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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



In landmark decision, DENR parcels out 2-ha. Lupang Arenda in Taytay



by [Rio N. Araja](#)

[March 9, 2022, 10:15 pm](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in a landmark decision said it has distributed a 2.01-hectare land at Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal to the urban poor.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the land distribution has ended the decades-long wait of the beneficiaries to own the disputed land.

He handed over the land titles to the beneficiary-members of the Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association (SAMATHOA) in Barangay Sta. Ana.

He led the turnover of 41 original certificates of land ownership to the member-beneficiaries of SAMATHOA who have been occupying the 2.01 hectares of land at Lupang Arenda.

He expressed gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte for his directive to strengthen the land distribution and reform program in the country that benefited the members of SAMATHOA.

He said the government commits to providing the rest of the land parcels which comprise the remaining three hectares of the proposed DENR Center in Rizal through the provision of a temporary ownership document.

““There are still 319 patents supposed to be given to you, however, these are underwater which cannot be titled,” he said.

“But in the meantime, I told PENRO (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer) and RED (Regional Executive Director) to issue a certificate of land allocation (CELA). The CELA is already like a land title but you are not yet required to pay tax since we cannot yet have it titled due to its location,” he raised.

He urged the Rizal PENRO to expand the titling process in nearby towns.

“I am challenging, the most competent PENRO, PENRO (Ramil) Limpiada that while we are working on distributing lands here in Lupang Arenda, we should also look into other areas in Taytay, in Antipolo, and other areas in the province that needs to be titled,” he said.



DENR Chief Grateful to President Duterte for Distribution of Lupang Arenda

[Wednesday, March 9, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna expresses gratitude to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for the strengthened land distribution program of his administration which led to the turnover of 41 original certificates of title (OCT) to member-beneficiaries of Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association or SAMATHOA on March 4. The distribution of the 2.01-hectare land located in Lupang Arenda, Bgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal took almost 30 years to be realized. Present in the awarding ceremony were representatives from the Office of Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Philippine Commission on Urban Poor, officials from [DENR](#) Region 4A-CALABARZON led by Executive Director Nilo Tamera, and the local government of Taytay, Rizal.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-chief-grateful-to-president-duterte-for-distribution-of-lupang-arenda/>



DENR Hands Over Land Titles for Lupang Arenda to SAMATHOA

[Wednesday, March 9, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (2nd from left) hands over the original certificates of title (OCT) to Lorna Placio (3rd from right), President of the Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association or SAMATHOA for its 41 member-beneficiaries during the turnover on March 4. The 2.01-hectare land at Lupang Arenda in Brgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal was originally intended for the proposed DENR Center in Rizal. Present during the event were former DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda (3rd from left) and current National Irrigation Administration Senior Deputy Administrator who worked to distribute the land during his time in the Department, **DENR CALABARZON** Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tadoria, and Rizal Provincial ENR Officer Ramil R. Limpiada. Also in photo are (L-R): Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda President Vicente Barlos, Taytay Mayor Joric Gaculla, and Vice Mayor Michell Bermundo.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-hands-over-land-titles-for-lupang-arenda-to-samathoa/>



IPINAMAHAGI na sa unang batch ng mga benepisyaryo ng programang pabahay ng pamahalaang bayan ng Taytay sa lalawigan ng Rizal ang mga titulong patunay na labas na sa kategoriyang iskwater ang nasa 300 pamilyang nakatira sa Lupang Arenda sa loob ng mahigit tatlong dekada. Makikita sa larawan si dating Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (naka-barong) kasama si Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula (ikatlo mula kanan) sa formal turnover ng mga titulo kamakailan.

Bukod sa titulo, nagpamahagi rin ng mga pangunahing pangangailangan ang ilang mga opisyal, kabilang si Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula, Vice

Mayor Mitch Bermundo, Konsehal Kyle Gacula at mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Bayan.

(FERNAN ANGELES)



Go lauds award of land titles to informal settlers



By [Bernadette E. Tamayo](#)

March 8, 2022

SEN. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go lauded the awarding of land titles to 41 informal settlers in Taytay, Rizal, as he urged them to develop their lots to improve their lives.

The senator congratulated the 41 new land title holders during a turnover ceremony led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday, March 4.

He said 20 100-square-meter lots in Lupang Arenda, Barangay Santa Ana were distributed to the members of the Samahang Masigasig Tapayan Homeowners Association (Samathoa).

After the ceremony, Go's team distributed meals at the quarantine facility, along C6 Road in Taytay.

In a statement, Go said the move "marked the latest demonstration of the Duterte administration's commitment to solve land ownership issues in the country."

"These lands were granted to you by the government as a result of your negotiation with the government," Go said in a video message in Filipino.

The senator voiced hope that their new lots would inspire them to protect it and develop it.

"Rest assured that I and President Rodrigo Duterte and the help [of the] entire government are always ready to assist you in your desire to have a prosperous life," Go added.

His office said Go had assisted thousands of indigent residents, displaced workers, typhoon and fire victims, and other vulnerable groups in Antipolo City, Angono, Cainta, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Taytay and Teresa in 2021 alone.

The senator's team also assisted 3,352 residents in Rodriguez on February 25 and 26.

Go pushed for the establishment of Malasakit Centers at the Antipolo City Hospital System Annex 4, Bagong Cainta Municipal Hospital, Casimiro A. Ynares Sr. Memorial Hospital in Rodriguez and Margarito A. Duavit Memorial Hospital in Binangonan.

Meanwhile, as vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, he supported the construction of the Taytay Sports Complex and other infrastructure projects to create new jobs and improve the delivery of public services in the province.



[DENR INSPECTS DREDGING OF MARIKINA RIVER](#)

MAR 9, 2022, 2:33 PM



Danny Querubin
Photographer

Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro inspect the dredging of the Marikina River during the turnover ceremony of the Marikina River Restoration Project from the Task Force Build- Back Better through the Department of Public Works and Highways National Capital Region (DPWH-NCR) to DPWH Unified Project Management Office - Flood Control Management Cluster at Brgy. Sta. Elena, Marikina City on today.

The dredging project addresses the issue of perennial flooding in Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City and other areas along Marikina River.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/5234592486553699/?app=fbl>



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribuneph1_ana

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna (left) and Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro inspect the dredging activity at the Marikina river during the turn over ceremony of the Marikina River Restoration Project.



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MMDA

13 hrs · 🌐

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Romando Artes joins the ceremonial turnover of the dredging activities in Barangay Sta. Elena, Marikina City. As he expressed support for the project, Artes called for resilient infrastructures that can withstand disasters such as storms and typhoons.

Artes said he's open to collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, and the local government units of Marikina, Pasig, and Quezon City for the Metro Manila Flood Management Project.

"As part of the collaborative efforts for flood management programs, we are planning to sit down with the DENR, DPWH, and the LGUs of Marikina, Pasig, and Quezon City in order to maintain and fully rehabilitate Marikina River and further reduce flooding in their respective areas," he said.

He also appealed for cooperation of the public in order to achieve the goal of a flood-free Metropolis.

#mmda





Marikina river dredging project in full swing

[March 9, 2022](#) 1 min read

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna and Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro inspect the dredging activity at the Marikina river during the turn-over ceremony of the Marikina River Restoration Project from the Task Force Build Back Better through the Department of Public Works and Highways National Capital Region (DPWH-NCR) to DPWH's Unified Project Management Office-Flood Control Management Cluster at Brgy. Sta. Elena, Marikina City on March 9, 2022.



The dredging project is to address the perennial problem of flooding in Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City and other areas along Marikina River. (Ieshua Jai-ren Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100064206931542/posts/332204525596443/?app=fbl>



DENR calls on the next admin to provide more funds on waste management programs

[March 9, 2022](#) min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The national government must pour in more funds on the country's solid waste management programs, and as the May 2022 national and local elections draw closer, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hoping that the next administration would include this on their priorities.

The Environment department believes in increasing the funding for local government units (LGUs) and working on the amendment of Republic Act (RA) 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 to make better of our solid management efforts.

“For those who will be elected into office, my main suggestion is to focus on assisting LGUs by giving appropriate funding to address the garbage problem in their localities,” DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones said.

Based on the data from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), highly-urbanized cities and 5th class municipalities need around P300 million and P1 million to fund their solid waste management programs, respectively.

“Environmental compliance usually incurs high costs,” he pointed out.

Leones also emphasized the vital role of private and public sectors in helping the national government address the country's garbage woes.



DENR calls on the next admin to provide more funds on waste management programs

Meanwhile, DENR-EMB's Hazardous Waste Management Section Chief Geri Sañez said that not all LGUs have their own materials recovery facility and sanitary landfill, including treatment, storage and disposal facilities which are especially needed for hazardous wastes.

Sañez is hoping that the draft bill on the amendment of RA 6969 will be given priority to institutionalize circular economy and extend producer's responsibility (EPR) for both municipal and domestic solid wastes and hazardous wastes. (ai/mtvn)



[DENR urges more funds for waste management programs](#)

MAR 9, 2022, 2:32 PM



Santiago Celario
Writer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it hopes the next administration will pour more funds into capital-intensive waste management programs.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it hopes the incoming administration would continue the country's solid waste management programs, particularly by increasing funding for local government units (LGUs) and working on the amendment of Republic Act (RA) 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 as the election draws near on May 9.

"For those who will be elected into office, my main suggestion is to focus on assisting LGUs by giving appropriate funding to address the garbage problem in their localities," DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones said.



[DENR urges more funds for waste management programs](#)

Citing data from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Leones said that highly-urbanized cities and 5th class municipalities need around P300 million and P1 million to fund their solid waste management programs, respectively.

"Environmental compliance usually incurs high costs," he pointed out.

In a press release Leones emphasized the vital role of private and public sectors in helping the national government address the country's garbage woes.

Meanwhile, DENR-EMB's Hazardous Waste Management Section Chief Geri Sañez said that not all LGUs have their own materials recovery facility and sanitary landfill, including treatment, storage and disposal facilities which are especially needed for hazardous wastes.

Sañez is hoping that a draft bill amending RA 6969 will be given priority to institutionalize circular economy and extended producer's responsibility (EPR) for both municipal and domestic solid wastes and hazardous wastes.

"I hope that the next administration or whoever will be the next president will give priority to the draft bill amending RA 6969. This has already been approved in the House of Representatives but is still awaiting the Senate version of the bill. This has not been given priority for more than two decades already and is constantly being refiled and updated," Sañez said.

The proposed bill will serve as the legal basis to implement the concept of a circular economy and EPR.

Through the EPR, the manufacturer of the product will be given accountability for the treatment, disposal, or recycling of its post-consumer products.

Sañez added that the bill also incorporates provisions on contaminated sites management to address the massive redevelopment nationwide where former industrial sites are being developed into residential, commercial, or combination of both known as commercial business districts.



Dagdag-pondo sa PH waste management hirit ng DENR sa sunod na admin



March 9, 2022 @ 2:51 PM 17 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Habang papalapit ang May 2022 national at local elections, umaasa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ipagpapatuloy na susunod na administrasyon ang solid waste management programs ng bansa partikular na ang pagdagdag sa pondo para sa local government units (LGUs) at ang pag-amiyenda sa Republic Act (RA) 6969 o ang Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

“For those who will be elected into office, my main suggestion is to focus on assisting LGUs by giving appropriate funding to address the garbage problem in their localities,” saad ni DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones.

Sa press release ayon kay Leones na base na rin sa datos ng DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), ang highly-urbanized cities at 5th class municipalities ay nangangailangan ng P300 million at P1 million upang pondohan ang kanilang solid waste management programs, ayos sa pagkakasunod.

“Environmental compliance usually incurs high costs,” paliwanag nito.

Kaugnay nito binigyang-diin ni Leones ang mahalagang papel ng private at public sectors sa pagtulong sa national government upang matugunan ang problema ng bansa sa basura.



Dagdag-pondo sa PH waste management hirit ng DENR sa sunod na admin

Samantala, sinabi naman ni DENR-EMB's Hazardous Waste Management Section Chief Geri Sañez na hindi lahat ng LGUs ay mayroong sariling materials recovery facility at sanitary landfill kabilang na dito ang treatment, storage at disposal facilities na higit na kailangan para sa hazardous wastes.

Umaasa din si Sañez na ang draft bill para sa amendments ng RA 6969 ay mabigyan ng prayoridad para ma institutionalize ang circular economy at extended producer's responsibility (EPR) para sa municipal at domestic solid waste at hazardous wastes.

"I hope that the next administration or whoever will be the next President will give priority to the draft bill amending RA 6969. This has already been approved in the House of Representatives but is still awaiting the Senate version of the bill. This has not been given priority for more than two decades already and is constantly being refiled and updated," sabi ni Sañez.

Ang panukalang batas ang magsisilbing legal na basehan upang ipatupad ang konsepto ng circular economy at EPR.

Sa pamamagitan ng EPR, ang manufacturer ng produkto ay magkakaroon ng pananagutan para sa treatment, disposal o recycling ng post-consumer products. (santi celario)



DENR Career Execs support the appointment of Sampulna as Acting Secretary

by  [Village Connect](#) 7 days ago



The Association of Career Executives (ACE) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed the appointment of Jim O. Sampulna as acting secretary of the DENR following the resignation of former Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

ACE President and DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said it is an honor to have a “homegrown” career executive as the new chief of the department.

“I have known Secretary Jim as a hardworking and committed public servant, making his way through the ranks in the DENR. I cannot think of anyone else who can do a better job of being our acting secretary than him,” Leones said.

Sampulna started as a tree marker in Cotabato City at the then Bureau of Forest Development in 1977. He was only 20 years old at that time.

Two years later, he was promoted to the budget examiner.



DENR Career Execs support the appointment of Sampulna as Acting Secretary

Sampulna's unyielding determination and commitment to the DENR's mission to protect the environment was seen through the years – from DENR-Soccksargen's Chief Regional Development Specialist in 1988 to Regional Director in 2013.

In 2019, Sampulna became the Undersecretary for Enforcement and Muslim Affairs.

A year later, he undertook the position of Undersecretary for Mining, Muslim Affairs, and Attached Agencies, where his role allowed him to supervise regions, from Regions 11 to 13 in Mindanao, to Region 1 in Luzon and Region 6 in the Visayas.

"As the new acting secretary, I want to promote professionalism and careerism in the DENR," said Sampulna, who has been serving DENR for more than 40 years, and is a member of the career executive service for nearly two decades.

"I encourage DENR regional executive directors, assistant regional executives as well as all employees to strive to become homegrown CESOs (career executive service officers). I hope to motivate and inspire them to become better, yet well-grounded leaders of our country," he said.

From having been conferred with CES Eligibility on February 7, 2000, and appointed to his first CESO rank on November 27, 2001, the new DENR chief has earned the highest CES rank on January 7, 2021.



DENR gives away free fruit-bearing trees, vegetables in Marikina 'Pan-tree'

[March 9, 2022](#) 1 min read

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gives away fruit-bearing trees and vegetable plants to residents of Marikina City at the Community "Pan-tree" set up in Brgy. Sta. Elena in Marikina City on March 9, 2022 (Ieshua Jai-ren Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)





Hey!



BENEFITS OF

Hugging a Tree

Spending time in nature has major health benefit

A 2019 study found that spending two
hours a week
in nature is associated with an overall
increase in well-being.





[DENR, USAID to partner for environment, climate change](#)

MAR 8, 2022, 2:42 PM



Santiago Celario
Writer

DENR, USAID to boost partnership on environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

TO PROTECT the environment and prepare the country for a deteriorating climate, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are exploring ways to further enhance the partnership of the Philippines and the US in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

US Charge d’Affaires Heather Variava, USAID Mission Director to the Philippines Ryan Washburn, and USAID Philippines Environment Office Chief John Edgar on March 3, paid a courtesy visit on DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna in acknowledgement of the longtime partnership between USAID and DENR.

“It is our great pleasure to meet you today and have the opportunity to personally thank the US government for always being supporting in our efforts of meeting our agenda in the environment and natural resources,” Sampulna told the US officials.



[DENR, USAID to partner for environment, climate change](#)

In a press release the new DENR chief, who had been a regional director from 2009 to 2018, cited that several USAID projects were implemented during his time on the field and hoped to continue doing so under his leadership.

“I came from the field, from the region, and I have implemented many USAID projects. We have the Safe Water project and SIBOL (Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes), which we are implementing right now,” Sampulna said.

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Sevillo D. David Jr. said the Safe Water project is currently being implemented by NWRB as DENR’s focal agency, among three regional offices in Palawan, Negros Occidental, and Mindanao.

Meanwhile, DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director Natividad Y. Bernardino shared that the SIBOL project team has recently worked on the Siargao seascape, which was badly hit by Typhoon Odette in December 2021.

“The work that USAID does to the country’s resources is so important to the whole world, and the Philippines is one of our priorities for safe and resilient water,” Variava said.

USAID provides technical assistance to the projects, with the Safe Water initiative aiming to improve the sustainable management of the country’s water resources, and SIBOL on reducing environmental crimes, and improving water security.

It was former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu who signed the five-year partnership with USAID for SIBOL and Safe Water programs on May 27, 2021.

These projects are under the P7.25 billion USAID-Philippines agreement on enhanced and community resilience signed by the National Economic and Development Authority and USAID in February 2021.



Palaui Island reopens to tourists



By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

March 10, 2022



WONDER OF NATURE The Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Cagayan province officially reopened to tourists on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. PHOTO BY LEANDER DOMINGO

SANTA ANA, Cagayan: The enchanting island of Palaui in the northeastern tip of Luzon in Cagayan province is now open to tourists after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in Barangay San Vicente was held here on Tuesday for the reopening of the Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) led by officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism and the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA)

The PIPLS is within the jurisdiction of the community environment and natural resources office of Aparri town headed by forester Joselito Razon.

Members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) also joined the opening ceremony.

PAMB is the decision-making body of the PIPLS, a declared protected landscape and seascape area under Republic Act (RA) 11038 in 1994.

RA11038 defines protected landscapes and seascapes as areas of national significance, which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and land and water, while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation, tourism and other economic activities.



Palaui Island reopens to tourists

DENR Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the reopening of the PIPLS will boost the economy and help the country recover from the effects of the public health emergency.

Also the PAMB chairperson, Bambalan noted that at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the DENR provided a P1-million fund for emergency employment to about 160 families on the island.

"Last year, our department initiated the improvement of facilities in PIPLS with a budget of P4.7 million," she added.

Noting the influx of tourists, Bambalan appealed to local officials for the creation of a municipal environment officer position dedicated to manage the environment and natural resources.

Eliseo Mabasa, DENR Cagayan provincial chief, rolled out the health and safety protocols that must be observed by the visitors, boat operators and service providers.

The PAMB requires vaccination cards to be presented upon registration which it said will ensure the safety of island-goers and the local residents.

It said proper garbage disposal shall be observed while at the protected area, collection of wildlife is prohibited. Vandalism, bonfires and throwing of cigarette butts shall not be allowed.

Palaui is 1.25 kilometers offshore from Santa Ana and is also part of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport, managed and operated by CEZA.

Secretary Raul Lambino, CEZA administrator and chief executive officer, said Palaui Island has emerged as a gem for sustainable tourism that "safeguards its socio-economic future."

Palaui won the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community-Based Tourism Award for 2019 to 2021.

The Palaui Environmental Protectors Association (PEPA), the island's major environmental group, was selected for the award during the Asean Tourism Forum on Jan. 18, 2019 in Halong City, Vietnam.

"This Asean award makes Filipinos proud. This shows us the way forward toward sustainable tourism," Lambino said.

He said tourism on Palaui Island with its untouched beaches, waterfalls, rock formations, extensive forests, mangroves and a 300-hectare marine sanctuary, among others, runs on community-based enterprises that are active in providing various services to visitors.

DENR records also show that the marine protected area has 102-hectare mangrove, coral reef of 1,008 hectares and 472 hectares of seagrass.

According to Lambino, CEZA has established micro-enterprises at the downstream end, creating what is viewed as a business model that steers away from traps of uncontrolled tourism.

Since 2006, PEPA has trained the Aeta residents and other locals in Palaui such as fisherfolk, farmers, women and out-of-school youth in programs that arm them with skills to provide visitors with specific tourism-related services.



Palaui Island reopens to tourists

PEPA operates a "nature village complex" where visitors can stay overnight in the campsite around the Bayanihan Hall.

The Aetas are among the island residents who were trained in the art of traditional massage, preparation of village cuisine, good hygiene and production of island souvenirs from indigenous materials.

Hiking through three trails that crisscross Palaui and reef experience in five snorkeling areas identified by reef rangers are the major island activities.

Palaui Island also earned a spot among CNN Go's best beaches in the world, and was a two-time location of American television series "Survivor."



Tourist limit sa Baguio, inalis; Palau Island bukas na sa turista



March 9, 2022 @ 5:56 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Inalis na ng pamahalaang Lungsod ng Baguio ang limitasyon nito sa bilang ng mga bisitang pinapayagan sa summer capital ng bansa, ayon kay Mayor Benjamin Magalong nitong Martes.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni Magalong na inalis ng lokal na pamahalaan ang limitasyon upang matukoy ang threshold ng bilang ng mga turistang dumarating sa pagsasailalim sa syudad sa Alert Level 2 noong Pebrero.

“This is already the concept of our recovery. We will again engage with the private and business sectors for us to be able to create that enabling environment. We need to help them recover as we transition to the ‘new normal,’” aniya.

Ang Baguio City ay nasa Alert Level 1 mula Marso 1 hanggang 15.

Ayon kay Magalong, ilang parameter ang itinakda ng lokal na pamahalaan para maitatag ang threshold tulad ng manageability ng traffic, manageability ng mga tao lalo na sa mga lugar na convergence gaya ng mga palengke at malls, air quality, at crowd counting.

Ang mga ito ay maaaring masubaybayan sa real time ng Smart City System ng lungsod, idinagdag niya.

Pinaalalahanan ni Magalong ang mga residente at bisita na ipagpatuloy ang pagsunod sa minimum public health standards tulad ng pagsusuot ng face mask at pag-practice ng good physical hygiene.

Dagdag pa niya, kahit pa pinapayagan na ang 100% capacity sa mga establisyimento sa ilalim ng Alert Level 1, ipinunto niya na dahan-dahan itong ipatutupad sa Baguio sa mga susunod na araw.



Tourist limit sa Baguio, inalis; Palau Island bukas na sa turista

Sa inter-regional na transportasyon, sinabi ni Magalong na nakipag-usap na siya sa Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), at kailangang i-endorso ng pamahalaang lungsod ang mga kahilingan ng mga kumpanya ng bus.

“We have again endorsed another bus company to open their routes to Regions 2 and 3. So tuloy-tuloy pero dahan-dahan at hindi natin pwedeng biglain lahat, but definitely, we are going to favorably endorse all the routes to the LTFRB,” dagdag pa ng alklade.

Sa kabilang banda, matapos ang dalawang taon ay binuksan nang muli sa mga turista ang sikat na Palau Island sa lalawigan ng Cagayan simula Martes.

Sinabi ni Environmental Region 2 Executive Director, Gwendolyn Bambalan, na ang muling pagbubukas ng Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) sa Barangay San Vicente, Santa Ana, ay makapagpapalakas ng ekonomiya.

“Last year, our department initiated the improvement of facilities in PIPLS with a budget of PHP4.7 million,” she said. “With the influx of tourists, there should be an office dedicated to manage our environment and natural resources here,” anang opisyal.

Ang nasabing isla ay may lawak na 8,048 ektaryang lupain na may 1,008-ektarya ng coral reefs, 472-hectare seagrasses at 102-hectare mangrove.

Naging sikat ito nang dito idaos ang reality show na “Survivor USA” at nang makasama sa top 10 most beautiful beaches sa buong mundo ng CNN, isang international broadcast network.

Noong 2019 nang gawaran ang marine protected area (MPA) ng outstanding National Integrated Protected Area System-Marine Protected Area ng Para El Mar.: *RNT*



Masungi Georeserve

12 hrs · 🌐

Conservation gains of the past 25 years can easily be lost if we allow #greed to reign once again in and around Masungi. Here's how you can support our conservation efforts 📌

🌳 Visit one of our trails through www.masungigeoreserve.com, at least four days before your visit. You will be informed by a ranger of the history of the landscape and challenges.

🌳 Join the ongoing campaign to remove illegal structures in the Upper Marikina Watershed and urge leaders to hold those responsible accountable: bit.ly/removestructures

🌳 Connect with us and add your voice in your own capacity via communications@masungigeoreserve.com

#SaveMasungi #RestoreTogether

Photo by Jilson Tiu





2 juvenile turtles released in Zamboanga del Norte



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released last week two juvenile Olive Ridley Sea Turtles back to their natural habitat in Dohinob village, Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, watch the two juvenile turtles return to their natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

March 09, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has released two juvenile Olive Ridley Sea Turtles back to their natural habitat in Zamboanga del Norte.

George Laolao, Community Environment and Natural Resources officer (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, said the two juvenile turtles were freed last week while the DENR was celebrating the World Wildlife Day.

Laolao said the turtles were released in Dohinob village, Roxas, Zambonga del Norte.

He said the two turtles came from the custody of the Pawikan Hatchery and Rescue Center (PHRC) in Zamboanga del Norte, who cared for them ever since they were hatchlings as they could not be released earlier due to their weak condition.

After a few months of proper care in the PHRC, the juvenile turtles are now in good and healthy condition to be released back to their natural habitat.

The Olive Ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature since there has been a significant decrease in its population due to marine pollution and other factors.

The DENR celebrated the World Wildlife Day on March 3 with the theme: "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration." (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1923118/zamboanga/local-news/2-juvenile-turtles-released-in-zamboanga-del-norte>



Hataw D'yaryo ng Bayan

4 hrs · 🌐

Namutol ng puno ng Buli
CHAINSAW OPERATOR
HELPER KALABOSO

NASAKOTE ng mga awtoridad ang dalawang lalaki dahil sa ilegal na pamumutol ng puno ng Buli sa Brgy. San Mateo, sa bayan ng Norzagaray, lalawigan ng Bulacan, nitong Martes, 8 Marso.

Sa inilatag na Oplan Kalikasan ng CIDT Bulacan, katuwang ang mga tauhan ng Norzagaray Municipal Police Station (MPS) sa Brgy. San Mateo, nadakip ang mga suspek na kinilalang sina Elvis Domingo, 33 anyos, chainsaw operator, residente sa nabanggit na barangay; at Leo Dela Cruz, 36 anyos, helper, residente sa Brgy. Carajume, San Jose Del Monte.

Napag-alamang ang mga suspek ay naaktohan na nagpuputol ng puno ng Buli gamit ang hindi lisensiyado at tampered serial number chainsaw.

Sinabing ito ay paglabag sa RA 9175 o Chainsaw Act of 2002.

Nakompiska sa pag-iingat ng mga suspek ang ginagamit na chainsaw, may tampered/defaced serial number at 100 board feet ng pinutol na puno. (MICKA BAUTISTA)



BAN Toxics Backs Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

[Wednesday, March 9, 2022 Journal Online](#)



QUEZON CITY, 8 March — Environmental watchdog organization BAN Toxics announced their support for the resumed fifth United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA 5.2) resolutions to address the chemicals and plastic waste crises.

Held in Nairobi, Kenya for 10 days, the resumed fifth UNEA adopted a resolution to end plastic pollution and form an international legally binding instrument by 2024. The assembly's decisions also included the creation of an international scientific panel on chemicals, wastes, and pollution prevention, and the renewal of the special program which provides financial support to developing countries to create programs to address sound chemicals and wastes management.

During UNEA 5.2, national leaders, environment ministers, and other representatives from 175 nations supported this historic agreement, which addresses the entire lifetime of plastic from source to sea. This treaty was pushed due to plastic production and consumption increasing in recent decades, reaching 400 million tons per year, a figure expected to double by 2040.[1]

The global plastic production surged from 2 million tons in the 1950s to more than 438 million tonnes in 2017, a trend that is expected to continue.[2]

The [plastic pollution crisis](#) is one of the Philippines' biggest waste challenges. In 2015, the country ranked third as the world's greatest plastic waste producer, with 2.7 million tons of plastic waste produced each year.[3] Despite the Philippines' having one of the highest garbage collection rates among Southeast Asian countries, a 2018 study on waste management practices revealed the country's problem with the proper disposal of garbage.[4]

Founded in 2006, BAN Toxics is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mandate is to promote sound chemicals and wastes management. The organization was established to respond to urgent waste issues besetting the Philippines.



BAN Toxics Backs Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

“The creation of the plastic treaty is a huge step in our fight against the plastic pollution crisis. This is an opportunity for the Philippine government to protect Filipinos from the fallout of plastic overproduction and overconsumption,” says Reynaldo San Juan Jr., executive director of BAN Toxics.



NLEX reduces carbon footprint and plastic wastes, strives for greater sustainability

[CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB](#)

March 09, 2022

IN TWO years, the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Corporation has been able to reduce about 350,000 pieces of plastic waste, as it continues to implement various waste management initiatives in line with its sustainability program.

The tollway company has also been successful in reducing its carbon footprint through the use of solar power panels and LED lights in its operations. It has so far reduced its carbon emissions by 4,989 tons, saving around 5.9 million kilowatt hours of electricity and 265,000 trees.

These environmental efforts are also in keeping with the entire Metro Pacific Group's commitment to help the Philippines meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), particularly UNSDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), UNSDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), UNSDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns), UNSDG 13 (Climate Action), and UNSDG 15 (Life on Land).

“As a responsible and ISO-certified organization, we want to ensure that we protect the environment not only for our communities, but for the next generation as well. We'd like to create a positive change by integrating sustainability in all aspects of our operations and making it a way of life,” NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi L. Bautista said.

Since 2018, NLEX has been harnessing solar power in Meycauayan southbound, Balintawak, Bocaue, Mexico, Angeles, San Fernando southbound, and Karuhatan toll plazas. It also incorporates sustainable energy in its roadway lighting systems, closed circuit television cameras, and variable message signs.

Based on 2021 data, the solar-powered toll plazas have generated carbon emission savings of 202,492 kilograms or the equivalent to 6,041 trees planted. The Bocaue Barrier gained the highest carbon emission savings, followed by Balintawak Toll Plaza and San Fernando Toll Plaza southbound, with carbon emission savings of 70,292 kilograms, 53,948 kilograms, and 36,197 kilograms, respectively.

To help save the environment, the company is boosting its sustainability push by limiting plastic usage and lessening plastic waste. It strictly prohibits single-use plastics in food deliveries, canteen operations, and other food services within its premises including corporate offices in Balintawak, Calocan City; Guiguinto, Bulacan; and Mabalacat City, Pampanga as well as in corporate events and other activities. Single-use plastics include plastic bags, beverage bottles, and food service utensils such as plates, cups, lids, straws, and stirrers.

Employees are being encouraged to use reusable containers and utensils for their meals, while suppliers and service providers are also being persuaded to reduce plastic usage in their transactions with NLEX.



NLEX reduces carbon footprint and plastic wastes, strives for greater sustainability

Aside from reducing its contribution to plastic pollution, the company is promoting proper waste segregation by providing labeled and color-coded trash bins as well as educating employees on garbage sorting, paper reuse, and recycling.

“These ongoing initiatives may be small scale, but we want everyone to be mindful of the negative effects of single-use plastics on the environment and hope to minimize the tons of plastic wastes that usually clog our waterways every day,” Bautista added.

The company has long recognized the importance of caring for the environment and providing clean air on the road since it has been implementing programs such as the Tullahan River Cleanup and Greening the NLEX-SCTEX. To date, almost 200,000 trees and plants have been planted in the entire road network. These programs are being conducted in partnership with the company’s host communities, who have eventually become NLEX’s allies in building environment-friendly expressways and generating positive changes in the society.

NLEX Corporation is a unit of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation.



PH environment group supports UN assembly addressing chemical and plastic waste crises

[March 9, 2022](#)

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — Despite the fact that the Philippines is considered as one of the countries with the highest garbage collection rates in the Southeast Asian region, a 2018 study on waste management practices revealed the country's problem lies in the proper disposal of garbage.

This is the reason the environmental watchdog organization BAN Toxics announced their support for the resumed fifth United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA 5.2) resolutions to address the chemicals and plastic waste crises.

BAN Toxics said the plastic pollution crisis is one of the Philippines' biggest waste challenges. In 2015, the country ranked third as the world's greatest plastic waste producer, with 2.7 million tons of plastic waste produced each year.

Held in Nairobi, Kenya for 10 days, the resumed fifth UNEA adopted a resolution to end plastic pollution and form an international legally binding instrument by 2024. The assembly's decisions also included the creation of an international scientific panel on chemicals, wastes, and pollution prevention, and the renewal of the special program which provides financial support to developing countries to create programs to address sound chemicals and wastes management.

During UNEA 5.2, national leaders, environment ministers, and other representatives from 175 nations supported this historic agreement, which addresses the entire lifetime of plastic from source to sea. This treaty was pushed due to plastic production and consumption increasing in recent decades, reaching 400 million tons per year, a figure expected to double by 2040.



PH environment group supports UN assembly addressing chemical and plastic waste crises

The global plastic production surged from 2 million tons in the 1950s to more than 438 million tonnes in 2017, a trend that is expected to continue.[2]

Founded in 2006, BAN Toxics is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mandate is to promote sound chemicals and wastes management. The organization was established to respond to urgent waste issues besetting the Philippines.

“The creation of the plastic treaty is a huge step in our fight against the plastic pollution crisis. This is an opportunity for the Philippine government to protect Filipinos from the fallout of plastic overproduction and overconsumption,” says Reynaldo San Juan Jr., executive director of BAN Toxics. (AI/MTVN)



Gov't eyes use of over 400 testing labs for non-Covid diseases

By Lade Jean Kabagani March 9, 2022, 7:07 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The government mulls to maximize the country's Covid-19 testing laboratories nationwide to test even non-coronavirus diseases, presidential adviser for Covid-19 response, Secretary Vince Dizon, said Wednesday.

Dizon, who is also the country's testing czar, said there are over 400 Covid-19 testing laboratories have been established nationwide—either operated by the private sector or the government.

"When we started this nightmare of Covid-19 in early 2020, we had [only] one laboratory that could test Covid-19," Dizon said.

He recalled the country has to send specimens to Australia for Covid-19 testing with only 1,000 test kits being used per day for the entire country.

"Now we have over 400 [laboratories] nationwide. This is really the effort of the Department of Health," he said. "*Talagang napadami natin ang testing labs nationwide* (We really increased our testing labs nationwide)."

Despite having many laboratories nationwide, Dizon said the Philippine government's strategy in Covid-19 testing has been "risk-based."

"*Ang tinitest lang talaga natin ay yung sa tingin natin kailangan itest. Sino-sino ang mga iyan? Iyan yung may mga symptoms, yung mga close contact and vulnerable* (We are just testing those who we think should be tested. Who are they? They are the ones with symptoms and the close contacts)," he added.



Gov't eyes use of over 400 testing labs for non-Covid diseases

Dizon emphasized the government has never advocated for "mass testing".

"Unang-una, kasi ang Covid, hindi mo naman talaga dapat itest yung hindi mataas ang risk na magka-Covid o yung exposure niya ng Covid (First of all, you don't need to test those who are not a high risk to infection or those with low exposure)," he said.

Under Alert Level 1 status, Dizon explained those individuals who are unvaccinated or have higher exposure risk to infection are prioritized in Covid-19 testing, pursuant to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 148-B and No. 149, s. 2021.

In addition, testing using reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is recommended and prioritized for senior citizens, persons with comorbidities, and healthcare workers.

The protocol added that testing "shall be optional for other groups not stated above" and shall not be recommended for asymptomatic close contacts unless symptoms will develop and should immediately isolate regardless of test results. Instead, symptom monitoring is recommended.

Dizon said the Department of Health is planning to maximize the use of these laboratories even for non-Covid diseases.

"We can use them to test for dengue, we use them to test tuberculosis, and we can use that to test for other chronic diseases. And that really gives us now this whole network of laboratories that can best serve our public health system. So that's the plan," he said.

Dizon added: "it's a long response but I think it's important for the public to understand, what will happen to these laboratories." (*PNA*)

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DENR

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In landmark decision, DENR parcels out 2-ha. Lupang Arenda in Taytay

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in a landmark decision said it has distributed a 2.01-hectare land at Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal to the urban poor.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the land distribution has ended the decades-long wait of the beneficiaries to own the disputed land.

He handed over the land titles to the beneficiary-members of the Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association (SAMATHOA) in Barangay Sta. Ana.

He led the turnover of 41 original certificates of land

ownership to the member-beneficiaries of SAMATH-OA who have been occupying the 2.01 hectares of land at Lupang Arenda.

He expressed gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte for his directive to strengthen the land distribution and reform program in the country that benefited the members of SAMATHOA.

He said the government commits to providing the rest of the land parcels which comprise the remaining three hectares of the proposed DENR Center in Rizal through the provision of a temporary ownership document.

"There are still 319 patents supposed to be given to you, however, these are underwater which cannot be titled," he said.

"But in the meantime, I told PENRO (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer) and RED (Regional Executive Director) to issue a certificate of land allocation (CELA). The CELA is already like a land title but you are not yet required to pay tax since we cannot yet have it titled due to its location," he raised.

He urged the Rizal PENRO to expand the titling process in nearby towns.

"I am challenging, the most competent PENRO, PENRO (Ramil) Limpiada that while we are working on distributing lands here in Lupang Arenda, we should also look into other areas in Taytay, in Antipolo, and other areas in the province that needs to be titled," he said.



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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IPAGPAPATULUY NG NEXT ADMIN - DENR

SA patuloy na paglapit ng May 2022 national at local elections, umaasa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ipagpapatuloy ng susunod na administrasyon ang solid waste management programs ng bansa partikular na ang pagdagdag sa pondo para sa local government units at ang pag-amyenda sa Republic Act 6969 o ang Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

"For those who will be

elected into office, my main suggestion is to focus on assisting LGUs by giving appropriate funding to address the garbage problem in their localities," saad ni DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones.

Ayon kay Leones na base na rin sa datos ng DENR's Environmental Management Bureau, ang highly-urbanized cities at 5th class municipalities ay nangangailangan ng P300 million at P1 million upang pondohan ang kaniyang solid waste management programs, ayos sa pagkaka-sunod.

"Environmental compliance usually incurs high costs," paliwanag nito.



Binigyang-diin ni Leones ang mahalagang papel ng private at public sectors sa pagtulong sa national government upang matugunan ang problema ng bansa sa basura.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni DENR-EMB's Hazardous Waste Management Section Chief Geri Sañez na hindi lahat ng LGUs ay mayroong sariling materials recovery facility at sanitary landfill kabilang na rito ang treatment, storage at disposal facilities na higit na kailangan para sa hazardous wastes.

Umaasa rin si Sañez na ang draft bill para sa amendments ng RA 6969 ay mabigyan ng prayoridad para ma-institutionalize ang circular economy at extended producer's responsibility (EPR) para sa municipal at domestic solid waste at hazardous wastes.

"I hope that the next administration or whoever will be the next President will give priority to the draft bill amen-

ding RA 6969. This has already been approved in the House of Representatives but is still awaiting the Senate version of the bill. This has not been given priority for more than two decades already and is constantly being refilled and updated," sabi ni Sañez.

Ang panukalang batas ang magsisilbing legal na basehan upang ipatupad ang konsepto ng circular economy at EPR. Sa pamamagitan ng EPR, ang manufacturer ng produkto ay magkakaroon ng pananagutan para sa treatment, disposal o recycling ng post-consumer products.

Idinagdag pa ni Sañez na kasama sa batas na ito ang mga probisyon ng contaminated sites management upang matutukan ang massive redevelopment sa bansa kung saan ang dating industrial sites ay ginagawang residential, commercial o kombinasyon ng dalawa bilang commercial business districts.





A GIFT TO GROW The community pantries whose name it mimicked may no longer be as active, but the environment department's "Community Pan-tree" project is still around. It went to Marikina City on Wednesday, handing out free saplings of fruit-bearing trees in Barangay Sta. Elena. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



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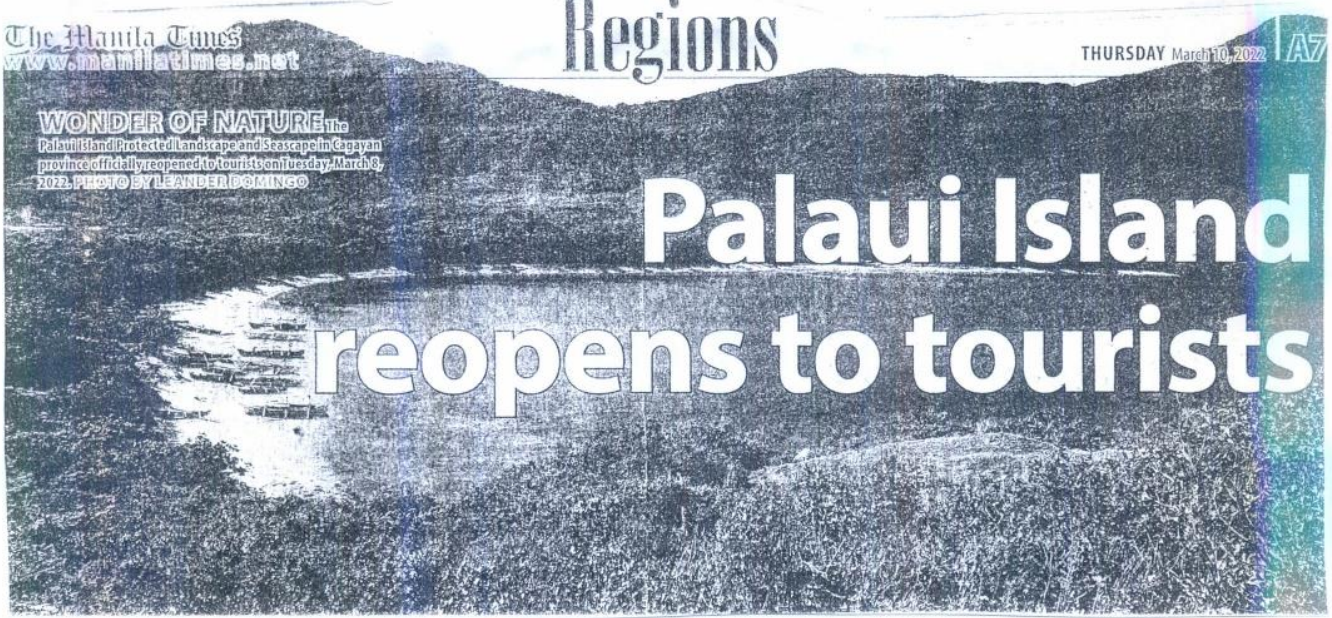
The Manila Times
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Regions

THURSDAY March 10, 2022 A7

WONDER OF NATURE
Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Cagayan
province officially reopened to tourists on Tuesday, March 8,
2022. PHOTO BY LEANDER DOMINGO

Palau Island reopens to tourists





BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

SANTA ANA, Cagayan: The enchanting island of Palau in the northeastern tip of Luzon in Cagayan province is now open to tourists after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in Barangay San Vicente was held here on Tuesday for the reopening of the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) led by officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism and the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA)

The PIPLS is within the jurisdiction of the community environment and natural resources office of Aparri town headed by forester Joselito Razon.

Members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) also joined the opening ceremony.

PAMB is the decision-making

body of the PIPLS, a declared protected landscape and seascape area under Republic Act (RA) 11038 in 1994.

RA11038 defines protected landscapes and seascapes as areas of national significance, which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and land and water, while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation, tourism and other economic activities.

DENR Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the reopening of the PIPLS will boost the economy and help the country recover from the effects of the public health

emergency.

Also the PAMB chairperson, Bambalan noted that at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the DENR provided a P1-million fund for emergency employment to about 160 families on the island.

"Last year, our department initiated the improvement of facilities in PIPLS with a budget of P4.7 million," she added.

Noting the influx of tourists, Bambalan appealed to local officials for the creation of a municipal environment officer position dedicated to manage the environment and natural resources.

Eliseo Mabasa, DENR Cagayan provincial chief, rolled out the health and safety protocols that must be observed by the visitors, boat operators and service providers.

The PAMB requires vaccination cards to be presented upon registration which it said will ensure

the safety of island-goers and the local residents.

It said proper garbage disposal shall be observed while at the protected area, collection of wildlife is prohibited. Vandalism, bonfires and throwing of cigarette butts shall not be allowed.

Palau is 1.25 kilometers offshore from Santa Ana and is also part of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport, managed and operated by CEZA.

Secretary Raul Lambino, CEZA administrator and chief executive officer, said Palau Island has emerged as a gem for sustainable tourism that "safeguards its socio-economic future."

Palau won the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community-Based Tourism Award for 2019 to 2021.

The Palau Environmental Protectors Association (PEPA), the island's major environmental group, was selected for the award during

the Asean Tourism Forum on Jan. 18, 2019 in Halong City, Vietnam.

"This Asean award makes Filipinos proud. This shows us the way forward toward sustainable tourism," Lambino said.

He said tourism on Palau Island with its untouched beaches, waterfalls, rock formations, extensive forests, mangroves and a 300-hectare marine sanctuary, among others, runs on community-based enterprises that are active in providing various services to visitors.

DENR records also show that the marine protected area has 102-hectare mangrove, coral reef of 1,008 hectares and 472 hectares of seagrass.

According to Lambino, CEZA has established micro-enterprises at the downstream end, creating what is viewed as a business model that steers away from traps of uncontrolled tourism.

Since 2006, PEPA has trained

the Aeta residents and other locals in Palau such as fisherfolk, farmers, women and out-of-school youth in programs that arm them with skills to provide visitors with specific tourism-related services.

PEPA operates a "nature village complex" where visitors can stay overnight in the campsite around the Bayanihan Hall.

The Aetas are among the island residents who were trained in the art of traditional massage, preparation of village cuisine, good hygiene and production of island souvenirs from indigenous materials.

Hiking through three trails that crisscross Palau and reef experience in five snorkeling areas identified by reef rangers are the major island activities.

Palau Island also earned a spot among CNN Go's best beaches in the world, and was a two-time location of American television series "Survivor."



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PALAU I ISLAND BUKAS ULI SA TURISTA

BINUKSAN na muli sa mga turista matapos ang dalawang taon, ang tanyag na Palau Island sa Santa Ana, Cagayan.

Nabatid na isinara noong 2020 ang Isla sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19 pandemic kung saan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay naglabas ng P1 milyon pondo para tustusan ang emergency employment ng may 160 pamilya sa isla.

Pinangunahan ng DENR, Department of Tourism, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, local government, at iba pang miyembro ng Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), ang ribbon-cutting ceremony bilang hudyat sa pagbubukas ng 8,048-hectare Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) sa Barangay San Vicente, Santa Ana, Cagayan.

Nabatid na ang PAMB, ang decision-making body ng PIPLS, protected area na binigyan



(DENR, Cagayan Valley)

ng mandato sa Republic Act 11038, o expanded protected areas system law.

Ayon kay DENR Region 2 Executive Director, Gwendolyn Bambalan, ang pagbubukas ng PIPLS ay makakatulong sa pagrekober ng ekonomiya.

"The year, our department initiated the improvement of facilities in PIPLS with a budget of PHP4.7 million," ani Bambalan. "With

the influx of tourists, there should be an office dedicated to manage our environment and natural resources here."

Ang dalawang accredited boat operators' associations, ang San Vicente Motor Banca Association at Palau San Vicente Motor Banca Association, ang maghahatid sa mga pasahero sa Isla.

Sakop ng isla ang 1,008-hectare coral reefs, 472-hectare seagrasses at 102-hectare mangrove.

Naging tanyag ang isla matapos dito gawin ang dalawang season ng reality show 'Survivor USA' at matapos na mapasama sa top 10 most beautiful beaches sa mundo ng CNN isang international broadcast network.

Kailangan na magprisinta ng vaccine card ang turista kapag nagparehistro at tanging iyong mga sinanay na tourist guides ang papayagan sa isla. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia)**



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ABOITIZ CONSTRUCTION CONTRIBUTES TO CEBU COMMUNITIES:
In collaboration with the Agriculture's Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Toledo City and Balamban in Cebu, Aboitiz Construction led a 'Scrap to Crop and Waste Management Program' that capacitated a total of 55 farmers on gardening and waste management of Barangay Don Andres Soriano, Toledo City and Barangay Buanoy, Balamban, Cebu. Both barangays are aiming to have sustainable and environment-friendly gardens that will serve as good sources of free fruits and vegetables for community members. To support the current practices of the barangays on the said fields, Aboitiz Construction donated gardening equipment, fruit bearing seedlings, organic fertilizers, and waste management bins to the barangays. Through the initiative, Aboitiz Construction sold its scrap materials from project sites thus, generating funds to implement the Scrap to Crop and Waste Management program, including planting of seedlings that will eventually be a good source of food for the communities.



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CAPMI WANTS 'VP' SARA FOR DENR'S TOP POST

THE Clean Air Philippines Movement Inc. (CAPMI) wants Davao City Mayor 'Inday' Sara Duterte-Carpio to be the next secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) once she gets elected as country's Vice President.

"Our wish for Mayor Sara Duterte simply is that once she wins as the new Vice President, we pray that she takes the top DENR post so that she can start fixing the gargantuan problems in that agency starting with graft and corruption," the environment watchdog spokesman Manny Galvez said.

"When she becomes the new DENR chief then the agency will once again be effective in the protection of the environment especially in the campaign on climate change and climate emergency."

The presidential daughter has been declared as CAPMI's 2017

Clean Air Champion during the celebration of the National Clean Air Month held in Davao City of the same year.

CAPMI also wants that the lingering issue of environment and climate emergency should be among the forefront topics that needs to be discussed thoroughly by the national candidates "and not just to be placed at the backseat of the election fever."

"We are urging our people not only to openly talk about the issue of climate change but we will push for proven environmental advocates to actively participate in the 2022 elections not only as voters but as winnable candidates of all environmentalists nationwide," Galvez said.

With other partners, CAPMI has put up several gigantic electronic billboards along EDSA and other parts of Metro Manila that read: 'Sara All For You' as a sign of its support



to her candidacy as it's determined to elect proven environmental advocates.

Tiangco Bros instant 'ninong' for 40 'Navoteño' couples

Some 40 Navoteño couples, most of them have been living together for years without the sacred vows, have finally tied the knot during a mass wedding officiated by Mayor Toby Tiangco and brother, Rep. John Rey Tiangco, who stood as their godfathers.

During the recent traditional 'Kasalang Bayan', the Tiangco brothers couldn't hide their happiness for the big number of couples who decided to get married this year.

"We've been doing these over the years to encourage live-in

couples in the city to legalize their union," the mayor said.

The Tiangco brothers congratulated the newly-weds and asked them to serve as good examples to their children.

"Here in Navotas, family is always first that is why we make sure they are one and happy and legalizing the union of couples that have been living together for years is one of the keys."

Rep. JRT has advised the newly-wed couples to continue to love and support each other.

"Your being together will be stronger with your sacred vows which is a concrete foundation of an unbroken family that makes a stable community in the end."



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'Use digital solutions as part of climate change initiatives'

THE Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship urged the government to incorporate digitalization into their climate initiatives, after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last week issued yet another update warning the world of the extreme and irreversible effects of global warming.

"The government has to match the initiatives of the private sector," said Felix Vitangcol, co-convenor of the advocacy group. "We are running out of time."

Vitangcol said the private sector had already made headway in this regard. "Some companies have already integrated digital technologies in their

environment, social, and governance initiatives to boost effective stewardship of the environment."

"A good model is data-backed Liveable Cities Challenge (LCC) Dashboard project in partnership with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Globe which contain multi-year data on local communities' basic information such as labor, education, local economy, doing business, mobility and connectivity, health, urban environment, resiliency and emergency response, and safety and security," Vitangcol said.

The LCC dashboard utilizes data and innovation to help local communities and their governments spot local trends

and their correlations for the community stakeholders' timely and effective decision-making and help determine areas for improvement.

Erratic, intense, and frequent weather patterns like Typhoon Odette have long been battering the Philippines, an archipelago, and have caused untold damage in lives, properties, livelihoods and infrastructure.

"The Department of Finance (DOF) reported that about 98.2 percent or P506.1 billion of the Philippines' total economic losses, during the period of 2010 to 2020, can be attributed to climate-related events," Vitangcol said.

He added that according to the Na-

tional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), when the country was hit by three consecutive typhoons in the last quarter of 2020, infrastructure and agricultural damages amounted to P30.76 billion. But when the country was hit by Typhoon Odette alone during the last quarter of 2021, infrastructure and agricultural damages already amounted to P29 billion.

Vitangcol underscored the importance of choosing the right leaders in the May 2022 elections.

The next administration should prioritize enabling the country's immediate transition to a data-driven and digital-enabled economy, Vitangcol said.



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Environmental issues need women participation

THE Department of Science and Technology is hoping more women would take part in all levels of climate change development planning, as well as in disaster risk reduction and management.

Science and Technology Sec. Fortunato de la Peña cited a recent survey on 130 countries that showed that with higher female government representation, there are more international environmental treaties likely to be implemented.

"Studies demonstrate that gender equality and women empowerment are central to economic development as well as environmental sustainability. For example, there is evidence that women play a vital role in dealing with disasters by effectively mobilizing communities in the different phases of the risk-management cycle, thus, their greater involvement would contribute substantively to DRMM," De la Peña said in a virtual forum.

He added that research has shown that globally, women are more likely to be considered about the climate crisis.

However, because only a few world leaders are women, there is a lack of representation in climate decisions.

"Although women in power positions are on the rise, recent studies showed that only seven percent of world leaders and 24 percent of lawmakers are female, allowing for male leaders in power to continue to call the shots," he pointed out.

The DoST chief also noted that the continuous stereotyping makes women underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and in decision-making processes.

The country needs more women at the forefront of climate change, he said, as increasing women's participation would result in more environmental and productivity gains and

greater returns across the sustainable development goals.

The Philippines ranked fourth among countries most affected by extreme weather events in the 2021 long-term Global Climate Risk Index.

"We need to address the deeply rooted inequalities that exist for half of the world's population. We need to ensure that women from all economic, and social standings are included in the conversation on climate change policy and resilience plans," he said.

The DoST has been working on projects for DRR and climate change adaptation and mitigation, part of the National R&D agenda for 2017 to 2022.

Research priorities under the agenda were evaluated and harmonized by a team from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.



Mga bebot isabak sa climate change development - DOST

Pinaburan ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) na kailangang may kababaihan sa lahat ng levels ng climate change development planning, maging sa disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

Ayon kay Secretary Fortunato de la Peña, base sa survey sa 130 bansa, mayroong mga higher female government representation sa bawat lebel ng usapin kaugnay sa environmental treaties.

Base sa research, malaki ang maitutulong ng kababaihan sa climate crisis.

"Studies demonstrate that gender equality and women empowerment are central to economic development as well as environmental sustainability. For example, there is evidence that women play a vital role in dealing with disasters by effectively mobilizing communities in the different phases of the risk-management cycle,

thus, their greater involvement would contribute substantively to DRMM," ayon kay De la Peña sa isang forum.

Sinabi pa ni De la Peña na ilan sa mga babae ay nasa power positions na kung saan nasa 7% ng world leaders at 24% ay mambabatas ay babae.

Giit pa nito na dahil sa patuloy na stereotyping hindi nakakasama ang mga babae sa science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at in decision-making processes.

Kailangan umano ng bansa ng kababaihan para sa climate change na kung saan malaki ang maikong contribute nila sa environmental and productivity gains kaugnay sa anumang usaping pangkalikasan.

Pang-apat ang Pilipinas sa ilang mga bansa na apektado ng extreme weather events sa 2021 long-term Global Climate Risk Index. **(Vick Aquino)**



DUTCH PROJECT IN MANILA BAY AT ODDS WITH NATURE CONSERVATION

IN 2021, the Dutch dredging firm Royal Boskalis Westminster announced that it had won a \$1.5 billion project in Manila Bay. Boskalis intends to reclaim an area of 2,565 hectares of land on the coast of Bulacan province—equivalent to more than 3,500 football fields—upon which the Duterte administration is planning to build the New Manila International Airport (NMIA).

Because it is such a high-risk project, Boskalis has applied for a so-called export credit insurance from the Dutch State through the export credit agency Atradius DSB. Atradius' decision regarding Boskalis' request is expected to be made soon and for this reason, we, a coalition of Philippine and Dutch civil society organizations and scientists, call on the

Dutch government and Boskalis to withdraw from this controversial project. The NMIA project is completely at odds with the Netherlands' climate ambitions.

What is particularly striking about Boskalis' planned land reclamation activities is that they completely contradict recent recommendations from the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan, which was recently developed by Dutch water engineers in collaboration with the Philippine government. The master plan, which was also funded by the Netherlands, provides concrete recommendations for the sustainable development of Manila Bay. With regard to the NMIA location, the master plan states that it should in fact be desig-

nated as a strict protection zone due to the area's vulnerable wetlands and high biodiversity value. The master plan advises against the construction of the NMIA in that area. Should the Dutch State decide to insure the Boskalis, it will effectively be using Dutch public resources to undermine the master plan, which was also funded with Dutch public resources, thus serving as a salient and shocking example of policy incoherence.

Manila Bay is extremely vulnerable to climate change and is routinely faced with floods brought on by land subsidence, sea-level rise, storm surges, and hurricanes. The NMIA project exacerbates these vulnerabilities with disastrous implications for communities and ecosys-

tems. So far, hundreds of fishing families have been forced to make way for the project, many of whom have been pressured to self-demolish their own homes. In addition, thousands of fishermen have been cut off from their fishing grounds, upon which they depend for their livelihoods. The planned land reclamation will also cause irreplaceable wetlands to be wiped out, such as mudflats and mangroves that play a vital role in carbon sequestration. The area is currently an important spawning ground for various fish species such as sardines, and it also serves as a refuge for protected migratory bird species within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, one of the world's largest flyways.

Moreover, the NMIA development will likely accelerate land subsidence in the region, which will in turn exacerbate flooding in a much larger area. Sand mining for land reclamation is also expected to have a disastrous effect on marine life and fisheries elsewhere in the bay.

In recent years, the Netherlands has marketed itself as a world leader in the field of climate adaptation. The Dutch water sector, which Boskalis is part of, plays a key role in this strategy. But climate adaptation means that communities and ecosystems are made more resilient to the effects of climate change, while projects like the NMIA do the exact opposite.

We are calling on Boskalis and Atradius DSB to withdraw

from this project. Instead, the Netherlands should refocus its climate ambitions toward policies that support sustainable, inclusive, and locally-driven adaptation initiatives.

AGHAM ADVOCATES OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE PEOPLE,
AKAP KA MANILA BAY,
BOTH ENDS,
CARE PHILIPPINES,
DEVRALIN LAGOS-UNIVERSITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES,
IUCN NL,
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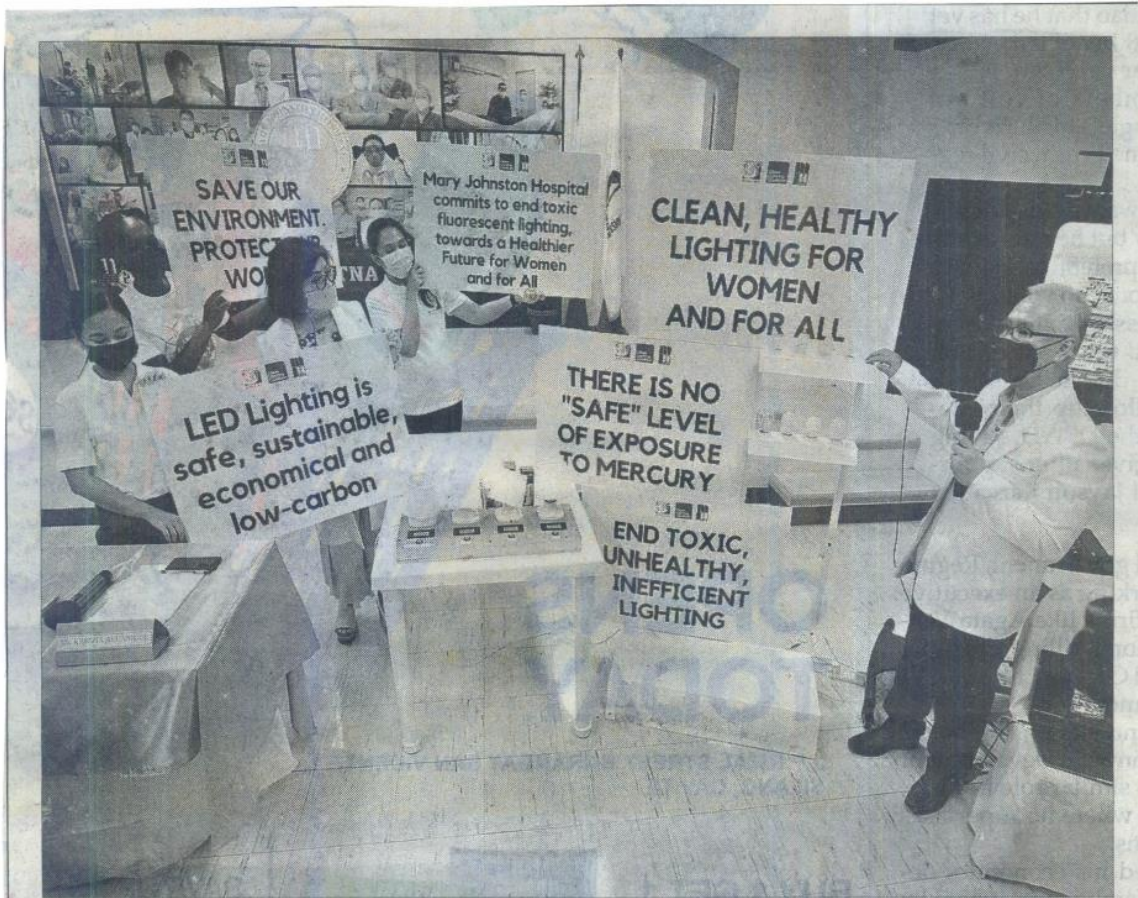
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In observance of Women's Month, healthcare advocates launch the 'Save our Environment, Save our Women - No More Toxic Mercury Lighting' campaign at the Mary Johnston Hospital yesterday. The mother-baby friendly hospital pledged to retrofit its facilities with LED lights.

RUSSELL PALMA

SM Cares with sustainable means

LIVING an eco-friendlier life nowadays has become much more achievable. With many simple yet effective ways to make our everyday lives more sustainable and with many groups ready to help us take that first step toward a greener future, there is every reason to start today.

Living a personal sustainable lifestyle can be impactful only if we do it together to preserve our planet for generations to come, said SM Cares, a division of the SM Foundation, which aims to organize the group's sustainability efforts into a comprehensive program that tackles a wide range of initiatives including preserving the environment and to creating innovative but sustainable avenues of growth.

One of the best things to live sustainably is to reduce your carbon footprint. Many seemingly harmless daily activities can contribute to a higher

carbon footprint or other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, leading to dramatic climate changes.

An increased carbon footprint includes high electric consumption, driving our cars over short distances, and the excessive use of aerosols and air conditioners, to name a few. Try to identify and minimize these activities if you can, or look for more eco-friendly alternatives, if available.

You can also lower your carbon footprint by using energy efficiently. Use energy-efficient appliances, replace your old lighting fixtures with LED lights, and turn off energy-consuming items when not in use. Doing these eliminates energy waste in your home and helps you save more on utility expenses.

The 2020 Climate Transparency Report disclosed that the Philippines generated 1.18 tons of carbon di-



■ SM's Trash to Cash recycling market happens every first Friday and Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in all SM Malls and select SDMC Malls nationwide. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

oxide equivalent per capita in 2017. The country will need to reduce its emissions to below 132 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 and below -198 metric tons of carbon

dioxide equivalent by 2050 if it is to meet the 1.5 C-compliant climate change mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement, of which the country is a signatory.



Floods displace South Cotabato residents

A team from the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council is currently conducting an assessment on the damage brought by the flash flood

KORONADAL CITY – The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) on Wednesday disclosed that at least 300 individuals were temporarily displaced after flash floods hit parts of the municipality of Lake Sebu and the near environs in South Cotabato the past two days.

PDRRMO officer-in-charge Rolly Aquino said that the evacuees were from the villages of Takunel and Poblacion, and two other sub-villages submerged by floodwaters following hours of moderate to heavy rains.

This comes after a low pressure area affected parts of Mindanao and the Visayas on Monday and Tuesday and Aquino noted that the internally displaced persons are now staying at their barangay gymnasium and a local church.

He assured that the PDRRMO has ample stock of packed relief items for the affected families.

A team from the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council is currently conducting an assessment on the damage brought by the flash flood, and landslide incidents in Barangay Maculan and other areas.

Aquino also disclosed that the road connecting Barangay Ned and Sepaka in the town of Surallah remains impassable after it was destroyed by a flash flood and landslide.

He assured that the PDRRMO has ample stock of packed relief items for the affected families.

In T'boli town, at least 30 fishponds were destroyed by flash flood affecting 10 farmers in Barangay New Dumangas.

Dante Tidula Jr., chairperson of New Dumangas, said a house was also washed away by surging floodwaters.

ENM

10 MARCH 2022, Thursday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

3-day vaccination starts today

By [Sheila Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star)
- March 10, 2022 - 12:00am



Residents of Marikina City line up for a booster shot at the Marikina Sports Complex on March 7, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — The fourth phase of the National Vaccination Days (NVD) starts today with senior citizens and adolescents aged 12 to 17 as top priorities, the Department of Health (DOH) said yesterday.

According to DOH, a total of 1.8 million people have been targeted for inoculation during the NVD-4 from March 10 to 12.

“The targets that were set for NVD-4 are more contextualized, in consideration of areas with low vaccination rates and coverage,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

Vergeire noted the targets are the individuals due for second doses, senior citizens and adolescents.

She added the DOH, Department of Labor and Employment and Civil Service Commission are working to “cover and excuse employees and workers from absences if they are slated to be vaccinated in NVD4.”

Under NVD-4, the government is making the rounds of households and workplaces to reach out to those not yet vaccinated.

Vaccination sites are also being set up in pharmacies and private clinics for wider coverage.

“Everyone can get inoculated through the continuous vaccine operations and expansion through more accessible vaccination sites all over the country,” she maintained.



3-day vaccination starts today

Data showed there are 8.72 million senior citizens who have been targeted for vaccination.

However, only 6.47 million have completed their primary series while only 1.86 million received their booster shots as of March 5.

On the other hand, some 1.01 million adolescents aged 12 to 17 years have been targeted for COVID-19 jabs but only 230,384 are fully immunized.

COVID-19 cases 'hindi tumaas' kahit sa Alert Level 1 areas, sabi ng DOH

(Philstar.com)

- March 9, 2022 - 12:41pm



Commuters ride a packed jeepney in Marikina City on the first day of implementation of loosened pandemic restrictions under Alert Level 1 on Monday, March 1, 2022. Under this status, Public utility vehicles are allowed to operate with 100% capacity.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Maganda ang naging pagtatasa ng Department of Health (DOH) sa unang linggo ng pinakamaluwag na Alert Level 1 sa [Metro Manila at 38 pang lugar sa Pilipinas](#), bagay na hindi raw nagdulot ng pagtaas ng COVID-19 cases.

Ito'y kahit na [100% na ang pinapayagang capacity sa mga trabaho, establisyamento, pampublikong sasakyan, atbp.](#) ngayong ipinatutupad na ito sa iba't ibang parte ng bansa. Pinapayagan na rin halos lahat ng aktibidad basta't nagsusuot ng face masks at nagpapabakuna.

"At present, we have not seen any increase in COVID-19 cases since we have implemented Alert Level 1 in several areas in the country," wika ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, Martes ng gabi, sa media.

"Since the implementation of Alert Level 1, an increase in the mobility of people has been expected given that employers have implemented 100% workforce capacity, and establishments can now operate in their full capacities as well."

Ngayong nagshi-shift na sa "new normal" ang National Capital Region, naglalabasan na tuloy ang marami dahilan para magsiksikan na pati ang mga kalsada. Ayon sa commuter's group na AltMobility, [sing lala na ito noong panahong wala pang COVID-19.](#)



COVID-19 cases 'hindi tumaas' kahit sa Alert Level 1 areas, sabi ng DOH

Tinanggal na rin ng Philippine National Police ang mga quarantine checkpoints sa Alert Level 1 areas. Sa kasalukuyan, [wala pa naman daw "untoward incidents"](#) sa mga lugar na ito kahit na tumaas na nang husto ang gumagala at nasa kalsada.

"The government strictly monitors the mobility of the public with incessant reminders on adherence to minimum public health standards as well as the national vaccination drive for those eligible to get inoculated," dagdag pa ni Vergeire.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, kahapon lang nang sabihin ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III na [hindi pa napapanahong ilagay sa Alert Level 1 ang buong Pilipinas](#) dahil baka masayang daw agad masayang ang lahat ng napagtagumpayan laban sa pandemya. — **James Relativo**

10 MARCH 2022, Thursday



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
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