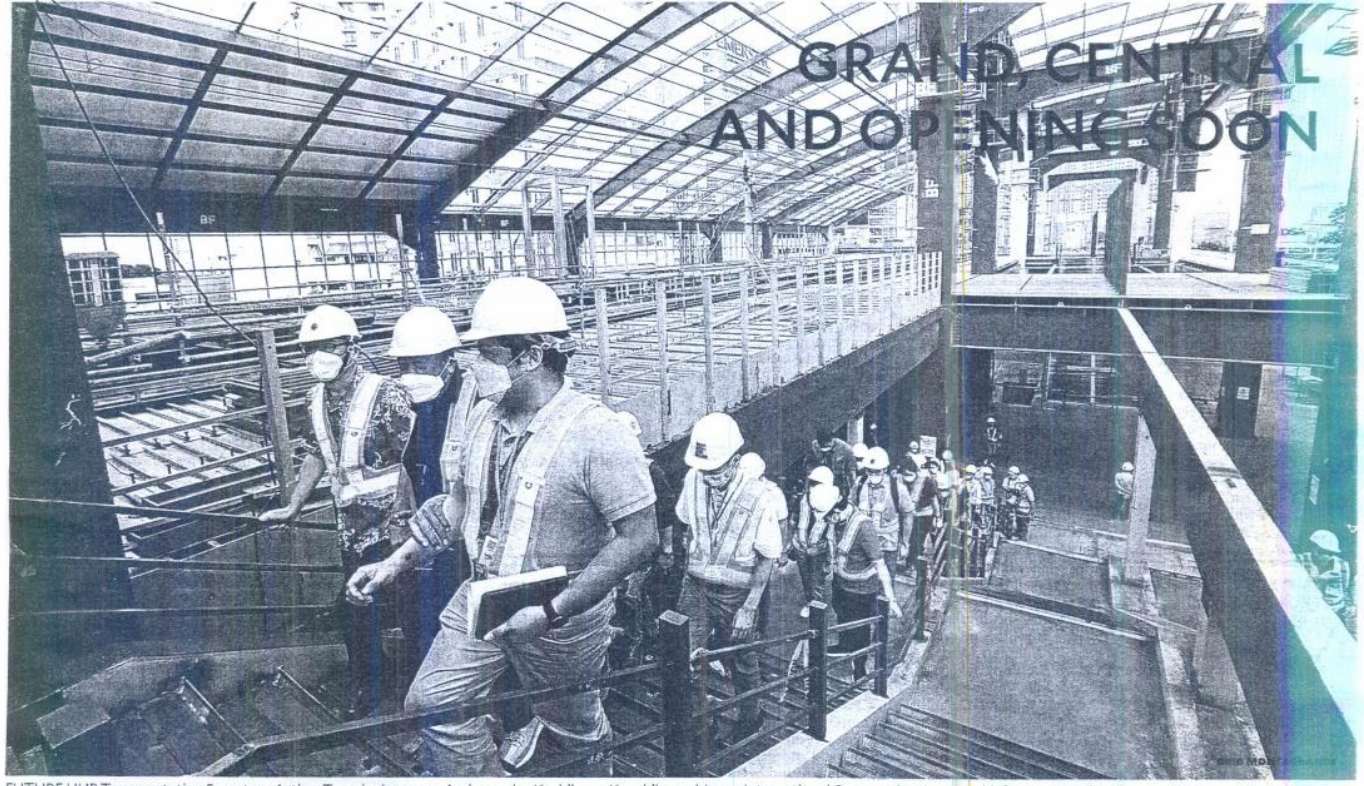
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DU30: INCLUDE NUCLEAR POWER IN PH ENERGY MIX

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

The government believes this move will enable the country to better address future energy needs, but the former chair of Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition says such policy goes against the global trend. **AZ**



FUTURE HUB Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Japanese Ambassador Koshikawa Kazuhiko and Japan International Cooperation Agency chief representative Eigo Azukizawa on Thursday inspect work on the grand central station at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue, Quezon City. Scheduled for completion in July, it will link three railway lines and the Japan-funded Metro Manila subway.



Duterte: Include nuclear power in PH energy mix

FROM A1

By Jerome Aning,
Tonette Orejas
and Dempsey Reyes
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte has signed an executive order to include nuclear power in the country's energy mix and look into the re-opening of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

EO 164, signed last Feb. 28 and made public on Thursday, was issued following the recommendation of the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee, which was created in July 2020 to conduct a prefeasibility study and public consultation on the issue.

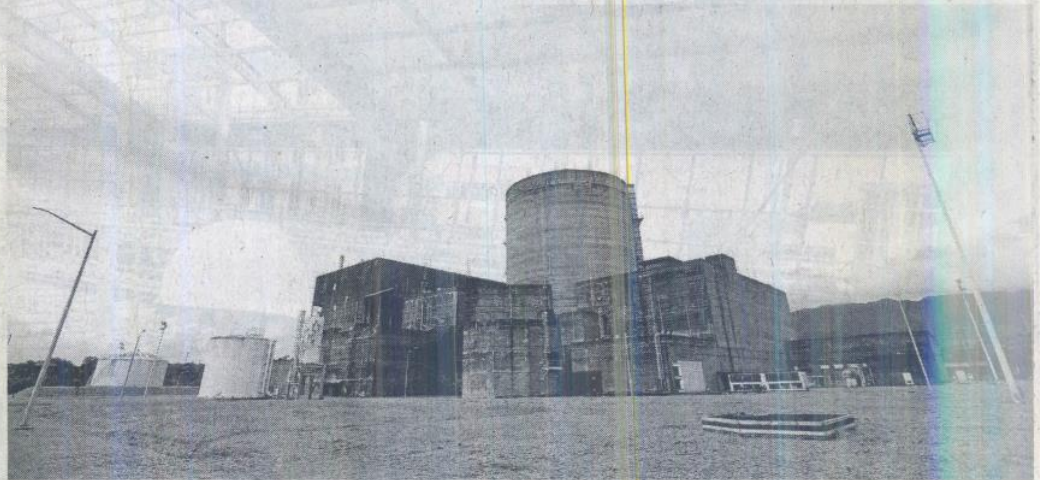
Through Executive Order 164, the government said it recognized that nuclear power could be a reliable, cost-competitive and environment-friendly source of energy based on the experience of highly developed countries.

"For the country to achieve its sustained growth targets, it must ensure that it has a reliable, secure, sustainable, quality and affordable electricity supply, including sufficient reserve to guarantee that there will be no disruptions in the power supply," the EO read.

It added that the use of nuclear energy would address the increasing demand for clean energy, which was seen rising by 4.4 percent annually, or an additional capacity of 68 gigawatts by 2040.

'Great legacies'

While acknowledging that nuclear energy could be "po-



BATAAN NUCLEAR PLANT A testament to corruption during the Marcos era. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

tentially dangerous," Director Carlo Arcilla of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute assured the public that the government would follow international guidelines, standards—particularly by the International Energy Agency—in handling nuclear energy.

He said the EO "will be one of the great legacies" of Mr. Duterte, whose term ends in June.

Advocates claim nuclear is a clean energy source as it generates power through fission, or the process of splitting uranium atoms to produce energy, which is then used to create steam to turn a turbine to generate electricity without the harmful byproducts emitted by fossil fuels such as coal and oil.

In a briefing on Thursday, Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary Gerardo Erguiza pointed out that new technologies have made nuclear a safer source of energy.

He pointed out, however, that a new regulatory frame-

work must be crafted to make investments in nuclear power more feasible and attractive to both the government and the private sector.

He added that even with a new framework, the earliest possible use of nuclear in the country might not be until 2027.

Embracing other energy sources is crucial as the Philippines moves to phase out coal-fired power plants as part of its global climate goal commitments.

It can also help address seasonal power outages and high electricity prices, but nuclear is expected to meet stiff opposition from environmentalists.

Against global trend

Roland Simbulan, former chair of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition, which led the fight leading to the mothballing of BNPP in 1986, on Thursday opposed EO 164 due to "public health and safety" concerns.

He said in a phone interview that Mr. Duterte's order went against global trends.

"Germany, the largest EU country, completes phasing out all its nuclear power plants this year, a phasing out started 10 years ago after the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Taiwan's 'nuclear free homeland 2025' targets closing down all three nuclear power plants by 2025," Simbulan said.

He added: "Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia have disbanded their nuclear plans. Nations have embarked on renewable energy options which are now proven more economically cheaper, safer and cleaner after consulting vital stakeholders from communities."

He said taking legal action against the Duterte order was "an option in the future."

In a statement on Thursday, Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu also urged the Duterte administration to revoke EO 164.

A5



Du30: Include nuclear power in PH energy mix

FROM A2

"We believe it is a treacherous move spurred by misguided interests that are not aligned with the interests of the Filipino people. Nuclear is the most dangerous and most expensive source of electricity," he said.

"The Duterte administration is about to leave a tarred legacy and is setting us up for another horror story like Chernobyl and Fukushima (the two worst nuclear disasters in the world)," Yu added.

Corruption, safety issues

The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) added that tapping nuclear energy was "inconsistent with the aims of DOE to modernize

the power sector."

"We need to take modernization of the power sector far more seriously, and that begins with a power sector that relies more and more on flexible and distributed generation. The Philippines has an abundance of variable reliable power in the form of wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and hydro resources that remain untapped—including the irreversible rise of storage options," said Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director of ICSC.

The BNPP was the only nuclear power plant in the region during the 1980s as the Philippines was one of the first in Southeast Asia to embark on a nuclear energy program.

However, the project was mothballed because of corruption allegations and safety

concerns on the use of nuclear energy after the deadly Chernobyl disaster in April 1986.

A study conducted by Russia State Atomic Energy Corp. in 2017 said the rehabilitation of BNPP would require around \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

The BNPP sits on a 357-hectare government reservation at Napot Point in Morong, Bataan.

It was built for nine years beginning 1975 at a cost of \$2.3 billion, bloated from the initial estimate of only \$600 million allegedly due to payoffs to some government officials.

Marcos' successor, Corazon Aquino, shelved the project indefinitely in 1986, but the country continued to pay for the foreign loans that funded the power plant. —WITH REPORTS

FROM KARL R. OCAMPO, REUTERS AND INQUIRER RESEARCH INQ


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Duterte seeks to revive nuclear power

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza *Reporter*

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo R. Duterte has signed an executive order allowing the country to tap nuclear power as an alternative energy source, more than a year after an interagency body submitted its recommendation.

"The National Government commits to the introduction of nuclear power energy into the state's energy mix," Mr. Duterte said in Executive Order (EO) No. 164.

The order was signed on Feb. 28, three months before Mr. Duterte steps down from office.

The President said he looked into the economic, political, social and environmental aspects in reviving the country's nuclear power program.

"For the country to achieve its sustained growth targets, it must ensure that it has a reliable, secure, sustainable, quality and affordable electricity supply, including sufficient reserve to guarantee

that there will be no disruptions in power supply," he said.

Mr. Duterte said nuclear power should be tapped as a "viable baseload power source" alongside renewable energy, in order to address the projected decline of coal-fired power plants.

In 2020, the Philippines' power mix consisted of 57% coal, 21% renewable energy, 19% natural gas, and 2% oil-based.

The EO also directed the Department of Energy to conduct a pre-feasibility study on the viability of introducing nuclear power.

The Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee (NEP-IAC) was also tasked to make recommendations on the use and viability of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) and the establishment of other facilities for the utilization of nuclear energy.

The \$2.2-billion BNPP was completed in 1984 but mothballed in 1986 after the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. His son, Ferdinand Jr., is currently running for president.

Nuclear, S1/8



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Duterte OKs use of nuclear energy

BY KRISTINA MARALIT AND BEN GINES JR.

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has issued an executive order adopting a nuclear energy program for the country, part of which recommends the revival of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

Signed by the President on February 28 and released by Malacañang on Thursday, EO 64 sets the government's course to harnessing nuclear power as a source of electricity.

►EnergyA2

■ ENERGY FROM A1

Duterte OKs use of nuclear energy

Nuclear power will be "a viable alternative baseload power source along with alternative energy resources, to address the projected decline of coal-fired power plants which come under increasing environmental opposition," according to the EO.

The government will take into consideration the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) "Guidelines on Building a National Position for a Nuclear Power Program" which factor in components such as national policy development, energy analysis and planning, pre-feasibility study, and the engagement of the public and relevant stakeholders.

The Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee (NEP-IAC) will study and make recommendations on the use of the BNPP, as

well as the establishment of smaller nuclear facilities.

The Department of Energy (DoE) will oversee the development and implementation of the NEP as part of the Philippine Energy Plan.

The order has projected demand for clean energy to grow at 4.4 percent a year, requiring almost 68 gigawatts of additional capacity by 2040.

Energy Undersecretary Gerardo Erquiza Jr. said Thursday the order could open the way to reviving the Bataan facility.

The plant, located in the town of Morong, was built at a cost of \$2.3 billion during the time of President Ferdinand Marcos but was never opened because of safety concerns following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. The project was mothballed by President Corazon Aquino.

Erquiza said the DoE has received feasibility studies from South Korea's state-run energy firm, Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Co., and Russia.

"They told us that it could still be rehabilitated," Erquiza said,

adding there is a budget for the plant's rehabilitation from the National Power Corp.

"There's an option if we consider it. That's why under the EO 164, you will see that the NEP-IAC will make a recommendation on what to do on the BNPP," Erquiza said.

Another option the DoE is considering is the building of small modular reactors or SMRs proposed by Russia and South Korea.

The SMRs have a capacity range of 10 MW to 300 MW that can be transported and used to stabilize electricity supply in island provinces.

Erquiza said the project of such scale could be funded and operated by the government since the National Power Corp. still has the mandate to put up nuclear power projects.

"We have to put all infrastructure concerns into law. Then this will be regulated by a body, maybe by a commission on regulatory body, to see to it that everything is safe and all the safeguard and security aspects are duly monitored, required and implemented," he said.



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WILDLIFE DAY. A caretaker gives Mali, the 50-year-old elephant of the newly-renovated Manila Zoo, her favorite meal on Thursday, March 3, 2022, during the global celebration of World Wildlife Day with the theme of recovering key species for ecosystem restoration. **Danny Pata**



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MANILA WATER, MAYNILAD BAWAS SINGIL SA LUSAW VAT

MABABAWASAN na ang bayarin ng mga customer ng Manila Water Company Inc. at Maynilad Water Services Inc. ng 9-10% simula March 21, sa-pagkat tatanggalin na ang 12% value added tax na papalitan ng 2% franchise tax at local franchise tax.

Sabi ni Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System (MWSS) Chief Regulator Patrick Lester Ty, tatanggalin na ang VAT dahil may sarili nang mga franchise tax ang dalawang concessionaire.

Sa ilalim ng tax code, hindi pinapatawan ng VAT ang mga franchise dahil 2% franchise tax ang kanilang binabayaran at ang local franchise tax na nagkakahalaga ng 0 hanggang 0.875% depende sa singil ng local government unit.

Pinasa bilang batas ang Republic Acts 11600 at 11601 na nagbibigay ng franchise sa Manila Water at Maynilad nitong Disyembre. Bago ipasa ang dalawang batas, ginagamit ng Manila Water at Maynilad ang

franchise ng MWSS.

Magandang bagay ito dahil makatitipid ang mga consumer sa kanilang mga bayarin at malaking rollback ito, sabi ni Ty.

Para sa mga customer ng Manila Water, bababa ng P7 ng mga pamilyang ang konsumo ay hindi umaabot sa 10 cubic meters. Ang monthly bill nila noon na P86.56 ay magiging P79.47 na lamang simula March 21.

Sa mga kumukonsumo ng 10 cubic meters, mababawasan ang kanilang bayarin ng P12.39 at ang bill nila ay bababa sa P138.83 mula P151.22.

Para sa customers ng Maynilad, mababawasan ng P10.68 ang bill ng mga pamilya na ang konsumo ay 10 cubic meters. Mula P130.42 kada buwan, magiging P119.74 na lamang ito. Sa mga kumokonsumo ng 20 cubic meters, mababawasan ng P40.04 ang bayarin na magiging P448.78 na lamang mula P488.82. (Eileen Mencias)

04 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH logs 989 new Covid-19 infections, 1,349 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [March 3, 2022, 5:06 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – The Department of Health on Thursday recorded 989 new cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) and 1,349 more recoveries.

The figures pushed the overall tally of confirmed infections to 3,664,905 and recovered cases to 3,557,909.

Of 50,458 active cases, 45,510 are mild, 2,773 are moderate, 463 are asymptomatic, 1,415 are severe, and 297 are critical.

The regions with the most cases in the recent two weeks were the National Capital Region with 192 or 22 percent, Calabarzon with 111 or 13 percent; and Central Visayas with 101 or 11 percent.

The death toll has reached 56,538 with 34 new deaths, representing 1.54 percent of overall cases.

“Of the 34 deaths, 11 occurred in February 2022 (32 percent), 3 in January 2022 (9 percent), 1 in November 2021 (3 percent), 4 in October 2021 (12 percent), 3 in September 2021 (9 percent), 1 in June 2021 (3 percent), 1 in May 2021 (3 percent), 4 in April 2021 (12 percent), 3 in March 2021 (9 percent), 1 in November 2020 (3 percent), 1 in September 2020 (3 percent), and 1 in April 2020 (3 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 March 1 data, about 4.5 percent of 27,143 who were tested turned out positive for coronavirus.

About four duplicates were removed from the total case count as three of those were recoveries.

Meanwhile, 26 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after validation.



All laboratories were operational on March 1, but five laboratories not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the five laboratories contributed, on average, 0.8 percent of samples tested, and 0.4 percent among positive individuals based on data in the past 14 days.

To date, 25 percent of 3,700 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 22 percent of 20,500 isolation beds, 15 percent of 14,000 ward beds, and 12 percent of 3,000 ventilators are used by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

In the NCR, 25 percent of 1,300 ICU beds, 22 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 24 percent of 3,900 ward beds, and 13 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use. **(PNA)**



Vax card sa mall 'di na kailangan sa Alert Level 1

[Mer Layson](#) - Pang-masa March 3, 2022 | 9:09pm



Quezon City health workers are busy putting tamper-proof security seals into the vaccination cards at the city hall on July 10, 2021.

The STAR / Boy Santos

MANILA, Philippines — Hindi na kailangan pang magpresenta ng COVID-19 vaccination cards ang mga pupunta at papasok sa mga malls sa mga lugar na nasa ilalim ng Alert Level 1.

Ito ang paglilinaw na ginawa ni Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary at Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya kahapon kasunod nang pagre-require pa rin ng ilang malls ng vaccination cards sa mga taong pumapasok sa kanilang mga establisimyento.

Ipinaliwanag ni Malaya na ang mga vaccination cards ay required lamang sa mga establisimyento na ikinukonsidera bilang 3Cs o 'closed, crowded, at close-contact venues,' gaya ng mga restaurant, spa, at mga sinehan.

Gayunman, walang nakikitang masama si Malaya kung may ilang malls na mag-require pa rin ng vaccination cards sa entrance.

Pinayuhan rin naman niya ang mga malls na upang maiwasan ang kalituhan ay sundin na lamang ang payo ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Hinikayat rin ni Malaya ang publiko na dalhin na lamang ang kanilang vaccination cards saan man sila magtungo kahit na hindi na required ang mga ito para sa mass transportation, dahil maaari aniyang kailanganin nila ang mga ito sa ilang establisimyento o iba pang transaksyon.

Inihayag pa ni Malaya na tatalakayin ng DILG ang naturang bagay sa mga local government units (LGUs).

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/police-metro/2022/03/03/2164847/vax-card-sa-mall-di-na-kailangan-sa-alert-level-1>



EDITORIAL - Dahan-dahan sa pagkukumpulan

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - March 4, 2022 - 12:00am



Mula nang ipatupad ang Alert Level 1 sa Metro Manila at 38 lugar noong Martes, dumami na ang mga sumasakay sa pampublikong sasakyan. Sa Metro Rail Transit (MRT) at Light Rail Transit (LRT), apaw na ang mga pasahero. Halos magkapalitan na ang mukha. Pati mga bata nakikisiksik. Buhos ang mga tao na walang ipinagkaiba noong hindi pa tumatama ang pandemya..

Sa dyipni, apaw na rin. Mayroon nang mga nakasabit at dikit-dikit kahit sinabi ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na bawal ang sabit. May mga nakatayo na rin sa mga pampasaherong bus kahit sinabing bawal ang sobrang pasahero at walang tatayo.

Marami na ring traysikel ang namumulaklak sa pasahero. Lima ang sakay na pasahero at hindi na naipatutupad ang physical distancing. Kapansin-pansin din na ang mga pasahero at mismong traysikel drayber ay walang face mask.

Noong Martes, nagbabala ang medical frontliners na maaaring magkaroon ng surge ang COVID-19 dahil sa pagluluwag na ipinatutupad sa Metro Manila at marami pang lugar. Nakababahala umano ang paglabas ng mga tao dahil sa pagluluwag ng restrictions.

Ayon kay Philippine College of Physicians president Maricar Limpin sa isang interview, noong mag-Alert Level 2 noong nakaraang Disyembre, bigla ring dumami ang mga tao at ang resulta, biglang tumaas ang kaso. Ayon pa kay Limpin, makikita ang epekto ng pagluluwag sa loob ng dalawa o tatlong linggo. Sa loob ng panahong ito makikita ang bagong pagtaas ng infection. Kapag nangyari ang muling pagtaas ng COVID, ang mga frontliner na naman ang kawawa sapagkat hanggang sa ngayon daw ay wala pang pahinga ang mga ito.

Dahan-dahan lang muna sa pagkukumpulan sapagkat narito pa ang virus. Bagama't bumababa na ang mga arawang kaso, nananatili pa rin sa paligid ang virus at maaaring dumami muli ang kaso. Sumunod sa ipinag-uutos na patuloy na mag-face mask, maghugas ng kamay at panatilihin ang physical distancing. Huwag munang magkampangante sa ngayon.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 719

MARSO 3, 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
50,458

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,557,909

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.54%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
56,538

MGA BAGONG KASO **989**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,349**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **34**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,664,905**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING MARSO 1

DATOS NGAYONG MARSO 3
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG MARSO 1

4.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

27,143

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

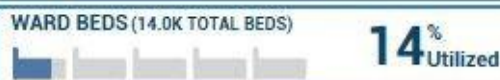
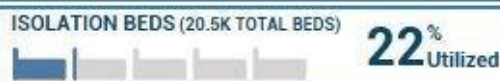
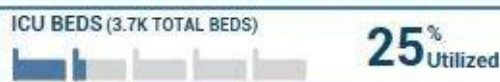
91.1%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

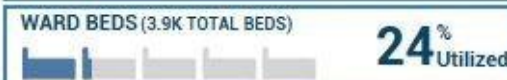
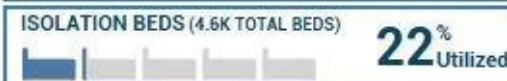
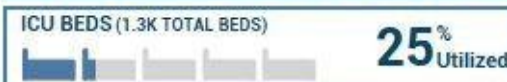
KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?



KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

463 Asymptomatic

45,510 Mild

2,773 Moderate

1,415 Severe

297 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
KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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

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

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

04 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



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