

11 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Manila, Tokyo pledge stronger cooperation vs climate change

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MARCH 10, 2022



Climate activists take part in a demonstration outside the venue of the COP26 U.N. Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, in this file photo. (AP Photo/Scott Heppell, File)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) pledged stronger cooperation towards a decarbonized and sustainable society at the recent Philippines-Japan Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue held on March 2, which was part of the 1st Philippines-Japan Environmental Week, served as an avenue for further collaboration between the DENR and MOEJ to ensure the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and protection against the impact of climate change.

“The Philippines as an archipelagic country is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Our country has faced several typhoons in the past. Partnering with Japan in terms of technology and know-how on measures to mitigate climate change is indeed vital at this time,” Sampulna said in a news statement.

During the said event, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said the agency is looking forward to more fruitful cooperation between the governments of the Philippines and Japan.

“This dialogue is such a fitting example of our strategy to reach out to development partners to work on improving environmental conservation and protection in the country,” Leones said.

For his part, MOEJ Vice Minister Tokutaro Nakai said the agency is deepening its cooperation with the DENR based on existing cooperation programs through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism, transparency reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, city-to-city collaboration, and knowledge and tools sharing on climate adaptation projects, and waste management technology support.

“In the area of climate change, we were able to confirm that there are some [possible] areas of cooperation such as the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] as well as the development of the long-term strategies and we will make efforts to work for that and we also hope to cooperate with you in the future attempts too,” Nakai said.

Through a joint statement, the DENR and the MOEJ agreed to take actions to tackle climate change.



“On fluorocarbon, both sides confirm the ongoing and future cooperation between the DENR and the MOEJ in (the) potential assessment of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) collection and destruction, capacity development of policymakers and technicians, and utilization of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), under the Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management (IFL),” read the joint statement.

Both governments will also work on advancing the lifecycle management of fluorocarbon in the Philippines and Japan in order to contribute to the Philippines’ NDC through HFCs emissions reduction. 30



# DENR, Ministry of Envi Japan Joint Statement on Collaboration

Thursday, March 10, 2022



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones (left) and Japan Vice Minister of the Environment Tokutaro Nakai (right) present the joint statement finalized during the Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue on March 2 as part of the first **Philippines-Japan Environmental Week**. The statement solidifies the cooperation of both countries towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and protection against the impact of climate change through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism, and Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation.



## [DENR, Japan's MOE strengthen alliance against climate change](#)

MAR 10, 2022, 7:05 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

***The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has strengthened cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Japan on climate change and waste management initiatives.***

**TO** strengthen the alliance against climate change the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) solidified its cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) towards a decarbonized and sustainable society at the Philippines-Japan Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue last March 2.

In a press release DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue, which was part of the 1st Philippines-Japan Environmental Week, served as an avenue for further collaboration between the DENR and MOEJ to ensure the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and protection against the impact of climate change.

*"The Philippines as an archipelagic country is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Our country has faced several typhoons in the past. Partnering with Japan in terms of technology and know-how on measures to mitigate climate change is indeed vital at this time," Sampulna said.*

During the said event, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said the department is looking forward to more fruitful cooperation between the governments of the Philippines and Japan.

*"This dialogue is such a fitting example of our strategy to reach out to development partners to work on improving environmental conservation and protection in the country," Leones said.*

### **Deepening cooperation**

MOEJ Vice Minister Tokutaro Nakai said the agency is deepening its cooperation with the DENR based on existing cooperation programs through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism, transparency reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, city-to-city collaboration, and knowledge and tools sharing on climate adaptation projects, and waste management technology support.

*"In the area of climate change, we were able to confirm that there are some [possible] areas of cooperation such as the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as the development of the long-term strategies and we will make efforts to work for that and we also hope to cooperate with you in the future attempts too," Nakai said.*



Through a joint statement, the DENR and the MOEJ agreed to take action to tackle climate change.

### **HFC collection, destruction**

*"On fluorocarbon, both sides confirm the ongoing and future cooperation between the DENR and the MOEJ in potential assessment of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) collection and destruction, capacity development of policymakers and technicians, and utilization of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), under the Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management (IFL)," read the joint statement.*

Both governments will also work on advancing the lifecycle management of fluorocarbon in the Philippines and Japan in order to contribute to the Philippines' NDC through HFCs emissions reduction.

As part of the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) program, the DENR and MOEJ will continue to work together for capacity-building in the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) and waste sectors with active engagement of the private and local government stakeholders with a view to strengthening Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reporting and incentives for action.

### **Waste to energy projects**

With regard to waste management, both governments will further collaborate towards the viability of waste-to-energy projects for the Philippines.

Leones added that the Philippines commits to a "projected greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent of which 2.71 is unconditional and 72.29 percent is conditional, representing the country's ambition over the next decade."



## DENR turns over 2 hectares of land to poor families in Rizal

Published March 9, 2022, 6:16 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has turned over more than two hectares of land to the Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association (SAMATHOA) which has been appealing to the government to own the land they occupy in Taytay, Rizal over the years.

DENR Acting Sec. Jim O. Sampulna handed over 41 land titles to the beneficiary members of SAMATHOA — who are currently occupying the 2.01 hectares of land in Lupang Arenda and have appealed to own the land for more than a decade.

“All my life, this is what I have been doing, issuing land titles, not only here since I worked as Director of then Bureau of Lands. I have been to many places just to issue land titles. That is why I am very happy because we were given the chance to again turnover land titles,” Sampulna said.

Sampulna also vowed to distribute the rest of the land parcels, which comprise the remaining 3 hectares of the proposed DENR Center in Rizal by providing a temporary ownership document.

“There are still 319 patents supposed to be given to you. However, these are underwater which cannot be titled,” Sampulna 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 added.



## Taytay, Rizal urban poor receives 2-hectare land from DENR

March 10, 2022

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently distributed a 2.01-hectare land to the urban poor of Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal, ending their decades-long wait to own the land they have been appealing for ownership.

Headed by acting Environment Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, the land titles were handed-over to the beneficiary-members of the Samahang Masigasig ng Sitio Tapayan Homeowners Association or SAMATHOA in Barangay Sta. Ana.

“All my life this is what I have been doing, issuing land titles, not only here since I worked as director of then, Bureau of Lands. I have been to many places just to issue land titles,” Sampulna said.

“That is why I am very happy because we were given the chance to again turnover land titles,” he added.

Around 41 original certificates of land ownership were distributed to the member-beneficiaries of SAMATHOA who are currently occupying the 2.01 hectares of land in Lupang Arenda.

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

“I am also thankful that we have our President, President Rodrigo Duterte, who made your dreams come true today,” he said.

Moreover, Sampulna committed to providing the rest of the land parcels which comprise the remaining 3 hectares of the proposed DENR Center in Rizal through the provision of a temporary ownership document. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/03/10/taytay-rizal-urban-poor-receives-2-hectare-land-from-denr/?fbclid=IwAR2xrdidJv-CsiT3eUmTblyhzmRgB2LG0PKWg6GcnwxQYzhj76r67WPubto>





## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IPAGPATULUY NG NEXT ADMIN-DENR



March 10, 2022 @ 1:34 PM 17 hours ago

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 kanilang solid waste management programs, ayos sa pagkakasunod.

“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 dito 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 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.

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.



## BoI, DENR tap software company to spur dev't of cold chain industry

March 10, 2022 | 8:25 pm



REUTERS

THE Board of Investments (BoI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) signed a memorandum of understanding with Insight Supply Chain Solutions Corp. (InsightSCS Corp.) to develop solutions that will support the development of an integrated supply chain in the Philippines.

In a statement released on Thursday, BoI Governor Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego described the understanding, signed on Feb. 28, as a “crucial first step” to promote investment in the cold chain industry.

Ms. Ramos-Samaniego added that the partnership is considered a “milestone” for food security after the pandemic.

Under the partnership, the software company will develop a digital platform known as DeliverE 2.0: Cold Chain Integrated Supply Chain, which will allow real-time monitoring of cold chain assets and stored produce, enabling tracking and supply-demand forecasting for perishable produce.

“(We) will collaborate with InsightSCS in the development of DeliverE 2.0 to produce pertinent data, specifically a dashboard to locate existing cold storage service providers, present current and forecasted demand and supply as well as identify areas with gaps in service,” the BoI said.

The digital platform will be launched in key production areas in Luzon, specifically Benguet, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Quezon, and Camarines Sur.

The project will focus on priority commodities like meat, fruit, vegetables, dairy, and fisheries, either fresh or processed.

Aside from farm goods, the BoI said, the cold chain can also help support the distribution of vaccines, extend the shelf life of produce, and ensure the availability of buffer stock in times of crisis. — **Marielle C. Lucenio**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/boi-denr-tap-software-company-to-spur-devt-of-cold-chain-industry/>



## Tigil Alyansa Mina protests outside DENR office

BYBUSINESSMIRROR MARCH 10, 2022



MEMBERS of Tigil Alyansa Mina mount a protest at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City to demand accountability for “pro-mining” policies by the Duterte administration as they marked the 27th anniversary of the enactment of the Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942).

Among the policies in question are the issuance of EO 130, which reversed the late DENR chief Gina Lopez’s department order banning open pit mining, and declaring mining as an essential industry.

Photo by NONOY LACZA

Image credits: [Nonoy Lacza](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/10/tigil-alyansa-mina-protests-outside-denr-office/>



# ‘BETRAYAL’ | Environmental groups want Duterte, DENR to face accountability for mining policies

March 10, 2022 , 04:11 PM

By Beatrice Puento

(March 10, 2022) – President Rodrigo Duterte and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should face accountability for their approval of mining and various policies that destroy the environment, activist groups said on Thursday.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) slammed Duterte and his officials for their disloyalty to the people, citing the lack of concrete efforts to protect the environment.

“Hindi tayo papayag na ang mga taga-gobyerno ay sasapulihin at babastusin ang ating kinabukasan—iyan ang ginagawa nila kapag sinisira nila ang kalikasan,” said ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera in a protest held outside the DENR in Quezon City.



On Thursday, environmental organizations banded together to mark the 27th year of the Mining Act. Activists against mining have repeatedly called on the government to repeal the law, which they believe has been abused to promote large-scale mining that harms the environment and rural communities.



Last December, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu [lifted the ban on open-pit mining](#) in a reversal of the policy set by his predecessor, the late Gina Lopez. Cimatu, a retired general of the Philippine Army, said the move was necessary to revitalize the economy that was badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But advocacy groups consider this a [“death sentence”](#) for the environment and indigenous communities, noting that the Philippines does not have enough mechanisms to adequately monitor the mining firms.

“For the past six years, Duterte and the DENR have betrayed their mandate to conserve and protect our national resources as well as their responsibility to marginalized communities who are adversely impacted by mining,” lamented Garganera.

Duterte, before assuming power, promised to allow “responsible mining” to strike a balance between economic and environmental interests. But many critics said the tough-talking leader failed to follow through with his vow, given his lax policies for mining operators.

In April 2021, Duterte lifted the nine-year ban on the issuance of new mining permits in a bid to boost the economy. It is expected to generate P20 billion worth of annual revenues but advocates doubt this figure.

“Duterte and the DENR must pay for their betrayal of the environment and communities,” said Aaron Pedrosa of Sanlakas. “Duterte’s policies must be revoked and the existing mining laws overhauled to be replaced by new ones that put a premium on the environment and the interests of mining-affected communities.”

Garganera said the Filipinos should elect leaders who will push for a pro-environment agenda to save nature, advocating for the Alternative Minerals Management Bill, especially with the worsening climate crisis.

“Maniningil tayo ngayon sa administrasyong Duterte at sa DENR. Hindi tayo matatakot na maningil pagkatapos ng eleksyon. Dahil naniniwala tayo, ‘yung tunay na kaunlaran—’yung mapagpalayang kaunlaran—ay kung merong mahusay na kalikasan para sa susunod na henerasyon,” said Garganera.

*(PM)*

Source: <https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/betrayal-environmental-groups-want-duterte-dnr-to-face-accountability-for-mining-policies?fbclid=IwAR1r9Edl9xcZLu5fMyS19deAH50pIGkTIBFv3gWpid4SYPyge3WOnr90A>



## Alyansa Tigil Mina demand accountability for pro-mining policies

March 10, 2022 1 min read

Alyansa Tigil Mina marched their way to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City as they demand accountability for pro-mining policies by the Duterte Administration in commemoration of the enactment of the Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942) 27 years ago.



Among the pro-mining policies of Duterte is the issuance of EO 130 which reversed the gains achieved during the time of late Gina Lopez, Imposition of DAO 2021-40 which lifts the ban on open-pit mining, and declaring mining as an essential industry. (Ieshua Jai-ren Asuncion/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtnv)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/03/10/alyansa-tigil-mina-demand-accountability-for-pro-mining-policies/?fbclid=IwAR1NH6UL11-hCzbpQIGiCgiAiu08UaKb77Jz1dNUpEHv6aNOXQHkEaJ8nyg>



# DOF, USAID launch \$15-M climate project

Published March 10, 2022, 1:43 PM  
by [Chino S. Leyco](#)

The Department of Finance (DOF) announced the launch of a new project that aims to assist six climate-vulnerable cities in adapting to, and mitigating the effects of, climate change.

On Thursday, March 10, the DOF launched the \$15 million, or P750 million, five-year Climate Resilient Cities (CRC) project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to the DOF, the project will benefit local government units (LGUs) in the climate-vulnerable cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato, and Zamboanga.

“The project aims to assist these LGUs in using climate information for planning and decision-making; improving their capacity to access, and manage climate finance; and increasing their climate resilience through natural climate solutions,” the department said.

“On behalf of the Philippine Government, let me thank the United States Government for supporting the Resilient Cities Project,” said Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, who is the official representative of President Duterte to the Climate Change Commission.

“This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” he added.

During the launch, Dominguez also underscored the urgency of addressing the worsening climate crisis by stressing that the “fate of future generations hangs in the balance” if nations continue to dillydally on the implementation of “practical and localized” projects.

Dominguez said this was the reason why the Philippines has decided to pursue its grassroots-based climate action projects—on its own if necessary—without waiting for the annual \$100-billion climate financing pledged 12 years ago by industrialized nations, like the US.

He said with the climate financing committed by industrialized economies remaining unavailable and inaccessible, developing countries like the Philippines should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own.

The finance chief said the annual \$100-billion financing that should have been mobilized by 2020 was “supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation.”

“The Philippines cannot wait for the industrial nations to recognize the urgency of the situation. We are determined to move ahead on our own if necessary. We will take action now. We owe that to the Filipino people,” Dominguez said.

“This is because the planet cannot wait and the fate of future generations hangs in the balance,” he added.





# Dominguez: PH goes ahead with climate change fight sans financing pledges

By: [Ben O. de Vera](#) - Reporter / [@bendeveraINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 11:33 AM March 10, 2022



FILE PHOTO: Department of Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III. INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Despite lack of massive financing as pledged by developed nations that polluted the planet more, the Philippines is moving forward with its climate resiliency programs before it's too late, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said on Thursday (March 10).

“The Philippines is ready to push ahead with implementable climate change action projects. This is because the planet cannot wait and the fate of future generations hangs in the balance,” Dominguez said at the launch of the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) \$15-million, five-year climate resilient cities project.

This USAID project formed part of the US government’s commitment of at least \$82.4 million in grants in the next five years to support the Philippines’ initiatives in climate resilience, clean and efficient energy, faster internet, as well as women empowerment.

“This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” Dominguez said.

The USAID project will benefit the cities of Batangas, Borongan, Cotabato, Iloilo, Legazpi, and Zamboanga, the Department of Finance (DOF) said in a statement.

“The project aims to assist these LGUs [local government units] in using climate information for planning and decision-making; improving their capacity to access, and manage climate finance; and increasing their climate resilience through natural climate solutions,” the DOF said.

Dominguez, appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as chair-designate of the Climate Change Commission, again lamented that while the Philippines—despite a miniscule contribution to climate change—committed to ambitiously reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent eight years from now “we are disappointed that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet.”

“On top of that, the Western countries that polluted and continue to pollute the planet the most for the last 170 years are not fulfilling their commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual financing support for the global mitigation effort,” Dominguez said.



“We are disappointed that the highly industrialized nations are taking their time, splitting hairs, theorizing endlessly while the planet burns,” he said.

“Addressing climate change is an urgent undertaking. The financing mechanism promised by the Western countries was supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation,” according to Dominguez.

“Since it seems that the global climate fund will not be available and accessible anytime soon, the developing countries should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own,” the finance chief said.

“The Philippines cannot wait for the industrial nations to recognize the urgency of the situation. We are determined to move ahead on our own if necessary. We will take action now. We owe that to the Filipino people,” Dominguez added.

Dominguez noted that the Philippines already put in place a sustainable finance roadmap since last year to attract public-private “green” investments.

He said that in cooperation with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Philippines was also venturing into the energy transition mechanism (ETM) to retire coal-fired plants and replace them with clean energy sources, starting in Mindanao.

“At the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, the Philippine delegation underscored the need for a sustainable mix of grants for capacity building, investments in green projects, and subsidies addressing the needs of communities transitioning to a climate-resilient economy,” Dominguez said.

“These three simple elements should be at the heart of climate finance. However, the COP seems to require three more years to work out the definition, concept, and parameters of climate finance,” Dominguez added.

“The Philippine delegation also broached a proposal for the multilateral banks to collaborate in catalyzing financial flows to developing countries to meet their climate change objectives,” he said.

“These multilateral banks are best capable of ensuring processes that enhance trust, enforce transparency, and encourage prudence in spending taxpayers’ money,” the finance chief added.

TSB



# Dominguez cites urgency of tackling climate crisis

March 10, 2022, 2:06 pm



DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

**MANILA** – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III underscored anew Thursday the urgency of addressing the worsening climate crisis, saying the “fate of future generations hangs in the balance” if nations continue to dillydally on the implementation of “practical and localized” projects to save the planet from global warming.

Dominguez said this was the reason why the Philippines has decided to pursue its grassroots-based climate action projects -- on its own if necessary -- without waiting for the annual US\$100-billion climate financing pledged 12 years ago by industrialized nations to developing economies, which are the most vulnerable to the impact of planet warming.

He thanked one of these industrialized nations -- the United States -- for awarding the Philippines with a climate action project designed to support localized initiatives on adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Launched Thursday, this US\$15 million (about P732 million), five-year Climate Resilient Cities (CRC) project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will benefit the local government units (LGUs) in the climate-vulnerable cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato, and Zamboanga.

The project aims to assist these LGUs in using climate information for planning and decision-making; improving their capacity to access and manage climate finance; and increasing their climate resilience through natural climate solutions.

“On behalf of the Philippine government, let me thank the United States Government for supporting the Resilient Cities Project. This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” said Dominguez during the project launch held at the US Embassy in Manila.

Dominguez, who is the official representative of President Rodrigo Duterte to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), said that with the climate financing committed by industrialized economies remaining unavailable and inaccessible, developing countries like the Philippines should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own.

He said the annual US\$100-billion financing that should have been mobilized by 2020 was “supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation.”



“The Philippines cannot wait for the industrial nations to recognize the urgency of the situation. We are determined to move ahead on our own if necessary. We will take action now. We owe that to the Filipino people,” he added. “This is because the planet cannot wait and the fate of future generations hangs in the balance.”

Dominguez said the Philippines has been working hard to build “practical and localized action plans to help mobilize our communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change” as it is among the most vulnerable to its ill effects even though it contributes only 0.3 percent to global greenhouse gas (GHG).

“Thus, we submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75 percent in 2030. We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet,” he said.

“On top of that, the Western countries that polluted and continue to pollute the planet the most for the last 170 years are not fulfilling their commitment to providing 100 billion US dollars in annual financing support for the global mitigation effort. We are disappointed that the highly industrialized nations are taking their time, splitting hairs, theorizing endlessly while the planet burns,” he added.

On the part of the Philippines, it is now preparing its people for the “difficult task of creating a green economy and reducing emissions,” which is rooted in “a comprehensive movement initiated from the grassroots,” Dominguez said.

Among the measures initiated by the Philippines is the launching of its Sustainable Finance Roadmap to spur public and private investments in green projects; and its partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and private sector partners in developing the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM), which is envisioned to become the largest emission-mitigation program in the world, he said.

The government is also pushing, he said, a law banning single-use plastics and has reconstituted its CCC panel of climate change mitigation and adaptation experts to include individuals from all corners of the country who are ready to engage fisherfolk and farmers in preparing them to execute localized action plans.

Dominguez said the Philippine delegation to last year’s 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) underscored the need for a sustainable “blended mix” of grants for capacity building, investments in green projects, and subsidies addressing the needs of communities transitioning to a climate-resilient economy.

“These three simple elements should be at the heart of climate finance. However, the COP seems to require three more years to work out the definition, concept and parameters of climate finance,” said Dominguez, who led the Philippine delegation to last year’s COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Philippine delegation also proposed that multilateral banks work together in catalyzing financial flows to developing countries to meet their climate change objectives by putting in place vetting processes for projects that enhance trust, enforce transparency, and encourage prudence in spending taxpayers money, he said. **(PR)**



# USAID grants \$15 million aid for climate resilience

[Elijah Felice Rosales](#) - The Philippine Star March 11, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has received the \$15-million commitment from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) that the government will use to build climate resilience across six cities.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III yesterday said the country would use the funding from USAID to scale up the capacity of rural communities to prepare for natural calamities.

“This timely initiative will help arm local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” Dominguez said.

The project, called Climate Resilient Cities, extends \$15 million to the Philippines and runs for a period of five years. The amount will be channeled to local government efforts of six cities most threatened by weather extremities, namely Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

Based on the framework, the beneficiary units can use the funding to conduct information drives on climate change within their jurisdictions. The city governments can also spend on enhancing their capacity to access and manage sustainable finance.

Likewise, the project allows local governments and their partner organizations to introduce new solutions to expand climate measures to withstand future disasters.

Dominguez said the government has to tap every opportunity in acquiring green finance to raise its available resources in delivering sustainable projects.

As such, Dominguez renewed his calls to developed economies to fulfill their commitment to put up \$100 billion in climate finance that can be tapped by vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

“On top of that, Western countries that polluted, and continue to pollute the planet the most for the last 170 years are not fulfilling their commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual financing support for the global mitigation effort. We are disappointed that the highly-industrialized nations are taking their time, splitting hairs, theorizing endlessly while the planet burns,” he said.



# USAID launches \$15-million LGU climate resilience project

March 10, 2022 | 8:26 pm



THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday launched a \$15-million climate resilience project for local government units (LGUs).

The project targets climate-vulnerable locations in Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Eastern Samar, Cotabato, and the Zamboanga region.

USAID will help LGUs gather data for climate mitigation plans and decisions, and improve their ability to manage climate-related financing, the Department of Finance said in a statement on Thursday.

“This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said during the launch.

USAID in October said the five-year program will improve access to climate financing for cities and LGUs in support of the national climate change action plan.

The chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission, Mr. Dominguez, said that climate financing from wealthier economies is still inaccessible.

He noted how wealthier economies failed to fulfill a pledge to roll out \$100 billion in annual financing for emerging economies by 2020.

The Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though it accounts for 0.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, he said.

“We submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75% in 2030. We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet,” he said.

The Philippines, under its first Nationally Determined Contribution for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

Of the 75% target, just 2.71% can be achieved with internal resources, while the remaining 72.29% would need to rely on international assistance.

Last month, Mr. Dominguez announced that the Philippines is preparing for a \$500-million green bond offer “in the immediate future” while the government awaits favorable market conditions. Proceeds from green bonds are used for climate mitigation and environmental projects. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/usaaid-launches-15-million-lgu-climate-resilience-project/?fbclid=IwAR32VWFyKtc1reRcKWQUqpp9OXZzg6QizzgVrA-q3MBkYIlqBFMtNdwfga8>



## \$15M climate resiliency project launched

By ... -March 11, 2022

A \$15-million climate resiliency project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched yesterday will benefit local governments in the climate-vulnerable cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

The Department of Finance (DOF) said in a statement the five-year Climate Resilient Cities project will assist the local government units in using climate information for planning and decision-making; improving their capacity to access and manage climate finance; and increasing their climate resilience through natural climate solutions.

“On behalf of the Philippine Government, let me thank the United States Government for supporting the Resilient Cities Project,” Carlos Dominguez, DOF secretary, said during the project launch held at the US Embassy in Manila.

“This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” he added.

Dominguez said with the climate financing committed by industrialized economies remaining unavailable and inaccessible, developing countries like the Philippines should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own.

He said the annual \$100-billion financing that should have been mobilized by 2020 was supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation.

Dominguez pointed out the Philippines has been working hard to build practical and localized action plans to help mobilize communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change as it is among the most vulnerable to its ill effects even though it contributes only 0.3 percent to global greenhouse gas.

“Thus, we submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75 percent in 2030.

We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet,” Dominguez said.

The Philippines is preparing its people for the “difficult task” of creating a green economy and reducing emissions, which is rooted in a comprehensive movement initiated from the grassroots, Dominguez said.

Among the measures initiated by the Philippines is the launch of its Sustainable Finance Roadmap to spur public and private investments in green projects; and its partnership with the Asian Development Bank and private sector partners in developing the Energy Transition Mechanism, which is envisioned to become the largest emission-mitigation program in the world, Dominguez said. – **Angela Celis**



# Government urged to integrate digital solutions into climate initiatives

The Philippine Star March 11, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — An advocacy group for environmental stewardship has 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 Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship. “We are running out of time.”

He 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.”

“These will upgrade and make our communities more sustainable and resilient,” he said. “Digital tools will lead to enhanced community infrastructure and deliver reliable information for better and timely decision-making.”

“A good model is data-backed Liveable Cities Challenge (LCC) dashboard project in partnership with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Globe Telecom 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 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 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 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 Odette alone during the last quarter of 2021, infrastructure and agricultural damages already amounted to P29 billion.

“PBEST underscores that with today’s increasingly unpredictable occurrences of climate-risks, Philippines’ economic losses will continue to increase,” Vitangcol said.

He added that the next administration should prioritize enabling the country’s immediate transition to a data-driven and digital-enabled economy.

“This is to advance the efficient monitoring of real-time environmental conditions and create opportunities to develop new plans of action anchored on long term sustainability, stewardship of the environment, and climate resiliency.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/03/11/2166377/government-urged-integrate-digital-solutions-climate-initiatives>





## Manila Water: Taps won't run dry

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MARCH 10, 2022



Manila Water, Metro Manila's East Zone concessionaire, on Thursday assured its customers that contingency and augmentation plans are in place to ensure a stable and reliable water supply throughout the summer period.

The effects of the hot dry season are now being felt, with the water level at Angat Dam falling about 17 meters lower than the normal high operating level of 212 meters. The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said this will continue to go down in the next few weeks.

It is during the hot dry season that water consumption increases, especially in Metro Manila. This is also the time of year when the operations of private resorts peak.

Manila Water said it will coordinate closely with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the NWRB to help ensure continuous water supply even during peak demand periods.

These contingencies include the maximization of the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) capacity of the Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna Lake; operation of deep wells which can provide an additional 115 MLD; and operation of the 20-MLD Marikina Portable Water Treatment Plant, which can treat water from the Marikina River.

Apart from these, operational adjustments are also being implemented, such as backwash recovery or re-treating the wastewater byproduct of the water treatment process, and water pressure management across the East Zone when needed. Additional inflows to the La Mesa Reservoir may also be harnessed from the nearby Alat Dam.

With these supply augmentation measures in place, Manila Water continues to advocate responsible use of water with its government partners, MWSS and NWRB. While the government and the concessionaires work together to provide the needed water supply, the public is encouraged to use water wisely and responsibly to minimize water wastage.

Sevillo David, Executive Director of the NWRB said the current level at Angat which is 194 meters above sea level is manageable. He said both Maynilad and Manila Water will continue to receive normal raw water supply from Angat.

"The minimum operating level of Angat is 180 (m asl). This means we are still up by 14 m. It is a matter of managing our supply," David told the BusinessMirror in an interview.

David said by next month, if the water level continues to fall and hits below the normal operating level, the plan to implement cloud seeding will be executed to create artificial rain.



He said other potential sources of raw water like deep wells are on standby, to ensure that Metro Manila and other service areas of the two major private water companies sourcing raw water from Angat will continue to enjoy sufficient supply.

“We are, of course, appealing to the public to conserve water to make sure that our supply will last until the onset of the rainy season earlier than expected, hopefully by May or June.”



## Manila Water to tap Laguna de Bay, wells, Marikina River in dry season

March 10, 2022 | 8:26 pm



PHILSTAR

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. said it is preparing to tap Laguna de Bay, deep wells, and the Marikina River during the dry season in response to low water levels at Angat Dam, the capital region's main source of water.

With the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Water Resources Board, Manila Water said it will ensure “continuous water supply even during peak demand periods.”

On Wednesday, the water level at Angat Dam was 194.57 meters. Its normal operating level is 212 meters.

Manila Water said it will maximize sourcing from the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna de Bay. It said deep wells are expected to provide an additional 115 MLD. It will also operate treatment plant drawing water from the Marikina River.

Operational adjustments include backwash recovery and water pressure management across the East Zone, Manila Water's concession area.

If needed, Manila Water said additional water may be sourced from Alat Dam, which feeds the La Mesa Reservoir in Quezon City. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/manila-water-to-tap-laguna-de-bay-wells-marikina-river-in-dry-season/?fbclid=IwAR1eoI74QXfTH7EMvIrrE0egwlsWp9fZtG3Rv2w3576r3OvgW426PV9YxrA>



# Manila Water customers assured of water supply during summer

By Ben Cal March 10, 2022, 3:49 pm



**MANILA** – Manila Water on Thursday assured its customers of continued water supply during the summer months.

“With summer almost upon us and with Angat Dam about 17 meters lower than the normal high operating level of 212 meters, Manila Water continues to provide its customers of stable and reliable water supply,” Manila Water spokesperson Jeric Sevilla Jr. said in a statement.

He said Metro Manila’s East Zone concessionaire has put in place contingency and augmentation plans while working and coordinating closely with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to help ensure continuous water supply even during peak demand periods.

These contingencies include the maximization of the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) capacity of the Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna Lake; operation of deep wells which can provide additional 115 MLD; and operation of the 20 MLD Marikina Portable Water Treatment Plant, which can treat water from the Marikina River.

Apart from these, Sevilla said operational adjustments are also being implemented such as backwash recovery or re-treating the wastewater byproduct of the water treatment process, and water pressure management across the East Zone when needed.

Additional inflows to the La Mesa Reservoir may also be harnessed from the nearby Alat Dam, he added.

He said Manila Water continues to advocate responsible use of water with its government partners, MWSS and NWRB.

While the government and the concessionaires work together to provide the needed water supply, the public is encouraged to use water wisely and responsibly to minimize water wastage. **(PNA)**

11 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



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## Manila, Tokyo pledge stronger cooperation vs climate change

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) pledged stronger cooperation towards a decarbonized and sustainable society at the recent Philippines-Japan Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue held on March 2, which was part of the 1st Philippines-Japan Environmental Week, served as an avenue for further collaboration between the DENR and MOEJ to ensure the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and protection against the impact of climate change.

"The Philippines as an archipelagic country is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Our country has faced several typhoons in the past. Partnering with Japan in terms of technology and know-how on measures to mitigate climate change is indeed vital at this time," Sampulna said in a news statement.

During the said event, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said the agency is looking forward to more

fruitful cooperation between the governments of the Philippines and Japan.

"This dialogue is such a fitting example of our strategy to reach out to development partners to work on improving environmental conservation and protection in the country," Leones said.

For his part, MOEJ Vice Minister Tokutaro Nakai said the agency is deepening its cooperation with the DENR based on existing cooperation programs through strategies such as Initiative on Fluorocarbons Life Cycle Management, Joint Crediting Mechanism, transparency reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, city-to-city collaboration, and knowledge and tools sharing on climate adaptation projects, and waste management technology support.

"In the area of climate change, we were able to confirm that there are some [possible] areas of cooperation such as the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] as well as the development of the long-term strategies and we will make efforts to work for that and we also hope to cooperate with you in the future attempts too," Nakai said.

Through a joint statement, the DENR and the MOEJ agreed to take actions to tackle climate change.



## DAGDAG PONDO HIRIT NG DENR

WALA pa man, maagap na nanawagan na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa susunod na Pangulo ng karagdagang pondo para sa mga Local Government Unit (LGU) na walang kakayahang tugunan ang lumalaking problema sa basura.

Bukod sa basura, hirit din ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones ang pagsusulong ng amyenda sa Republic Act 6969 (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," ani Leones sa isang kalatas, kaugnay ng rekomendasyon mula sa Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Ayon sa EMB, mangangailangan ng karagdagang P300 milyon ang mga 5th class municipalities na aniya'y wala man lang kakayahang makapagtayo ng sariling solid waste disposal facility batay sa angkop na pamantayang nakatala sa Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act).

"Environmental compliance usually incurs high costs," aniya.

Binigyang-diin rin ng nasabing opisyal ang ginagampanang papel ng private at public sectors sa pagtulong sa national government sa pagtugon sa problemang kalakip ng patuloy na pagdami ng basura sa patuloy na paglaki ng populasyon.

Sa usapin naman ng mga basurang may dalang peligro, nilinaw ni EMB Hazardous Waste Management Section Chief Geri Sañez na hindi lahat ng LGUs ay mayroong sariling materials recovery facility at sanitary landfill, storage at treatment and disposal facilities na higit na kailangan para sa mga hazardous wastes.

Ani Sañez, may binalangkas nang draft bill para pamalit sa RA 6969 at ang kulang na lang aniya ay bigyang prayoridad ng Kongreso.

"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," aniya.

(LILY REYES)



03-11-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

# Central Luzon native tree increase seen

BY JONAS REYES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently partnered with the provincial government here and the Beverly Place Golf and Country Club, Inc. (BPGCCI) to construct a proposed arboretum in the town of Mexico.

The project aims to boost the propagation of native trees in Central Luzon and according to DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr., the arboretum project in Mexico will expedite the growth of native trees, and would promote urban forest management.

**The arboretum project will also provide help in the efforts to sustain the population of native trees that prevent them from potential extinction.**

He added that urban forest management is considered as one of the fundamentals in mitigating the threats of climate change.

“Urban greening is beneficial for both the environment and the city dwellers. By increasing the green spaces within the city, local residents will see the value of our native trees as effective air filters

that remove pollutants, thus, encouraging them to become stakeholders in sustaining our ecological wealth,” he said.

Moreno added that the project is the first in the country and could be replicated in other areas to extensively promote “green” cities.

He also noted that the establishment of the arboretum inside the BPGCCI is supplemental to the government’s preexisting reforestation program.

“The arboretum project will also provide help in the efforts to sustain the population of native trees that prevent them from

potential extinction,” Moreno said.

“Planting native trees is a strategic approach in increasing our forest cover in the region, especially that these endemic tree species pose high survival rate given their site compatibility and resistance to pests and diseases,”

he added.

More than 1,300 planting materials that include Narra, Bamboo, Bitag, Ilang-ilang, Molave, Balitbitan, Banaba, and Fire Tree species are expected to be established along the seven-kilometer length of the Beverly Place.





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PAGE

## Bol, DENR tap software company to spur dev't of cold chain industry

THE Board of Investments (BoI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) signed a memorandum of understanding with Insight Supply Chain Solutions Corp. (InsightSCS Corp.) to develop solutions that will support the development of an integrated supply chain in the Philippines.

In a statement released on Thursday, BoI Governor Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego described the understanding, signed on Feb. 28, as a "crucial first step" to promote investment in the cold chain industry.

Ms. Ramos-Samaniego added that the partnership is considered a "milestone" for food security after the pandemic.

Under the partnership, the software company will develop a digital platform known as DeliverE 2.0: Cold Chain Integrated Supply Chain, which will allow real-time monitoring of cold chain assets and stored produce,

enabling tracking and supply-demand forecasting for perishable produce.

"(We) will collaborate with InsightSCS in the development of DeliverE 2.0 to produce pertinent data, specifically a dashboard to locate existing cold storage service providers, present current and forecasted demand and supply as well as identify areas with gaps in service," the BoI said.

The digital platform will be launched in key production areas in Luzon, specifically Benguet, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Quezon, and Camarines Sur.

The project will focus on priority commodities like meat, fruit, vegetables, dairy, and fisheries, either fresh or processed.

Aside from farm goods, the BoI said, the cold chain can also help support the distribution of vaccines, extend the shelf life of produce, and ensure the availability of buffer stock in times of crisis. — **Marielle C. Lucenio**



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PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



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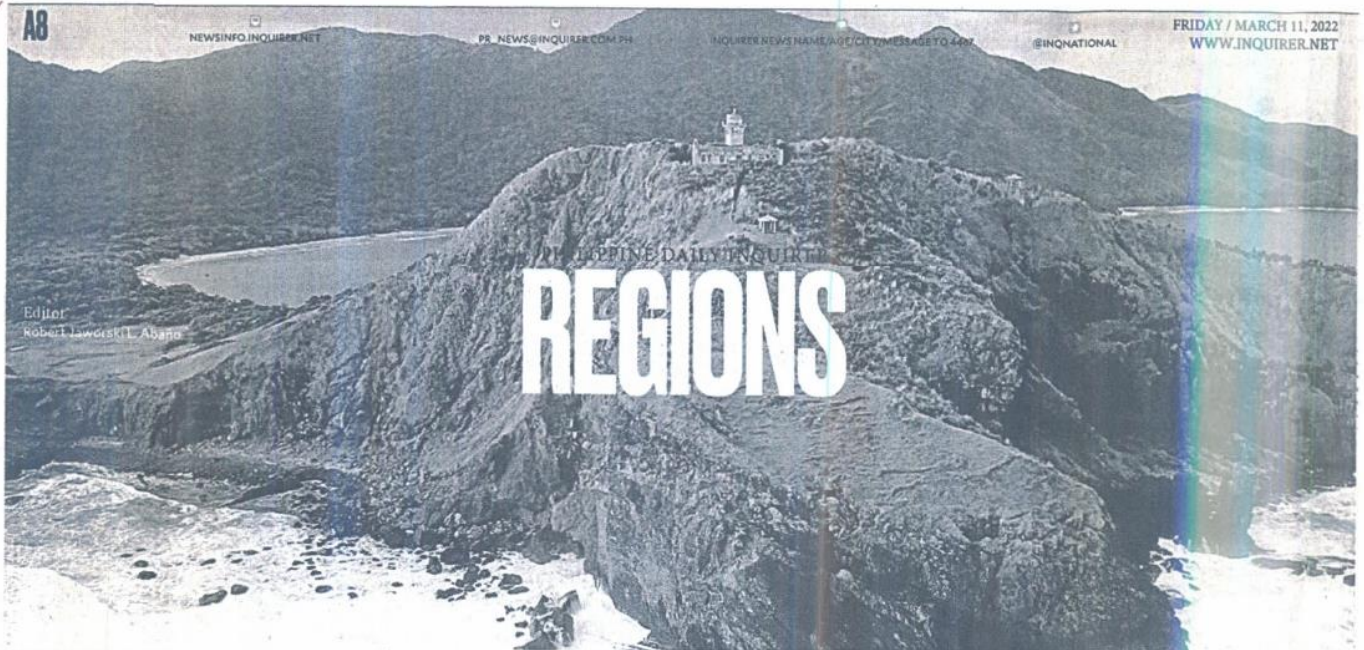
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03-11-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



Editor  
Robert Jaworski L. Abano

**SUMMER GETAWAY** Blessed with lush tropical forests and white sand and coral beaches, Palau Island in Santa Ana, Cagayan province, is again ready to receive tourists after its two-year closure due to the pandemic. —PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR CAGAYAN VALLEY

**ECOTOURISM DESTINATION IN THE NORTH**

**CAGAYAN'S PALAU ISLAND WELCOMES TOURISTS AGAIN**

**TUGUEGARAO CITY**—The 8,048-hectare Palau Island in Santa Ana, Cagayan province, was reopened to tourists on Tuesday after a two-year closure due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, officials said.

Gwendolyn Bambalan, director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Cagayan Valley, said the resumption of tourism activities on the island would boost the local economy

and revive the source of livelihood of its residents.

The Protected Area Management Board, which oversees the island's preservation, has not set a cap on the number of tourists allowed to enter the island since the province is under the most relaxed COVID-19 alert level 1.

The island, a protected landscape and seascape, can only accommodate 175 people at a time, and only fully vaccinated tourists will be allowed to visit.

Bambalan said the DENR implemented a P4.7-million project to improve tourism-related facilities and programs on the island, referring to an information center, monitoring system and mangrove and watershed conservation.

Two accredited boat operators' associations—San Vicente Motor Banca Association and Palau San Vicente Motor Banca Association—have been ferrying tourists to the island.

Among its attractions is the historical Cape Engaño, known for its white coral beach and Spanish-era lighthouse on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The island had gained international recognition after it hosted two seasons of the reality television show "Survivor USA."

Before the pandemic, the island was visited by an average of 170,000 tourists yearly, records from the local tourism office showed. —VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. INQ



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# Daily Tribune

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*By*  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

03-11-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE OF HOPE: AN ART VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
DENR-EMB ONLINE ART CONTEST

Hey!

MESSAGE OF  
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AN **Art** VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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03-11-22

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PAGE

DATE

AUTHORITY RESTS WITH NATIONAL OFFICE

# BFAR WITHDRAWS 'NO OBJECTION' NOTE FOR CEBU RECLAMATION PROJECT

By Ador Vincent Mayol  
@inquirervisayas

CEBU CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Central Visayas has recalled its earlier decision giving the municipal government of Consolacion in Cebu province permission to proceed with its 235.8-hectare reclamation project.

Allan Poquita, BFAR regional director, informed Consolacion Mayor Joannes Alegado that his office was withdrawing its letter of no objection (Lono) issued on June 28 last year.

In a letter on March 2, Poquita said the regional office had no authority to issue a Lono for the application of area clearance, considering the size of the proposed reclamation.

"[The] issuing authority rests [with] the bureau's national director Eduardo Gongona," he wrote.

Poquita, however, did not explain in his letter why a Lono was given to Consolacion when his office had no authority to do so.

Instead, he assured Alegado that he would endorse Consolacion's application to the BFAR central office "for appropriate action."

The BFAR earlier issued a Lono to the Consolacion reclamation project, attesting that no marine ecosystem would be affected by the proposed project.

But fishermen in Consolacion and the neighboring cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu, protested, saying they had been fishing in the waters off Barangay Tayud, the proposed reclamation site.

They lamented that they were never consulted about the project either by the municipal government or the BFAR.

Sought for comment on Thursday, Alegado said the BFAR's withdrawal might be connected to boundary issues.

"I surmise that this stemmed from some boundary issues between [the nearby] Mandaue [City] and Consolacion. As of now, we are in talks with Mandaue to settle our disputes. Both local governments are applying and in the process of doing reclamation projects," he said in a text message to the Inquirer.

The proposed reclamation, which would be done in partnership with Consolacion and a private consortium, has drawn staunch opposition especially from environmentalists and fisherfolk affected by the project. **INQ**



**FISHERS' PROTEST** Fishermen and groups supporting them hold a fluvial parade in October 2021 to oppose a reclamation project backed by the local government of Consolacion in Cebu province. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## USAID launches \$15-million LGU climate resilience project

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday launched a \$15-million climate resilience project for local government units (LGUs).

The project targets climate-vulnerable locations in Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Eastern Samar, Cotabato, and the Zamboanga region.

USAID will help LGUs gather data for climate mitigation plans and decisions, and improve their ability to manage climate-related financing, the Department of Finance said in a statement on Thursday.

"This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground," Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said during the launch.

USAID in October said the five-year program will improve access to climate financing for cities and LGUs in support of the national climate change action plan.

The chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission, Mr. Dominguez, said that climate financing from wealthier economies is still inaccessible.

He noted how wealthier economies failed to fulfill a pledge to roll out \$100 billion in

annual financing for emerging economies by 2020.

The Philippines is vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though it accounts for 0.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, he said.

"We submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75% in 2030. We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet," he said.

The Philippines, under its first Nationally Determined Contribution for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

Of the 75% target, just 2.71% can be achieved with internal resources, while the remaining 72.29% would need to rely on international assistance.

Last month, Mr. Dominguez announced that the Philippines is preparing for a \$500-million green bond offer "in the immediate future" while the government awaits favorable market conditions. Proceeds from green bonds are used for climate mitigation and environmental projects. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# USAID grants \$15-M aid for climate resilience

By ELIJAH FELICE ROSALES

The Philippines has received the \$15-million commitment from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) that the government will use to build climate resilience across six cities.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III yesterday said the country would use the funding from USAID to scale up the capacity of rural communities to prepare for natural calamities.

"This timely initiative will help arm local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground," Dominguez said.

The project, called Climate Resilient Cities, extends \$15 million to the Philippines and runs for a period of five years. The amount will be channeled to local government efforts of six cities most

threatened by weather extremities, namely Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

Based on the framework, the beneficiary units can use the funding to conduct information drives on climate change within their jurisdictions. The city governments can also spend on enhancing their capacity to access and manage sustainable finance.

Likewise, the project allows local governments and their partner organizations to introduce new solutions to expand climate measures to withstand future disasters.

Dominguez said the government has to tap every opportunity in acquiring green finance to raise its available resources in delivering sustainable projects.

As such, Dominguez renewed his calls to developed economies to fulfill their commitment to put up \$100 billion in climate finance that can be tapped by

vulnerable countries like the Philippines.

"On top of that, Western countries that polluted, and continue to pollute the planet the most for the last 170 years are not fulfilling their commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual financing support for the global mitigation effort. We are disappointed that the highly-industrialized nations are taking their time, splitting hairs, theorizing endlessly while the planet burns," he said.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## \$15M climate resiliency project launched

A \$15-million climate resiliency project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched yesterday will benefit local governments in the climate-vulnerable cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

The Department of Finance (DOF) said in a statement the five-year Climate Resilient Cit-

ies project will assist the local government units in using climate information for planning and decision-making; improving their capacity to access and manage climate finance; and increasing their climate resilience through natural climate solutions.

“On behalf of the Philippine Government, let me thank the United States Government for

supporting the Resilient Cities Project,” Carlos Dominguez, DOF secretary, said during the project launch held at the US Embassy in Manila.

“This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground,” he added.

Dominguez said with the climate financing committed by industrialized economies remaining unavailable and inaccessible, developing countries like the Philippines should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own.

He said the annual \$100-billion financing that should have

See \$15M ► Page A2

### \$15M

been mobilized by 2020 was supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation.

Dominguez pointed out the Philippines has been working hard to build practical and localized action plans to help mobilize communities to meet the challenges posed by climate change as it is among the most vulnerable to its ill effects even though it contributes only 0.3 percent to global greenhouse gas.

“Thus, we submitted a bold commitment to reduce such emissions by 75 percent in 2030. We are disappointed, however, that the Western countries with the greatest volume of emissions were far less ambitious in their commitments to rescue the planet,” Dominguez said.

The Philippines is preparing its people for the “difficult task” of creating a green economy and reducing emissions, which is rooted in a comprehen-

sive movement initiated from the grassroots, Dominguez said.

Among the measures initiated by the Philippines is the launch of its Sustainable Finance Roadmap to spur public and private investments in green projects; and its partnership with the Asian Development Bank and private sector partners in developing the Energy Transition Mechanism, which is envisioned to become the largest emission-mitigation program in the world, Dominguez said. - *Angela Celis*



## Gov't urged to integrate digital solutions into climate initiatives

An advocacy group for environmental stewardship has 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 Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship. "We are running out of time."

He 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."

"These will upgrade and make our communities more sustainable and resilient," he said. "Digital tools will lead to enhanced community infrastructure and deliver reliable information for better and timely decision-making."

"A good model is data-backed Liveable Cities Challenge (LCC) dashboard project in partnership with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Globe Telecom 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 correla-

tions 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 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 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 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 Odette alone during the last quarter of 2021, infrastructure and agricultural damages already amounted to P29 billion.

"PBEST underscores that with today's increasingly unpredictable occurrences of climate-risks, Philippines' economic losses will continue to increase," Vitangcol said.

He added that the next administration should prioritize enabling the country's immediate transition to a data-driven and digital-enabled economy.

"This is to advance the efficient monitoring of real-time environmental conditions and create opportunities to develop new plans of action anchored on long term sustainability, stewardship of the environment, and climate resiliency."





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# Manila Water: Taps won't run dry

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**M**ANILA Water, Metro Manila's East Zone concessionaire, on Thursday assured its customers that contingency and augmentation plans are in place to ensure a stable and reliable water supply throughout the summer period.

The effects of the hot dry season are now being felt, with the water level at Angat Dam falling about 17 meters lower than the normal high operating level of 212 meters. The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said this will continue to go down in the next few weeks.

It is during the hot dry season that water consumption increases, especially in Metro Manila. This is also the time of year when the operations of private resorts peak.

Manila Water said it will coordinate closely with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the NWRB to help ensure continuous water supply even during peak demand periods.

These contingencies include the maximization of the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) capacity of the Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna Lake; operation of deep wells which can provide an additional 115 MLD; and operation of the 20-MLD Marikina Portable Water Treatment Plant, which can treat



water from the Marikina River.

Apart from these, operational adjustments are also being implemented, such as backwash recovery or re-treating the wastewater byproduct of the water treatment process, and water pressure management across the East Zone when needed. Additional inflows to the La Mesa Reservoir may also be harnessed from the nearby Alat Dam.

With these supply augmentation measures in place, Manila Water continues to advocate responsible use of water with its government partners, MWSS and NWRB. While the government and the concessionaires work together to provide the needed water supply, the public is encouraged to use water wisely and responsibly to minimize water wastage.

Sevillo David, Executive Director of the NWRB said the current level at Angat which is 194 meters above sea level is manageable. He said both Maynilad and Manila Water will continue to receive normal raw water supply from Angat.

"The minimum operating level of Angat is 180 (m asl). This means

we are still up by 14 m. It is a matter of managing our supply," David told the BusinessMirror in an interview.

David said by next month, if the water level continues to fall and hits below the normal operating level, the plan to implement cloud seeding will be executed to create artificial rain.

He said other potential sources of raw water like deep wells are on standby, to ensure that Metro Manila and other service areas of the two major private water companies sourcing raw water from Angat will continue to enjoy sufficient supply.

"We are, of course, appealing to the public to conserve water to make sure that our supply will last until the onset of the rainy season earlier than expected, hopefully by May or June."



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## Manila Water to tap Laguna de Bay, wells, Marikina River in dry season

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. said it is preparing to tap Laguna de Bay, deep wells, and the Marikina River during the dry season in response to low water levels at Angat Dam, the capital region's main source of water.

With the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Water Resources Board, Manila Water said it will ensure "continuous water supply even during peak demand periods."

On Wednesday, the water level at Angat Dam was 194.57 meters. Its normal operating level is 212 meters.

Manila Water said it will maximize sourcing from the 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) Cardona Water Treatment Plant, which draws water from Laguna de Bay. It said deep wells are expected to provide an additional 115 MLD. It will also operate treatment plant drawing water from the Marikina River.

Operational adjustments include backwash recovery and water pressure management across the East Zone, Manila Water's concession area.

If needed, Manila Water said additional water may be sourced from Alat Dam, which feeds the La Mesa Reservoir in Quezon City. —

**Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## Dominguez warns against climate crisis

FINANCE Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd emphasized the importance of addressing the worsening climate crisis anew, saying the "fate of future generations hangs in the balance" if governments continue to put off implementing "practical and localized" programs to combat global warming.

This, he said, is why the Philippines has decided to pursue grassroots-based climate action projects without waiting for the annual \$100-billion climate financing pledged 12 years ago by industrialized nations to developing economies, which are the most vulnerable to the effects of

global warming.

Dominguez commended one of these industrialized countries, the United States, for awarding the Philippines a climate action project to promote localized actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The US Agency for International Development has launched a \$15-million (about P732-million) five-year Climate Resilient Cities project that will benefit local governments in the climate-vulnerable cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Iloilo, Borongan, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

The project intends to help

► **Crisis B2**

### ■ CRISIS FROM B1

## Dominguez warns of climate

these local governments use climate data for planning and decision-making, as well as improve their capacity to obtain and manage climate funds and increase their climate resilience through natural climate solutions.

"On behalf of the Philippine government, let me thank the United States government for supporting the Resilient Cities Project. This timely initiative will help arm our local communities with the necessary knowledge to enable them to formulate climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground," Dominguez remarked during the project launch held at the US Embassy in Manila.

Dominguez, President Rodrigo Duterte's official representative to the Climate Change Commission, said that because industrialized economies' climate financing com-

mitments have remained unavailable and inaccessible, developing countries like the Philippines should now prepare to undertake mitigation measures on their own.

He went on to say that the \$100 billion in yearly funding that was expected to be mobilized by 2020 was "supposed to drive green financing, especially in emerging economies willing to lead the way in mitigation."

"The Philippines cannot wait for the industrial nations to recognize the urgency of the situation. We are determined to move ahead on our own if necessary. We will take action now. We owe that to the Filipino people," said the Finance chief. "This is because the planet cannot wait and the fate of future generations hangs in the balance."

**MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO**



03-11-22

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**  
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## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF REPUBLIC CEMENT AND BUILDING MATERIALS, INC.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 76 of Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Consolidated Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, that Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. with address at Menarco Tower, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 1634 has filed an application for Exploration Permit particularly described, as follows:

- I. Application No. : EPA-IVA-149
- II. Date of Filing : December 17, 2019
- III. Area Location : Teresa, Rizal
- IV. Description of the Applied Area

### A. Geographical Coordinates

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	14° 33' 07.71"	121° 12' 00.00"
2	14° 33' 27.05"	121° 12' 00.00"
3	14° 33' 27.05"	121° 12' 05.04"
4	14° 33' 26.93"	121° 12' 05.45"
5	14° 33' 25.82"	121° 12' 06.03"
6	14° 33' 25.49"	121° 12' 06.38"
7	14° 33' 25.33"	121° 12' 07.03"
8	14° 33' 25.05"	121° 12' 07.47"
9	14° 33' 24.29"	121° 12' 07.89"
10	14° 33' 22.15"	121° 12' 09.58"
11	14° 33' 20.67"	121° 12' 08.27"
12	14° 33' 19.83"	121° 12' 57.75"
13	14° 33' 11.88"	121° 12' 04.04"
14	14° 33' 07.71"	121° 12' 06.91"

Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"

Size: The applied area covers Twelve and 529/10000 (12.0529) hectares.

### B. Restrictions

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 of DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- a. The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, old growth/virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b. The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads reservoirs, dams and other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- c. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CALC/CADT/CAL), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- d. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking sand and gravel extraction therein.
- e. Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by RA No. 667 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- f. Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- g. Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations, such as, but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

### VII. Activities to be undertaken

Per the submitted Exploration Work Program the following activities will be conducted:

- **Reconnaissance/Regional Survey or Studies**  
Remote Sensing  
Available satellite images of the exploration area and immediate vicinity will be studied for possible clues in stratigraphic, structural and/or tectonic signatures. Information on geomorphology will likewise be strengthened through images from this remote sensing information.
- Regional Geological Survey

11 MARCH 2022, FRIDAY



**DENR**

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# Areas under Alert Level 2 ‘watched’ for possible de-escalation

By Lade Jean Kabagani **March 10, 2022, 6:27 pm**

**MANILA** – The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) will definitely review the Covid-19 situations and the vaccination coverage of areas placed under less restrictive Alert Level 2 for possible downgrade to the most lenient Alert Level 1 System, National Task Force (NTF) against Covid special medical adviser, Dr. Ted Herbosa, said Thursday.

Herbosa said these areas should reach a vaccination rate of above 70 percent of their target population, with 80 percent of their senior citizens and persons with comorbidities already vaccinated.

"So, *rirebyuhin ng IATF, alam ko may meeting sila ngayon, rirebyuhin nila iyong mga lugar na nasa Alert Level 2 kung puwede na silang ibaba sa Alert Level 1 kagaya ng mungkahi noong Monday* (So, the IATF will review this, I know they have a meeting today to review the areas under Alert Level 2, if these can be downgraded to Alert Level 1 as recommended on Monday)," Herbosa said in an interview at the Laging Handa public briefing.

Herbosa said this could be positive news "so long that the country's Covid-19 cases will continue to go down."

Areas under Alert Level 2 for the first half of March are:

(Luzon) Benguet, Ifugao, and Mountain Province in Cordillera Administrative Region; Nueva Vizcaya in Region 2; Nueva Ecija and Zambales in Region 3; Batangas, Lucena City, Quezon, and Rizal in Region 4-A; Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan in Region 4-B; and Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon in Region 5.

In Visayas are Antique, Iloilo City, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental in Region 6; Bohol, Cebu Province, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, and Negros Oriental in Region 7; and Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Tacloban City, and Western Samar in Region 8.

In Mindanao, Region 9: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga Sibugay; Bukidnon, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental in Region 10; Davao De Oro, Davao Del Sur, Davao Del Norte, Davao Oriental, and Davao Occidental in Region 11; General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat in Region 12; Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Butuan City, and Dinagat Islands in Caraga Region; and Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City, and Lanao Del Sur in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Herbosa said the country's overall Covid-19 situation is so far so "good" amid the easing of restrictions in Metro Manila and other 38 areas. **(PNA)**



## GOBYERNO, PINAG-AARALAN ANG BAGONG ALERT LEVEL SA BANSA

by [Rashid Locsin](#) March 10, 2022



Pinag-aaralan ng gobyerno ang posibilidad na pagkakaroon ng bagong Alert level sa Pilipinas.

Ito ay ayon kay Health Secretary Francisco Duque III sa gitna ng patuloy na pagbaba ng mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

Sinabi ng kalihim na pag-uusapan pa ang mga guidelines na lalamanin sa paiiralin na pinakamababang alert level.

Aniya, maraming katanungan ang dapat na mabigyang linaw, tulad ng kung maaari na bang hindi magsuot ng face mask o maari na rin bang hindi sumunod sa hand hygiene.

Ipinabatid pa ni duque na sa oras na makabuo ng konklusyon, magkakaroon aniya ng rekomendasyon sa inter agency task force o iatf sa mga susunod na araw.

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



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